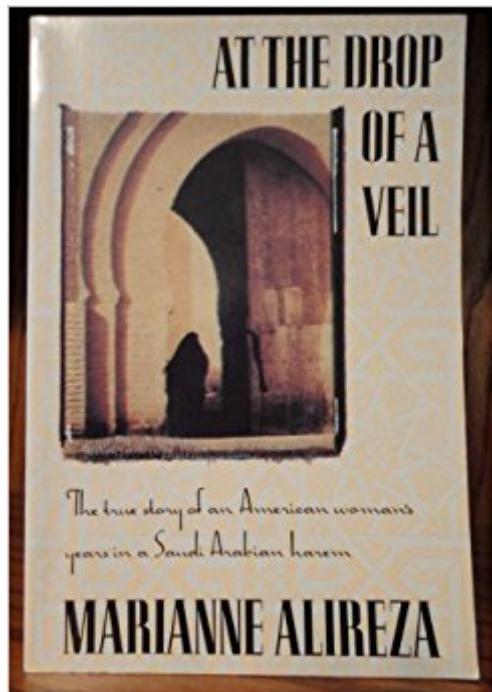


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At The Drop Of A Veil



Synopsis

It was 1945, and Marianne Alireza, who had spent almost her entire life in California, had moved to Saudi Arabia with her new husband. Suddenly she was a member of a rich and prominent Arabian family, veiled and cloaked like a biblical figure, thousands of miles and two centuries from home. For twelve years she lived in a harem, a female group composed of her mother-in-law, sister-in-law and various servants. Men outside the family could not penetrate the harem, and women could never join the men socially or be seen in public without veils. Here, in a world both luxurious and humble, she raised her children and grew to love her new homeland. This unique look at Saudi life in the years before the petro-dollar was hailed by the Washington Post as "an authentic and remarkable human tale." For this edition the author has added a new introduction reflecting on her life and the changes in Saudi Arabia since this book's first appearance twenty years ago.

Book Information

Paperback: 275 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company; 1st edition (September 15, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395597684

ISBN-13: 978-0395597682

Package Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.4 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #4,958,553 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Travel > Middle East > Saudi Arabia #438 in Books > History > Middle East > Saudi Arabia #2677 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Middle East

Customer Reviews

It was 1945, and Marianne Alireza, who had spent almost her entire life in California, had moved to Saudi Arabia with her new husband. Suddenly she was a member of a rich and prominent Arabian family, veiled and cloaked like a biblical figure, thousands of miles and two centuries from home. For twelve years she lived in a harem, a female group composed of her mother-in-law, sister-in-law and various servants. Men outside the family could not penetrate the harem, and women could never join the men socially or be seen in public without veils. Here, in a world both luxurious and humble, she raised her children and grew to love her new homeland. This unique look at Saudi life in the years before the petro-dollar was hailed by the Washington Post as "an authentic and remarkable human

tale." For this edition the author has added a new introduction reflecting on her life and the changes in Saudi Arabia since this book's first appearance twenty years ago.

I lived in Saudi Arabia for a few years in the eighties. Although this book was written about Marianne Alireza's life there starting in the forties, it came as no surprise to find that very little had changed forty years later. I think any woman who is considering marrying into the Islamic culture should read this book along with Betty Mahmoody's "Not Without my Daughter". Jean Sassoon's book "Princess" is another good one.

I had the pleasure and honor of meeting and talking to Marianne Alireza at her home in Pasadena about 20 years ago. It was a fascinating few hours with me. She was very gracious and warm. This book should be in every high school curriculum in the United States. Yolanda Martinez Weis

An eye opening understanding of the life of women in Saudi Arabia. While some things have changed, it's still an extremely male-oriented society. Marianne Alireza was a very gutsy young lady.

item as described! great book!

excellent story for a unique experience in SA

This book is like new- all though I haven't read it yet, I've heard a lot of good things about this book.

Good and interesting read

A most interesting book. Very well written. I personally have lived for seven years in Iraq. Married to an Iraqi, I worked for an American Export Company in Basrah. Drove a car, wore European clothes etc. My husband worked for the Iraqi Oil Company. We went to dance parties, were very friendly with the staff of various Consulate Personnel. We are still in touch with a couple from the British Consulate after 45 years. I wore European clothes, drove a car, went shopping by myself, used the oil company swimming pool etc. My life was very different from Marianne Alireza's life.

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