



Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia

By Carmen Bin Ladin

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She Married Osama Bin Laden's Brother. Now She Dares to Tell Her Story. This international bestseller gives the shocking account of what it's like to be a woman—even a wealthy woman from a privileged family—in Saudi Arabia today. In an unprecedented act, Carmen Bin Laden dares to throw off the veil that conceals one of the most powerful, secretive, and repressive countries in the world—and the Bin Laden family's role within it.

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Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia By Carmen Bin Ladin Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Addicted to the "I-married-the-Mob" genre? Try this variation: smart women who marry Islamic fundamentalists. In 1973, Swiss-born Carmen fell in love with Yeslam bin Laden, Osama's older brother; after a fairy-tale courtship, including a semester together at USC, the two married in Saudi Arabia. Alas, it wasn't long before the fantasy turned sinister. By Saudi Wahhabi custom, women are usually confined to the home. Activities like listening to music or reading books other than the Koran are either sinful or shameful. Only Carmen's young daughters, occasional international trips and her dear, understanding husband helped her cope. Then, things worsened. The 1979 Saudi mobilization to support Afghan Muslims against the Soviet invasion gave religious hard-liners like Osama more clout. Carmen's husband, now a successful Geneva businessman, reverted to a more orthodox lifestyle. Finally, in 1988, Yeslam divorced Carmen, but by bringing charges against her in Saudi Arabia, made certain she feared for her life—and her daughters' freedom—if she ever again entered an Islamic country. Beyond Carmen's terrible story hovers the larger, later tragedy of 9/11. Remember, Carmen warns, the bin Laden brothers have always supported each other, financially and socially. When Osama dies, he'll certainly be replaced. The gravity of the events Carmen writes of, her insider's perspective and her engaging style make this memoir a page-turner. Photos.

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From [Booklist](#)

Married in 1974 to Osama Bin Laden's older brother, Carmen Bin Laden spent nine years futilely attempting to adjust to both the conservative, tight-knit Bin Laden clan and the repressive Saudi culture she was naively unprepared to face. Half-Swiss and half-Persian, Carmen was raised in relative freedom in Europe. Carried away by romantic notions of love and loyalty, she initially struggled to bridge the gap between her background as an independent Western woman and Middle Eastern expectations of female submission and subservience. Life among the huge Bin Laden clan was especially treacherous since they claimed myriad complex ties to the Saudi royal family. After the birth of three daughters, with her Western-educated husband becoming increasingly parochial and reactionary, she realized it was time to shuck the *abaya* that literally and figuratively concealed the woman she once was and desperately wanted to be again. Although the notorious Osama Bin Laden appears a few times in the book and his name is bandied about to hook readers, the real story is Carmen's bid for self-actualization within a society and a family that harshly resisted and rejected every minor challenge to traditional wisdom and authority. A riveting testament to courage and determination, this intimate memoir of one woman's spiritual reawakening and odyssey has best-seller written all over it. *Margaret Flanagan*

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Review

"Makes a fiery case against what its author calls the oppression and fanaticism that dominates much of Saudi society."

-- *The New York Times* (*New York Times*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Viola Coghlan:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. What about the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, person feel need book whenever they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will require this Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia.

Brad Bennett:

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Harrison Colon:

Is it an individual who having spare time and then spend it whole day by means of watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia can be the solution, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Selma Lang:

A lot of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a publication. They are directly felt the item when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the book Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia to make your own personal reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading ability is developing when you such as reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the impression about book and reading through especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to open up a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia can to be a newly purchased friend when you're feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of that time.

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