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Libya. A Love Lived, A Life Betrayed



Synopsis

“Reader, I married him, a Libyan career diplomat. For over three decades we lived in Libya, and his various postings world-wide— Libya. A love lived, a life betrayed— follows the trajectory of Susan M. Sandover, who was lucky enough to have chosen an enlightened, forward-thinking Libyan career diplomat, Bashir, to spend her life with. They supported each other through the traumas, difficulties, and frankly terrifying experiences associated with the Gaddafi regime of US and NATO bombings, coups, a revolution and a blasphemy case but also enjoyed years of good times together. The resulting stories are partially his, partially hers and partially theirs. Sadly, before he found the time or a safe place to write down his experiences in the Libyan diplomatic corps and to denounce the Gaddafi regime, Bashir died. In spite of his family’s efforts to destroy their relationship and appropriate his land during his illness, he made sure Susan had a safe place to live. It was only when Susan was alone that she experienced the full force of Sharia inheritance law and its tenets as applied to widows: she was entitled to one quarter of his property, the balance going to his siblings, hence the subtitle of the book 9/36. Susan’s life was never dull with Bashir: at times, spine chilling, but always filled with love and happiness. Through all of these stories and many more, Susan displays her vast insider knowledge on Libya’s political, social and cultural history together with details on the final year of the Gaddafi regime. The remaining chapters comment on post-revolutionary Libya and the missed opportunities for reconciliation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A romantic and heart-breaking story that cross-crosses cultures, politics and self-preservation. Highly-recommend for anyone interested in an insightful perspective of a western woman living in Libya's changing decades. I thank the author for sharing these personal experiences. As a western woman with fewer years experience in Libya, but from 2010-2013, this book accurately portrays many realities that Libyans have had to and continue to face.

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