

# Book Buzz

so many books...so little time

## Women and the Middle East

**Al-Windawi, Thura.** Translated by Robin Bray. *Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq*. 2004. Collection: Biography Call #: Al-Windawi  
Thura's diary puts a personal face on the current conflict in Iraq showing the reality for Iraqi families and children. This work has been compared to *Anne Frank: The Dairy of a Young Girl* and *Zlata's Diary* set in Sarajevo.

**Anonymous.** *Terrorist Hunter: the Extraordinary Story of a Woman Who Went Undercover to Infiltrate the Radical Islamic Groups Operating in America*. 2003. Collection: NonFiction  
Call #: 363.32 Ter

The author fled from Baghdad to Israel after her Jewish family suffered persecution under Saddam Hussein and later relocated to New York where she found employment. Her knowledge of Hebrew and Arabic landed her a position in a research organization studying the Middle East where her translations of pamphlets for charities revealed connections to Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations.

**Asayesh, Gelareh.** *Saffron Sky: a Life Between Iran and America*. 1999. Collection: Biography Call #: Asayeh  
An Iranian journalist records her personal experiences living in America.

**Aseel, Maryam Qudrat.** *Torn Between Two Cultures: An Afghan-American Woman Speaks Out*. 2003. Collection: Biography Call #: Aseel  
Born in Los Angeles in 1974 to Afghan parents, Maryam Qudrat Aseel combines her family's story with the experience of other Afghan immigrants, and explores the differences between American and traditional Afghan culture. Aseel is an expert on Afghan-American relations and hosts her own Afghan radio show 'Bridge to the Future'.

**Bahrampour, Tara.** *To See and See Again: a Life in Iran and America*. 1999. Collection: NonFiction Call #: 979.5 Bah

Bahrampour, whose family fled to America during the Iranian Revolution when she was eleven, returns in the 1990's as the first member of her family to visit her extended family. This autobiography covers three generations of a privileged family and life in exile.

**Bin Laden, Carmen.** *Inside the Kingdom: My Life in Saudi Arabia*. 2004. Collection: Biography Call #: Bin Laden  
Carmen Bin Laden is the ex-sister-in-law of Osama Bin Laden. She currently lives in Sweden and recounts the aftermath of her marriage, break-up and post 9/11 life.  
Also available: LP, cassette, CD

**Chavis, Melody Ermachild.** *Meena, Heroine of Afghanistan: The Martyr Who Founded RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women Of Afghanistan.* 2003. Collection: Biography

Call #: Meena

As a twenty-year old student at Kabul University Meena founded the RAWA, the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan. She was assassinated in 1987 at the age of 30. In 2002 the author traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan to interview those who had known Meena.

**Dumas, Firoozeh.** *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America.* 2003. Collection: Biography Call #: Dumas

In 1972 the author and her family moved to Southern California from Iran. Her humorous story includes her father's search for riches in Las Vegas, an appearance on the game show, *Bowling for Dollars*, an uncle's weight loss gadgets and her own marriage to a French man.

**Farah, Consort of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran;** translated from the French by Patricia Clancy. *An Enduring Love.* 2004. Collection: Biography Call #: Farah

At the age of twenty-one Farah Diba married the Shah of Iran. Twenty years later her family had to flee the Iranian Revolution. The widow of the last emperor of Iran narrates her family's experiences in an international struggle.

Also available: LP

**Nafisi, Azar.** *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books.* 2003. Collection: Biography

Call #: Nafisi

In the early nineties Azar Nafisi, a teacher, held a secret discussion group in her home for a small circle of Iranian women. At their clandestine meetings the women removed their veils and discussed great books of Western literature.

Also available: LP

**Nur, Queen of Jordan.** *Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life.* 2003. Collection: Biography Call #: Nur

Lisa Halaby, an Arab-American, graduated from Princeton in 1974 as a member of the first freshman class that accepted women. Through her father she met King Hussein of Jordan and the two were later married.

Also available: LP

**Sasson, Jean.** *Mayada, Daughter of Iraq: One Woman's Survival under Saddam Hussein.* 2003. Collection: Biography Call #: Al-Askari

The author, Jean Sasson, met Mayada in 1998 in Baghdad. A year after their meeting Mayada disappeared. Mayada narrowly escaped Iraq before the 2001 attacks and after the removal of Saddam Hussein in 2003 she asked the author to write her life story.

**Zoya with John Follian and Rita Cristofari.** *Zoya's Story: an Afghan Woman's Struggle for Freedom.* 2002. Collection: Biography Call #: Zoya

Zoya's parents were murdered during the Afghan wars. She and her grandmother fled to Pakistan. After joining the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan she organized covert literacy classes for girls.