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"Saudi-Girl Barbara (Memories Of Saudi Arabia)"



Synopsis

A unique inside view of Saudi family life, by someone who has been there more than 40 times, as an advisor to Saudi families and their businesses. A delightful, fascinating to read, collection of her experiences. Readers are amazed at how real and interesting the families are. The first-person voice makes you feel like you are there with her. Would make a lovely gift.

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Customer Reviews

A unique inside view of Saudi family life, by someone who has been there more than 40 times, as an advisor to Saudi families and their businesses. A delightful, fascinating to read, collection of her experiences. Readers are amazed at how real and interesting the families are. The first-person voice makes you feel like you are there with her. Would make a lovely gift.

The writer explicates, vividly and seductively, a different culture from the U.S. Working within and from outside the culture, she reveals and observes as would a sociologist or anthropologist but with warmth, respect, and revelation of her own self in this context. I read most of it in one sitting. I could not put it down. What a kind and generous spirit reveals itself to us and to the elite Saudis. On a socio-political-familial level--speaking as a family therapist -- I can see that our family structures are opposites. Saudi girl sees a strict hierarchy that is softening-- with her adept engagement. Often no hierarchy guides contemporary U.S. families. Neither approach translates into a sound society, in my view. What a read!! Enjoy and learn!! You won't be able to put it down.

Barbara shares here respectful and culturally sensitive learning experiences among the affluent

social circles of KSA in this short, but well covered book. It is easier for a male to enjoy the better aspects of Saudi society but she shows that anyone who acts as a respectful guest in a foreign country and plays by the local rules will have a rewarding experience. She doesn't make excuses or apologize for the way things are in Saudi Arabia, but rather exposes the joys and rewards of a loving and open-minded experience for us all to better understand this country and its people. I will recommend this book to all new arrivals in the Kingdom as a way to develop a proper attitude towards all things Saudi. Bravo.

Saudi Girl Barbara is a great read written by an international expert on family enterprise governance about her experience advising some of Saudi Arabia's elite family-owned businesses. The key to Ms. Hauser's success: she never forgets that family comes first. As a Westerner and a woman she gained the trust of her prospective Saudi clients through her compassion and common sense, and through her skills as an accomplished international private client lawyer and veteran family advisor in the US and other countries. This book is an entertaining and insightful memoir of how Ms. Hauser parsed the intricacies of Saudi culture and the complex roles men and women have in it. Although often working in a traditional patriarchy, this book demonstrates how the author was both a role model for and empowered Saudi women for a greater role in Saudi family enterprise.

A beautiful memoir of Barbara's experiences in Saudi Arabia advising successful families with businesses, told with warmth and unflinching honesty. Barbara draws you in with her keen observations of culture and fascinating experiences of Saudi customs as well as the warm connections she builds with nearly everyone she encounters.

What a fascinating book! If you've always wondered what it would be like as a woman to be in Saudi Arabia, you will not be disappointed by Ms. Hauser's interesting stories. The book is very enjoyable to read and her many anecdotes are entertaining and enlightening. She gives you the insider's view of life in Saudi Arabia.

Barbara Hauser has an open and engaging writing style that draws you into her travels and experiences, almost as though you had experienced them yourself. She insightfully shines a light on a culture we in the U.S. know very little about, in her usual disarming fashion. The stories are delightful and fascinating. A terrific read!

This book is fantastic. It provides wonderful, personal accounts of interactions with families in Saudi Arabia. Surprisingly complex with many subtleties dispersed throughout the book. Very much enjoyed it!

I sat down and read this the moment I got it. I had never read a personal account of Saudi life to an american, and the stories were not only fun, but also helped me understand the personal life that lay behind a very very different culture. Barbara has an ability to bring you in and her stories are so personal that they bring you into the room.

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