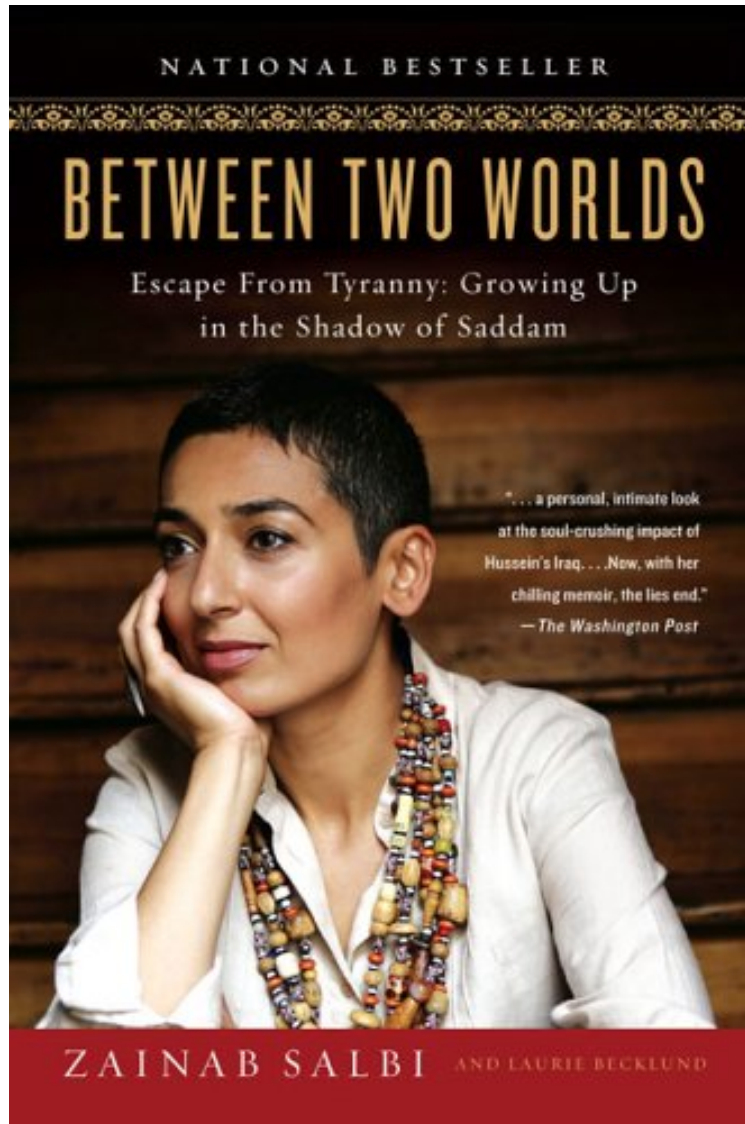


[Library ebook] Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam

Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam

Zainab Salbi, Laurie Becklund
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#410417 in Books Salbi, Zainab/ Becklund, Laurie 2006-08-17 2006-08-17Original language:EnglishPDF #1 7.99 x .80 x 5.32l, .55 #File Name: 1592402445304 pages | File size: 24.Mb

Zainab Salbi, Laurie Becklund : Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny: Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The pilot's daughter gets her wingsBy Little MeBetween Two Worlds is an autobiography. In part, it is also Salbi's tribute to her mother, a beautiful bird in an invisible cage. If the

book teaches you anything, it's this: you can't leave the torments of your past behind. They follow you around like a shadow and only real freedom and true love can vanquish them. Freedom is the best ointment for decades spent under tyranny. Freedom is very comfortable, but it is not magical. Healing takes time. Emancipated people often need help along the road to independence. It's not easy for long-term prisoners to be fully functional outside the cell block. In that regard, Salbi has succeeded magnificently. I bought her book largely because of that success. She is the founder of Women for Women International, an organization which I support. This book was a lot more revealing than I expected. Salbi's past includes both psychological and physical abuse (including a bad first marriage). Look at the photo on the book's cover. Salbi's creamy complexion was first nourished by the lemon trees of Baghdad and then washed by a copious amount of tears as unfortunate events piled up in her adult life. The subtitle, *Growing Up in the Shadow of Saddam*, is a bit inaccurate. Saddam was more than a shadow in her life. He was literally the house guest on her living room sofa, the hand on her shoulder, the audience at her informal piano recital, and her attentive guide to a pavilion on one of his palace lakes. Salbi's father was Saddam's personal pilot. Her knowledge of Saddam is direct or second hand from primary sources. Her descriptions of him and his methods read like a playbook for narcissistic psychopathic dictators: Take whatever you want, murder those who displease you, rape whomever you like (including vulnerable women who plead for your assistance), sow fear and distrust everywhere, use force regularly, create a personality cult, brook no refusal, keep a collection of "friends" who must respond like lap dogs to your every wish whether explicit or implied, bring war upon the earth, name infrastructure projects after yourself, forego the rule of law, employ tribal bodyguards whose loyalty is certain and reward them with sex and power, build lavish palaces, kill opposition leaders, be vainly selective with your wardrobe, violently oppress or deport any group not cut from the same cloth as you, engage in domestic spying and encourage snitching even among family members and school children, punish independent attitudes or actions no matter how small, obey no one, always follow your own inclinations, maintain a veil of dignity and respectability whenever possible, and treat your entire country as essentially your own private feeding ground.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Enthralling Read By Amanda MFABULOUS! Very insightful and intriguing - an enthralling read. Sometimes I vacillate between whether or not we should have ousted Saddam, considering the mess Iraq is currently in. This book makes it clear that although the way we followed through was extremely poor, getting rid of that narcissistic lunatic was the right thing to do. Salbi's strength, determination and passion are nothing short of inspiring.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Such a Awesome Strong Woman who lived under the fear of Saddam Hussein By Cindy Edwards This woman experienced so much at a young age and had to make some tough choices and lived through some choices other made for her. She experienced living under the fear of Saddam Hussein and the control he had over her parents and their life being her dad was the pilot for Saddam Hussein and he made his presence on a regular basis any time night or night or day. So you had to make yourself available to him and lived by what was expected under his control. She Zainab Salbi was a very strong woman to had experience so many things as a young girl and to come out of that life and wanting to help woman to not have to experience things that she went through and what the women she knew was being raped and abused to change and help women. This is a book that shares the life she Zainab Salbi lived under Saddam Hussein her father was his pilot. A great book to read.

Zainab Salbi was eleven years old when her father was chosen to be Saddam Hussein's personal pilot and her family's life was grafted onto his. Her mother, the beautiful Alia, taught her daughter the skills she needed to survive. A plastic smile. Saying yes. Burying in boxes in her mind the horrors she glimpsed around her. "Learn to erase your memories," she instructed. "He can read eyes." In this richly visual memoir, Salbi describes tyranny as she saw it - through the eyes of a privileged child, a rebellious teenager, a violated wife, and ultimately a public figure fighting to overcome the skill that once kept her alive: silence. *Between Two Worlds* is a riveting quest for truth that deepens our understanding of the universal themes of power, fear, sexual subjugation, and the question one generation asks the one before it: How could you have let this happen to us?

From Publishers Weekly Starred . The question "why did they stay?" haunts this engrossing memoir, as Salbi shows how Saddam Hussein "managed to make decent people like [her] parents complicit in their own oppression." "Growing up in Baghdad," the author remembers, "was probably not unlike growing up in an American suburb," but then Salbi's father became Saddam's private pilot. Gradually, the man who treated her like a niece became a man she called "'Amo' [Uncle] not out of affection, but because I was afraid to say his name Saddam Hussein out loud." Interspersed with Salbi's memories are her mother's recollections of imposed visits from and disquieting parties with Saddam. These riveting passages reveal a self-absorbed man who, as Salbi comes to understand, "saw no conflict between feeling fondness for people and killing them." Making a physical escape from Iraq was easy a marriage was arranged in the U.S. to an abusive husband (from whom Salbi also had to escape) compared with making the new life that culminated in founding Women for Women International, an organization that assists women victimized by war. Books to come will offer more historical and statistical data, but this may be the most honest account of life within Saddam's circle so far; not a rebel's account, although Salbi is certainly a dissident, rather, it's an enlightening

revelation of how, by barely perceptible stages, decent people make accommodations in a horrific regime. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Salbi, president of Women for Women International, an activist group for women caught up in war, had an unusual childhood: her secular, educated parents, part of Iraq's elite society, were trapped in Saddam Hussein's extended circle, and she grew up spending weekends at a house "Amo" Hussein purchased for her family and going to extravagant parties thrown by the leader and attended by his sons. Naively enjoying the perks at first, she grew up to realize that the socioeconomic privilege came at extraordinary personal cost. Salbi calmly but frankly looks back on those years, some of which were marked by war between Iraq and Iran, cataloging her growing awareness of the terrible hold Hussein had on her family, especially on her mother, who, in an attempt to save Salbi from Hussein's grasp, married her to an Iraqi stranger in America who became abusive. Related without stridency or bitterness, this compelling memoir is not only a story of personal success but also a fascinating glimpse at a fanatical leader, who, in his quest for power, sacrificed his own people. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved ... "this may be the most honest account of life within Saddam's circle so far; not a rebel's account, although Salbi is certainly a dissident, rather, it's an enlightening revelation of how, by barely perceptible stages, decent people make accommodations in a horrific regime."