



## Daughters of Arabia: Princess

By Jean Sasson

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Readers of Princess Sultana's extraordinary biography *Princess* were gripped by her powerful indictment of women's lives behind the veil within the royal family of Saudi Arabia. They were every bit as fascinated by the sequel, *Daughters of Arabia*. Here, the princess turns the spotlight on her two daughters, Maha and Amani, both teenagers. Surrounded by untold opulence and luxury from the day they were born, but stifled by the unbearably restrictive lifestyle imposed on them, they reacted in equally desperate ways. Their dramatic and shocking stories, together with many more which concern other members of Princess Sultana's huge family, are set against a rich backdrop of Saudi Arabian culture and social mores which she depicts with equal colour and authenticity. We learn, for example, of the fascinating ritual of the world-famous annual pilgrimage to Makkah as we accompany the princess and her family to this holiest of cities. Throughout, however, she never tires of her quest to expose the injustices which her society levels against women. In her courageous campaign to improve the lot of her own daughters of Arabia, Princess Sultana once more strikes a chord amongst all women who are lucky enough to have the freedom to speak out for themselves.

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## **Daughters of Arabia: Princess By Jean Sasson Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### From Publishers Weekly

Sasson's sequel to *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil* is another page-turner related by "Princess Sultana." A member of the royal family of Saudi Arabia, Sultana now is married to a progressive prince, but this privileged status does not protect her or her two daughters from the country's repressive laws against women. Though a devout Muslim, Sultana believes the entrenched male power structure has perverted religious doctrine to justify veiling women and depriving them of basic civil liberties. The lack of opportunity to forge equal relationships with men before and after marriage, Sultana argues, is why one of her daughters became fanatically religious and the other suffered a mental breakdown. This eye-opening account is limited to life among the royals rather than a critique of Saudi Arabian society, although Sultana describes the brutal custom of female circumcision practiced by the poor.

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#### From Library Journal

In this sequel to the popular *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil* in Saudi Arabia (LJ 7/92), Sultana continues her shocking and amazing story into the next generation. Feeling that men are generally at the root of female grief, she argues that it is the duty of the discontented like herself to seek change so that her children's generation will have some relief from the oppression that stifles Saudi women's lives today. The book is more than that—it gives insight into the lives of royalty and the views of those who can be religious while flaunting the strict Sunni rules against alcohol and temporary marriage. This book charms the heart and should be a popular item for general collections.

--*Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Libs., Gainesville*

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#### From [Booklist](#)

In a country where women are still essentially bought or bartered, the princess (real name withheld) is justifiably fearful when the family realizes she is the subject of the 1992 exposé, *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia*. If this book has a thesis, it is a line the princess uses to describe the troubles her own daughters are going through as they try to assert themselves in the male-dominated society: "When normal is forbidden, people fall into the abnormal." With religious police watching over their morals, one wonders just how more "abnormal" these people and their country can be. The answer: quite a bit. This book, both fascinating and depressing, shows that women are much less than second-class citizens in Saudi society. *Brian McCombie*

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##### Michael Scott:

As people who live in the modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is certainly always change and make progress. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what one you should start with. This *Daughters of Arabia: Princess* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Raymond Striegel:**

The knowledge that you get from Daughters of Arabia: Princess could be the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get considering reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Daughters of Arabia: Princess giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by simply anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular Daughters of Arabia: Princess instantly.

**Gale Coachman:**

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**Jerri Jackson:**

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