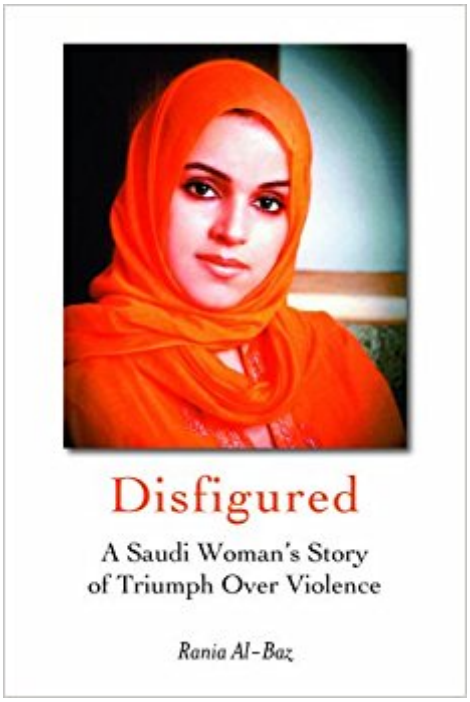
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Disfigured: A Saudi Woman's Story Of Triumph Over Violence



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Synopsis

For over six years, Rania al-Baz was the smiling face of a family program on Saudi television. She was a young, beautiful Saudi TV news anchor--the first woman to have such a job--when her abusive husband beat her into a coma and left her for dead. She later underwent thirteen operations to reconstruct her face. When she agreed to make horrifying pictures of her ravaged face public, her story sparked general criticism of Saudi culture. A month later, the first Saudi research into domestic violence began at King Saud University in Riyadh. But Rania's memoir is not simply the story of the violence she suffered; nor is it a tale of revenge. She denounces neither Islam nor the traditions of her country, nor even her former husband--only his violence. It is this generosity of spirit that carries her story--about her Saudi Arabian girlhood and adolescence, her disastrous first marriage, her public life as a TV journalist, her life as a mother, and her evolution into an activist on behalf of women.

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Customer Reviews

"I don't feel like I'm a hero... I feel that no woman should be a victim... in any way. A woman should have the ability to choose her own destiny." -- Rania al-Baz

Rania al-Baz had become one of the best known and best loved faces in her home country of Saudi Arabia. She was the presenter of a program called The Kingdom this Morning on state-owned television. She lives in Saudi Arabia. Catherine Spencer works as a French translator and specializes in nonfiction about the Arab world. She lives in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Rania Al-Baz candidly reveals her life story in the gripping memoir, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“DisfiguredÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. Al-Baz states that her experience is typical to many Saudi women and is also comparable to abuse women suffer world-wide. Al-Baz insists she loves her country, Saudi Arabia and her religion, Islam, and that her book is in no way meant to disparage either.Following rebellious teen years and a divorce, Rania Al-Baz becomes the newscaster on Channel 1 News. Wearing only a headscarf, she becomes the darling and pride of her nation; many suitors follow. One suitor in particular, an African singer, Rachid catches RaniaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s attention. In spite of her parentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ opposition, following a whirlwind romance, the author marries Rashid. Not long after, she realizes her mistake.The memoir is well written and reads quickly.

The author's narration of the position of women in Saudi Arabia, their fate in the hands of the husbands are phenomenon that we must understand. I learned from reading this book, Saudi Arabia is a place that men have not learned to accept women as their partners, as a full minded human beings and not a possession of property. I enjoyed reading this book.

This woman endured horrible abuse which almost killed her. But rather than speak negatively about her country or religion, she chooses to speak about the need for legal changes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where this occurred. She clearly loves her country and religion (which of course does not condone this type of violence). Ms Al-Baz also shows a very courageous spirit as she recovers and speaks out against all violence women are subjected to.

This is definitely a "page turner." I cannot imagine human beings in any culture treating prisoners the way these women were treated. As I read this true story, I hurt along with the women. She were tortured mentally and physically beyond anything you could imagine. The women were raped and sodomized in front of groups of prisoners and in many disgusting ways. Food and water was held from them for days at a time. She never did not know why she was imprisoned from the beginning, but felt certain her husband was in on the plot to abuse her.It seems that many men have no respect for women in their culture. They apparently turn ugly in the flash of a minute. They are con artist of the highest order. Even in marriage they are scheming and planning ways to manipulate their wife only to satisfy their own needs. They take the freedom to come and go from home without any explanation of their whereabouts.The only way I could finish the book was knowing that the

woman had survived. I do know that she was strong, and with the help of a fellow woman prisoner was able to save her own life.

sad story

I really enjoyed this book. This woman had been through so much and is an inspiration to all women everywhere. Great reading

it in great shape and tells a heart felt story and it is amazing how crual people can be and how people can live thru it

I like this book very much. The reading goes very quickly because it is so interesting. I am gaining much insight into the life of a woman in Saudi Arabia.

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