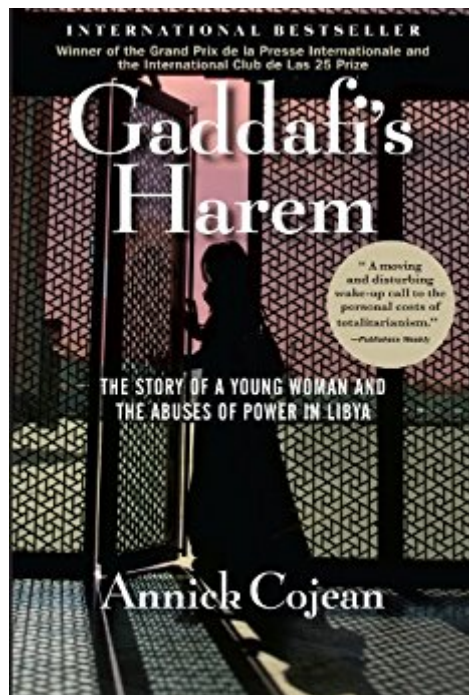




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Gaddafi's Harem: The Story Of A Young Woman And The Abuses Of Power In Libya



Synopsis

Soraya was just fifteen, a schoolgirl in the coastal town of Sirte, when she was given the honor of presenting a bouquet of flowers to Colonel Gaddafi, the Guide, on a visit he was making to her school the following week. This one meeting; a presentation of flowers, a pat on the head from Gaddafi; changed Soraya's life forever. Soon afterwards, she was summoned to Bab al-Azizia, Gaddafi's palatial compound near Tripoli, where she joined a number of young women who were violently abused, raped and degraded by Gaddafi.

Heartwrenchingly tragic but ultimately redemptive, Soraya's story is the first one of many that are just now beginning to be heard. But sex and rape remain the highest taboo in Libya, and women like Soraya (whose identity is protected by a pseudonym here) risk being disowned or even killed by their dishonored family members. In Gaddafi's Harem, an instant bestseller on publication in France, where it has already sold more than 100,000 copies in hardcover, Le Monde special correspondent Annick Cojean gives a voice to Soraya's story, and supplements her investigation into Gaddafi's abuses of power through interviews with people who knew Soraya, as well as with other women who were abused by Gaddafi.

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Customer Reviews

Its a real shocking book.....And when you just think that this dictator just 5 years ago used to greet all the European presidents and prime minister and on our journals was his face smiling with our prime minister or president...I just feel so angry that no one could see beyond that sunglasses was viagra and cocaine.....This is a real piece of journalism about modern day sex slaves and how wars are being won by using sex against women....Dictators and Warring chiefs show their dominance by forcing themselves into the sex slavery and beastly sex....

This painful story shows again how people believe the worst of the innocents held captive by tyrants. Much of the book contains the story of one woman, but her story is followed by information no one might know about in the patriarchal society that blames the innocent for crimes perpetrated against them. Tragic.

I lived in Libya when Ghaddafi took over the country and I absolutely thought he was going to be good for the country . I still liked him 4 years later when I left but after reading this book I now hate this man. He died too easy compared what he did to this young girls. He was a sick human being.

Vivid in description and powerfully written. Not just the heart wrenching true story of one, but of many girls who were abused not just sexually and physically, but also mentally and emotionally by Gaddafi during his rule. Also their struggles after the revolution and failure to enter back into normal society. The lies, the cruelty, the honest truth.

I've never been a history buff (modern or ancient), but to read these events not only through first person point of view, and to have smatterings of Gaddafi's rule in the background made this a compelling story. It's so well told and so tragic at the same time. It's impossible to imagine this world, but Annick has done a remarkable job of recounting the young girl's life events during what should have been her prime years. I could not put this book down, for various reasons, but felt incredibly honoured to know her story.

Interesting reading. I was surprised at the depth and berth of his support among people loyal to him, controlled by Qaddafi through personal threats or intimidation by threats against his or her family. Large scale corruption requires a large scale support system. Good reading for anyone interested in the "Dark side" of human nature.

This is a true story that I wish would never happened. My reality and the most of people who live in 'free' countries is completely different from what we see in this book. Without a work like this it would be hard to understand the extension of the evil spread by Gaddafi to his own people. This book is well written and contains an important journalistic work about how power can reveal the darkest side of human beings.

I didn't find the book particularly thought provoking as I wouldn't expect the described, decrepit behaviour any less from a despot as Gaddafi. I did not find the book insightful or well written for a journalist. I wouldn't recommend the book.

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