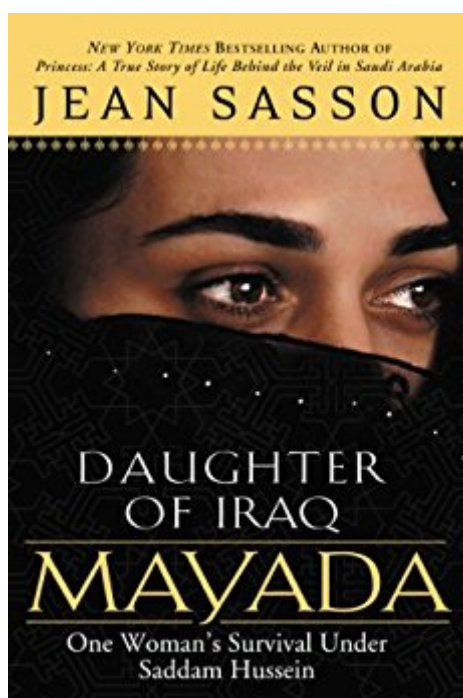


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# Mayada, Daughter Of Iraq: One Woman's Survival Under Saddam Hussein



## Synopsis

A member of one of the most distinguished and honored families in Iraq, Mayada grew up surrounded by wealth and royalty. But when Saddam Hussein's regime took power, she was thrown into cell 52 in the infamous Baladiyat prison with seventeen other nameless, faceless women from all walks of life. To ease their suffering, these "shadow women" passed each day by sharing their life stories. Now, through Jean Sasson, Mayada is finally able to tell her story and theirs to the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you liked the Sultana trilogy, you'll find the same high quality writing, but this book is missing some of the human interest and subtle byplay (and humor) found in her other books. There is a "sameness" of stories from Mayada's cellmates, and the torture accounts are horrible, but abbreviated in detail, fortunately. The outstanding feature of this book is how Sasson deftly explains Mayada's own journey culminating in her own imprisonment and fortunate escape from the hellish prison. There were times when I just could not read anymore of the sad, terrible accounts of how prisoners were mistreated; I had to read something else for relief. There should be a special place in

Hell for those guards. However, I always returned to read more, I was hooked; I wanted to find out how this saga ended. Mayada has great insight into the personality of Saddam Hussein and Chemical Ali; her accounts of their cruelty, paranoia, and warped view of life makes the book believable. The detail provided enhances the reading experience. So, a well written account of one woman's journey to hell and back that just misses a five-star rating.

Amazing heartwarming story of women's survival in prison and how they were abused and beaten but still kept their faith and took care of each other in the worst of circumstances. Hard to believe that this is going on today while we live here in the comfort of our own homes with food, clothing and people who love us and take care of us. This is a great picture of the evil that exists in the Middle East and how far reaching it goes to poor helpless innocent men and women. God help us!

An amazing story about woman trying to survive under Saddam. To read all the stories that this woman was told from her cell mates of what they gone through was amazing. I can not imagine going through the torture that these woman have gone through, both the mental and physical. The strength of Samara is amazing. I hope against all reality. That all these women in cell 52 were released and able to be with their families again.

Beautifully told story of one brave woman's struggle to survive under the paranoia-driven reign of Saddam Hussein. Mayada was born into a very prominent family -- respected by all sectors of Iraqi society for their scholarship, intellect, as well as sacrifice -- yet she was imprisoned and brutally tortured for a crime she never committed. Yet while imprisoned, she met other innocent women who were also being viciously tortured for years. This is a passionate story and a must-read for anyone who wants to know the truth about one of the world's most brutal dictators.

This is the fifth of Jean Sasson's books I have read and I thirst for more. I am saddened by the atrocities survived by women in the middle east, but at the same time I find parallels in the American culture. We may not be locked away in rooms as punishment, or confined to our houses only to leave when accompanied by a male family member, but even here in the US, women are subject to 'boys club' mentality and as free as we are, we are not equals. Jean has brought out the feminist in me when I didn't know there was one. Jean brings insight into another world hidden behind veils. I have but one complaint: she writes these stories so well, I want to help the women in her books; but I do not know how.

Jean Sasson's skilfully portrayed depiction of a woman's suffering and torture under Saddam's regime is not an easy read. Although most people are well aware of the atrocities perpetrated on innocents by Saddam and his cronies, yet Mayada's experience in the torture chambers and the stories of her cell mates, leave one gasping at the levels of inhumanity that humans are capable of. Being high-born, Mayada had personal access to intimate details of the Saddam clan and though a troubling, depressing narrative, none-the-less, interesting in its contents.

I thought Jean Sasson did a good job of writing the story. It was interesting to read what was happening in Iraq during Hussein's reign of terror. Everyone was afraid that every friend, neighbor, employee, or a jealous person would say anything that might make the secret police arrest them. Indeed, Mayada was arrested & imprisoned for awhile. The details of the horrendous things that went on made it a sad book, but a book, I found worth the time.

One woman's story of her life and totally unjust imprisonment in Saddam's Iraq. The details of the terrifying experiences of her cell mates in prison is chilling. No longer can we live in ignorance of this monster's government.

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