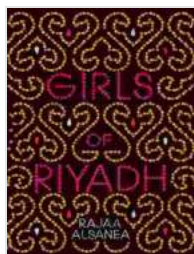


# Girls of Riyadh: An Unprecedented Look into the Lives of Saudi Women

In the heart of the conservative kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where women are often seen as second-class citizens, a group of young women are defying the odds and living their lives on their own terms. These are the "Girls of Riyadh," and their stories are told in a groundbreaking book by American journalist Marilyn Booth.



## Girls of Riyadh by Marilyn Booth

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 754 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 308 pages



Booth spent over a decade interviewing and observing women from all walks of life in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. She gained unprecedented access to their homes, schools, workplaces, and even their private lives. The result is a book that offers a rare and nuanced portrait of the challenges and triumphs these women face.

## The Challenges

The challenges faced by Saudi women are numerous and complex. They include:

- **Legal restrictions:** Saudi women are subject to a number of legal restrictions that limit their freedom of movement, employment, and education. For example, women are not allowed to drive, travel without a male guardian, or work in many professions.
- **Social and cultural norms:** In addition to legal restrictions, Saudi women also face significant social and cultural barriers. They are often expected to conform to traditional gender roles, which can limit their opportunities for education, employment, and personal growth.
- **Economic inequality:** Saudi women are also more likely to be poor than men. They have less access to education and employment, and they are often paid less for the same work as men.
- **Violence against women:** Saudi women are also more likely to be victims of violence, both inside and outside the home. Domestic violence is a serious problem in Saudi Arabia, and women who report abuse often face retaliation from their husbands or families.

## **The Triumphs**

Despite the challenges they face, the Girls of Riyadh are finding ways to succeed. They are pursuing higher education, starting businesses, and working to change the status quo. They are also using social media to connect with other women and share their stories.

One of the most inspiring stories in the book is that of Manal al-Sharif. In 2011, Manal was arrested for driving a car. She spent several weeks in prison, but her arrest sparked a social media campaign that led to the lifting of the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia.

Manal's story is just one example of the ways in which the Girls of Riyadh are making a difference. They are challenging stereotypes, breaking down barriers, and paving the way for a more just and equitable future for all Saudi women.

## **The Impact**

Girls of Riyadh has had a profound impact on the world. It has been translated into over 20 languages and has been praised by critics and readers alike. The book has also been used as a teaching tool in universities and schools around the world.

Girls of Riyadh has helped to raise awareness of the challenges faced by Saudi women. It has also inspired other women to speak out and demand change. The book has played a role in the growing movement for women's rights in Saudi Arabia.

## **The Relevance**

Girls of Riyadh is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the lives of Saudi women. It is a powerful and moving book that offers a rare glimpse into a world that is often hidden from view.

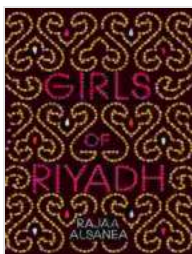
The book is also relevant to the ongoing struggle for women's rights in Saudi Arabia. The Girls of Riyadh are a powerful reminder that change is possible. They are a source of inspiration for all women who are fighting for a more just and equitable world.

Girls of Riyadh is a groundbreaking book that offers a rare and nuanced portrait of the challenges and triumphs faced by Saudi women. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the lives of women in the Middle

East. The book is also relevant to the ongoing struggle for women's rights in Saudi Arabia. The Girls of Riyadh are a powerful reminder that change is possible. They are a source of inspiration for all women who are fighting for a more just and equitable world.

## Additional Resources

- [Girls of Riyadh on Amazon](#)
- [Girls of Riyadh on Goodreads](#)
- [NPR review of Girls of Riyadh](#)
- [New York Times review of Girls of Riyadh](#)



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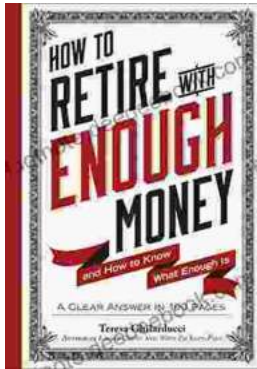
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