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Lori's Song - The True Story Of An American Woman Held Captive In Iran



Synopsis

Though she endured a childhood of physical and sexual abuse, nothing would ever equal what happened to her in Iran the weeks following 9/11. Lori, an American married to an Iranian, had been working and living as an ordinary member of Iranian society for almost 4 years when she had heard rumors that the U.S. was going to be attacked. That was on September 9, 2001. She tried and failed to call home and give warning. The news that all those rumors were horribly true came on September 11th 2001. That was when her husband suddenly announced that they had to go back to the States in case there were repercussions. On September 12, 2001, Lori and her husband were at the Shiraz bus terminal intending to catch a bus to Istanbul and from there to Heathrow and home to the U.S.A. They were totally unprepared for the convoy of troop carriers that suddenly drove up and the armed men who came pouring out to take the hapless couple prisoner. There was no explanation offered. The men took Lori's husband one direction and she another, pushing them blindfolded into the back of the troop carriers with other prisoners, mostly Iranian. Who the armed men were was anybody's guess but they took their prisoners to POW camp in unfamiliar territory and there, Lori was held, tortured, raped, and starved with them for over a month. Her husband was not to be seen again. Lori was rescued with one of her fellow inmates by the girl's family and, after riding a llama for 1-2 days over mountainous terrain; she arrived at the Iran Immigration center. By then, she weighed in at only 70 pounds, was still suffering from the many injuries she'd received at the hands of her torturers, and wanted badly to get home to her family in the USA. Even then, she had to fight Iranian Islamic bureaucracy to have permission to go, as the husband was unavailable to grant it. In any Islamic country, unknown to many western women, the husband or guardian's permission is always required for a woman to travel anywhere. Lori had been married to Mohammad for 9 years and thought she could trust him but, since their arrival in Iran in 1998, his personality and behavior had changed so radically as to make this most recent nightmare highly suspicious. The events told here are true. It was no coincidence that this American citizen had been placed into a concentration camp. In fact, it raises many questions and should be a caution to many! Caution: There are very graphic details of the sadistic behaviors that were carried out on these victims by these so called "Muslims". It is also very inspirational and educational on traveling to foreign countries.

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Customer Reviews

Lori's Song by Lori Foroozandeh
The true story of an American woman held captive in Iran
Outskirts Press, Inc.
Lori begins her book telling of her abuse as an infant and subsequent adoption into a home with parents who love her. The two older sisters are jealous of her, and the sexual molestation from her older brother is ignored by their mother. Lori is not an easy child to raise and at 15, tells her parents she's getting married--which they must agree to, or she threatens to become pregnant. She marries Mike, who is five years older than she and who manages to impress her parents. The marriage lasts eight months. What is Lori to do? Join the Army of course--then get pregnant and marry her recruiter causing him to go AWOL. The best thing Lori has in her young life is her son Douglas. She goes through Army Boot Camp and continues a wild life of partying - even in the Army, managing to go AWOL with a girlfriend. They get caught by their own captain at a military party in a hotel. This book is not without irony and humor. She divorces her husband who cheats on her with her sister, only to have her life, "plunge into Hell". Lori marries her third husband, Mohammed Foroozandeh, at 27, while attending college--ignoring his ex-wife's warning of his violence. She marries in a Muslim wedding ceremony and they live a wealthy life. Mohammed talks her into going to Iran, telling her it is modern now and nothing like its reputation. Dougie wisely decides to try living with his father for a while. When they arrive in Iran, Lori's nightmare begins.

first Tehran looks like any other big city; modern, beautiful and crowded, but Lori soon notes differences, especially in the way women are treated by husbands, fathers, and men in general.

Lori Foroozandeh grew up as a much-abused child, sexually and mentally. She began to wonder what was normal in life and if the "games" her family played with her were good or bad for her. As it always turned out, they were extremely bad for Lori. Her "tickling" episodes turned into so much more than tickling. The only reason I emphasize the abuse is so you can realize what much of the rest of her life became because of abuse. She got to the point where sexual and physical abuse was something she grew to accept as being normal. Lori originally married at age fifteen to a much older man when she felt she had to emancipate herself. That marriage didn't last very long. At seventeen she joined the army and fell in love with her recruiter and got pregnant at once. They got married after he had gone AWOL and was given a dishonorable discharge. Lori did go to army training and was selected in a group to see how women reacted in combat. Lori went AWOL several times and finally decided the army was not for her future. Several years later she was caught and was separated from the army. Lori's life had become quite wild! When twenty-seven, Lori met her next husband, Mohammad Foroozandeh, who also had children. He talked her, or in reality, forced her to go to Iran where he said things were changed so much for women and her wild record in the United States would be over. Upon arrival in Iran, Lori was forced into wearing the Muslim clothing. Lori became a teacher of English. She hated living in Iran with all the customs she had to follow and to add to the misery, Mohammad started hitting and slapping her even more so when he found out Lori was trying to find a way back to the United States.

Lori's Song - The Lori Foroozandeh Story There are stories upon stories of abuse, some bare all and others simply touch upon the actual event. Lori's Song is the former with nothing left to the imagination. As I read, I found it very difficult to understand how any other human being could inflict such cruelty upon another without remorse, totally unfeeling, and completely void of any care or concern. These people do exist and they are not limited to any one country or origin. While the purpose of Lori's Song is to reflect on her time spent/lived in Iran, Lori discloses far more which transpired way before these events. Some reflected bad choices which is not uncommon in past history nor in today's society, others befell her as an innocent victim. Lori endured so much in her life prior to her captivity in Iran that perhaps these, as horrible as they were, actually strengthened her will for survival. I will not go into detail here for this is an author's rating and review, not a retelling of her book. I can say, you will find this story leaving you shocked beyond words,

breathless at times, wrenchingly heart broken and filled with suspense to the very end. This is more than just a story of survival: it is hope within the most adverse situations one can imagine. There are parts of Lori's story that leave unanswered questions to this day. The timing of her captivity centers around 9/11 and for her, she will always ponder the connection of her captivity to the violent hatred for Americans disclosed in her presence. Even upon her return to America, the trauma she experienced was scrutinized questioningly and shunned. The visibility alone of her bruised, broken and frail body should have been enough to eliminate any doubt or question.

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