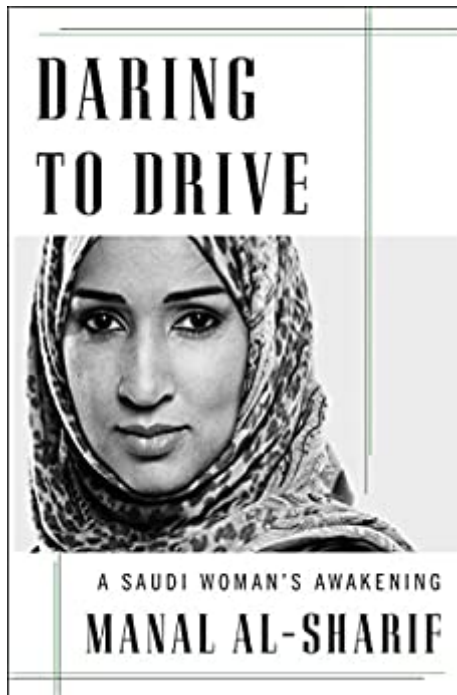




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Daring To Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening



Synopsis

A ferociously intimate memoir by a devout woman from a modest family in Saudi Arabia who became the unexpected leader of a courageous movement to support women's right to drive. Manal al-Sharif grew up in Mecca the second daughter of a taxi driver, born the year fundamentalism took hold. In her adolescence, she was a religious radical, melting her brother's boy band cassettes in the oven because music was haram: forbidden by Islamic law. But what a difference an education can make. By her twenties she was a computer security engineer, one of few women working in a desert compound that resembled suburban America. That's when the Saudi kingdom's contradictions became too much to bear: she was labeled a slut for chatting with male colleagues, her teenage brother chaperoned her on a business trip, and while she kept a car in her garage, she was forbidden from driving down city streets behind the wheel. *Daring to Drive* is the fiercely intimate memoir of an accidental activist, a powerfully vivid story of a young Muslim woman who stood up to a kingdom of men and won. Writing on the cusp of history, Manal offers a rare glimpse into the lives of women in Saudi Arabia today. Her memoir is a remarkable celebration of resilience in the face of tyranny, the extraordinary power of education and female solidarity, and the difficulties, absurdities, and joys of making your voice heard.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Horrrifying what women in so many parts of the world are still facing. Makes me want to go help her with the fight.

Great "truth" reading. Courageous lady who will not disavow her religious devotion, unfortunately, in my view, but, she fights for what I would refer to as "unalienable rights." She has had a very challenging life and at, most times, disappointing. I suspect, her self-esteem and life are challenged every single day.

Such an incredible story. A very well-written account of Manal's experiences and inspiringly bold commitment to women's rights. Full of detailed happening and well articulated aspect of Saudi culture and custom. Highly recommended!

This is an excellent book! It's the compelling story of one woman's experience being born and raised in a society so foreign to the typical American experience. The abuse and inequality that still exists for Saudi women today is astonishing. The bravery and determination of the author in living, let alone telling, her story is commendable.

A tough read in that the reader gets involved, emotionally, with the joys and sufferings of the author. But the best part is learning what the majority of the population endures living in this type of religion, poverty and government.

Interesting read. She is a courageous woman and a survivor of a most dysfunctional family.

Daring to Drive presents a complex picture of life in Saudi Arabia -- in particular for women. I read the book after hearing NPR's interview of Manal al-Sharif. For anyone interested in Middle East politics or women's rights this is an excellent pick. The book tells a story (or rather many stories) that we do not generally hear in the United States. Much of the narrative describes tragic circumstances (physical abuse, discrimination, poverty) however the book leaves one with hope. For all the abusive men (and women) the author describes there are also many people who went

out of their way to help her journey.

Loved the book so much and was very pleased with the honesty displayed in her account. Very inspirational woman whom future generations of Saudis would be proud of. I can't keep the phrase driving while woman out of my head.

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