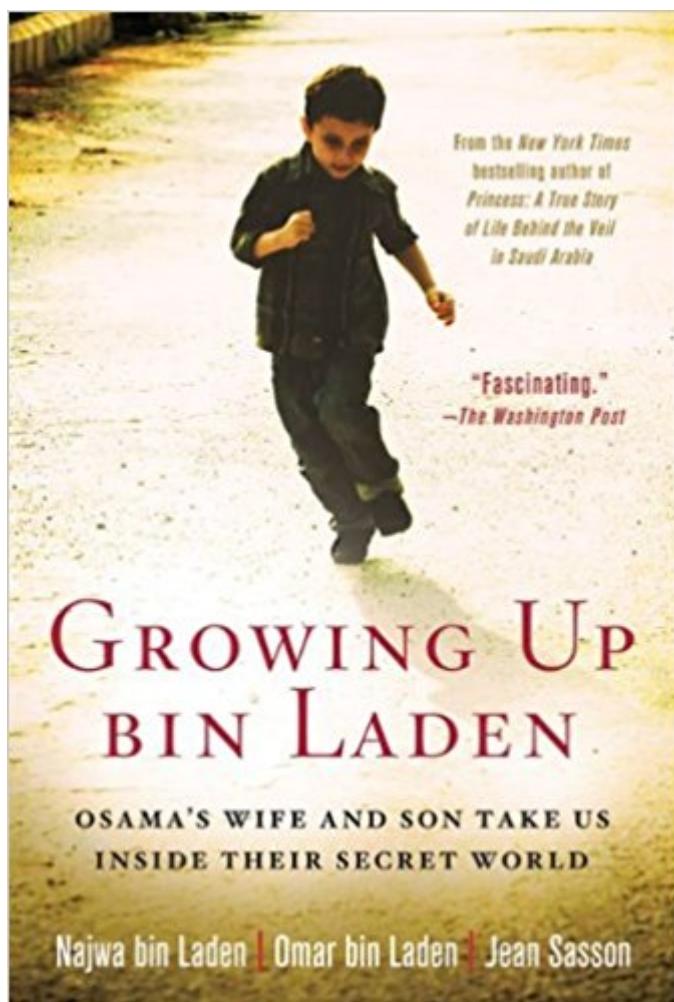


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# Growing Up Bin Laden: Osama's Wife And Son Take Us Inside Their Secret World



## Synopsis

The New York Times calls GROWING UP BIN LADEN: "The most complete account available of the terrorist's immediate family." (May 15, 2011) A true story that few ever believed would come to light, GROWING UP BIN LADEN uncovers startling revelations and hidden secrets carefully guarded by the most wanted terrorist of our lifetime, Osama bin Laden. "I was not always the wife of Osama bin Laden. Once I was an innocent child dreaming little girl dreams..." Thus begins this powerful story as Najwa bin Laden, who married her cousin Osama bin Laden at the age of 15 to become his first wife and the mother to eleven of his children, and her son, Omar bin Laden, the fourth-born son of Osama bin Laden. Together, mother and son tell an extraordinarily powerful story of a man hated by so many, yet both loved and feared by his family, with spine-tingling details about the life and times of the man they knew as a husband and father, including: - Osama's disapproval of modern conveniences, including electricity and medicine- His plan to toughen up his sons by taking them into the desert without food or water- Transporting his wives and children to the rough terrain of Sudan, where he claimed to be preparing them for attacks from western powers, commanding them to dig holes, and to sleep in those holes, allowing nothing more than sand and twigs for cover- Omar's horror at the rape and murder of a boy his own age, by members of a jihadist group living among them in the Sudan. - What happened in the bin Laden home in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the morning of September 11, 2001, and Omar's surprise phone call with his mother, who escaped from Afghanistan only two days before the shattering events that killed so many innocent people. Since September 11, 2001, journalists have struggled to uncover carefully guarded information about Osama's private life. Until now, Osama Bin Laden's family members have not cooperated with any writers or journalists. Now, with unprecedented access and insight, Jean Sasson, author of the bestselling Princess: A True Story Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia, takes us inside the secret world of Osama bin Laden.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

We all knew, for the most part, what kind of man Bin Laden was. But Through reading this book, I have learned about his beginnings, and what drove him to his eventual determined destruction of the western world. Narrated by his first Wife, who was also his first cousin, and one of their sons, they talk about him as they perceived him. His first wife, who was very much in love with him when they married, eventually saw him for what he was, as did his son. He eventually took four more wives. A few left him eventually. This is a man who came from great wealth at an early age, and wound up with nothing. Toward the end of his life, they were without a country or a home, often living in caves high up in the mountains with no running water or electricity. I really felt sorry for the children, who got little or no fatherly attention from Bin Laden. The son he wanted to groom for terrorism, wanted nothing to do with it. He seemed like a gentle soul who just didn't fit in with his father's plans. This is a wonderful book that delves into Bin Laden's personality, his hatred, and his personal life, as told by his family members. If you are looking for a really good book about his life, get this one.

What a surprise! Reminded me a bit of Paul Theroux's "Mosquito Coast" because it's about a fanatical father dragging his family from a comfortable life to an austere and dangerous place. But this isn't fiction. The perspective of the son and wife are sociologically and psychologically fascinating. Some parts were almost funny, like the ADHD brother accidentally pulling a grenade pin while the family was on a private jet, or Bin-Ladin insisting that the air conditioning be shut off to live like the prophet although he still got to hypocritically drive sports cars. I highly recommend this book.

Growing up in the west, it's no secret that we're not exposed to the parts of the Middle East aside

from images we see on television about terrorism and human rights abuses. When I saw this book about Osama Bin Laden and his wife and child, I knew it was a must read. This book will not disappoint, it's a fascinating look into the private life of Osama Bin Laden. For readers familiar with the Bin Laden family name and Mohamed Bin Laden's construction empire in Saudi Arabia, some parts of the book, especially in the beginning will be familiar territory. If you're looking for a good read from the inside of the family, this is it.

The book was interesting, more than I anticipated. Maybe it was the only way we will ever learn the true Osama bin Laden. It as a big eye opener into a Muslim life. A true history lesson. I had trouble putting this book down.

Fabulous! A private glance into a world most of us will never know. Insight into the man who was responsible for many changes in our way of life; his motives, and the role that western governments played in shaping what he became.

I found it so revealing to delve into the lives of the bin Ladens. They are human beings, just as we all are. Even Osama had sensitive spots in his personality. Yes, I will recommend this book, because we need to understand even our enemy Osama, as well as his family who has had a difficult life.

This is a great book! It shows clearly the family side of his life that was never talked about. Seeing how awful he was to them and how truly warped his mind was in every aspect of his life.

Wonderful insight into the family behind the man. Not at all what I expected, though very enlightening.

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