



The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War

By Hala Jaber

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The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War By Hala Jaber

The inspiring true story of a prizewinning foreign correspondent longing for a child, two small Iraqi children in need of a mother, and what love and grief can teach us about family and hope.

Zahra, age three, and Hawra, only a few months old, were the only survivors of a missile strike in Baghdad in 2003 that killed their parents and five siblings. Across the world, in London, foreign correspondent Hala Jaber was preparing to head to Iraq to cover the emerging war. After ten years spent trying to conceive and struggling with fertility problems, Jaber and her husband had finally resigned themselves to a childless future. Now she intended to bury her grief in her work, with some unusually dangerous reporting. Once in Iraq, though, Jaber found herself drawn again and again to stories of mothers and children, a path that led her to an Iraqi children's hospital—and to Zahra and Hawra and their heart-wrenching story. Almost instantly Jaber became entwined in the lives of these two Iraqi children, and in a struggle to advocate on their behalf that reveals far more about the human cost of war than any news bulletin ever could.

Beautifully written and deeply moving, *The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles* presents a genuinely fresh insight and perspective from a woman who, as an Arab living and working in the West, is able to uniquely straddle both worlds. In its attention to the emotional experiences of women and children whose lives are irrevocably changed by war, Jaber's story offers hope for redemption for those caught in its cross fires.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this stirring, frank account, Jaber, a Lebanese-British foreign correspondent depicts her professional work covering the Gulf War and her personal engagement with an Iraqi family caught tragically in the crossfire. Reporting for London's *Sunday Times* on the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, Jaber, accompanied by her British photographer husband, Steve Bent, took up the cause of numerous hospitalized children grievously wounded in the bombing and helped start a fund to provide them with better medical attention and supplies. In particular, Jaber learned the extraordinary story of two orphans, the only survivors in a family of seven children who had been engulfed in the firestorm with their parents while fleeing their Baghdad neighborhood in April 2003. Three-year-old Zahra was burned over most of her body and in dire need of sophisticated emergency attention, while her baby sister, Hawra, tossed from a car window, survived unscathed. Jaber, with the help of young American journalist Marla Ruzicka (who eventually died in a car bombing), was able to get Zahra airlifted out, though she later died in an American military hospital. Jaber felt keenly for these orphans, as she had endured years of personal turmoil attempting to get pregnant in her marriage, and she proposed to the girls' grandmother that she adopt them. Jaber demonstrates in this affecting work how she employed her professional passion to aid Iraq's war victims. (*June*)

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Review

"Powerful. Unforgettable. Hala Jaber paints heart-breaking portraits of children and families who have lost a great deal, some everything, during the Iraq war. She takes us into the lives of fearless, selfless journalists, volunteer workers, and doctors, who try at great risk to themselves to help these devastated people. Jaber's own quest to adopt two orphan children weaves through the narrative with moving detail, providing an extra, personal dimension. She brings us close to deep desires, tragedies, as well as fulfillment."

-Nahid Rachlin, author of "Persian Girls"

aFrom the midst of rubble and ash in Baghdad, Hala Jaber tells of the devastation of war, of families wiped out and of survivors a agony and pain. However Jaber's account also shows us a ray of hope through the person of Hawra, an Iraqi orphan who has lost her parents and six siblings. Told through the eyes of a journalist and written from the passion of a woman yearning to raise a family, Jaber's account is not only the personal journey of a remarkable woman but also a worthy testimony to the suffering of a people.

aMarina Nemat, author of "Prisoner of Tehran"

aFew women will have faced or chosen the conditions and traumas that Jaber has, but many women will understand how ferociously stretched and torn she feels. Personally moving and politically thought-provoking, Jaber's book stares down war and insists on hope.

aMartha Moody, author of "Best Friends" and "Sometimes Mine"

aIt is essential that we learn from other cultures. Recounting the traumas of war and sacrificed innocence in "The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles," Hala Jaber brings us into this other world in a way that enlightens our understanding of ourselves. A moving and sober book; to be read and considered thoughtfully.

aYasmina Khadra, author of "The Swallows of Kabul"

aJaber maps the ancient roads of the human heart, where a childless woman longs for a baby of her own and embraces Baghdad's smallest victims instead. The result is a unique and haunting tale. Family, finally, is those who love us, and those we choose to love.

aMelissa Fay Greene, author of "Praying for Sheetrock" and "There is No Me Without You"

About the Author

Hala Jaber was born in West Africa and grew up in Lebanon, where her family still lives. She began her journalistic career in the Press Association bureau in Beirut. Twice named Foreign Reporter of the Year at

the British Press Awards, in 2005 and 2006, she has been honored by Amnesty International and in 2007 won the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Melvin Paul:

This The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't be worry The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War can bring any time you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War having excellent arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Richard Linneman:

Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write for their book. One of them is this The Flying Carpet of Small Miracles: One Woman's Fight to Save Two Orphans of War.

Debra Sims:

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William Davis:

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