



# Behind the Burqa: Our Life in Afghanistan and How We Escaped to Freedom

*Batya Swift Yasgur (As Told to) , Sulima and Hala*

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Advance Praise for Behind the Burqa

"Whenever and wherever adults make war, children die and women are subjected to fear and humiliation. This is true of Afghanistan too. Read this harrowing book. The tragic yet heroic tale of two women is told with great simplicity. They will haunt you."

-Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

"The stories of Sulima and Hala achingly articulate the twin and enduring legacies of misogyny and violence. A critical historical document, Behind the Burqa ultimately reveals the unbreakable strength of Afghan women."

-Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues*

Founder and Artistic Director, V-Day

"Behind the Burqa provides important information about conditions in Afghanistan, as well as the plight of asylum-seekers in the United States. I highly recommend this book to all people who are concerned about human rights, both at home and abroad."

-Senator Sam Brownback, (R. Kansas)

ranking member, Immigration Subcommittee, Committee on the Judiciary

"This book is a gripping reading experience, and it also offers important suggestions for those who would like to participate in making our asylum politics more humane."

-Eleanor Acer, Director, Asylum Program, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

"This book shows the injustices suffered by innocent women seeking asylum in the U. S. and the power of religious faith to provide hope and courage even in prison."

-Fauziya Kassindja, author of *Do They Hear You When You Cry*

"Sulima and Hala epitomize the worldwide struggle of women for equality and justice. Their story is gripping and illuminating."

-Jessica Neuwirth, President of Equality Now

## Behind the Burqa: Our Life in Afghanistan and How We Escaped to Freedom Details

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# **From Reader Review Behind the Burqa: Our Life in Afghanistan and How We Escaped to Freedom for online ebook**

**Lisa of Hopewell says**

So far, EXCELLENT....didn't get to finish it this time around--I'll try it again another time.

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**Ann Piccirillo says**

Absolutely haunting

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**Tommy Estlund says**

This was an especially difficult book to read, and it rounds out my literary tour of Afghanistan. This is the true account of two sisters, separated by 16 years and countless cultural circumstances. They tell their stories of fear, intimidation, and oppression, as well as their journey's to America.

A definite must-read.

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**Nancy says**

I got more of the personality of the author from the book's opener than I did of Sulima and Hala over the rest of the course of the book. It was an interesting window into Afganistan from the female perspective, but there was a lot lost between the story tellers and the story writer.

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**Lorraine says**

excellent depiction of life under the Taliban and then the dreadful treatment of asylum seekers at the airport detention centres. I found the second part of the book more interesting than the first for its factual history of how the Taliban started..recommend

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**Kasi says**

I was dissappointed that this book did not offer more about women in Afghanistan. The first ladies story read like any other domestic violence victim in the U.S.

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## **Rflutist says**

I have mixed feelings after reading this book. It succeeds in bringing to light the problems associated with seeking asylum in the United States. I also think it was a strong representation and depiction of life in Afghanistan and the subsequent repression by Mujahideen and Taliban forces. However, those strengths were lost when the narrative devolved into the personal trevails of one of the women, who suffered through an abusive marriage. It was at those moments that the story shifted from Afghanistan into reading that was difficult to stomach. Because of the abusive nature of the marriage discussed, I would not recommend this book, which is unfortunate, as the author is a talented writer.

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## **Megan Moody says**

This book is written by two sisters born 16 years apart. As such, each sister's experience in Afghanistan is quite different from the others, each with unique hardships. In the "real-life hardship/horrible event" genre, this book is different in that it's more about an ongoing difficult life versus one horrific event. Well worth reading with no too many gory details for the reader who can't handle such things.

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## **Angelica says**

This was an amazing read. I came across this wonderful book on my search for a book to write an essay on for my women's studies class in high school. A few parts of the book were emotionally challenging, but never once did I experience the sensation of boredom. If you are an emotionally sensitive person, be warned. This is a serious can't-put-down-for-one-moment real life story about 2 women living in a culture that does not acknowledge or respect their existence. A real eye opener and incredibly rich experience of Afghanistan pre and post Taliban.

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## **Amanda says**

A must read for everyone. My, what some people have to go through in their lives.

This is so well written. Yet it is not trying to be anything expect for what it is, a story of 2 sisters, and their different lives. What amazing strong woman they are.

Happy to lend to my 'friends' if you want to have a read.

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## **Anke says**

Another great eyewitness report about life in Afghanistan before, during and after communism and the hardship and persecution of women under the Taliban. Great insight and a must read for everyone who is interested in different cultures.

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**Beth says**

An important look into women's suffering under the Taliban and also the inner workings of our country's asylum process.

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**Rohullah says**

all i can say about this book is that it is a well written and a good book.  
like it enough that i recommend my friend to read it if they want to have some knowledge and idea about womans life in Afghanistan in the time of taliban rulers.

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**Jamie says**

This book was pretty dull. It's not really about Afghanistan as much as domestic abuse. There are much better books about both Afghanistan and domestic violence.

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**Izunia says**

It is impossible to rate someone's life story. Especially when it is full of pain and injustice, but also great bravery. The tree stars I gave this book do not mean anything. The book tells a story of two sisters who suffered enormously for their belief in (and fight for) women's rights in Afghanistan. Through their eyes we are told also about events that took place in Afghanistan since 1950s. The story is deeply moving. I could not hold my tears. It is almost unbelievable that women are treated like this also in "Western" countries in our time. The book made me think about what I can do to help women around the world.

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