



## The Hostage's Daughter: A Story of Family, Madness, and the Middle East

*Sulome Anderson*

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In this gripping blend of reportage, memoir, and analysis, a journalist and daughter of one of the world's most famous hostages, Terry Anderson, takes an intimate look at her father's captivity during the Lebanese Hostage Crisis and the ensuing political firestorm on both her family and the United States—as well as the far-reaching implications of those events on Middle Eastern politics today.

In 1991, seven-year-old Sulome Anderson met her father, Terry, for the first time. While working as the Middle East bureau chief for the Associated Press covering the long and bloody civil war in Lebanon, Terry had been kidnapped in Beirut and held for more than six years by a Shiite Muslim militia associated by most with the Hezbollah movement.

As the nation celebrated, the media captured a smiling Anderson family joyously reunited. But the truth was far darker. Plagued by PTSD, Terry was a moody, aloof, and distant figure to the young daughter who had long dreamed of his return—and while she smiled for the cameras all the same, she absorbed his trauma as her own.

Years later, after long battles with drug abuse and mental illness, Sulome would travel to the Middle East as a reporter, seeking to understand her father, the men who had kidnapped him, and ultimately, herself. What she discovered was shocking—not just about Terry, but about the international political machinations that occurred during the years of his captivity.

*The Hostage's Daughter* is an intimate look at the effect of the Lebanese Hostage Crisis on Anderson's family, the United States, and the Middle East today. Sulome tells moving stories from her experiences as a reporter in the region and challenges our understanding of global politics, the forces that spawn terrorism and especially Lebanon, the beautiful, devastated, and vitally important country she came to love. Powerful and eye-opening *The Hostage's Daughter* is essential reading for anyone interested in international relations, this violent, haunted region, and America's role in its fate.

## The Hostage's Daughter: A Story of Family, Madness, and the Middle East Details

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## **From Reader Review The Hostage's Daughter: A Story of Family, Madness, and the Middle East for online ebook**

### **Sandy says**

I'm sure I would have rated it higher if I had a better understanding of the Middle East and it's history, but most of it went over my head (that's on me, not the author). It's very well written and researched and there's an audience for it somewhere. Even though I skipped through a lot of the political stuff, I did enjoy the human relationships described and the effects the events had on those humans.

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### **Jane Hammons says**

This is a very interesting read, more for the journalism, in my opinion, than the memoir--though these elements are seamlessly interwoven. I tend to like more reflective memoirs. But the parts of this book that are investigative--Sulome Anderson trying to get a more detailed, deeper story (not to mention truth) of her father's kidnapping--are riveting. It took a lot of courage to write this book--Anderson puts a lot on the line in terms of her personal safety and her willingness to look at her past and the history that shapes her relationship with her father, an enormous force in her life. I hear the movie rights have been sold. I can see how this would make a great movie--as long as it doesn't go "Homeland" on us :)

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### **Jacinda says**

Sulome's search to uncover the truth and all aspects surrounding her father's abduction leads to a rather fascinating tale and the ensuing fallout of a person who was held as a hostage for 7 years. As a journalist the author has gone far beyond a brief insight into uncovering the truth and in the end comes face to face with one of the terrorists responsible for holding her father. However the story also investigates various political motivations behind what may have initiated the terrorist organisations, the personal fallout the author suffered from her father's abduction as well as covering her own memoirs. It's a fascinating read that highlights some interesting history behind some highly war-torn regions of the world.

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### **Jeanie Blyth says**

This is a raw, honest & brave memoir, I'm really impressed by this young woman's personal courage and transparency. I was drawn to read this because I loved Brian Keenan's 'An Evil Cradling', but this woman is something else. The writing is fresh, unpretentious and accessible, & considering how complex and harrowing her subject matter is, she seems to have found just the right tone and balance.

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### **Samar Dahmash Jarrah says**

Very interesting and painful inside look into the lives of a hostage's daughter after the Cameras are gone. I had the privilege of interviewing the author. Will post the interview here later. UPDATE.

Here is a link to my interview with author Sulome Anderson.

<http://samarjarrah.com/en/radio-shows...>

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### **Gail says**

Tracking down the abductors of her father Terry Anderson. Four stars for covering this fascinating history, but a less interesting memoir as well. Not sure the writer knew what form the book should take, sometimes way too much of a private confessional.

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### **Yaman Hukan says**

Brilliantly written and truly a page turner. A personal story of suffering and agony, one out of the millions caused by a brutal 15 years long civil war, with an insight on some of its actors including Hizbollah, Israel, and Iran.

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### **Everydayreader1 says**

Terry Anderson was taken hostage in Lebanon before his daughter, Sulome Anderson, was born. She was a seven-year-old little girl before she met him, when he was released by his captors, in 1991. The Hostage's Daughter tells the story of her childhood, her reunion with her father, her search to learn who kidnapped him and why, and finally of her making peace with him and herself. This book also gives the reader a better understanding of the conflicts and the complex political climate in the Middle East.

The honesty in this book brought me to tears many times. It is a story of real courage in so many ways. A great read.

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### **Dee Halzack says**

This well-written page turner by the daughter of one of the many Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon at one point gives insight into the Middle East, political kidnapping, and mental health. If you're interested in the Middle East, like a good personal story, or are interested in journalism I highly recommend the book. In spite of the fact that it focuses on a story that was well covered in the news at one point, there are twists and turns and surprises.

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**Jim says**

There's a lot of good information here, but it feels as if Anderson was not really sure exactly what book she wanted to write, so just went with it. A mishmash of investigative journalism (and kudos to her for tracking down some of these folks), memoir, op-ed, and even perhaps a little soapbox for getting out her feeling against her parents and ex-boyfriends. Honest in that she reveals drug problems and mental illness, but that material I liked less than the historical stuff. Her descriptions of her Dad were fair to the opposite of what I expected---he doesn't come off too well in the telling. Some may not like the slant of her views, but she does ask legitimate questions.

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**Mary Black says**

This book had a lot of current and past history of Lebanon which was interesting to a degree but the part that really spoke to me was her personal journey. Sulome is a brave honest woman who has struggled through many challenges and she tells her story with all the heartbreak and triumph.

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**Sandi says**

A sober retelling of Terry Anderson being held by his daughter and what this did to her and her family. She became sick on and off with behavior disorders. She became a journalist and went to the Lebanon where she did find out the story good book

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**Bryan Fordham says**

Pretty good book. Some interesting stuff in it. Anderson is a talented writer, and does a good job with this book.

Unfortunately I never really connected with her as the protagonist. That's not a complaint, and certainly not her fault.

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**Scott Carmichael says**

I found this to be a disturbing and confusing book at times. Sulome wraps it up nice in the end. Perhaps her father's kidnapping wasn't as confusing and mixed up international plot as many make it out to be. Just some desperate people trying to do whatever they can? I am sure this quest helped Sulome find some closer and peace. Quite a journey. God Bless

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**Pam says**

An interesting and informative book - especially for me!!

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