

LAILA EL-SISSI

Author

BIO

Laila El-Sissi was born in Alexandria, Egypt, to an upper class family. She is one of six children. Her father was an architect who chose to educate his older daughters at a prestigious French convent school, although he was an observant Muslim.

As a teenager, El-Sissi hoped to pursue a career in journalism. However, she and her older sister, Rawiya, were promised to older men in arranged marriages at a young age. Through perseverance and fortitude, they eventually divorced their husbands and escaped the abusers within their family, fleeing the country of their birth.

El-Sissi moved first to Europe, then Canada, and finally settled in the United States with her second husband. She has two sons and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area where she works for a semiconductor company.

Several years ago, shortly after her sister Rawiya's death, El-Sissi found her early interest in writing reawakened and began working on her memoir. This is her first book. It won Millennium Magazine's 2010 writing contest, and Laila won a full stipend at Arts Residency Cairo. She has done numerous readings at the Golden Gate Breakfast Club and was a panelist at "Women in the Middle East and the Current Changes in Egypt," at the Common Wealth Middle East Forum in San Francisco in 2011. The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco is eager to have her speak at their series once the book is published. She is an active member of the California Writer's Club, shewrites.com, and redroom.com.

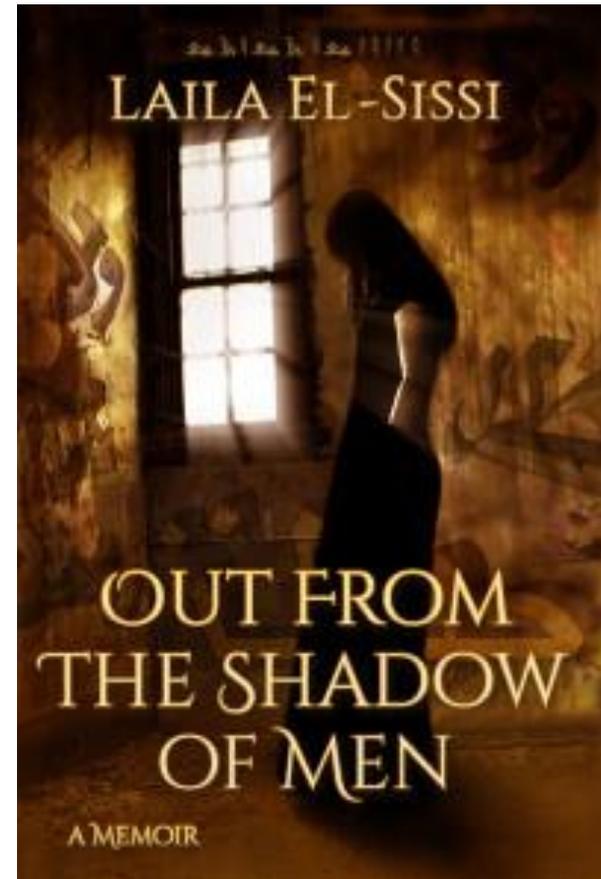


OUT FROM THE SHADOW OF MEN

Forty years ago, when Laila, a shy and malleable 15-year-old, and her more rebellious 16-year-old sister Rawyia learn that they are betrothed to men they have never met, they refuse to live in the prison constructed by their society, hoping for a better life than that of their mothers and aunts. Running from their tyrannical father, an abusive brother, and arranged marriages to men twice their age, Laila and Rawyia risk their reputation and safety, and plot their escape.

Out from the Shadows of Men tells the story of two sisters as they find the courage and joie de vivre to risk their lives and stand up to forces seemingly as large, strong and ancient as the pyramids so they can choose their futures.

At its heart it is the account of two brave, intelligent girls not content to have their lives ruled by others—not even their father. It is a testament to the power of a sister, someone to stand by your side and help you realize your dreams.



BOOK REVIEWS

“This is the most heartfelt book I[sic] read recently.” -[Good Hamdi](#)

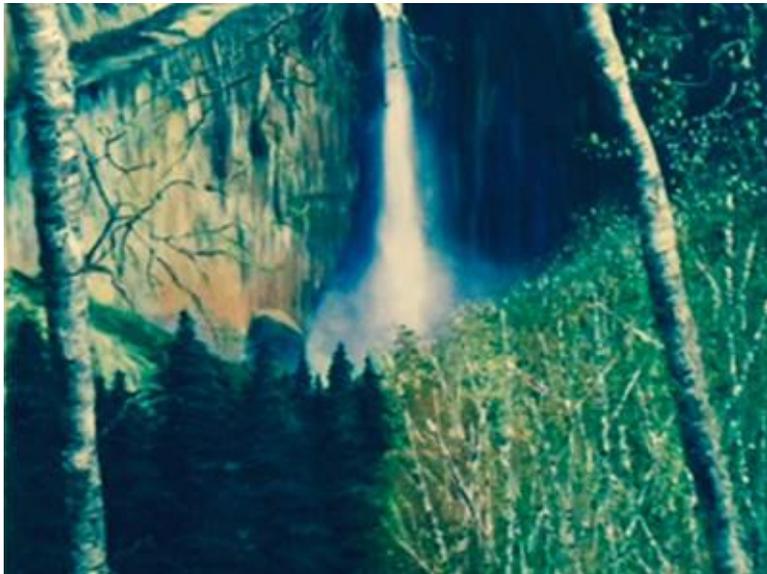
“If you are looking for a story of true romance, punctuated with heartbreak, then this is the story for you. This book’s value, however, goes far beyond being an engrossing memoir.” -[Elijah Brooks](#)

“I love this book.” -[Hayley Shaver](#)

“The subject matter makes my blood boil. I found myself willing Laila and Rawyia on page by page. This first memoir is only the beginning I feel...I would love to read on a bit deeper.” -[Gillian Ashton](#)

ARTWORK

Laila is an avid painter. Below are a few of her paintings:



BOOK SIGNINGS

Recent [San Francisco](#) signing at [Book Passage Bookstore & Cafe](#) on Laila El-Sissi's [Out From The Shadow of Men](#)



PRESS & MEDIA

Los Angeles Times

The collage consists of three distinct sections. The top-left section is a newspaper article titled "FRESH AND LOCAL" with a sub-headline "PROUDLY FROM THE FARM TO YOUR FORK". It features a photograph of a basket of fresh produce. The top-right section is a flyer for "BOOK EXPO AMERICA 2015" at the "100 Plus FR Library Board #1000", listing various authors and their books. The bottom section is a large advertisement for "BEVERLY HILLS JEWELERS" with the headline "I PAY HIGHEST CASH UP TO \$ MILLION" and "I PAY 50% HIGHER" for diamonds, gold, and jewelry. The ad includes contact information for Beverly Hills, CA.

CONTACT

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