



I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced

By Nujood Ali, Delphine Minoui

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“I’m a simple village girl who has always obeyed the orders of my father and brothers. Since forever, I have learned to say yes to everything. Today I have decided to say no.”

Nujood Ali's childhood came to an abrupt end in 2008 when her father arranged for her to be married to a man three times her age. With harrowing directness, Nujood tells of abuse at her husband's hands and of her daring escape. With the help of local advocates and the press, Nujood obtained her freedom—an extraordinary achievement in Yemen, where almost half of all girls are married under the legal age. Nujood's courageous defiance of both Yemeni customs and her own family has inspired other young girls in the Middle East to challenge their marriages. Hers is an unforgettable story of tragedy, triumph, and courage.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

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Chosen by Glamour magazine as a Woman of the Year in 2008, Nujood of Yemen has become an international hero for her astonishingly brave resistance to child marriage. Sold off by her impoverished family at the age of 10, continually raped by her husband before she even reached puberty, Nujood found the courage to run away, and with the help of an activist lawyer, sympathetic judges, and the international press, she divorced her husband and returned home. Her clear, first-person narrative, translated from the French and written with Minoui, is spellbinding: the horror of her parents' betrayal and her mother-in-law's connivance, the "grown-ups" who send the child from classroom and toys to nightmare abuse. She never denies the poverty that drives her parents and oppresses her brothers, even as she reveals their cruelty. Unlike her passive mother, she is an activist, thrilled to return to school, determined to save others, including her little sister. True to the child's viewpoint, the "grown-up" cruelty is devastating. Readers will find it incredible that such unbelievable abuse and such courageous resistance are happening now. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"A powerful new autobiography...It's hard to imagine that there have been many younger divorcées — or braver ones — than a pint-size third grader named Nujood Ali."

—Nicholas Kristof, *New York Times*

"Her case has brought international exposure to the archaic practice of robbing girls of their youth." Four [out of four] Stars

—*People* magazine

"an international icon of tenacity and courage"

—*New Yorker*

"One of the greatest women I have ever seen . . . She set an example with her courage."

—Hillary Clinton

"This book took my breath away. It broke my heart but put it back together again with a renewed hope in the staggering power of the human spirit. What Nujood did to save her life was a miracle; that she did it as a ten-year-old child is, quite simply, astounding."

—Carolyn Jessop, author of *Escape and Triumph*

"Nujood and all other girls like her who are traded like objects deserve to be heard. This important book gives them a voice and sheds light on an ugly secret that has destroyed the lives of children for centuries."

—Marina Nemat, author of *Prisoner of Tehran*

"Simple and straightforward in its telling, this is an informative and thoroughly engaging narrative"

—*Publishers Weekly*

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About the Author

NUJOOD ALI was the first child bride in Yemen to win a divorce. Named a *Glamour* Woman of the Year in 2008, she has been profiled in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Time* magazine. She lives in Yemen.

DELPHINE MINOUI, a recipient of the Albert Loudres Prize, has been covering Iran and the Middle East since 1997. She lives in Beirut.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Cox:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite e-book and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced*. Try to make the book *I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced* as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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Ruth Lowry:

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