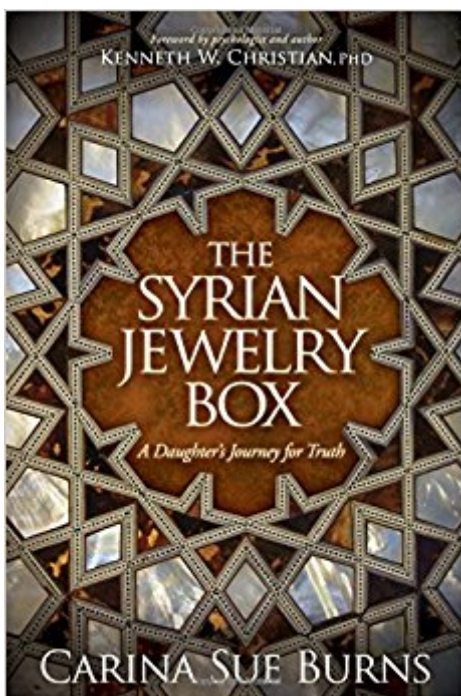


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# The Syrian Jewelry Box: A Daughter's Journey For Truth



## Synopsis

Carina Rourke is a young American growing up in blissful innocence in the Middle East until at age fifteen she is captivated by an obsessive desire to search inside of her mother's forbidden jewelry box. Carina discovers a shocking family secret. On the heels of her discovery, she and her family pursue her father's dream; an exotic drive through the Middle East and Europe, which serves as a metaphoric journey for the woman Carina becomes---a silent nomad searching for identity. When they reach Paris, the city's temptations engulf her. French pastries become a dangerous addiction and an accomplice in silence. And so does the love of a mysterious Tunisian. Many years later, as a married mother in Holland, Carina draws on her father's wisdom to finally confront the family secret to heal herself and her family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Carina Burns has looked within herself, faced her demons, and developed the courage to share her journey of love, perceived betrayal, angst, and regenerative love. I first knew Carina before she learned of her adoption. She was a typical carefree teenager enjoying the "good life" of a third-culture expatriate kid. Only recently have I reconnected with her. She has quite a story, a gift she shares with passion. Carina Burns is truly "becoming" in every way imaginable. --

Richard Maack, junior high school principal, Saudi Arabia "One cannot expect to walk in on a life that is so private and has been like that for years and not find similarities that will taunt you and challenge you to resolve those issues that have long been contaminating your life. When you realize that the issues you have unpacked have left your life naked and painfully raw from the death of your

natural beliefs, The Syrian Jewelry Box will become your anecdote. Carinaâ€™s story holds the key to a delightful celebration of self and trust. By following the well-worn steps to a full and sustainable recovery, you will be able to elevate yourself to your rightful place in the sun.â€• -- Barbie Lightbody

â€œCarinaâ€™s book shows you how to become empowered by the sometimes shocking and traumatic experience of adoption. It is a must-read for anyone who is adopted.â€• --Richard Krawczyk, Author ofÂ Ultimate Success Blueprint (TheMrBlueprint.com) "Carina's book is a delightful insight into the youth of an extraordinary girl growing up in an extraordinary country with an extraordinary background. I have always wondered how my cousin's life had been in Jeddah and as a girl who never really got out of her small Bavarian hometown Carina's exotic foreign stays and travels inspired my dreams. Thank you Carina for giving me that information now about how you lived there, what was going on in your mind and what kind of adventures your family encountered driving that white Mercedes from Jeddah to Paris. . . I see your arrival in Grafenau clearly in my memory: four sun-tanned people getting out of a car that was covered in red dust all over sporting a glittery green licence plate with Arabic letters and numbers on it. . . something I had never seen before. I admired my beloved cousin for her exotic life and I think it was back then that the seed of becoming a traveler too was planted in me. As a stewardess for Lufthansa I have been travelling the world for almost 32 years now and I used to visit Jeddah several times too and during every layover I looked at the sand and the sea, I felt the heat on my skin and thought of Carina's adolescent years. . . like I could walk in her steps. "The Syrian Jewelry Box" has somehow made that possible for me now. Carina Sue Burns's book is a wonderfully written true coming-of-age story outlining actually two journeys: the adventurous road trip from Jeddah to Paris and the healing inner one towards acceptance while growing up from a beautiful young teenager full of unanswered questions to become the warm-hearted and inspirational lady she is today." --- Ina Kr mmel

On the heels of Ms. Burnsâ€™s discovery of a shocking family secret, she and her family pursue her fatherâ€™s dream; an exotic drive through the Middle East and Europe, which serves as a metaphoric journey for the woman Carina becomes---a silent nomad searching for identity.

In The Syrian Jewelry Box, Carina Sue Burns describes remarkable journeys, both physical and mental. Her descriptions about life growing up in Saudi Arabia are vivid and evoke the carefree adventures of a kid living in a unique foreign place. The shattering of her self-esteem after learning about her adoption at the age of 15 was heartbreaking, and only made more painful by the inability of her parents to guide her through that difficult mental journey. Instead, they took her on many

physical excursions to amazing places in the Middle East and Europe. Carina effectively describes how those experiences intertwined with her own emotional and spiritual transformations. This book includes conversations to help make the travels feel alive and pull the reader in. She sprinkles in just enough historical information to make the reader feel awe about the rich and exotic experiences she had. The book is easy to read and would be good for any family. I highly recommend it.

Whether we realize it or not, we are all on a journey to discover the truth about ourselves - that we are loving, loveable, and loved. Carina's journey to that truth is a most unusual one in that it also physically spans a journey through many foreign countries at a very young age. I delighted in learning about these different cultures through a child's eyes, and seeing how embracing them helped Carina find the courage to embrace the truth about herself. I read with tears of joy as she rediscovered the beautiful, loving, and lovable person she always has been and always will be. Paula R.

Beautiful book tells the reality beautiful and important in the life of the writer .. and I see it as a unique and distinctive experience to the writer that the Arab world witnessed, especially in the city of Jeddah, which I thought crossroads of cultures and civilizations ... in all honesty the writer has a good spirit and seeks to spread the love and affection and peace between the Western and Arab worlds ... especially that the writer grew up in the Arab world and has a great background and insight into the world about it .. I wish to the writer a good luck and success and I thank her that allowed us access to an important part of her life ..

Carina-It is a wonderful story, I feel, about a young girl in search of herself who develops into a caring loving adult. I was spellbound, of course, during your time of telling about Jeddah. The sights, sounds and smells rushed back into my mind as I read your description of the souk. But having never travelled much through Europe, I particularly enjoyed seeing through your eyes and the memory of your father the beauty of Europe. Thank you for asking me to read it. I most definitely will recommend it to several Jeddah friends and to my family.

Well written and moving: "The Syrian Jewelry Box, A Daughter's Journey for Truth" transported me to another time and place. I felt as though I was there, as though I was seeing the sights, smelling the different scents and as if it were my adventure that I was living. Even more than that I was moved and drawn in by the love the author shows and how she treads so lightly as she

processes the realization of her adoption. Sharing her story of self-discovery with us truly is our benefit. Thank you!

This is a fabulous book! In this story, the author shares her emotional journey as she paves the way for all of us to learn about real love and courage. She does this against a backdrop of travels through exotic and faraway cultures creating understanding that is so desperately needed in today's world. I whole heartedly encourage everyone to purchase and read this powerful memoir.

It has been said that the greatest journeys are those of the heart. Carina Burns has written of such a journey, a very personal but in many ways universal search for identity and meaning. With an eye for detail, she describes aspects of the many places she has visited or called home. She has candidly described both the joys and challenges of life as a Third Culture Kid. Thank you, Carina, for sharing your journey with us and by so doing enriching our own.

I always enjoy reading about one's journey through life. Carina shares her unique journey as a path seldom taken. Having lived in Saudi Arabia for several years, I particularly appreciated how she is able to vividly capture the smells, fragrances, colors and the cultural texture of the daily life in Jeddah. I am sure you will enjoy her exotic adventure. David A Whitehorn

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