

BOOK INFORMATION

A Beirut Heart: One Woman's War

is the unforgettable story of an American woman who lived amidst the Lebanese Civil War for eight years and through it all attempted to sustain a life with her Lebanese husband and two small children.

Written by Cathy Sultan, the memoir offers a unique illustration of the unsung heroes of war – the women who assume the awesome task of keeping the family united during war time.

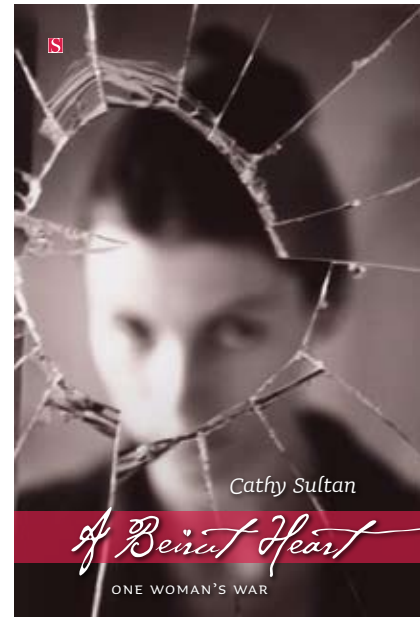
The book tells the story of how Sultan moved with her family in 1969 to Lebanon. For six years they led an ideal life experiencing the rich culture, exotic food and breathtaking landscape of the city located along the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

After the war began in 1975, their lives changed forever. Sultan recounts how she held the family together by comforting her children after bomb blasts and consoling her physician husband who spent his days treating wounded civilians. To keep sane, she used cooking as her tranquilizer.

The narrative places us uncomfortably inside something we seldom consider – the domestic element of civil war – and leaves a permanent impression of the destroyed city and its resilient people.

“A tapestry of vivid colors and shifting landscapes. A Beirut Heart puts a common face on the trauma of war – that of a family. This memoir offers a view drawn from a camera obscura that moves behind the screen of invading armies, détentes and broken treaties. Sultan writes a compelling story of survival that settles for no less than the promise that her family will remain together and safe at all costs. This is a must-read for everyone with any interest in what happens to a family under siege.”

COLLEEN MCELROY, Professor of English, University of Seattle; author of fourteen books including *Over the Lips of the World: Among Storytellers of Madagascar* and *Queen of the Ebony Isles*, which received the American Book Award.



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