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MEDIA RELATIONS

Jacinthe Lemay

514-655-7216

jalemay@groupehomme.com



RELEASE NOTICE

My Family Was Stolen from Me

My daughter and grandchildren held captive in Saudi Arabia

Johanne Durocher

Nathalie Morin was 17 when she met Saeed, a Saudi studying in Montreal, in 2001. She fell in love and became pregnant with his child, but soon after the young man was deported to his native country. At 20, she decided to rejoin him in Saudi Arabia with her baby and settled there with him, certain she would be able to return to Canada whenever she wanted. But the trap closed around her: her spouse proved to be violent and authoritarian. Considered married according to Saudi law, Nathalie was now under Saeed's guardianship and confined most of the time in her own house, a hellhole of poverty. Thus began for her mother, Johanne, a fifteen-year-long relentless battle to have her daughter brought back to Canada with her four children. There was no door Johanne did not knock on to fight for her daughter's cause: governments, embassies, NGOs, media, politicians, etc. While some of these attempts raised hope, none led to the desired outcome. This book tells the story of this struggle.

THE AUTHOR

JOHANNE DUROCHER grew up on the South Shore, in the Montreal region. The mother of three children, she is now retired. For fifteen years, the fight to free Nathalie, Samir, Abdullah, Sarah and Fowaz has been the centre of her life.