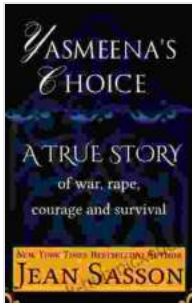


# The True Story of War, Rape, Courage, and Survival: A Harrowing Tale of Resilience and Triumph



## Yasmeena's Choice: A True Story of War, Rape, Courage and Survival by Jean Sasson

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1885 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 250 pages
Lending	: Enabled



War is a brutal and devastating force that leaves an enduring scar on countless lives. Amidst the chaos and destruction, stories of courage and survival emerge, inspiring hope in the face of adversity. One such story is that of Mariama Bâ, a courageous Senegalese woman whose unwavering spirit triumphed over the horrors of war and sexual violence.

## A Harrowing Journey

Mariama Bâ was born in 1929 in Dakar, Senegal, which was then a French colony. Her childhood was marked by poverty and discrimination, as she belonged to the Wolof ethnic group, which was considered inferior to the

ruling French elite. Despite these challenges, Mariama Bâ pursued her education and became a schoolteacher.

In 1960, Senegal gained independence from France. However, the country quickly descended into civil war, as rival factions struggled for power. Mariama Bâ's village was caught in the crossfire, and she and her family were forced to flee their home. They spent the next several years living in refugee camps, enduring unimaginable hardship and witnessing the horrors of war.

In 1963, Mariama Bâ was raped by Senegalese soldiers. This traumatic event had a profound impact on her life, but it did not break her spirit. Instead, it ignited a fire within her, a determination to fight for the rights of women and to expose the atrocities that were being committed during the war.

### **A Voice for the Voiceless**

After the war, Mariama Bâ returned to Dakar and began writing. She used her pen as a weapon, writing powerful and moving stories that shed light on the experiences of women during the war. Her most famous work, "So Long a Letter," was published in 1979 and became an instant classic. It is a deeply personal account of the war and its aftermath, told through the eyes of a woman who has lost everything.

In "So Long a Letter," Mariama Bâ writes about the rape she endured, the loss of her family, and the challenges she faced as a woman in a patriarchal society. She also writes about the resilience and courage of women, their ability to survive and rebuild even in the face of unimaginable suffering.

Mariama Bâ's writing had a profound impact on Senegal and beyond. It helped to raise awareness of the plight of women during war and inspired countless others to speak out against injustice. She became a symbol of hope and strength for victims of sexual violence and a powerful advocate for women's rights.

## **A Legacy of Courage and Resilience**

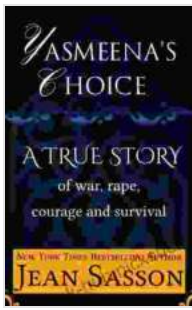
Mariama Bâ died in 1981 at the age of 52, but her legacy continues to live on. Her writing continues to inspire and empower women around the world, and her story serves as a reminder of the indomitable spirit that resides within us all.

The true story of Mariama Bâ is a harrowing tale of war, rape, courage, and survival. It is a story that exposes the darkest side of human nature, but it also shines a light on the resilience, strength, and hope that can emerge even in the most difficult of times.

Mariama Bâ was a true hero, a woman who used her voice to fight for justice and to give hope to the voiceless. Her legacy is one of courage, resilience, and triumph, and it is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

## **Additional Resources**

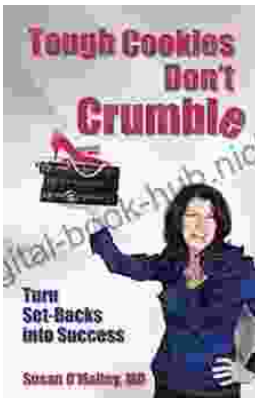
- [Mariama Bâ on Wikipedia](#)
- [Mariama Bâ on Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- [So Long a Letter by Mariama Bâ](#)
- [So Long a Letter on Goodreads](#)



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