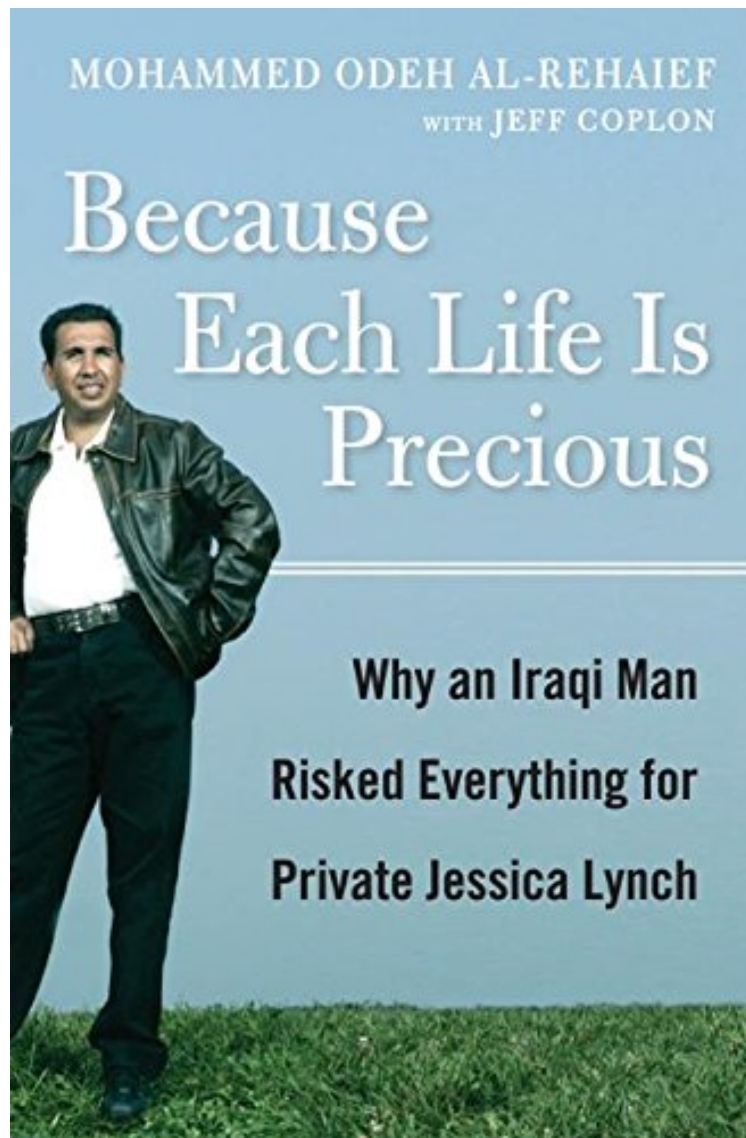


(Library ebook) Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Came to Risk Everything for Private Jessica Lynch

## Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Came to Risk Everything for Private Jessica Lynch

*Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief*  
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**Mohammed Odeh al-Rehaief : Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Came to Risk Everything for Private Jessica Lynch** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Because Each Life Is Precious: Why an Iraqi Man Came to Risk Everything for Private Jessica Lynch:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A hero with a big heartBy A CustomerOften times it happens that

heroes are born when an ordinary person performs an extraordinary act of bravery as a gut reaction, without even thinking about it. Such was NOT the case with Mohammed al-Rehaief. This brave man had dozens of opportunities to think about the enormity of the task in front of him and the extreme dangers he faced. Yet he never wavered. With fedayeen and Baathists in pursuit, neighborhood informants watching him, and American bombs dropping all around him, Mohammed diligently collected the information needed to save a soldier's life and brought it across enemy lines - not once but three times! Knowing that the bombs were coming and having seen and experienced first-hand the hideous atrocities perpetrated by Saddam's regime against those who dare defy it, he could justifiably have turned back at any point and told himself that he had done enough, that he had given it his best. But his deeply ingrained compassion and conviction stayed him the course. The book tells the whole amazing story, along with a vivid description of life (and death) in Saddam's Iraq. For such a heavy subject matter, the writing style is easy and casual and even manages a few glimpses of humor. Mohammed claims that as a boy he idolized John Wayne as "a hero with a big heart", but the real hero with the big heart is Mohammed al-Rehaief. Welcome to America, Mohammed. May you and your family find peace, freedom and prosperity here. And may your country find the same. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Hero Of Our Time! By Foster Corbin George Bush should buy up copies of this book by the dozens and distribute them as he goes around the country raising money for his re-election campaign. Mohammed al-Rehaief in 212 pages does more to make the case that the U. S. should have invaded Iraq than all the rhetoric that continues to pour out of Washington. Simply put, Mr. al-Rehaief is a hero if risking your life and the lives of your family to save a total stranger defines a hero. In addition to giving us the details of Mr. al-Rehaief's part in saving Jessica Lynch, a story that has all in's and out's of any first-rate suspense novel, roughly a third of the book is about the author's life before Jessica Lynch--his childhood, adolescence, marriage, his hatred of the Saddam Hussein dictatorship. "In adolescence I grew more subversive. I'd make fun of Saddam's crooked mouth, mimicking him before my friends. Or we'd find an empty classroom at recess, load spitballs onto rubber bands, and fire away at the president's picture." Always known as a "long tongue," the author was always getting both himself and his family in trouble. A thirty-three-year-old Shiite from Nasiriya, Mr. al-Rehaief is an expert in kung fu, a skill that saved his life on more than one occasion. Though trained as a lawyer he no longer practiced as he says in a country where there is no law. Although from an affluent family, the author learned early on from his beloved father that "there is no shame in being poor" and "each life is precious." Mr. al-Rehaief is a very fluent storyteller with a good sense of humor. While a Muslim, he is not a fanatical fundamentalist and admits that he has never been able to fast an entire month for Ramadan. In a word, he's someone you'd want to invite to a dinner party. Mr. al-Rehaief, now in the United States with his wife and his daughter, whose hospitalization in Iraq is just one of the many horric experiences he describes, says that when he made the decision to live in the U. S., he felt as if he were "going home." And finally in this decent and good man's own words: "I read everything I can about Jessica's progress. When the hospital released her to her home in West Virginia, I felt like we had won all over again. More than anything, I wish her a full and happy life. . . Finally, I regret nothing. I would risk it all again to help her, without thinking twice." Welcome home, Mr. al-Rehaief. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Destined To Be a Classic By D. Fafarman This book is destined to be a classic, in several genres. If you start reading it, be sure you can afford the time to read it all the way through -- it's hard to set down. The opening is intense, yet the reader's hope that that level might be sustained is exceeded -- the story just keeps getting more gripping. It's an adventure story, history, humor, sociology, a spiritual journey, and a patriotic work all together (it'll make you proud to be an American). Mr. Al-Rehaief has done more single-handedly to redeem the Arab culture than all of the rest combined. Update: On April 29, 2003, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge announced that Mohammed Odeh al Rehaief, his wife, and their 5-year-old daughter had been granted humanitarian asylum in the USA. Said Lynch's father: "The man is an angel."

For thirty-three-year-old Mohammed al-Rehaief, this decision -- whether to risk his life and everything he held dear to save Private First Class Jessica Lynch, an American soldier he did not know -- was more than the everyday reckoning with death that permeates wartime. It was the culmination of a life spent at odds with the repressive regime that held his country. Mohammed's story is the tale of what it was like to come of age in a society where violence and betrayal were everyday events, where one in five adult males worked for the state's security apparatus, where a president-for-life demanded absolute loyalty and adulation. Despite his affluent upbringing and a well-connected uncle, Mohammed was hardly sheltered from the surreal cruelties of Iraq. He was arrested and beaten for owning a satellite dish. His young daughter lost a lung to misdiagnosis and unnecessary surgery. An idolized cousin was hanged for joining an Islamic political group. A favorite teacher was carted away for making subversive statements and was never seen again. Yet even as he navigates a culture tarnished by brutality and corruption, Mohammed also reveals unexpected sides of Iraq, scenes of surprising tenderness and stubborn generosity. He writes with insight and humor about the Iraqi schools, the vagaries of its divorce law, the poignant dynamic between its fathers and sons -- between tradition and jolting change. As Mohammed offers his powerful perspective on the most publicized story of this controversial war, he emerges as an unlikely hero, a complex and charming character whose values transcend ideology: honor, compassion, and an unshakable belief in the sanctity of human life.

Genuinely riveting. (Newsweek)A remarkable story. (Wall Street Journal)About the AuthorMohammed Odeh al-Rehaif is a 33-year-old Iraqi attorney who plunged into the middle of the biggest story of the recent war in Iraq: the rescue of Pvt. Jessica Lynch. Granted asylum in the U.S. in April for his extraordinary act of courage, Mohammed is now employed by The Livingston Group, a lobbying firm in Washington, DC. He resides outside the city with his wife, Iman, and their six-year-old daughter, Abir.