



# The Tyrant's Daughter

By J.C. Carleson

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## The Tyrant's Daughter By J.C. Carleson

**“Filled with political intrigue and emotional tension, Carleson’s riveting novel features a teenage refugee caught in a web of deceit and conspiracy.”**  
—*PW*, starred review

When her father is killed in a coup, Laila and her mother and brother leave their war-torn homeland for a fresh start in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

At her new high school, Laila makes mistakes, makes friends, and even meets a boy who catches her eye. But this new life brings unsettling facts to light. The American newspapers call her father a brutal dictator and suggest that her family’s privilege came at the expense of innocent lives. Meanwhile, her mother would like nothing more than to avenge his death, and she’ll go to great lengths to regain their position of power.

As an international crisis takes shape around her, Laila is pulled in one direction, then another, but there’s no time to sort out her feelings. She has to pick a side *now*, and her decision will affect not just her own life, but countless others. . . .

Inspired by the author's experience as a CIA officer in Iraq and Syria, this book is as timely as it is relevant.

Praise for *The Tyrant’s Daughter*:

“Carleson, a former undercover CIA officer, infuses her story with compelling details and gripping authenticity.” —*The Boston Globe*

“Every American should read this book. It’s an eye-opener.” —Suzanne Fisher Staples, Newbery Honor–winning author of *Shabanu*

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## The Tyrant's Daughter By J.C. Carleson Bibliography

- Rank: #5366843 in Books
- Published on: 2014-02-11
- Released on: 2014-02-11
- Formats: Audiobook, CD, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 7
- Dimensions: 5.06" h x 1.17" w x 6.16" l, .50 pounds
- Running time: 510 minutes
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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—Growing up in an unidentified Middle Eastern country, Laila had no reason to question her parents' narrative—her father was king, and her privileged life was one afforded by birthright. That changes, however, when her father is killed in a coup, and she, her younger brother, and their mother flee the family's palace compound with aid from the U.S. government. Now in a suburb of Washington, DC, the 15-year-old is exposed for the first time to a Western view of both her homeland and father. The news reports of a tyrant whose regime was responsible for atrocities against its people are at odds with her memories of a loving parent. A devastated Laila, realizing that "his was an authority based more on bloodshed than blood right," begins to question all that she's been told. Laila struggles to adjust to American life; Carleson portrays her peers as rather flat in order to underscore Laila's emotional distance from other teens. Although Laila's mother is still embroiled in dealings with the CIA, this smart, complex novel refrains from falling into clandestine spy tropes and deftly shows that innocents get caught on both sides of any conflict. The concluding pages leave Laila's story open-ended, but readers will hope that the teen's good nature continues to prevail.—Amanda Mastrull, School Library Journal

From [Booklist](#)

Removed from her unnamed Middle Eastern country after her father is murdered during a coup, 15-year-old Laila is now living near Washington D. C. with her mother and brother. In addition to navigating an American high school, Laila tries to act as guardian to her younger brother, Bastien, now the King of Nowhere, and as her mother's spy by getting close to Amir, a teenage boy from her country involved in the resistance. Laila is a strong narrator, expressing her feelings about American dress and social interactions in ways that will get readers thinking. Being raised in the palace, Laila was immune to many of the difficulties of life in her country and never saw her father as a dictator or harsh ruler, raising a very real question about the children of world leaders: Do they see their parents as the world sees them? This is more than just Laila's story; rather, it is a story of context, beautifully written (by a former undercover CIA agent), and stirring in its questions and eloquent observations about our society and that of the Middle East. Grades 9-12. --Tiffany Erickson

Review

**The Boston Globe, June 21, 2014:**

"Carleson, a former undercover CIA officer, infuses her story with compelling details and gripping authenticity."

**Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, November 18, 2013:**

"Filled with political intrigue and emotional tension, Carleson's riveting novel features a teenage refugee caught in a web of deceit and conspiracy."

**Starred Review, Kirkus, December 15, 2013:**

"Laila is a complex and layered character whose nuanced observations will help readers better understand the divide between American and Middle Eastern cultures. Smart, relevant, required reading."

**BookPage, February 2014:**

"As a former undercover CIA agent, debut author J.C. Carleson has a firm grasp on the world of espionage and power plays. She is able to take her intimate knowledge of this secretive world, an often-avoided gray area of morality, and craft an amazingly gripping and honest tale. Carleson keeps her readers feeling as

though they have just returned from traveling in a foreign land, making those faraway issues feel a little more personal—a feat few can achieve with words alone."

**Booklist, February 1, 2014:**

"This is more than just Laila's story; rather, it is a story of context, beautifully written (by a former undercover CIA agent), and stirring in its questions and eloquent observations about our society and that of the Middle East."

**Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, February 2014:**

"Timely, relevant, and fascinating, Laila's story offers readers an accessible understanding of the seemingly intractable nature of Middle East politics. An equally fascinating additional note by Dr. Cheryl Benard offers more real-world context for Laila's fictional but very credible position. Resources for further research are included."

"This story is important on so many levels. It invites readers to contemplate paradox and contradictions in ways that few books do: how a friend's loyalty trumps her annoying habits; how you can love your country and still be honest about its shortcomings; how betrayal might be justifiable. But mostly it's a touching, suspenseful story about two children who don't belong anywhere. Every American should read this book. It's an eye-opener." —**Suzanne Fisher Staples, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Shabanu***

"It's a story both foreign and familiar, global and intimate. A tense chess game where you'll think you know the final moves only to learn you've been outsmarted." —**Dana Reinhardt, award-winning author of *The Things a Brother Knows***

**Mashable, June 17, 2014:**

"This compelling look at someone fighting desperately against a truth she'd rather not believe challenges you to think deeper."

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Marla Mestas:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to endure than other is high. For you who want to start reading a new book, we give you this The Tyrant's Daughter book as nice and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Erica Logan:**

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to see? May be the book with the subject The Tyrant's Daughter suitable to you? The particular book was written by renowned writer in this era. The actual book

untitled The Tyrant's Daughter is the one of several books that will everyone read now. This particular book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this book you will enter the new dimension that you ever know previous to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to know the core of this guide. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world in this book.

**Patricia Trevino:**

The Tyrant's Daughter can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort that will put every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing The Tyrant's Daughter but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial contemplating.

**Michael Marx:**

Book is one of source of expertise. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students but also native or citizen have to have book to know the change information of year in order to year. As we know those books have many advantages. Beside we add our knowledge, could also bring us to around the world. By book The Tyrant's Daughter we can acquire more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? Being creative person must love to read a book. Just simply choose the best book that ideal with your aim. Don't end up being doubt to change your life by this book The Tyrant's Daughter. You can more inviting than now.

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