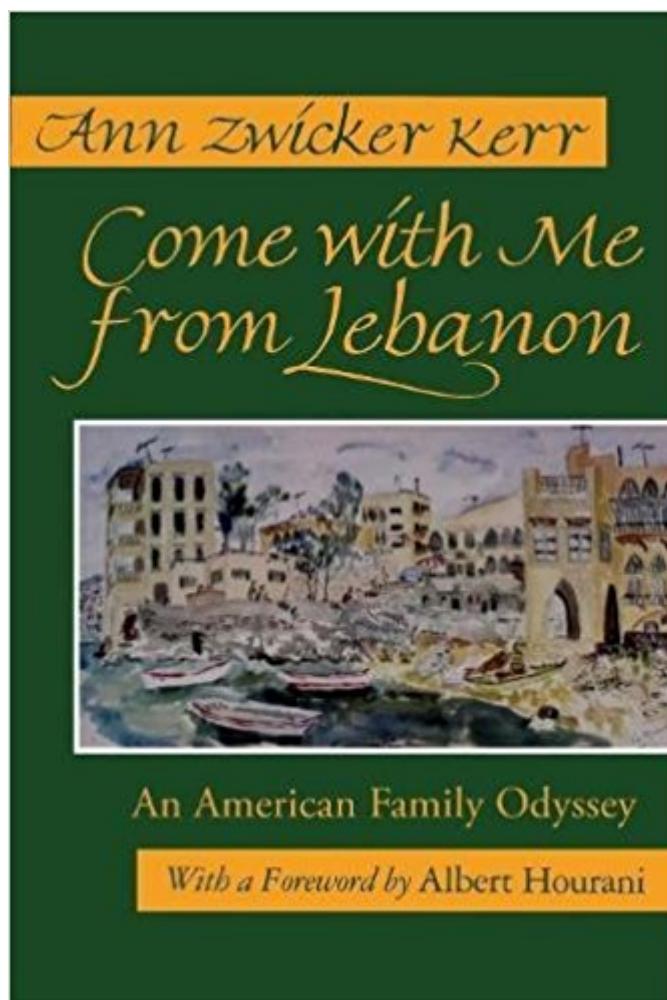


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# Come With Me From Lebanon: An American Family Odyssey (Contemporary Issues In The Middle East)



## Synopsis

Ann Kerr's is a personal account of an American family during the most tumultuous years of Beirut's political strife. It begins with the tragic assassination of her husband Malcolm Kerr, one of the most respected scholars of Middle East studies, in 1984, seventeen months after he became president of the American University of Beirut. She retraces in detail the events that brought them to the Middle East, and reaches back into her childhood to describe a lifelong affinity for Lebanon. For a young American woman caring for a family in Lebanon and Egypt, life was like nothing she had ever known, but Ann Kerr approached it with a sense of adventure, which would help her deal with the beauty, chaos, and the ultimate horror of life during the country's most volatile years of the last three decades. The personal saga of her family and the events surrounding her husband's untimely death merge with the political episodes that have shaped U.S.-Arab relations since World War II.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Kerr's husband, Malcolm, president of American University of Beirut, was killed in his office on Jan. 18, 1984, by assassins who were never identified. This book grew out of the author's journal. She delves relatively little into politics but gives a flavor of a family's affection for Lebanon and the Arab world, as well as their own stories. In 1954, the author met her husband-to-be on her junior year abroad at the AUB; the couple spent 20 years at UCLA beginning in 1962, where they raised a family. In the late 1950s, when some saw Lebanon as a possible democratic model, Malcolm Kerr warned that it needed renewal; Lebanon was in greater turmoil in 1981 after Israeli attacks, but Kerr

couldn't resist the opportunity to return to the institution and country he loved. While the author, who coordinates the Fulbright program at UCLA, might have trimmed some of her journal entries, this is a sensitively written account. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In 1984 Malcolm Kerr, president of the American University of Beirut (AUB) was gunned down by unknown assailants. The school, founded by American missionaries in 1862, was the intellectual hub of the Middle East, just as Lebanon was its cultural and financial heart. Beirut was a charming city, a marvelous blend of East and West, prosperous and modern. All that ended when the country's fragile political system, based on religious affiliation, was destroyed as invading Israelis drove masses of Palestinians into Lebanon, which became a center of terrorism, kidnappings, and massacres. Kerr first met husband Malcolm when they were both AUB students, and she details their wanderings through life together, from their marriage to their years in Lebanon and, finally, to Malcolm's murder. Primarily a family memoir, Kerr's book will give interested lay readers a bit of background on Middle East affairs. For public libraries. Louise Leonard, Univ. of Florida Libs., Gainesville Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A fascinating and eventually heart-wrenching experience by a most remarkable woman who survived the personal tragedy and lived to tell us about it in a perceptive and objective way -- quite an achievement considering the circumstances, while at the same time offering us a fascinating historical background on Lebanon. Seller delivered book in perfect condition right on time. Would highly recommend dealing with this seller.

Reading the book has helped me to understand more of the Middle East through all the senses of a writer my age, gender and similar background. It paints a portrait and I am in it; walking the streets, tasting the food, taking in the scenic mountain views and desperately trying to understand a foreign culture, religion, language and their inherited bitterness over ancient enemies and history of wars.

Very well written and captivated my interest to the last page. What a tragic saga for such a wonderful family! Ann and my wife were high school classmates making the story even more relevant.

This is a very well written book. Malcolm Kerr is a relative, however we never had the pleasure to meet him. This book fits nicely into our Family History library and reading it makes us feel like we knew them.

An exceptional book, written with incredible sensitivity. A must read for anyone who loves Lebanon

Excellent book, accurate facts, sad for Lebanon, such a beautiful country and very well described.

An amazing (and very sad) story written by an incredibly resilient woman. You certainly come away with an admiration of Malcolm Kerr and the rest of his family. Much of the narrative is overly detailed, however, and very slow. The book is probably about 25% longer than it needs to be.

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