

# Saudi Arabia

- ◆ The capital city of Saudi Arabia is Riyadh.
- ◆ Nearly all Saudis practice Islam. In fact, Saudi Arabia is the birthplace of Islam.
- ◆ The official language of Saudi Arabia is Arabic.
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is mostly desert and is one of the driest places on earth.
- ◆ The Saudi people believe that the tomb of Eve is in the city of Jeddah.
- ◆ The discovery of oil in the 1930s caused Saudi Arabia to become a very wealthy nation.
- ◆ Only Muslims are permitted to enter the city of Mecca. Millions of people come to Mecca every year for the Islamic religious pilgrimage of Hajj.
- ◆ The Saudi Arabian desert, Rub-Al-Khali, is the largest sand desert in the world.
- ◆ Saudi Arabia is located in the part of the world known as the Middle East.
- ◆ Churches are not allowed in Saudi Arabia and Christians may not enter a mosque.
- ◆ Public Christian worship is not legal and, if they want to, police can even arrest people who worship in private.



## Story: Hidden Identity

Jane was a sweet Christian girl from Oklahoma. She had never been away from home, except to spend a month with her grandparents in Texas each summer. Going to college in another state was a big deal for her.

Jane was a good student. She had hopes and dreams for her life just like every young woman does. When she met Aasif, she knew he was different from the other young men at school. He dressed the same, but there was a quietness about him. He always seemed to be a million miles away.

Jane asked Aasif one day what he was thinking about. He showed her a picture of his family back home. All the men were dressed in long white robes, the women in long black ones. She didn't think much about it at the time.

Jane and Aasif began seeing more of each other. One day he asked her to marry him and she said "yes."



## Story cont...

After the marriage Aasif insisted that they return to his homeland of Saudi Arabia so he could introduce her to his family. Jane soon learned that he was not the man she thought he was. He insisted that she start wearing a long robe to “cover herself from the eyes of other men.” She no longer had any freedom and it angered Aasif when she read her Bible or talked about Christianity.

As a Muslim, Aasif followed many strict rules at home that he never followed in the United States. Honor is very important to men in Saudi Arabia and so is their Islam religion. A man gains respect and honor if the women in his family show “proper behavior” and follow Islam.



Hundreds of Saudi male students come to the United States each year to go to school. Some marry American girls who later learn how little they have in common with their new husbands.



### Recipe: Mihulibeya Bel Manga

3 cups mango juice	2 cups mixed fruit
2 tablespoons rose water	5 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons cornstarch	2 cups cream
3 cups milk	1/2 cup ground pistachio nuts

Put the mango juice in a pan over medium heat and bring to a boil. Mix half the cornstarch in half a cup of water. Pour this into the boiling mango juice, stirring constantly until thick. Pour contents of the pan into a deep dish. Add half the amount of mixed fruit. Set aside to cool and thicken. Spread half the cream on top of the cooled fruit mixture and put the dish in the refrigerator. Put the milk in a pan over low heat, add the sugar and rose water and stir until almost boiling. Mix the remaining cornstarch in half a cup of water, pour into the milk, stirring constantly until thick. Remove from the heat and cool for ten minutes. Take the dish of fruit from the refrigerator, slowly pour the milk over the cream, and cool at room temperature for one hour. Place the dish in the freezer for a short time. Remove from the freezer, cover with the remaining cream and decorate with the remaining fruit and ground pistachios. Serve cold.

### Activity: Mazen Al Qurawi

This game is played with five to ten children. First, choose one player to be the hunter. The hunter counts from one to ten with his eyes closed so everyone can quickly run and hide. Then he searches for them. If the hunter finds someone from the group, they try to escape and he chases them in order to tag them. He must find all the members in the group and tag them. If the hunter can't catch all of the members, he has to say "clear" and start over; but if he catches all of them, he joins the other children and the first one who was caught becomes the new hunter.



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