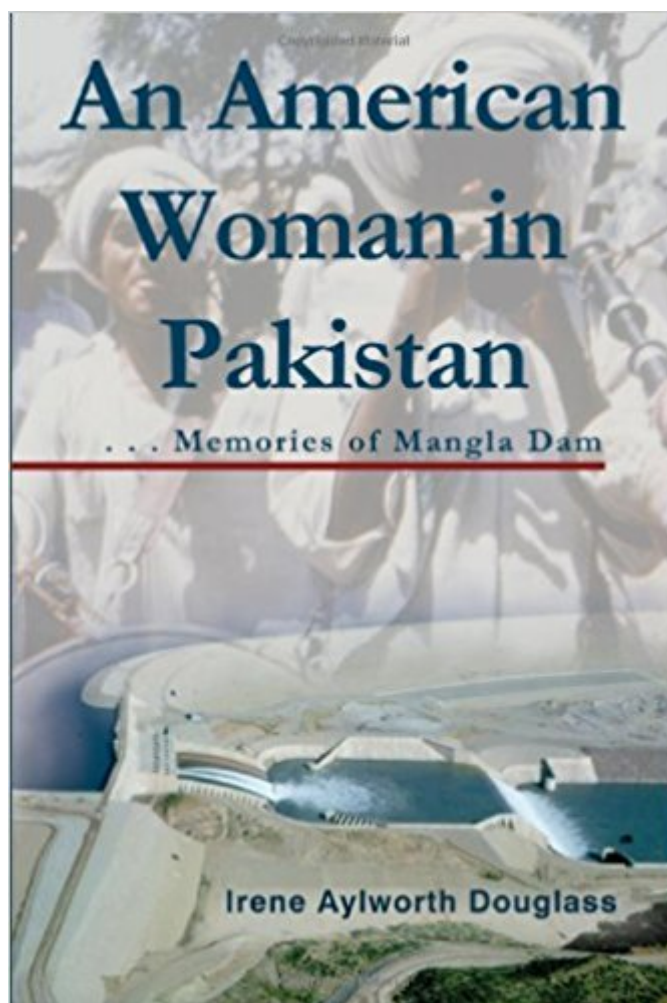


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# An American Woman In Pakistan: Memories Of Mangla Dam



## Synopsis

In 1962, Irene Aylworth Douglass's husband burst in the door with incredible news. His company had won a bid to build Mangla Dam ... in West Pakistan! This would be the world's largest compacted earth dam, in a remote location far from the source of supply. With images of exotic locales and visions of travel in her head, Irene welcomed the opportunity to embark on an adventure. Nothing could have prepared her for the reality of life in Pakistan. Most of the women covered themselves with burqas and did not appear in public. Male superiority and male dominance were so ingrained that Irene couldn't discipline her two-year-old son without repercussions. Children begged in the street while those who needed a servant class to maintain their lifestyle opposed universal education. And yet, despite the clash of cultures, Irene was overwhelmed by the warmth, friendship, and hospitality of the individuals she and her family encountered. *An American Woman in Pakistan: Memories of Mangla Dam* is a fascinating account that takes us behind the veil of an enigmatic, complex society.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Irene Aylworth Douglass grew up on a ranch in Reno, Nevada, where she loved riding horses and became a skilled rider. She attended the University of Nevada before her marriage and years later served as an elected member of the Alumni Council. Her husband's job took them to many states including the assignment to West Pakistan, the location for her book, "*An American Woman in Pakistan . . . Memories of Mangla Dam.*" During those nomadic years, she attended five colleges and universities, studying sciences, writing, and real estate, which led to a long career selling real

estate and businesses in the San Francisco Bay area. Now retired in Northern California, Irene enjoys singing in choral groups, water aerobics, and two book clubs as well as fulfilling her long passion to write. "An American Woman in Pakistan . . . Memories of Mangla Dam" is Irene's first book.

This book was written by a classmate of mine from the Reno High School class of 1957. I didn't know Irene well until around 2005 when she visited the town I now live in and we visited for several hours. She told me at that time she was writing a book about her experiences in Pakistan in the 1960s. Having dreamed about writing a book for years, as probably all avid readers do, I admired her for actually working on a book. So when her book came out this year on Kindle, I ordered it right away. It blew me away. It had been 40 plus years since she had gone through this experience but she made it sound so fresh, with her wonderful descriptions of places, people, events, feelings, along with much history of Pakistan. I was also amazed that she was only 22 years old when she arrived in Pakistan and, yet, she was so capable, strong, flexible, inventive, and confident. I don't think there are many 22 year old women who could have accomplished as much as she did for her family, friends, and community in a strange country that was so far from home. I admire her so much more now. Irene is a wonderful woman and I thank her for sharing this adventurous time in her life. The Kindle edition does contain some errors, i.e. punctuation mistakes, a word left out here and there, etc., but these should not detract from the overall delightful experience of her memoir. I highly recommend Irene's book.

An American Woman in Pakistan: Memories of Mangla Dam

I was fortunate to live and attend school in Baral Colony while my father worked on the dam with countless others. As stated in this wonderful recounting, this job, this place, those people have left an indelible mark on my heart. We found lifelong friends and learned about a culture outside our little corner of the world. My experiences during those days of my teenage years, helped shape my life forever. And I, like many others, cried when it was time to go back to the States. I'm forever grateful to Mr. Guy for giving our family this wonderful education, and many thanks to Irene for bringing it all back to life!

An excellent memoir describing a woman's experience dealing with a totally different culture at a time in our history when very little was known about Americans living in Pakistan.

Having lived in Pakistan during the time period covered in the the book, I LOVED it! I thought that

Irene did an excellent job, and totally recommended the book to everyone! A wonderful read!

Irene writes in such detail about life in Pakistan in the 60's. There's a good balance of cultural information combined with the nitty gritty of living in a foreign country with two small children without all the amenities she was used to in the States. The reader is brought right into the everyday life of "foreigners" living in a different country.

I loved the fantastic descriptive writing. I could just see and smell what she was describing. Also, it was a great history lesson for Pakistan, a country that is so much in our news today.

I so enjoyed this! While reading, I knew it was written for my mom's sense of her time there and not me, the teenager they brought. It allowed me to remember so much! It also was the reason I made my husband accept a job in Venezuela! Great book Irene!

A fascinating story of life in Pakistan. Irene's descriptions of the sights & smells transport you there. Nice pictures are included too.

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