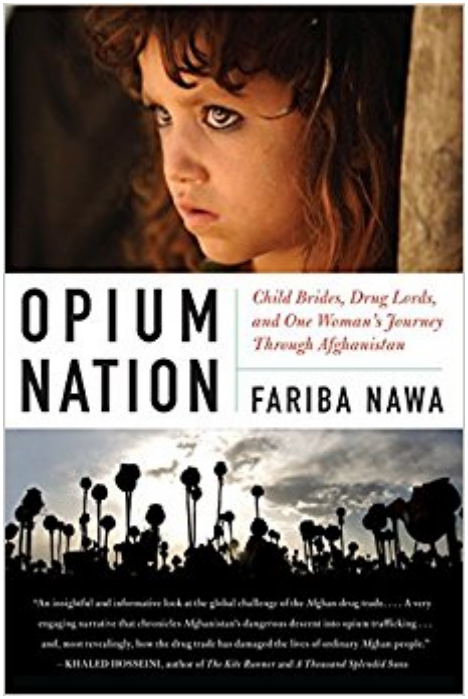
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Opium Nation: Child Brides, Drug Lords, And One WomanÃ¢â‚¬â„¢s Journey Through Afghanistan



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Synopsis

Afghan-American journalist Fariba Nawa delivers a revealing and deeply personal explorationof Afghanistan and the drug trade which rules the country, from corruptofficials to warlords and child brides and beyond. KhaledHosseini, author of The Kite Runner and AThousand Splendid Suns calls Opium Nation Ã¢â ¬Å“an insightful andinformative look at the global challenge of Afghan drug trade. Fariba Nawa weaves her personalstory of reconnecting with her homeland after 9/11 with a very engagingnarrative that chronicles AfghanistanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dangerous descent into opiumtraffickingÃ¢â ¬Â¦and most revealingly, how the drug trade has damaged the lives ofordinary Afghan people.Ã¢â ¬Â• Readers of Gayle Lemmon TzemachÃ¢â ¬â„¢sThe Dressmaker of Khair Khanaand Rory StewartÃ¢â ¬â„¢s The Places Between will find NawaÃ¢â ¬â„¢spersonal, piercing, journalistic tale to be an indispensable addition to thecultural criticism covering this dire global crisis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Nawa deftly sketches the geopolitical nightmare that is todayÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Afghanistan, but the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s real strength is her detailed, sensitive reporting of individual peopleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s stories.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Boston Globe)Ã¢â ¬Å“Powerful. . . . Nawa draws rich, complex portraits of subjects on both sides of the law . . . NawaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s work is remarkable for its depth, honesty, and commitment to recording womenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s stories, even when it means putting her own safety at risk. She writes with passion about the history of her volatile homeland and with cautious optimism about its future.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)Ã¢â ¬Å“Nawa ably captures the tragic complexity of Afghan society and the sheer difficulty of life there. . . . Her assured narrative clearly stems from

in-depth reporting in a risk-laden environment.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)Ã¢â ¬Å“Insightful and informative. . . . Fariba Nawa weaves her personal story of reconnecting with her homeland after 9/11 with a very engaging narrative that chronicles AfghanistanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s dangerous descent into opium trafficking . . . [and] how the drug trade has damaged the lives of ordinary Afghan people.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Khaled Hosseini, author of The Kite Runner and A Thousand Splendid Suns)Ã¢â ¬Å“Opium Nation brings much needed depth and complexity to any conversation involving Afghanistan and its future. Fariba Nawa writes with the detailed eye of a journalist, the warmth of a proud Afghan and the nuanced perspective of someone effortlessly straddling the East and the West.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Firoozeh Dumas, author of Laughing Without an Accent and Funny in Farsi)Ã¢â ¬Å“Journalists, policy makers, and scholars have written on the Afghan drug trade, but no one has shown its human drama and toll like Fariba Nawa. [She] offers a unique view of the human side of this conflict in which we are so deeply engaged.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Barnett R. Rubin, author of The Fragmentation of Afghanistan)

When veteran reporter Fariba Nawa returned home to AfghanistanÃ¢â ¬â •the nation she had fled as a child with her family during the Soviet invasion nearly twenty years earlierÃ¢â ¬â •she discovered a fractured country transformed by a multibillion-dollar drug trade. In Opium Nation, Nawa deftly illuminates the changes that have overtaken Afghanistan after decades of unbroken war. Sharing remarkable stories of poppy farmers, corrupt officials, expats, drug lords, and addicts, including her haunting encounter with a twelve-year-old child bride who was bartered to pay off her fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s opium debts, Nawa offers a revealing and provocative narrative of a homecoming more difficult than she ever imagined as she courageously explores her own Afghan American identity and unveils a startling portrait of a land in turmoil.

Having lived and worked in Afghanistan in 2003 and 2004, I know the impact on innocent lives of the totally corrupt government and abject legal system described in the Opium Nation. This situation resulted in large part from the US government’s conscious decision not to obstruct the opium/heroin business that is described in detail in this book. This small book is interesting, easy to read and contains no subliminal messages. What makes a knowledgeable reader want to throw it out the window is the indisputable fact that American leaders in Washington DC have probably destroyed many more innocent Afghan lives by supporting the heroin business than we ever did with mis-guided missiles. Ms. Nawa’s years of undercover work documents the Afghan drug trade and those senior US and Afghan government and business people who profit by it and protect it. This

book should be required reading by the key decision makers in Washington because they will find themselves indicted by their own wrong decisions. Recognition of this erroneous US policy would be a huge step on the road to finding some workable solution to protect the future of Afghanistan.

Fariba Nawa gives a personal perspective to her troubled homeland which continues its struggle to find peace due to its strategic location for trouble. It's a heartbreaking tale that needs to be told by those who experienced it that you will never see in the news. The book is a must read for anybody who wants to understand Afghanistan, its people and the problem it faces which is currently rooted in drugs which has ravaged the country in every possible way. In order to solve the problems of Afghanistan, you have to know its history which both US administrations has failed to comprehend. Nawa gives a voice to the poor and innocent victims of the drug war that are forgotten in the process.

Haunting, compelling, surprising in its truths and ultimately deeply humanizing. Opium Nation gives the layperson a degree of insight into the human side of Afghanistan's drug trade that seems to be rare even in specialized circles. The humanity Nawa gives Afghanistan's people is unparalleled. She is a true journalist, grounding the shocking figures behind the opium trade and Afghanistan's 30 plus years of turmoil through stories that stick. The children, women and men in Nawa's writing are honored with three dimensional realities rather than romanticized stereotypes. Few reporters can claim the Afghan roots, built-in cultural knowledge and sheer bravery that Nawa demonstrates. The complexities of a drug trade that supports as well as harms its people are revealed with intelligence. I was riveted and am altered by Nawa's book. A rare find, and one well worth sharing.

Opium Nation is an excellent read about the side of the opium/heroin drug business we don't often think about in the West - its inception in Afghanistan.I agree with a lot of what the other reviewers say here about the book providing much needed insight into the workings of the drug trade and the lives it impacts. But what really stood out for me were the descriptions of the lives of girls and women in Afghanistan - they aren't always what you might expect. From stories of girls' lives growing up in war - to female drug smugglers and addicts - to politicians and anti-narcotics officers - to the author's own story as an Afghan-American woman returning there - these narratives flesh out what is often missing in accounts of Afghanistan - the diverse and fascinating lives of women there.Hands down, this is the best book I have read on the subject of the Afghan drug trade. And in addition to being very informative, it's a really enjoyable book to read. You'll find your mind turning

to the people whose lives Nawa recounts well after you have finished reading the book. To me, that's the mark of a good book. I recommend Opium Nation to anyone who is curious about Afghan society and wants to better understand the role of the drug trade in modern day Afghanistan.

Opium Nation truly captures the essence of Afghanistan that Americans know little about outside of war reports on the nightly news. Author Fariba Nawa effectively holds the reader's attention from the first page to the last as she returns to the homeland she left as young child. Combining her knowledge and expertise as seasoned reporter with touching personal memories, Nawa examines the effects of the opium trade on Afghanistan's people, in particular, the women, including young Darya whose story will haunt the reader. Part touching memoir, part hardcore investigative journalism, Opium Nation is a must-read book.

Opium Nation: Child Brides, Drug Lords, and One Woman's Journey Through Afghanistan opens the curtain and let's us to see what's behind it. I just give my points, other 5 pointers before me have already said everything.

Great read. The history and story of opium. One can not think what people have been through for the harvesting of opium and how it funds terrorism.

Excellent read. We, in the USA, don't always realize how lucky we are.

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