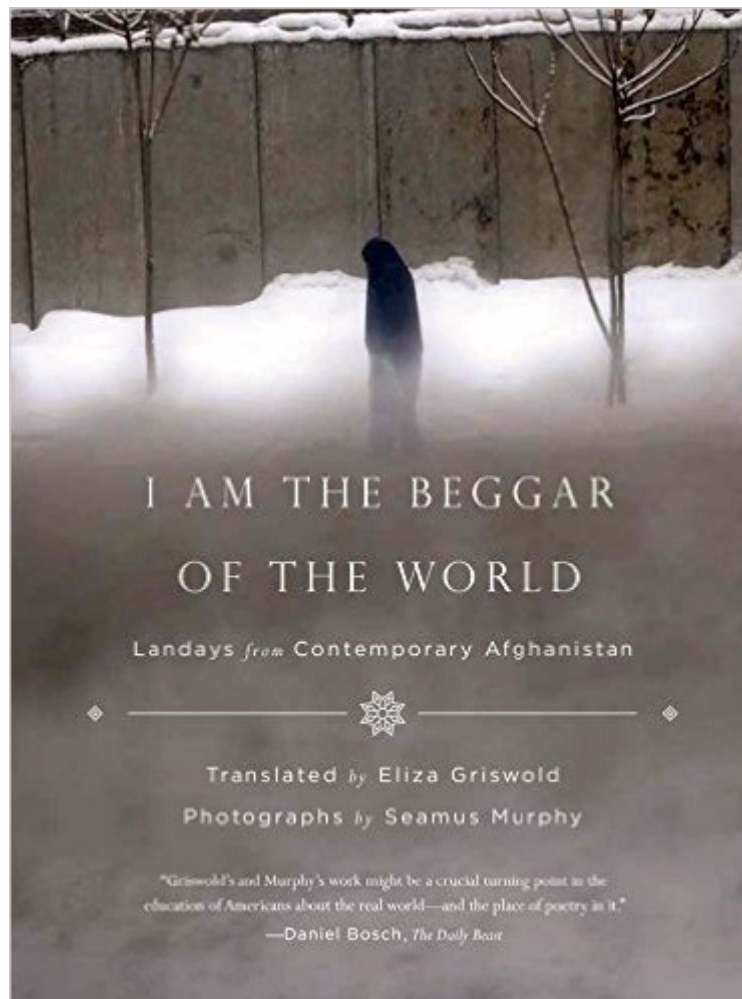


The book was found

I Am The Beggar Of The World: Landays From Contemporary Afghanistan



Synopsis

An eye-opening collection of clandestine poems by Afghan womenBecause my love's American,blisters blossom on my heart.Afghans revere poetry, particularly the high literary forms that derive from Persian or Arabic. But the poem above is a folk coupletâ •a landay, an ancient oral and anonymous form created by and for mostly illiterate people: the more than 20 million Pashtun women who span the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. War, separation, homeland, loveâ •these are the subjects of landays, which are brutal and spare, can be remixed like rap, and are powerful in that they make no attempts to be literary. From Facebook to drone strikes to the songs of the ancient caravans that first brought these poems to Afghanistan thousands of years ago, landays reflect contemporary Pashtun life and the impact of three decades of war. With the U.S. withdrawal in 2014 looming, these are the voices of protest most at risk of being lost when the Americans leave. After learning the story of a teenage girl who was forbidden to write poems and set herself on fire in protest, the poet Eliza Griswold and the photographer Seamus Murphy journeyed to Afghanistan to learn about these women and to collect their landays. The poems gathered in I Am the Beggar of the World express a collective rage, a lament, a filthy joke, a love of homeland, an aching longing, a call to arms, all of which belie any facile image of a Pashtun woman as nothing but a mute ghost beneath a blue burqa.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux; Reprint edition (March 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374535183

ISBN-13: 978-0374535186

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #443,283 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 inÂ Books > Travel > Asia >

Afghanistan #113 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > Middle Eastern

#952 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Travel

Customer Reviews

Landays, Afghan two-line poems, some centuries old, have an ephemeral quality, like a scrap of smoke in the air, or a remembered scent, hardly there. They are sung, or recited accompanied by a

drum to keep time. Landays began among nomads and farmers and were sung around a campfire, though now both men and women use them in their daily life, as humor, as riposte, as an expression of grief or protest. Eliza Griswold travelled to Afghanistan with the photographer Seamus Murphy when theyâ™d heard a young woman was persecuted, and died, for writing poems. Her name was Zarmina. Zarmina also recited ancient landays, perhaps changing a word or two to reflect her own life. Griswold began to collect landays and with the collection she has shared with us, we are allowed deep into the national psyche. Griswold explains her translation process, for which she won the 2015 PEN Award for Poetry in Translation. First the translation would be literal and then she would work with academics, writers, journalists to achieve something in English approaching the power of the poem in Pashto. By every measure, she has succeeded. It is extremely rare for a journalist to manage to portray with such depth, honesty, clarity, and humanity a culture foreign to readers. Griswold manages it in a slim book of poetry. On two facing pages she has placed one of Seamus Murphyâ™s photographs, and a two line poem. On the overleaf she explains the context of the poem and its meaning. Griswoldâ™s restraint highlights the power of the landays. Some landays are just about the length of a tweet. Your eyes arenâ™t eyes. Theyâ™re bees. I can find no cure for their sting. Some landays recited or sung at celebrations are recorded and shared with relatives or friends.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

I Am the Beggar of the World: Landays from Contemporary Afghanistan Like a Beggar The Beggar King (US Edition) (A Hangman's Daughter Tale Book 3) Oriental Rugs Volume 3 Carpets of Afghanistan Oriental Rugs Vol 3 The Carpets of Afghanistan Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of U.S. Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan Distant Thunder: Helicopter Pilot's Letters from War in Iraq and Afghanistan Adapting in the Dust: Lessons Learned from Canada's War in Afghanistan (UTP Insights) Descent into Chaos: The U.S. and the Disaster in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia Soldiers of God: With Islamic Warriors in Afghanistan and Pakistan Understanding the U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan The Mirror Test: America at War in Iraq and Afghanistan The Only Thing Worth Dying For: How Eleven Green Berets Fought for a New Afghanistan (P.S.) The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America's War in Afghanistan No Way Out: A Story of Valor in the Mountains of Afghanistan First In: How Seven CIA Officers Opened the War on Terror in Afghanistan The Only Thing Worth Dying For: How Eleven Green Berets Forged a New Afghanistan Why We Lost: A General's Inside Account of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars Russia's War in Afghanistan (Men-at-Arms) Broken Bodies, Shattered Minds: A Medical Odyssey from Vietnam to Afghanistan

