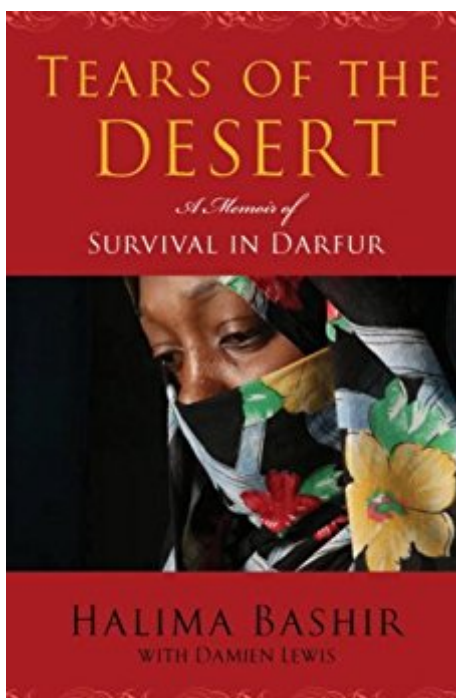


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Tears Of The Desert: A Memoir Of Survival In Darfur



Synopsis

Like the single white eyelash that graces her row of dark lashes—seen by her people as a mark of good fortune—Halima Bashir's story stands out. *Tears of the Desert* is the first memoir ever written by a woman caught up in the war in Darfur. It is a survivor's tale of a conflicted country, a resilient people, and the uncompromising spirit of a young woman who refused to be silenced. Born into the Zaghawa tribe in the Sudanese desert, Halima was doted on by her father, a cattle herder, and kept in line by her formidable grandmother. A politically astute man, Halima's father saw to it that his daughter received a good education away from their rural surroundings. Halima excelled in her studies and exams, surpassing even the privileged Arab girls who looked down their noses at the black Africans. With her love of learning and her father's support, Halima went on to study medicine, and at twenty-four became her village's first formal doctor. Yet not even the symbol of good luck that dotted her eye could protect her from the encroaching conflict that would consume her land. Janjaweed Arab militias started savagely assaulting the Zaghawa, often with the backing of the Sudanese military. Then, in early 2004, the Janjaweed attacked Bashir's village and surrounding areas, raping forty-two schoolgirls and their teachers. Bashir, who treated the traumatized victims, some as young as eight years old, could no longer remain quiet. But breaking her silence ignited a horrifying turn of events. In this harrowing and heartbreaking account, Halima Bashir sheds light on the hundreds of thousands of innocent lives being eradicated by what is fast becoming one of the most terrifying genocides of the twenty-first century. Raw and riveting, *Tears of the Desert* is more than just a memoir—it is Halima Bashir's global call to action. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a powerful book that should have helped many who were unsure of the damage of the conflict in Sudan to see the destruction of the lives of the people there. This book will make you smile, cry, and yearn to help those within its pages. Dr. Halima Bashir has escaped to a safer life in England but many in her country have not. Something that shocked me was that she does not know where her family is? Her mother and sister who ran to try and save her from the government and her two brothers who joined the resistance. It is hard for me to imagine not knowing where my family was. I tried to do a few searches to see if maybe in the four years since it had been published she had been able to locate her family, I was unable to find any indication that she had. I found that I didn't want to stop reading the story even though it was heart breaking at times. It is detailed but not so much so that we are overwhelmed by the grotesque events that take place. There is a genuine dislike for the janaweed as well as the government police and military who abuse the Africans just because of the color of their skin.

I had heard about the tragedy of Darfur and wanted to know more about the story of this country. I am so glad that this book is available to provide information about the people and their situations. I loved reading about the daily lives of the people there - the food they ate, their unique housing arrangements, the games they played and most of all their love and respect for family and community. But that was before the terror of invasion of brutality into their quiet lives. Each time we hear of such things in our world, we say "Never again". We must identify with our fellow humans to each work hard to make this a true saying. This book was very meaningful and enjoyable.

The author does a spectacular job sharing the joy, sadness, challenge and yes, the horrors of her world in this book. Much of the time I felt as though I was right there with her, participating in her experiences. I laughed and cried with her and I felt her pain and humiliation deep in my soul. One cannot help but grow as one reads this book. It is more than a good read... it is an education about an ancient, exotic culture and a lesson on empathy, love, compassion and fear. Those who follow events that reveal man's inhumanity to man (and women) are aware that the author showed great

courage by placing her personal safety at considerable risk with this book. By refusing to remain a victim and telling her story she has pointed the finger of guilt at her aggressors. They are fearful and striking back with accusations and threats but the world knows the truth of their inhumanity now, so try as they may, their efforts will fall on deaf ears. Michael James Jaquish Author: *Beyond Courage: Tales of a Country Cop in Africa* *The Buddha And The Badge: A Journey of Personal Discovery* *A Monk Without A Monastery: An Examination of Self-Discovery*

One woman's fight for survival against barbarians. Ultimately, the book shows the uselessness of the United Nations to stop genocide of millions of people. It was interesting to read how prejudiced the Arabs were against the blacks of Darfur and surrounding areas, yet, they are all Muslims; skin color is more important than religious preference. This story of ultimate survival leaves you with a sick feeling against mankind's cruelty.

Originally, I read this book in hopes to use in the classroom for world literature. From a literary standpoint, some chapters seem to drag along; the memoir could certainly benefit from better editing. The first couple of sections of the book could certainly be shortened, and several typos exist (at least in the Kindle version). As far as Bashir's account of Darfur is concerned, it is a chilling reminder of just how evil mankind can be; we typically tell ourselves that something this horrific could never take place in the 21st century! Think again. We Westerners believed similarly prior to the Jewish holocaust. When will this cycle end. Her epilogue certainly opened my eyes about China's indirect involvement in this crisis. Although I will most likely not have students read the book in entirety, I may use excerpts from this account to supplement units covering such themes as contemporary war and Africa in the 21st century.

Well written, eye opening. I find it hard to describe, it isn't fiction, it is someone's life! The courage and determination Halima demonstrated will be with me forever. I think every American of appropriate age should read this book. If it doesn't make you count your blessings I don't know what would!

I can't recommend this book enough. It's not for the faint of heart and there are no happy endings for many suffering in Darfur but it opens your eyes. This book allowed you into the life of her African tribe, their day to day rituals and even though they are a world and culture away, you see the love of family. Children even in Africa create simple neighborhood games, family and friends celebrate with

food and gatherings. Their tribe was all about family. And you see the similarities even in our lives in the USA. And then you're shown the ugly part of this world we live in. A world where animals feel they are better. Animals who justify rape, murder and savagery. You feel first hand the suffering, feel the fear and the despair when people are hunted down like animals. This would make a fantastic movie and would bring attention to the atrocities in this world that are going on as we speak. Highly recommend.

Sitting in my safe, comfortable home made it difficult to read this book. I hope that everyone who becomes aware of Halima's story will feel the need to be more welcoming to those seeking asylum. And willing to support the women, children and men still struggling with genocide. Hard for me to believe there is this level of hatred and evil in today's world.

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