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The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir

By Farah Ahmed



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Farah Ahmed recounts her heartbreaking journey from war-torn Kabul to America in her *New York Times* bestselling inspirational memoir.

Farah Ahmed's "poignant tale of survival" (*Chicago Tribune*) chronicles her journey from war to peace. Equal parts tragedy and hope, determination and daring, Ahmed's memoir delivers a remarkably vivid portrait of her girlhood in Kabul, where the sound of gunfire and the sight of falling bombs shaped her life and stole her family. She herself narrowly escapes death when she steps on a land mine. Eventually the war forces her to flee, first over the mountains to refugee camps across the border, and finally to America. Ahmed proves that even in the direst circumstances, not only can the human heart endure, it can thrive. *The Other Side of the Sky* is "a remarkable journey" (*Chicago Sun-Times*), and Farah Ahmed inspires us all.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Inspiring . . . A wonderful story." -- James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*

"Very compelling. . . . Here you have a girl, a child, who suffered her own disability, [and] the loss of her family and her homeland. She's taking care of her aging mother and adapting to this new culture, and she's a bright, shining light in the world. . . . Very moving." -- Mary Karr, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Liar's Club* and *Cherry*

"[*The Other Side of the Sky*] has that wonderful quality of survival and is most compelling. Seeing Afghanistan from the eyes of this girl provides a deep, rich look that we haven't seen before." -- Mary Higgins Clark, author of thirty-three worldwide bestsellers

"Farah is a tower of strength." -- Heather Mills McCartney

About the Author

Farah Ahmed is a humanitarian, activist, and writer from Afghanistan. After stepping on a landmine was a young girl, she and her family escaped her war-torn homeland and moved to the United States. After winning *Good Morning America's* Story of My Life contest in 2005, she published her memoir, *The Other Side of the Sky*. Now a college graduate and mother of two, Ahmed is a public speaker who shares her story of loss, hope, and peace with people all over the country.

Tamim Ansary is the author of *West of Kabul, East of New York: An Afghan American Story* as well as numerous books for children. A columnist for *Encarta*, he lives in San Francisco with his wife and their two children.

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Prologue

Alyce wanted me to share the story of my life. I told her that I wasn't ready, that it was too soon. I'm not even nineteen years old, and I haven't achieved anything yet. But Alyce said that with a life like mine, surviving itself is an achievement—just surviving.

I don't know if she's right. When I look back at my childhood in Afghanistan, it seems so far away and long ago. Back then I thought I would grow up and grow old in the city of Kabul, surrounded by my big, complicated, loving family. Little did I know I would lose most of them before I turned fourteen.

As a child, gazing at the high walls around our home compound, I longed to see what lay on the other side of my city. I never dreamed that I would see our home reduced to rubble and would end up living on the other side of the world, in the suburbs of a city called Chicago.

But in the end, I have decided to tell this story because it is not mine alone. It is the story of many people. Probably, you have read the numbers. So many people have stepped on land mines, so many have gotten hurt by war, have lost their families, fled their homes. Each of us has a story. What happened to me—both the bad and the good—really does happen to people.

I say "the bad and the good" because out of my losses have come tremendous gifts as well. Looking back, I see that my life could have ended so many times, except for unexpected strangers who reached out to me in loving kindness. After I lost my leg, I thought I could never know happiness again, and yet that very loss opened the world to me in strange ways and showed me wonders that I had never imagined.

I have seen my dreams crushed, but new ones have sprouted in their place, and some of those dreams have even come true. I have lost loved ones but not love itself. That's what my story is about, I think. That's the story I want to share with you now, the story of my life, so far.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bobbi Gonzales:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book *The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* seemed to be making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The e-book *The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir* is not only giving you much more new information but also to be your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship together with the book *The Other Side of the Sky: A Memoir*. You never feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Richard Riggins:

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