JEWELS OF ALLAH: THE UNTOLD STORY OF WOMEN IN IRAN

By Nina Ansary

PUB DATE: June 25, 2015 (Revela Press)

DESCRIPTION: A powerful tale of women’s liberation, Jewels of Allah tells the untold, true story of women in Iran, revealing a global sisterhood of women in the East and the West that, from the beginning of time, has transcended boundaries of religion, race, and culture.

Jewels of Allah illuminates the stereotypical assumptions and often misunderstood story of women in Iran, past and present. Based on scholarly research as well as the author’s personal experience, the book celebrates the many courageous female leaders and advocates throughout Iran’s history and reveals the unanticipated consequences of the Islamic Revolution that led to a full-blown feminist movement within a post-revolutionary patriarchal society.

KEY POINTS:

- There is no other non-fiction book on the market about the history and accomplishments of women in Iran.

- Iran and the Iranian women’s fight for liberation has been a hot topic in mainstream news for the past five years.

- The author commands a powerful global platform as a prominent voice of the women’s movement in Iran, with over 200,000 top influential followers on social media in news media, politics, the arts, culture and academia.

- The most comparable books about women in Iran have consistently ranked high in popularity over the last few years (Reading Lolita in Tehran, Captive in Iran), proving a strong mainstream interest in Iran.

- 100% of all proceeds from the sale of the book will go to charitable organizations and institutions, with the primary recipient being the OMID Foundation, a 501(c)(3) registered organization that has been empowering disadvantaged young women in Iran for over 10 years. For more information on the OMID Foundation, please visit: omidfoundation.com

AUDIENCE:

Progressive readers ages 25 and up — Feminist — Iranian readers (Iranian-Americans are among the highest-educated people in the United States) — Readers interested in Women’s Empowerment and Women in the World — Educational market: Women’s Studies programs, Middle Eastern Studies, Peace Studies programs — Readers interested in World History and World Affairs

For media inquiries, please contact: Julia Drake - Julia Drake PR: (310)359-6487/julia@juliadrakepr.com
MAY 2015: NINA ANSARY WILL BE HONORED AS ONE OF THE 21 LEADERS OF 21ST CENTURY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Tehran, Iran, Nina Ansary left her country of birth at the onset of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Growing up in New York City, she received her B.A. in Sociology from Barnard College, and her M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies and Ph.D. in History from Columbia University.

After moving to Los Angeles, Ansary followed her family’s long distinguished record for supporting humanitarian causes. As an avid philanthropist, she serves on the Middle East Institute Advisory Board at Columbia University, on Columbia University’s Global Leadership Council, the Board of Trustees of the IAWF (Iranian American Women’s Foundation), and the Advisory Board of the Pacific Youth Foundation.

Nina Ansary is an elected member of the Everychild Foundation and the Pacific Council on International policy, and a member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the National Organization for Women (NOW), and the U.S. National Committee for U.N. Women (USNC) – organizations dedicated to public policy and supporting education, charitable and gender-related causes.

She is one of the “Top Influencers” of Iran on Twitter/Facebook, and a regular contributor to the Daily Beast, BBC, Huffington Post, and Women’s eNews, an award-winning news website which recently honored her as one of the 21 Leaders of the 21st Century. For more about Nina, visit: www.ninaansary.com

AUTHOR RESIDENCE: Los Angeles, CA

FOLLOWING:

· 150,000 Facebook Fans: Averaging 2,500 likes, 300 shares, & 100 comments per post.
· 55,000 Twitter Followers: Averaging 750,000 amplification rate per tweet.
· 3,500 Unique Monthly Visitors to her website: www.NinaAnsary.com

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SELECT PRAISE

FOR JEWELS OF ALLAH

"An incisive, intellectually robust look at the feminist movement in Iran...a riveting portrait of the Iranian woman: her strength, resilience, suffering and hope.” – Publishers Weekly

“A well-documented and persuasively written examination of the change in Iranian women's status under the country's secular and religious governments...maintains an engaging tone that makes it easy for casual readers to follow the arguments.”

– Kirkus Reviews

"Knowing our history is knowing ourselves. Nina Ansary expertly reveals largely untold stories of the multifaceted women of Iran and their perseverance to overcome considerable obstacles.” - Alisa Miller, CEO, Public Radio International (PRI)

"Nina Ansary's book is a must-read for anyone hoping for a fuller understanding of the role of women and the women's rights movement in Iran. It is a must needed antidote to Western misconceptions.” - San Francisco Book Review

"I am a big fan of women speaking out, telling their stories, using their voices - and author Nina Ansary has used hers in an astonishing, important way. Her Jewels of Allah is brave, authentic and riveting. What a compelling example of why women NEED to tell their stories. Read this.” - Kathy Najimy, Actress

“This must be included within the Essential Reading lists of all schools- it is a vital historical account, a necessary and refreshed analysis particularly for our 21st Century culture of fear climate.” - Marcella Karamat, Senior Film Publicist/Consultant, The Hollywood Reporter and The London Times

“The women of Iran have no greater champion than Nina Ansary, nor does anyone equal her in explaining the seemingly paradoxical expansion of women's education since the Iranian Revolution.” - Richard W. Bulliet, Professor of History, Columbia University

“This is a remarkable book. Nina Ansary explodes some of the myths and prejudices held about Iranian women across the centuries. This volume is an invaluable addition to the existing literature on the subject and a must read for all those who are interested in understanding Islam and feminisms and in the celebration of differences and diversities within the feminist movements.” - Baroness Afshar of Heslington, Professor, Academy of Social Sciences, University of York

“This is essential reading on Iran, and feminism, human rights, and social movements. The book turns itself into a archive of all the relevant figures, publications, and eras related to the history of women in Iran, and as a researcher and writer, I know I will refer back to it in the future.” - Mahsa Alimardani, Iran Editor, Global Voices.com

“An elegant and enlightening experience—Jewels of Allah contains critical talking points, facts, and research that will empower its readers to more effectively understand the winds of change that are contributing to the empowerment movement of Iranian women.” – Yasamin Beitollahi, Digital Media Professional & Huffington Post Contributor

“Nina Ansary, with clear and precise language, laser-like focus and deep knowledge, lifts the veil of news media neglect and ignorance hiding the experiences of women and girls in Iran. Women's eNews is delighted she regularly shares her insights and inside knowledge with its readers.” - Rita Henley Jensen, Editor in Chief Women's eNews, New York

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TALKING POINTS

· What are the biggest misconceptions about women in Iran?
· What accounts for the failed gender ideology of the Islamic Republic?
· Who are some of the most important female voices in Iran - in the past and future?
· How can Western feminists support the feminist movement in Iran?
· What action have feminists in Iran taken to push for women’s rights?
· What is the link between education and adolescent female empowerment?

NINA ANSARY QUOTES

“Our past is the canvas that illuminates our future.”
“There is no resolution in war, no glory in violence, and no redemption with injustice.”
“Your moral compass should always be pointed in the direction of peace, resolution, and humanity.”
“Sometimes the most unimaginable pain can lead to extraordinary blessings.”
“Fight hatred with love, war with peace, and sin with absolution.”
“Let the desire to make a difference become the opiate of your mind, body, and soul.”
“The day we lose our ability to show compassion & tolerance, is the day we have effectively lost our humanity.”

MEDIA

Dr. Ansary has written for, appeared on, and been quoted in multiple news outlets, organizations, and publications as an expert in the women’s movement in Iran. For a complete list and links to upcoming events and engagements, please visit: www.NinaAnsary.com/Press

ANCILLARY MATERIAL

Farsi translation will be published alongside English edition, with French and Spanish editions to follow.
Audiobook to be released in Fall 2015 with celebrity narrator.
Author is already working on second installment of Jewels Of Allah with tentative pub date of June 2016.

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