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NEWS FROM
voice

"Education is the only way to combat extremism in Afghanistan and to bring an end to the war. It should be books not bombs. You fight extremism with education because knowledge is the enemy of ignorance, and ignorance breeds extremism."—Suraya Sadeed

FORBIDDEN LESSONS
in a
Kabul Guesthouse

By **Suraya Sadeed** with Damien Lewis

"A moving message from a courageous humanitarian, and more timely than ever."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

"An exciting and inspiring read."

— *Booklist*

"...a well plotted, fluid narrative."

— *Publishers Weekly*

"For years, Suraya Sadeed has worked tirelessly to help the people of her war-scarred homeland. This terrific memoir is the story of her struggles, her sacrifices, and her hopes. It is the **moving life story** of a remarkable woman who has overcome personal tragedy and has made it her single-minded mission to bring hope, relief, and a measure of happiness to the brutalized women and children of Afghanistan."

— Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner*

"I read this book in one gulp. **I couldn't put it down.** Suraya Sadeed is an amazing woman who has done what few others have dared, or cared enough, to do. Her life is inspiring, and so is her life story—this riveting, clear-eyed book."

— Mir Tamim Ansary, author of *West of Kabul, East of New York*

Arriving in her childhood home at the height of the Afghan Civil War, Suraya was shocked by the horrific condition of the children and the destruction of Afghanistan—and she knew she had to do something to

help. In her first book, **FORBIDDEN LESSONS IN A KABUL GUESTHOUSE** (Voice Books; June 21, 2011; \$24.99), Suraya chronicles her heartbreaking, nail-biting, and—at its core—hopeful journey from Afghanistan to America and back again.

Born into wealth as the daughter of the governor of Kabul, Suraya Sadeed grew up in a peaceful Afghanistan. After the Soviet invasion in 1979, Suraya and her family immigrated to America and built a new life, complete with a flourishing real estate business. When her husband dropped dead at the age of 47, Suraya traveled back to Afghanistan for a visit that changed her life's mission entirely.

FORBIDDEN LESSONS IN A KABUL GUESTHOUSE details Suraya's many daring, dangerous rescue missions to bring aid to orphans and widows, education in the form of underground schools she founded, health clinics, and peace training to the most devastated regions of Afghanistan.

To help the Afghan people, Suraya made many harrowing attempts to traffic cash and supplies under the noses of Iranian border guards, drug-runners, and suicide bombers. She concealed an estimated \$100,000 in U.S. cash by strapping it to her stomach and feigning pregnancy while slipping past the Taliban. She eventually founded Help the Afghan Children (HTAC), whose mission is to save Afghani children in some of the most remote areas of this war-torn country. Suraya has since been delivering relief and hope to Afghan women and children faced with inhumane situations deemed too dangerous for most aid workers and journalists.

Both timely and compelling, her story will bring to light the human side of the war in Afghanistan that is often overlooked, and strike a chord with those concerned with the plight of impoverished children in any country.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Suraya Sadeed founded Help the Afghan Children in 1993 as a response to the humanitarian crisis she witnessed on a trip to her home country during the height of the Afghan Civil War. Since then, her work has been recognized and honored at the highest levels of government in both Afghanistan and the United States. She was the subject of a film documentary, *Inshallah, Diary of an Afghan Woman*. In March 2006, Suraya's work in Afghanistan was recognized by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at the White House. Suraya lives in Virginia and travels frequently to Afghanistan.

Check out www.surayasadeed.com for book updates, a photo gallery, and videos.

Log on to Help the Afghan Children's web site at www.HTAC.org.

FORBIDDEN LESSONS IN A KABUL GUESTHOUSE

The True Story of a Woman Who Risked Everything to Bring Hope to Afghanistan

By Suraya Sadeed with Damien Lewis

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