

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran

By Carla Power

Download now

Read Online

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power

PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • Hailed by *The Washington Post* as "mandatory reading," and praised by Fareed Zakaria as "intelligent, compassionate, and revealing," a powerful journey to help bridge one of the greatest divides shaping our world today.

If the Oceans Were Ink is Carla Power's eye-opening story of how she and her longtime friend Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi found a way to confront ugly stereotypes and persistent misperceptions that were cleaving their communities. Their friendship-between a secular American and a madrasa-trained sheikh-had always seemed unlikely, but now they were frustrated and bewildered by the battles being fought in their names. Both knew that a close look at the Quran would reveal a faith that preached peace and not mass murder; respect for women and not oppression. And so they embarked on a yearlong journey through the controversial text.

A journalist who grew up in the Midwest and the Middle East, Power offers her unique vantage point on the Quran's most provocative verses as she debates with Akram at cafes, family gatherings, and packed lecture halls, conversations filled with both good humor and powerful insights. Their story takes them to madrasas in India and pilgrimage sites in Mecca, as they encounter politicians and jihadis, feminist activists and conservative scholars. Armed with a new understanding of each other's worldviews, Power and Akram offer eye-opening perspectives, destroy long-held myths, and reveal startling connections between worlds that have seemed hopelessly divided for far too long.

Praise for *If the Oceans Were Ink*

"A vibrant tale of a friendship.... *If the Oceans Were Ink* is a welcome and nuanced look at Islam [and] goes a long way toward combating the dehumanizing stereotypes of Muslims that are all too common…. *If the Oceans Were Ink* should be mandatory reading for the 52 percent of Americans who

admit to not knowing enough about Muslims."—***The Washington Post***

"For all those who wonder what Islam says about war and peace, men and women, Jews and gentiles, this is the book to read. It is a conversation among well-meaning friends—intelligent, compassionate, and revealing—the kind that needs to be taking place around the world."—**Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Post-American World***

"Carla Power's intimate portrait of the Quran, told with nuance and great elegance, captures the extraordinary, living debate over the Muslim holy book's very essence. A spirited, compelling read."—**Azadeh Moaveni, author of *Lipstick Jihad***

"Unique, masterful, and deeply engaging. Carla Power takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in interfaith understanding as she debates and discovers the Quran's message, meaning, and values on peace and violence, gender and veiling, religious pluralism and tolerance."—**John L. Esposito, University Professor and Professor of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, and author of *The Future of Islam***

"A thoughtful, provocative, intelligent book."—**Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Birds Of Paradise* and *The Language of Baklava***

Download If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and ...pdf

Read Online If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship a ...pdf

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran

By Carla Power

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power

PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • Hailed by *The Washington Post* as "mandatory reading," and praised by Fareed Zakaria as "intelligent, compassionate, and revealing," a powerful journey to help bridge one of the greatest divides shaping our world today.

If the Oceans Were Ink is Carla Power's eye-opening story of how she and her longtime friend Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi found a way to confront ugly stereotypes and persistent misperceptions that were cleaving their communities. Their friendship-between a secular American and a madrasa-trained sheikh-had always seemed unlikely, but now they were frustrated and bewildered by the battles being fought in their names. Both knew that a close look at the Quran would reveal a faith that preached peace and not mass murder; respect for women and not oppression. And so they embarked on a yearlong journey through the controversial text.

A journalist who grew up in the Midwest and the Middle East, Power offers her unique vantage point on the Quran's most provocative verses as she debates with Akram at cafes, family gatherings, and packed lecture halls, conversations filled with both good humor and powerful insights. Their story takes them to madrasas in India and pilgrimage sites in Mecca, as they encounter politicians and jihadis, feminist activists and conservative scholars. Armed with a new understanding of each other's worldviews, Power and Akram offer eye-opening perspectives, destroy long-held myths, and reveal startling connections between worlds that have seemed hopelessly divided for far too long.

Praise for *If the Oceans Were Ink*

"A vibrant tale of a friendship.... *If the Oceans Were Ink* is a welcome and nuanced look at Islam [and] goes a long way toward combating the dehumanizing stereotypes of Muslims that are all too common…. *If the Oceans Were Ink* should be mandatory reading for the 52 percent of Americans who admit to not knowing enough about Muslims."—***The Washington Post***

"For all those who wonder what Islam says about war and peace, men and women, Jews and gentiles, this is the book to read. It is a conversation among well-meaning friends—intelligent, compassionate, and revealing—the kind that needs to be taking place around the world."—**Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Post-American World***

"Carla Power's intimate portrait of the Quran, told with nuance and great elegance, captures the extraordinary, living debate over the Muslim holy book's very essence. A spirited, compelling read."—**Azadeh Moaveni, author of *Lipstick Jihad***

"Unique, masterful, and deeply engaging. Carla Power takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in interfaith understanding as she debates and discovers the Quran's message, meaning, and values on peace and violence, gender and veiling, religious pluralism and tolerance."—**John L. Esposito, University**

Professor and Professor of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, and author of *The Future of Islam*

“A thoughtful, provocative, intelligent book.”—**Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Birds Of Paradise* and *The Language of Baklava***

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #216988 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-04-07
- Released on: 2015-04-07
- Format: Kindle eBook

Download If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and ...pdf

Read Online If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship a ...pdf

Download and Read Free Online If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power

Editorial Review

Review

PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST

Named A Best Book of the Year by *The Washington Post* and *The Denver Post*

“A vibrant tale of a friendship.... *If the Oceans Were Ink* is a welcome and nuanced look at Islam [and] goes a long way toward combating the dehumanizing stereotypes of Muslims that are all too common.... *If the Oceans Were Ink* should be mandatory reading for the 52 percent of Americans who admit to not knowing enough about Muslims.” ***?The Washington Post***

“Journalist Power writes about her year studying the Quran with a Muslim scholar she befriended while working at a think tank in London. For some, this will be a strong introduction to Islam. To others, it's fodder for discussion on the Sheikh's views, how Westerners (such as Power) interpret those views and the interplay of culture and religion.” ?***The Denver Post***

“For all those who wonder what Islam says about war and peace, men and women, Jews and gentiles, this is the book to read. It is a conversation among well-meaning friends--intelligent, compassionate, and revealing--the kind that needs to be taking place around the world.” ?***Fareed Zakaria, author of The Post-American World***

“With a journalist’s mind for the story, a born traveler’s heart for the adventure of crossing borders, and a seeker’s yen for the poetry and mysticism of belief, Power creates an exceptional record of a timeless quest.”? **Merritt Tierce, a National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” honoree and author of *Love Me Back***

“An inspiring story of two [people] from different worlds who refuse to let religious and cultural differences, prejudice, and ignorance get in the way of their friendship, *If the Oceans Were Ink* is as thought-provoking as it is elegantly written. It takes a difficult, highly charged topic and puts it into terms that are not only understandable and eye-opening, but beautiful.”?***Bustle* (11 Beautifully Written Memoirs by Women)**

“[Carla Power and Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi's] conversations break down stereotypes.... Power displays the diversity and intellectual richness of the practicing Muslim world, and shows how much we have to gain from mutual understanding.” ?***Shelf Awareness***

“Carla Power's intimate portrait of the Quran, told with nuance and great elegance, captures the extraordinary, living debate over the Muslim holy book's very essence. A spirited, compelling read.” ?***Azadeh Moaveni*, *author of Lipstick Jihad***

“Engaging … Together [Carla Power and the Sheikh] explore … the significance of veiling and unveiling, the struggle against unjust rulers and jihad, and contemporary wars. Power's narrative offers an accessible and enlightening route into a topic fraught with misunderstanding.” ?***Publishers Weekly***

“Unique, masterful, and deeply engaging. Carla Power takes the reader on an extraordinary journey in interfaith understanding as she debates and discovers the Quran's message, meaning, and values on peace and violence, gender and veiling, religious pluralism and tolerance.” ?***John L. Esposito**, University Professor and Professor of Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, and author of The Future of Islam*

“Lively … Intelligent and exceptionally informative.” ?***Kirkus Reviews***

“A thoughtful, provocative, intelligent book.” ?***Diana Abu-Jaber**, author of Birds Of Paradise and The Language of Baklava*

“Their yearlong debates on issues ranging from the veiling of women to calls for fatwas challenged their own understandings of religion, culture, politics, and friendship and offer powerful new insights into Islam.” ?***Booklist***

“*If the Oceans Were Ink* opens a door to the power of the Quran's lyrical and complex prose to inspire, comfort, and ignite hearts everywhere. A must read for anyone wishing to understand a global community's central spiritual source.” ?***Dalia Mogahed**, Director of Research, The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, and co-author of Who Speaks for Islam?*

“A former foreign correspondent for *Newsweek* raised partly in the Middle East and boasting a graduate degree in Middle Eastern studies from Oxford, Power spent a year reading the Quran with a longtime friend, Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi. Their experience led them beyond stereotypes to a constructive understanding for the text's call for peace and equality. Great for book clubs.” ?***Library Journal***

“There are many intriguing books that trace the encounter of Westerners with Muslims from traditional backgrounds. Some of these books are love stories, others are clashes. Carla Power's *If the Oceans Were Ink* is something more radical, magical, and much more relevant: a religious encounter mediated through a gentle friendship, one that is committed to a dialogue and a search for truth. In a world characterized by so much tension and polemic, Power offers what might be our best hope for a better tomorrow: an intelligent friendship. Most enthusiastically recommended.” ?***Omid Safi**, Director, Duke Islamic Studies Center*

About the Author

Carla Power writes for *Time* and was a foreign correspondent for *Newsweek*. Her writing has appeared in *Vogue*, *Glamour*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *Foreign Policy*. Her work has been recognized with an Overseas Press Club award, a Women in Media Award, and the National Women's Political Caucus' EMMA. She holds a graduate degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Oxford, as well as degrees from Yale and Columbia.

Kate Reading is an Audie Award-winning narrator and has received numerous Earphones Awards from *AudioFile* magazine. She is also a theater actor in the Washington, DC, area and has been a member of the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company since 1987. Her work onstage has been recognized by the Helen Hayes Awards Society, among others. She and her husband live in Hyattsville, Maryland, with their two children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Kuehner:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They are reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, person feel need book once they found difficult problem or maybe exercise. Well, probably you will need this If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran.

Willard Sarvis:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they're still students or that for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be compelled someone or something that they don't want do that. You must know how great as well as important the book If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran. All type of book can you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

Alice Wilkerson:

This book untitled If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this guide from your list.

Martin Hanson:

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a reserve we can know everything we would like. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This guide If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran was filled with regards to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can sense enjoy to read a publication. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

Download and Read Online If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power #3GTMINW7O62

Read If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power for online ebook

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power books to read online.

Online If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power ebook PDF download

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power Doc

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power Mobipocket

If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power EPub

3GTMINW7O62: If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran By Carla Power