



Zaatardiva

Suheir Hammad

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Zaatardiva is poetry about love, politics and Brooklyn, all coming out of Hammad's bag of zaatar. The poems in this collection are at once seductive and dangerous; they are possessed by a singular lyricism and awareness, and her call to action has a major presence in her work.

Zaatardiva Details

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Author : Suheir Hammad

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From Reader Review Zaatardiva for online ebook

Sohaib says

What kind of poetry to expect in *ZaatarDiva*?

Expect no punctuation, a continuous flow of words, of energy. Expect expectations deflated. Expect surprises ... lots of them.

Hammad writes in a vigorous style with no punctuation—a continuous pouring of words. Her lyrical diction and fitting repetitions heighten the liveliness of her poems. This musicality often renders the horrific in somewhat light humorous tones reminiscent of postmodern parodies. Here is a glimpse:

“poem supposed to be about
one minute and the lives of three women in it
writing it and up the block
a woman killed
by her husband
poem now about one minute
and the lives of four
women in it”

In a way, this sums up the spirit of her style, relying heavily on unexpected repetitions and surprising quirks in word choice and word grouping.

Emad (TheBookCritic) says

?

Well, I don't like this kind of poetry!

Surely there are some really good lines that I liked and quoted, but I didn't like most of the poems! They were kinda weak and prosaic - nothing special!

Cassandra says

suheir tells us the things we sometimes dont want to hear, the things that are always inside our heads. like my favorite stanza of hers "you forgive those/ who hurt you/ i'll hold your grudge for you"

Jennifer Collins says

Hammad's work is clearly meant to be heard more than to be read, but nevertheless, the power of her poems

is undeniable. Though some pass by quietly, others demand to be read again immediately, and then can't be forgotten. The strongest ones, which won't let go of a reader for even a breath, are those which speak of survival and of terror, and of the experience of being suppressed or serving as a witness to horrors such as war and 9-11. Whether speaking as a woman, a survivor, or simply a human, though, Hammad's work hums with power, and the collection as a whole is one which is well worth exploring, remembering, and sharing.

Absolutely recommended.

Timothy says

this is not only a book but also a CD, and listening to the audio versions of her poems makes me cry. so amazing. you can read a couple of the poems online, including Daddy's Song. this poem on the CD features her father on the track, and it makes my heart hurt with love and family and mourning. you can see a performance of it on youtube but it's a different version, not with her dad. also you can read the stunning, beautiful, clear-eyed first writing since online, or watch her perform it on youtube. but then you should get the book and read & listen to the whole thing.

Eboni Sade says

Outstanding poet

Amy says

actually, i am always "currently reading" this book of poetry. and it comes with a cd. this woman is amazing. read/listen if you want to connect with your rage and be inspired to do something about it.

Nancy says

If I were teaching history to teens, I would play her poems to share what it's like to be of Arab parents, living in Brooklyn, in the times during and after 9/11. If I were teaching poetry to teens, I would share "cloud kissing" to make them all squirm with its swoon -- and challenge them to write about their crushes and loves. And "lipstick" -- because the lipstick talks. Then again, if I'd read this as a teen, this is the kind of book that would make me feel like chopped liver. The little white girl history ignores (boohoo).

But back to Suheir Hammad: her voice is sure and rich. I admire both her strength and her restraint.

kripsoo says

Having traveled the world via her poetry Brooklyn-raised and Tony-Award winning poet Suheir Hammad has published the long-awaited follow-up to her 1996 collections Born Palestinian Born Black and Drops of

This Story (Harlem River Press) In the minimalist ZaatarDiva a deeply spiritual and maternal Hammad wastes not a single word in tightly wrapped flower bud poems that blossom in the reader mind where her words give voice to unconscious thought With roots as a spoken-word poet she use of popular language to de-scribe and connect complex subjects and express the intimate can only be described as genius Strong in her weakness her raw intimacy defeats armies The endless love that provides the backbone for her work transcends and eclipses simple politics to pure and beautiful revolution

Emily Carpenter says

Suheir has been one of my main inspirations for writing poetry, alogside, my mother especially when I first started writing. Suuher uses beautiful, strong imagry to express what she is feeling in her poems. I WOULD STRONGLY RECCOMEND THIS BOOK! Suheir touches topics from love to war to violence to family. I think that whoever reads this could probably find atleast one poem that they can connct to. especially for those who say that they do not prefer poetry I would reccomend this book, because it feels as though Suheri's words fly off the the page, it's as if you can feel the emotion behing every stanza. Although a thin book, I often read one poem repeatadly and each time I would get a new image or inspiration from her words. I would reccomend this book pf poems to anyone who wants to be inspired.

Kara Huff says

Fantastic poetry. And I don't usually care for poetry. I suggest listening to the cd that accompanies some editions, and/or looking up videos of her reading the poems. It truly enhances the message.

Teeb says

If you've ever seen Suheir Hammad perform live then you'll know what an amazing poet and performer she is.

She's a palestinian-american poet who grew up in Brooklyn and her mixed identity and roots are the subject and power behind her poetry. A wonderful, beautiful collection which includes "first writing since" a poem she wrote immediately after the Sept 11th attacks in NYC which makes me cry every time i read it...

M R says

I really enjoyed listening to Suheir perform her poetry on the disc included with the book. What I didn't hear I imagined as I read her work that was so raw and powerful at moments and then quiet and unassuming in others, but still powerful. There was an especially poignant verse from the end of "first writing since" that I am excited to create an art piece for.

Hafsa says

An amazing work of poetry by one of my favorite poets/spoken word artists. Many of her poems are about Palestine, as she is a Palestinian-American. The book even comes with a CD so you can hear her perform---she's absolutely brilliant.

Madeleine says

Meh stars for a lot of poems (but I'm coming to realize reading poetry is maybe just like that), 4 stars for a lot of poems, and ALL THE STARS IN THE WORLD for First Writing Since and What I Will. Now how do I average that?
