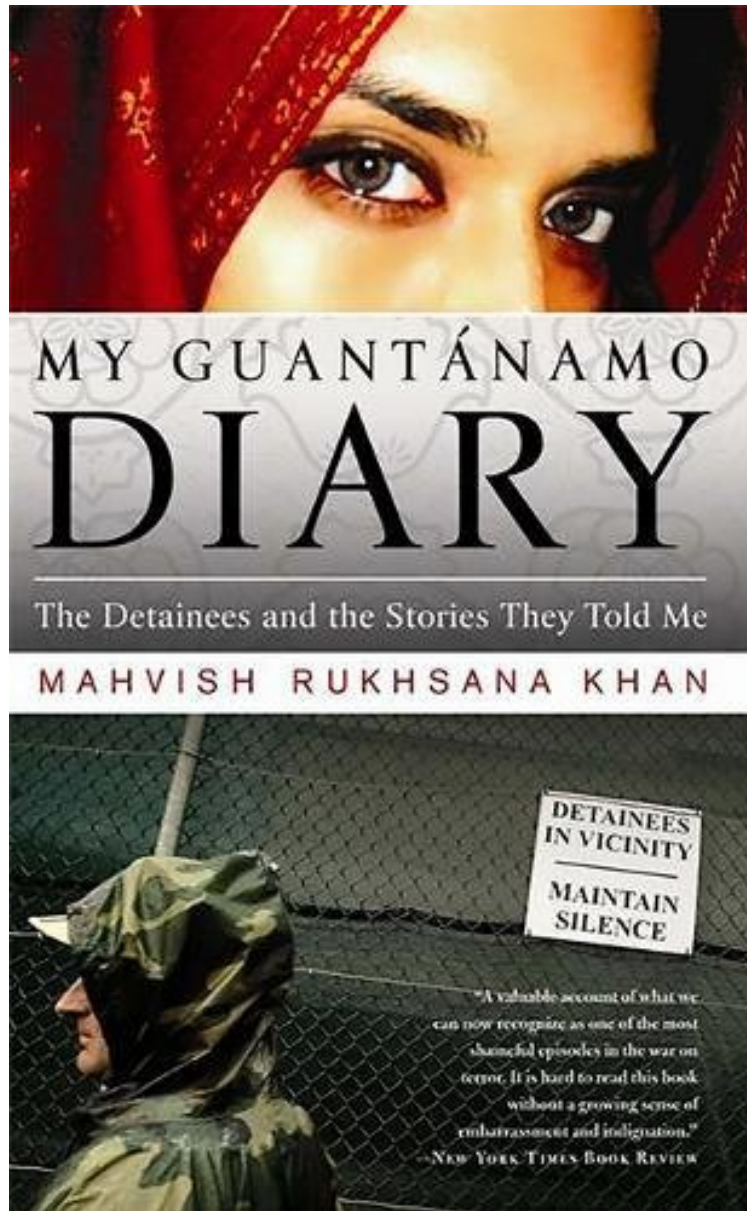


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My Guantanamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me

Mahvish Khan

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Mahvish Khan : My Guantanamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Guantanamo Diary: The Detainees and the Stories They Told Me:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. really good book. Sad how we imprisoned some people for ...By jesAlmost done reading, really good book. Sad how we imprisoned some people for no reason. Yah there are some that should be there, but some the US government offered reward money to turn criminals in. Some people just turned anyone in for money. The abused that the prisoners had to deal with was so uncalled for. Horrible.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good ReadBy NYC ConsumerThis was a very good book written with much compassion. I learned a lot about the culture of the detainees in Guantanamo Bay and it taught me that you can't always judge people based on what is in the news media. Very well written and very interesting book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sad, but a necessary read.By imaloserdudeSo sad, but worth the time. It is good to be informed, even when the truth is cruel and evil.

Mahvish Khan is the only Afghan-American to walk into Guantanamo of her own accord. This unique book is her story, and the story of the men she grew to know uniquely well inside the cages of Guantanamo. Mahvish Khan is an American lawyer, born to immigrant Afghan parents. She was outraged that her country, the USA, seemed to have suspended its tradition of equality for all under the law with regard to those imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, and so she volunteered to translate for the lawyers - including British lawyer and founder of Reprieve Clive Stafford Smith - acting pro bono for the prisoners. Because she spoke their language, understood their customs and brought them Starbucks chai, the closest available drink to the kind of tea they would drink at home, they quickly befriended her, offering fatherly advice as well as a uniquely personal insight into their plight, and that of their families thousands of miles away at home. Some at Guantanamo are terrorists who deserve to be convicted and sentenced as such. Some are paediatricians and school teachers. We cannot tell the difference until we see them as individuals with their own unique stories. They deserve that much. No other writer has had access to the detainees. This book is a testament to their captivity. It documents the voices of men who have been tortured and held in a black hole of indefinite detention without legal recourse for years. It shows who they are and also allows readers to see that these men are more similar to us than they are different.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . In her moving debut memoir, a young journalist recounts her time as a translator for the detainees of notorious Guantnamo Bay prison. As a law student and American-born daughter of Pashtun (ethnic Afghan) immigrants, Khan seeks a translator position at one of the private law firms that represent the Guantanamo inmates, some of whom spend years in prison before offered a "fair" trial-or even access to counsel. Shockingly, many of the detainees Khan encounters are average citizens placed in prison due to unfortunate circumstances, the blind aggression of modern anti-terror tactics and the incompetence of its enforcers; one detainee, elderly stroke patient Nusrat, was detained after questioning the authorities regarding the arrest of his son (accused of having ties with al-Qaeda). Revealing near-universal abuse, both mental and physical, inflicted on the prisoners, Khan's account is plenty powerful-and that's before she travels alone to war-torn Afghanistan in order to prove her clients' innocence. Khan also divulges her poignant reunions with several prisoners following their release, a bittersweet breath of fresh air amid a nightmarish, eye-opening and important account. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistKhan, the daughter of Afghan immigrants and a recent law-school graduate, began volunteering as an interpreter for the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) following the 2004 Supreme Court decision stating that Guantnamo prisoners had to be allowed access to U.S. courts. She first visited the base in January 2006 and met prisoners with widely diverse backgrounds, from a 22-year-old picked up in Pakistan, probably by bounty hunters, and turned over to U.S. forces to detainee #1009, Guantnamos oldest prisoner, an illiterate old man from the mountains of Afghanistan. Acknowledging that she had no access to the 14 high value detainees with obvious ties to the Taliban, Khan interviews many whose incarceration appears dubious at best. Each has a story of being savagely beaten, deprived of sleep, sexually abused, left in solitary confinement for months, exposed to extreme cold and constant noiseall with no opportunity to prove their innocence. Stunning details all but hidden from the daily news reports may bring American readers to conclude, as has Khan, that my government has duped me. --Deborah Donovan "(U)nforgettable... Of all the many books about the evil that is Guantanamo... this one, though full of pain, has enough joy, jokes and insight to make it my recommendation for anyone who still wonders what Guantanamo is really like." The Guardian "(b)y focusing on the personal accounts of her clients and giving them names, faces and stories, Khan's book is a powerful reminder that theses men have all been away from their families for more than five years - and that they have all been denied a fair hearing. My Guantanamo Diary argues persuasively for this aberration to US law to be resolved." FT"