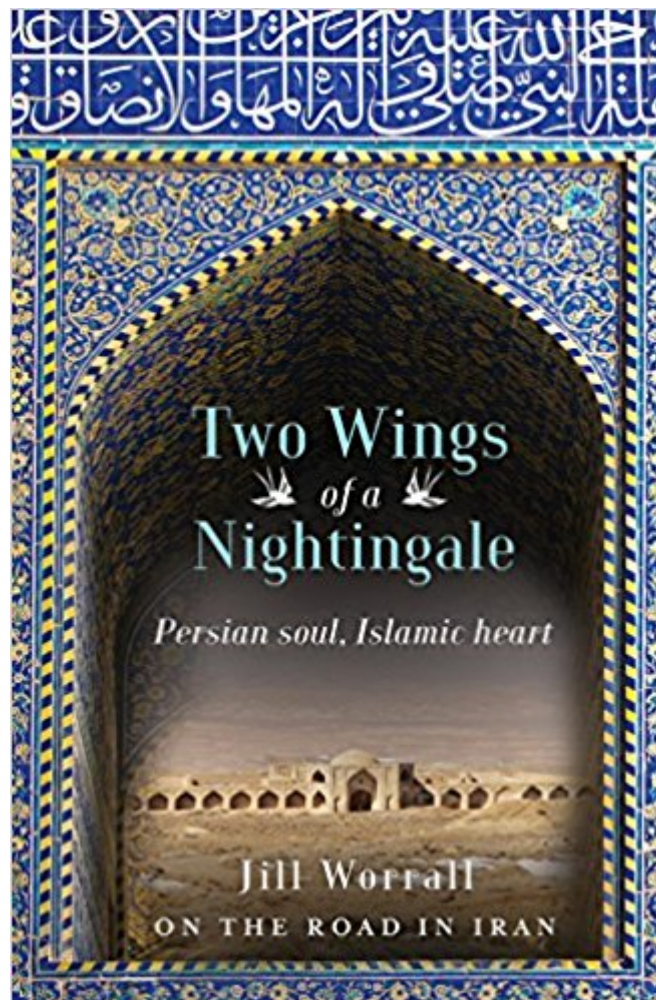




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Two Wings Of A Nightingale: Persian Soul, Islamic Heart - On The Road In Iran



Synopsis

Iran is probably the most misunderstood country in the world, and its people are among the most feared. Award-winning travel writer Jill Worrall, with her friend Reza Mirkhalaf, a leading tour manager from Tehran, describe an Iran the world has forgotten about. Few people in the west know anything about the Iranian people beyond their current politics and religion. 'Two Wings of a Nightingale' uses the threads of Iran's Silk Road heritage as a basis for a road trip travelogue. Many of the places visited have rarely been written about by westerners, and in writing this book Jill benefited from Reza's expert knowledge on Iran's history, religion, culture and architecture. During their journey, Jill and Reza explore the caravanserais that were once a vital part of the silk routes that once crossed Persia, while also encountering many ordinary Iranians. In writing this book, Jill wanted to write about Iran in a way that would give readers a greater insight into the landscapes, landmarks and people of the country at a grassroots level. The title reflects the fact that they were two people of different sexes, different religions and cultures travelling together, yet keeping their travels harmoniously on course. It also refers to the many dichotomies of Iranian life. In the course of their travels, Jill and Reza visit the holiest city in Iran, Mashhad, paddle in the Persian Gulf, pass close by the borders of both Afghanistan and Iraq, stay with local families, play in the snow near Mt Ararat, pray in mosques, read poetry in Shiraz and eat ice creams in Isfahan. "An engaging travelogue, packed with sensitive detail of the people and places through which they pass on their 8,000 km journey." - Dominion Post

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Having worked as a journalist for more than 20 years, Jill Worrall decided in 2004 to become a freelance writer specialising in travel writing. She has a special love for the Islamic world and anywhere out of the ordinary, and has visited and led tour parties to such countries as Bhutan, India, Uzbekistan, Libya, Syria and Jordan. She has visited Iran about six times, and to research this book she travelled over 8000km on one trip alone. She has won several awards for her travel writing.

This brought back memories of our trip to Iran in 2015. Reza Mirkhalaf was our excellent, knowledgeable guide. We found the Iranian people to be delightful. It is an interesting view from that part of the world. I enjoyed Jill Worrall's writing from a woman's perspective.

Rich history and heritage and proud people of Iran is described in fluent language. One would love to embark on the same trip right away.

I didn't get a feel for the characters and I wasn't all that rapt in the story. The writing was good and I'm sure others will get a more positive reaction that I did but I had hoped for better.

Light and interesting book on the old Silk Road caravanseries, beautiful elegant mosques etc. I've been in awe of Persian architecture since travelling India in my youth

Persian Soul, Islamic Heart.. a great read, thank you

What is your perception of Iran? I bet it doesn't tie in with the view of experienced New Zealand travel writer, Jill Worrall, as presented here. Worrall has a deep love for the middle-eastern countries of which we know so little. In *Two Wings of a Nightingale*, she and expert local guide, Reza Mirkhalaf, set out across Iran to follow the ancient route of the Silk Road, staying where possible in the old caravanserais which were used by the original travelers. Reza's knowledge of Iran's history, culture and religion gives color and depth to the story. The places they visit and people they meet along the way are brought to life. Reza B. their driver provides insight with his perceptive comments. Jill's lively writing informs and entertains. We learn of the people and culture of Iran, without political overtones. We share tales of customs and frustrations, find joy and delight in ordinary every day events. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it highly.

It opened my eyes to daily life in this fascinating country.

Forget all your preconceptions on Iran. There are no rabid revolutionaries in this book, nor any nuclear machinations. Two Wings is window on the lives of ordinary Iranians gleaned from a road trip of several thousand kilometres around this vast country. The author was accompanied on her journey by her longtime friend, Reza. Together, they, a Western woman and an Iranian man, explore the soul of a much misunderstood country. It's a journey that reveals a friendly, peaceable and hospitable people more interested poetry than politics. This is an engaging and insightful book that is bound to challenge any prejudices.

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