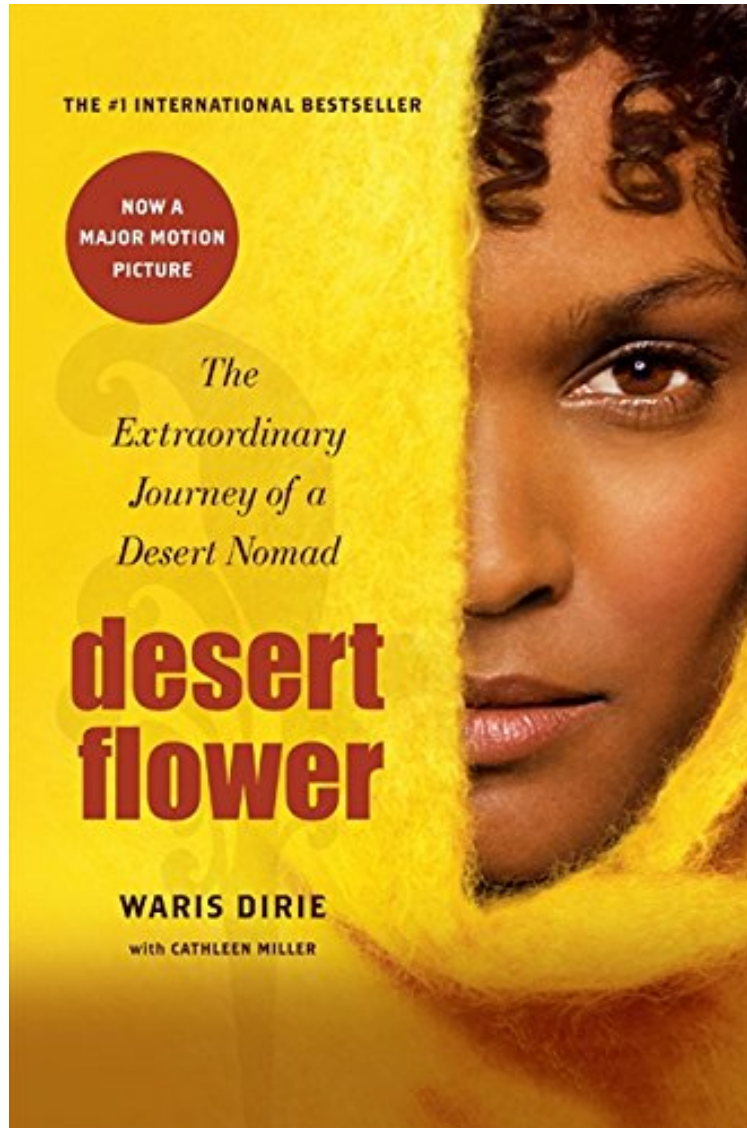


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## Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad

Waris Dirie, Cathleen Miller

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**Waris Dirie, Cathleen Miller : Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Desert Flower: The Extraordinary Journey of a Desert Nomad:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. EXTRORDINARY! By LitChick I did not recall buying this book. But today bored by the second novel in "The Complete Novels of Henry James" and its depiction of antiquated London society and alternating reading Henry Miller's "Tropic of Capricorn," I looked through my Kindle Library for

something else. At first, I admit I was annoyed by the simplicity of the writing. I had a hard time picturing the life of a nomadic culture in Somalia. Then as the life of this courageous woman unfolded, I couldn't stop reading. I had NO IDEA this was the model who brought the cultural ritual of Female Genital Mutilation to the attention of the world. Her bravery is astonishing. Waris's arguments why this practice should not continue anywhere and what she has revealed FGM to be at its essence: a way to control women invented by men, to be found no where in the Qu'ran are among the most eloquent passages I have read any where in literature. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great autobiography By D. C. Wornock Co-authored with Cathleen Miller is an internationally best-selling American nonfiction writer, this is the autobiography of Waris Dirie, an international model or supermodel. The book is fascinating reading and except for a couple of very brief breaks, I could not put the book down until after I read it cover to cover. For those reasons I rated the book 5 stars. However, even the book is basically non-fiction there are a few parts that appear to be fiction or at least embellished or exaggerated. That especially applies to parts about her description of a years long marriage to a man that in the book she couldn't avoid. For example, when her husband would fly to NYC to stay with her after someone from the agency gave him her address, I find it difficult to believe she couldn't let the owner of apartment return to his apartment for couple of day and tell her husband that he has the wrong address while she she stayed in a hotel. Other parts, especially about her description of being subjected to and the after effects of female genital mutilation (FGM) seem so real it would would bring me to tears. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring By M L. I'd recommend the book to mature adults, I almost gave it a lower rating due to the bad language, too many F-bombs in it--- I found this unnecessary. But the story is beautiful and inspiring. It's very real and it brings to light how it is for women in some parts the of the world which Westerners can't begin to imagine. It's awesome seeing the culture of the Nomads in Somalia --the good and the bad. Hopefully one day women's lives there will be better and the female genital mutilation will end. Waris is very brave telling her story and all that she endured, how she survived and became a super model too. It's a beautiful story and I enjoyed it very much.

Waris Dirie ran away from her oppressive life in the African desert when she was barely in her teens, illiterate and impoverished, with nothing to her name but a tattered shawl. She traveled alone across the dangerous Somali desert to Mogadishu the first leg of a remarkable journey that would take her to London, where she worked as a house servant; then to nearly every corner of the globe as an internationally renowned fashion model; and ultimately to New York City, where she became a human rights ambassador for the U.N. *Desert Flower* is her extraordinary story.

.com By age 6, Waris Dirie was herding her family's sheep and goats, fending off hyenas and wild dogs as the family carved a path through Africa. She was just twice that age when she ran off into the vast furnace of the Somali desert to escape an arranged marriage to a much older man. Traveling for days without food and water, she made her way to Mogadishu and later to London as a servant to her uncle, the Somali ambassador. There she wrestled with culture shock and got her first taste of the modeling life that eventually brought her into the public eye. Dirie is resilient, having survived drought, hunger, and the ritual female genital mutilation that marks a step toward womanhood among some traditional Moslems but, argue critics, steals or ruins many girls' lives. "As we traveled throughout Somalia," says Dirie, "we met families and I played with their daughters. When we visited them again, the girls were missing. No one spoke the truth about their absence or even spoke of them at all." As a special ambassador to the United Nations, Dirie has spoken out loudly on this subject and championed environmental causes, too. How much of her sometimes breathless story is gospel truth and how much embellished is hard to say. Like Dirie herself, though, the combination is intriguing, powerful, and unique. --Francesca Coltrera From Publishers Weekly

Joining the current rage for model memoirs (see review above) is Dirie, a native of Somalia, who has for more than a decade stalked the world's catwalks and appeared in numerous glossy magazines. This, however, is no fluff-job dictated into a tape recorder on transatlantic flights, then recomposed by a hired gun back in New York. Rather, it is a striking account of a personal odyssey that began in the Somali desert, where Dirie grew up without shoes, living amid nomadic tribes and tyrannized by patriarchal strictures. As a pubescent girl, Dirie was circumcised? a procedure described here in chilling detail? before escaping an arranged marriage to stay with an aunt in Mogadishu. Landing a job as a house servant in London, Dirie struggled to launch a modeling career while dodging British immigration authorities and the dreadful results of marriages of convenience. At the end of this affecting and at times very entertaining book, Dirie's metamorphosis from desert nomad into jetsetting nomad culminates in a post as a human rights ambassador to the UN, where, these days, Dirie campaigns for the eradication of female circumcision and women's rights around the globe. It's easy to forget that Dirie's memoir is a book about someone whose success has come from posing for the camera. Indeed, it is Dirie's remarkable lack of narcissism or entitlement that makes her so captivating a raconteur. Photos. Editor: Billy Kelly; agent: Christie Fletcher/Carol Mann Agency; author tour. (Sept.) FYI: Foreign rights have sold in 10 countries. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal

As a special ambassador to the United Nations, Somali supermodel Dirie speaks out against the custom of genital mutilation, a "barbaric rite" that she underwent at age five. In this memoir, she "provides a fascinating glimpse of her separate lives? camel herder, supermodel, human rights activist? and manages to weave threads of drama, humor, and courage into each." Copyright

