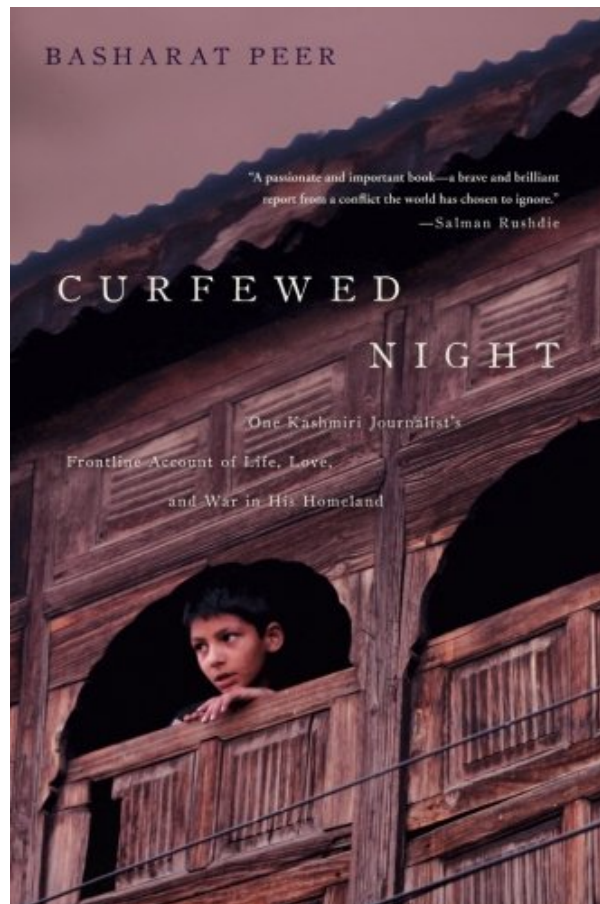


# CURFEWED NIGHT BY BASHARAT PEER



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BASHARAT PEER

"A passionate and important book—a brave and brilliant  
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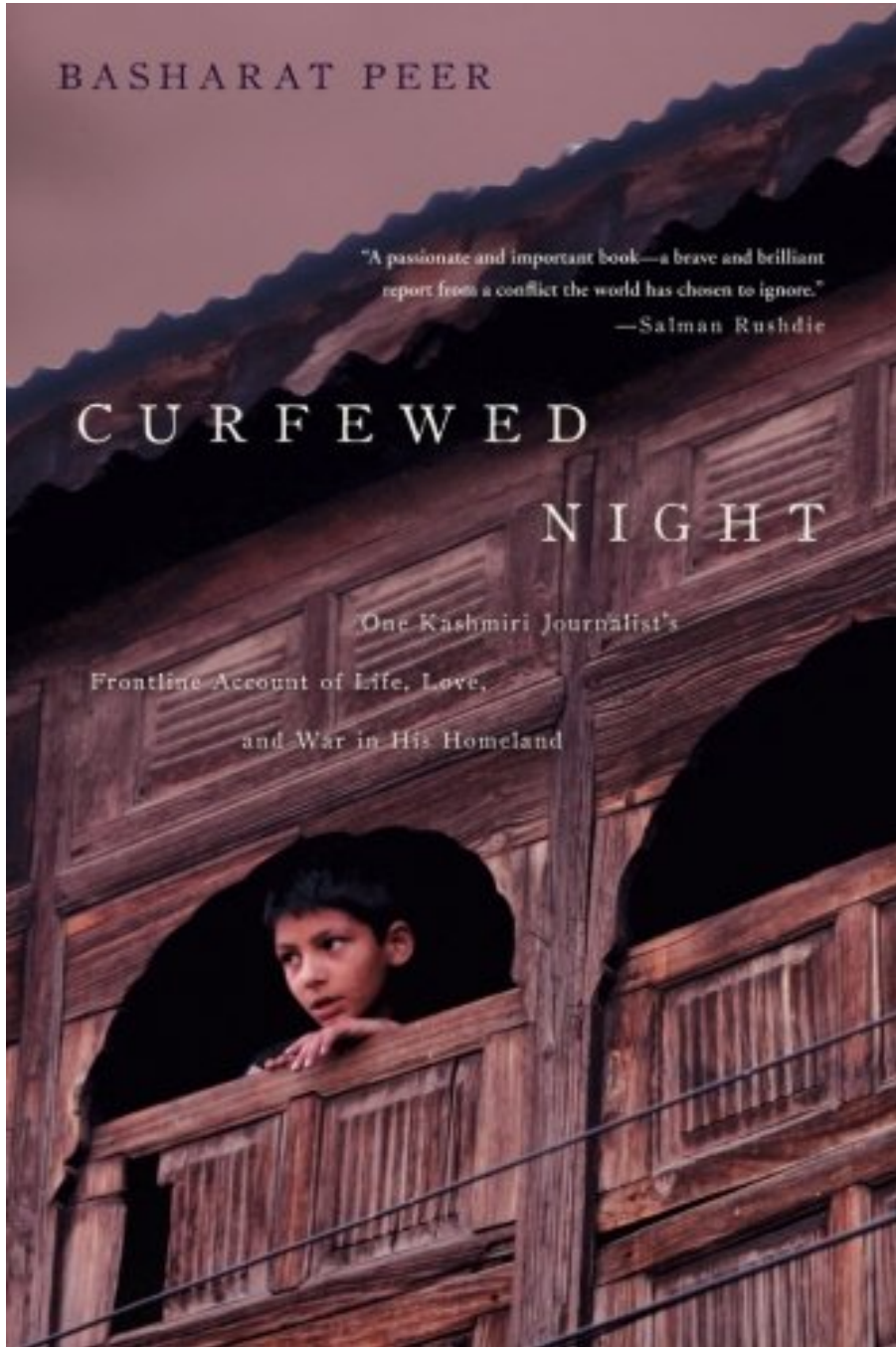
—Salman Rushdie

CURFEWED  
NIGHT

One Kashmiri Journalist's

Frontline Account of Life, Love,

and War in His Homeland



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### From Booklist

*\*Starred Review\** Native Kashmiri and journalist Peer writes carefully about his country's descent into war over the past 20 years. Covering the separatist movement and the country's fragile position between India and Pakistan, both of which covet Kashmir, places Peer in danger; but he resists the pull of traditional war reportage. He is first and foremost an eloquent writer, and his ability to turn a phrase like a novelist, even when writing about the most devastating of truths, is what elevates this title. From life in a village militarized by India to fleeing militants trained by Pakistan, Peer sees the conflict from the ground up and how both sides are so casually destroying what they want for their own. Death and dishonor have become commonplace for the victims, soldiers, and warriors. Whether considering torture prisons or the souls of poets, Peer travels his homeland looking for Kashmir's heart. It is killing me, says one friend as life under occupation and terrorist threat grinds down upon him. Peer longs for a brighter future while hoping that someday the war they were fighting . . . would disappear like footsteps on winter snow. A stunning book on the loss of peace. --Colleen Mondor

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#### About the Author

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Basharat Peer's powerful memoir about growing up in war-torn Kashmir.

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- Released on: 2014-10-18
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- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .70" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
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- 240 pages

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## Most helpful customer reviews

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

powerful but sad

By Dr. M. I. Vakil

I lived in Kashmir during the 90's and while reading *Curfewed night*, I relived the terrible events of those years. Basharat has done a great job of recording and compiling a sample of the immense suffering that Kashmiris endured during the 90s and continue to suffer the wider implications of the impasse. I bought 4 copies after reading it to distribute to my friends and family.

A must read for anyone interested in the Kashmir problem.

11 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Report from a besieged city

By bt

The book is a beautifully written account of the conflict in Kashmir, in which over 80,000 people have died since 1989. It is written by someone who spent his formative years during the conflict. Like all great books, this one is about human suffering, and what war does to people, to communities, to dreams, and to children's games. While the narrative follows author's own life, I admired the way it was never disruptive -- or worse, indulgent: you rarely see the author describe his own emotions; he builds a novelistic experience for the reader. This is true especially when narrating people's stories: he's virtually transparent. (I know at such moments, rather than being honest witnesses to people's stories, most writers would succumb to the temptation of describing their own feelings.)

Each story in this book is a story of loss: how young men and teenagers lost their youth and teens to conflict -- some with their bodies, others with their souls, many with both and more --, how bunkers and checkpoints cropped among fields of flowers and gardens of fruits, and how schools and temples were turned into military compounds, and how, even in war, people fighting on opposite sides can turn out to be the unlikeliest of acquaintances. In one story, a mother witnessed her son being handed an explosive mine and forced to go into a building where militants were hiding. All she could do was to fight the soldiers and save her other son from a similar fate.

Reading this book, I kept thinking of the Robert Hass's poem, "Winged and Acid Dark":

Basho' told Rensetsu to avoid sensational materials.

If the horror of the world were the truth of the world,  
he said, there would be no one to say it  
and no one to say it to.

At the end of it, this book affirms not what the ideological lot would have you believe (that it is about Pakistan or India, War on Terror, Indian democracy, conspiracy theories, etc.), but what Bash'o told Rensetsu: it is speaking to someone who cares.

Please read this book. You would know know things that make us human.

11 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

A memoir, not "the story of Kashmir"

By Sceptique500

as Ahmed Rashid intimates in his blurb. Well written, moving, this book is a hesitant collection of stories about people the author has known, or tracked down. In 1948 the state of Kashmir included not just the Valley, whose rural parts and people the author fondly describes (Shrinagar is poorly analysed), but the Indus Valley on the other side of the Line of Control, Ladakh, and Jammu. The latter parts are not there, except for some Pandit refugees, who could have lived anywhere in India.

I liked the book. It does not contain much that is insightful, but it does give a good feel for what it was to grow up in rural Kashmir, the fear, the pain, the injustice of it all. Regrettably the author is much concerned with his own feelings, and can get repetitive on this score, as when time and again he notes his reluctance to look up people.

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