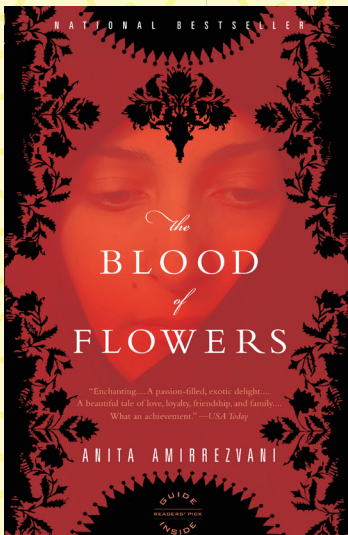


Press Release

NOW IN PAPERBACK
THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS
by Anita Amirrezvani



**#1 Book Sense Pick
June 2007**

“A vibrant debut.” — *Vogue*

“Amirrezvani skillfully threads culture, romance, and art into an elegant tale of self-realization and empowerment.”

— *Entertainment Weekly*

“It’s clear that **THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS** isn’t just any novel... Luxuriant language weaves together characters that are genuine and robust, equally flawed and sympathetic, as if they really exist outside the page... **THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS** is simply a stunning debut.” — *San Francisco Chronicle*

THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS (*Back Bay Books; May 2, 2008*) created a stir around the world, generating an excited auction for publishing rights in twenty-three countries and territories and was published by first-time author Anita Amirrezvani to critical and popular acclaim in the United States. Now available in paperback for the first time, **THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS** is sure to find its place both as a classic coming of age tale and a reading group favorite for years to come.

In seventeenth-century Iran, a young girl yearns for her wedding day and anticipates the wisdom and maturity that will come with it. But her luck is about to change for the worse, as the unexpected death of her father leaves her and her mother to fend for themselves in a tough and often cruel world. With nowhere to go and no means to support themselves, they have no choice but to plead for the assistance of long-lost family, the stern but caring rug designer Gostaham and his miserly wife, Gordiyeh.

The young girl, rash and strong-willed, begins to learn the art of making rugs — from choosing the vibrant colors and balancing the intricate elements of design to perfecting her knot sizes and the hard bargaining that will ensure her survival. But when she catches the eye of the son of a wealthy horse trader, she is contracted into a short-term marriage known as a *sigheh*, which threatens to ruin her reputation and, thus, her future.

THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS offers a rare and insightful look inside the lives of Iranian women and transports readers to the vibrant, bustling markets of Isfahan, the cool stone rooms of the Shah's royal rug workshop, and the privacy of the *hammam*, the public bathhouse, which provides one of the few places women may truly reveal themselves, both in body and in mind.

In this stunning literary debut, Anita Amirrezvani deftly weaves centuries-old folklore and craft traditions into an observation of gender roles and cultural mores that are as timely today as ever. The rare seamless synthesis of a thorough history lesson — cultural observation, national history, exploration of traditional craftsmanship — with an engrossing story of characters portrayed with meticulous depth makes **THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS** an exceptional work of historical fiction.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anita Amirrezvani was born in Tehran and currently lives in northern California, where she is pursuing an MFA in fiction at San Francisco State University. She has received fellowships from the National Arts Journalism Program, the NEA's Arts Journalism Institute for Dance, and the Hedgebrook Foundation for Women Writers.

**Learn more at
www.bloodofflowers.com**

THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS

A Novel

by Anita Amirrezvani

Little, Brown and Company

May 2, 2008

400 pages / \$13.99

978-0-316-06577-1

Also available from Hachette Audio

For more information or for an interview with Anita Amirrezvani, please contact:

Sabrina Ravipinto, Senior Publicist
212-364-1308 or Sabrina.Ravipinto@hbgusa.com

Visit our Web site at www.HachetteBookGroupUSA.com