

Press Kit Information

THE MYSTICAL LAND OF MYRRH, by MaryAnn Shank



A forgotten land, Somalia, enchants Moira, a Peace Corps Volunteer, with its mystery, its magic, its romance. Social devastation squeezes through every corner of her life in this forbidden country as the country sits on the edge of revolution.

Somalia is a land of pirates and war lords ... and very beautiful women. It is a land cursed with droughts, with civil wars and with outside oppression. Here where Moira lived for two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer, in the bush country of this faraway land, just as the author did.

Moira, an idealistic young lesbian, yearns to change her corner of the world, and dreams of finding her lover in the labyrinth of old Mogadishu. She ends up destroying the life of one enchanting young woman, and she unwittingly sabotages the future success

of her students. Moira discovers magic in a tiny village. She faces terror from local warriors who threaten her life. She stumbles on The Ritual, female circumcision, carried out in a hidden hut in the bush country.

Through it all the Somali Goddess Arawello spreads her protective arms, reaching through wars and famines to reach her people. Once Arawello brought Peace by turning men into eunuchs, and may do so again.

This is a journey of a young woman ready to meet the challenges of the world on her own terms, one who faces the terrors of bush country alongside the embrace of a lover in unlikely places. Moira faces challenges she never knew existed, and a love that envelopes her like an unfolding bird of paradise.

Through the turmoil and ecstasy, Moira's love for the Somali people deepens as she reluctantly realizes that there is nothing -- nothing -- she can do to change their world to avert disaster. On the contrary, it is Somalia that changes her. She will never be the same again..

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Title	The Mystical Land of Myrrh
Author	MaryAnn Shank
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High Resolution Images: <http://mysticallandofmyrrh.com/image>

Review Copy PDF download at <http://mysticallandofmyrrh.com/dl>

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AUTHOR INFORMATION



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High resolution image may be downloaded at
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MaryAnn Shank brought back golden earrings (which you see in the image) and an ever deepening respect for Somali culture from her two year tour in Somalia as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Somalia has haunted MaryAnn Shank since she served there as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the late 1960s. Her work as a teacher and a writer reflect her deep connection to the peoples of East Africa. She is a poet and a business writer, as well as a fiction author, having contributed to such recognized publications as *We'Moon Date Book* and *BusinessFinance-One business plan development*. Here she has taken her powerful story telling skills and wrapped them around the mystical place called Somalia.

While MaryAnn might be defined as a writer, or a researcher, or a teacher, she is perhaps best described as a seeker, one who seeks out new adventures, one who finds new places, one who cherishes new friends. Somalia brought everything to her that she could possibly have dreamed of, and more.

MARKETING APPROACH

Target Market

- Liberal women
- Readers of historical fiction and books like “Behind the Beautiful Forevers” , “Caleb’s Crossing” , “Interpreter of Maladies” , and “Olive Kitteridge.”

Primary focus

- Capturing reviews from professional reviewers and from readers
- Direct advertising within Amazon in categories and books related to, or similar to, *The Mystical Land of Myrrh*
- Submit articles to liberal women’s blogs/websites. “Liberal” is a social term as used here, not a political term. It includes women involved in international affairs, education, religious and health issues.
- Marketing via online book promotion sites/blogs

COMMENTS FROM EARLY REVIEWERS

“What I love most about this [section] is the way you brought Islam into this. Because there is such a stigma against Islam in the West, I think the delicate and peaceful way (Islam = peace) that this was deliberately added to the text is very captivating, and alluring. I LOVE it!

“It shows the transformational process of forgiveness towards Jamiila, which I think needs to happen for both you – as the narrator – as well as the Reader

““I am horrified just reading about it. Horrified because your description is so vivid....This has evoked such deep emotion in me; I am so proud of you for putting pen to paper so eloquently and doing this Ritual justice in all of its darkness.

“I loved this, and I feel so connected to you on so many levels for your sharing this with me, and for wanting me to read it. Your emotions feel like mine; I feel a Oneness with you in this, I have never felt this with ANYONE before, because so few people have been there and can understand.”

Heather C. Cumming, Executive Director and Founder, SSAAP

Simwatachela Sustainable Agricultural and Arts Program, providing an extensive network of human relief programs throughout East Africa

“It is a captivating read and shows a unique perspective. Nicely done!”

Barb Dickinson, We Moonager,

We Moon Date Book: Gaia Rhythms for Womyn, the premier date book for earth conscious women throughout the world

“I read through several chapters this morning and am anxious to read the rest later. Your experience, of course, was very different [from mine], but is nevertheless fascinating. Your writing is very descriptive and informative.”

Mary Gehman, a Mennonite teacher in Somalia for 23 years, and author of ABDI AND THE ELEPHANTS, a delightful children’s story about a young Somali boy who wants to learn all he can about farming, if the elephants don’t destroy his farm first.

“Powerful, painful finale!”

MaryBeth (Beta reader)

“Boring? Never! It is a window into a world I do not know. Well written, evocative, stirring.”

Madrone (Beta reader)

“[M]esmerizing and fascinating ... an important work.”

Patricia Duggan, International Fashion Designer