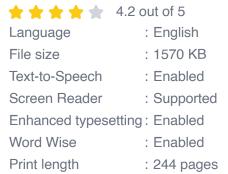
## One Kashmiri Journalist's Frontline Account of Life, Love, and War in His Homeland

By Salman Habib



**Curfewed Night: One Kashmiri Journalist's Frontline Account of Life, Love, and War in His Homeland** 

by Basharat Peer





I was born in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, in 1984. I grew up in a middle-class family, and my parents were both teachers. My father was a kind and gentle man, and my mother was a strong and independent woman. I have two older sisters and a younger brother.

I grew up in a time of great turmoil. The insurgency in Kashmir had begun in 1989, and the state was under a constant state of siege. There were curfews, army checkpoints, and shootouts on a regular basis. I remember being scared as a child, and I often wondered if I would ever see peace in my lifetime.

Despite the violence, I had a happy childhood. I loved playing cricket with my friends, and I enjoyed going to school. I was also a good student, and I excelled in my studies. I was always curious about the world around me, and I loved to read and write.

When I was in college, I decided to become a journalist. I wanted to tell the stories of the people of Kashmir, and I wanted to help bring about peace in my homeland. I joined a local newspaper, and I quickly rose through the ranks. I covered a wide range of stories, from politics to human rights to sports.

In 2008, I was assigned to cover the Amarnath land row. This was a major controversy that led to widespread protests and violence in Kashmir. I covered the story from the front lines, and I saw firsthand the brutality of the Indian security forces. I also saw the courage and resilience of the Kashmiri people.

The Amarnath land row was a turning point in my life. I realized that I could not be a neutral observer in the conflict in Kashmir. I had to take sides, and I had to fight for the rights of my people.

I became more involved in activism, and I began to write more openly about the human rights abuses in Kashmir. My work has led to death threats and harassment from both the Indian government and the militants. But I have never been afraid to speak the truth.

I believe that the conflict in Kashmir can only be resolved through dialogue and negotiation. I believe that the people of Kashmir have the right to self-determination. I believe that peace is possible, but it will take courage and compromise from both sides.

I am a Kashmiri journalist, and I am proud of my work. I will continue to tell the stories of the people of Kashmir, and I will continue to fight for their rights. I will never give up hope for peace in my homeland.

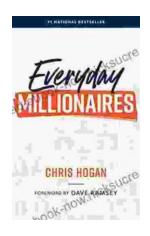


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