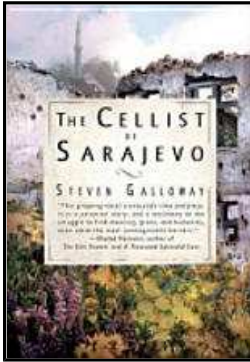


Books, Cooks, Looks & Ms. Elani



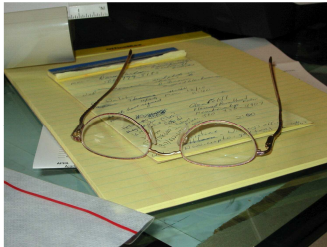
Dear Friends and Readers,

all the elements of a documentary of one small siege

The Cellist of Sarajevo

by Steven Galloway

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The local coffee shop where people met to discuss not only the events of the day but to arrange to buy bread at the nearby market, plan social gatherings and exchange recipes is wiped out in a single moment. So were hundreds of buildings that housed many other stores as well as generations of families. Little of the memories of this remains in the minds of people who must now find a new way to survive in the war ravaged city of Sarajevo. Steven Galloway provides the reader with a novel, ***The Cellist of Sarajevo***, that has all the elements of a documentary of one small siege of the bombings of that city.

Four people, in no way related, weave in and out each others lives, starting on May 27, 1992. That day, several motor shells struck a group of people waiting to buy bread behind a market on Vase Miskina. Twenty-two people were immediately killed and over seventy injured. Vedran Smailovic, a famous cellist, turned his anger into beauty by playing his cello exactly where the people were killed. He play for twenty two days. In a city where snipers played havoc on any person walking, this man appeared safe. This much of the story is factual. The other characters were a compilation of others Galloway read about or met.

Arrow, a woman who has been given the job of a sniper and charged with keeping the cellist alive, develops into a character who is pleased with the role she has chosen to one who challenges every move she and others make. Her relationship with the cellist is poignant and warm. The two others, the bakery worker, dodging snipers to get to work, and a young father, who must risk his life to gather water for his family, must live like fugitives in order to survive day to day. Each in their own way are drawn into the circle of the cellist, the only morsel of normalcy that remains for anyone.

The four strangers day to day existence looks into the way war changes all. People look differently at kindness, fear and desire the sameness of each day. The daily rituals of our everyday hum-drum life becomes, in itself, a way to avoid being swept into war itself. Without realizing it, the reader begins to identify with the various characters and what each must endure in order to survive. Each also must question why there is war and if what they are fighting for is worth the sacrifices. Galloway's book will be remembered long after the last page is turned.

Ms. Elani