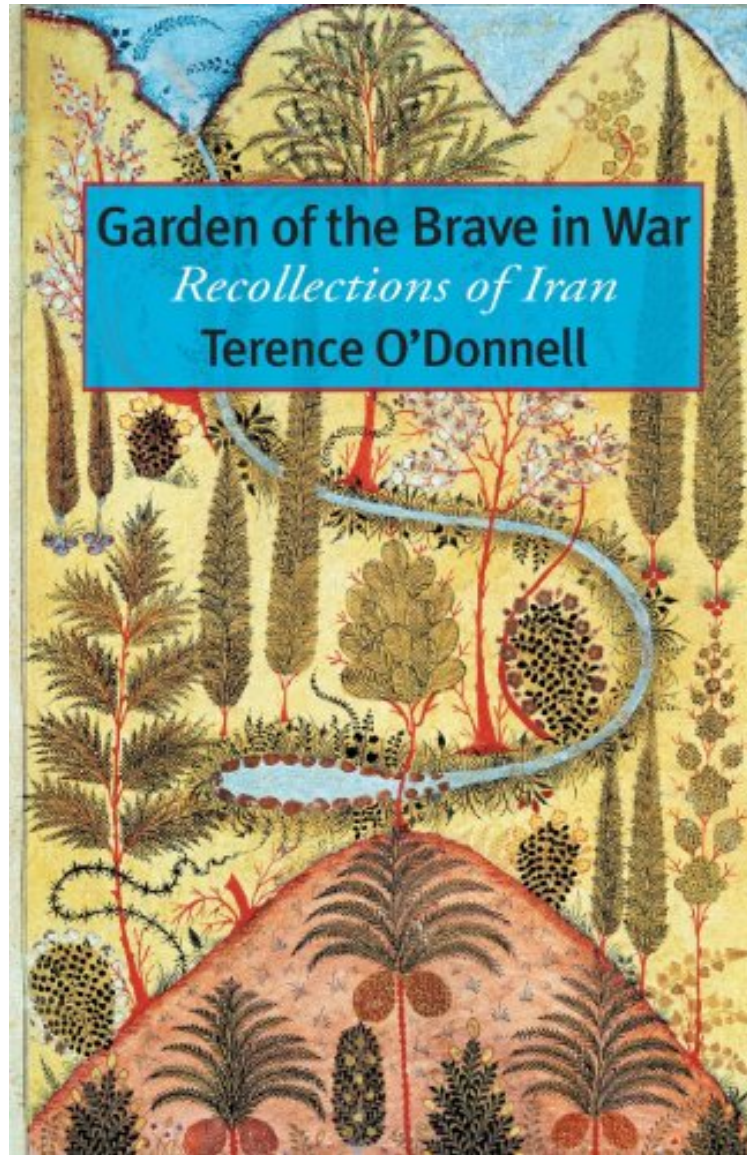


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## Garden of the Brave in War: Recollections of Iran

Terence O'Donnell

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**Terence O'Donnell : Garden of the Brave in War: Recollections of Iran** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Garden of the Brave in War: Recollections of Iran:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very poetic and insightful account of Iranian societyBy Farid S.This is one of my favorite books about Iran. The book is a collection of the author's journal on his time as a farmer in the Iranian country side. His observations are very detailed without being judgmental. Although he spent the 60ies of the 20ieth century in sural Iran, his observations clarify many of the odd events which happened in Iran during the last

50 years including the Islamic revolution, which toppled the last monarchy in Iran. The life of ordinary people has been always intertwined with their understanding of God without being fundamentally religious as Taliban or the Wahhabi's of Saudi Arabia are. People pilgrim to the holy sites in Iran and contrary to pilgrims among Christian Catholics they look for fun and amusement throughout their pilgrimage. This shows the balance or some might call it contradiction in Iranian society of being pious without neglecting the Dionysian side of life with the pleasures of flesh, that's why up to now no totalitarian ruler has ever managed to control the people in Iran as Saddam or Hitler could in their respective countries. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellence!! By iggy I LOVE this book - poetry in prose! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book By Sojourner One of the best books written on Iran in the 60s. O'Donnell's fluency in Persian and his openness to observing and appreciating a culture and a civilization foreign to him is admirable. The author's detached observations about Iranian society, the good, the bad and the ugly are uncanny. He picked up and recounted nuances that native born Iranians often missed and miss. It is refreshing to see read the deep love he had for the people amongst whom he lived yet he did not idolize. Highly recommended book. There were some serious problems with the paperback edition, when the publisher was contacted they send a perfect copy with a thank you note and their apologies.

When Terence O'Donnell, an American who lived in Iran for fifteen years in the 1960s and 1970s, was asked what he was doing there, he replied, "The conviction of all Iranians, of most of my compatriots, and indeed of the Russians, was that I was engaged in intelligence work. I was, and what is more I filed a daily report. My employer was myself and my reports consisted of eight thousand pages of journal. This book was drawn from that material." For ten years, O'Donnell lived on a farm near Shiraz, in southern Iran, where he raised mainly pomegranates, but also quinces, grapes, chickens, and bees. He also made many Iranian friends. His memories of that time have yielded a masterpiece of national portraiture, wonderfully alive to the complexities of the Iranian character-courteous, capricious, deeply religious yet also playful, generous, and poetic. A work of shimmering beauty and sensitivity, *Garden of the Brave in War* will deepen every reader's understanding of the often elusive country that lies behind the headlines.

From Publishers Weekly During the '60s, O'Donnell lived in southwestern Iran, where he ran a farm and formed close friendships with his neighbors. PW called these "enchanting glimpses of life in the countryside." Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. While O'Donnell helped to raise pomegranates, dog roses, apples, sour cherries, quinces, sheep, chickens, and bees, the Iranians (and the Russians) believed that he was also engaged in intelligence work. The extent of his intelligence work is evident here, a keen observer's daily reports on an enigmatic and exotic culture. Splendidly realized., New York Times From the Publisher New commemorative edition with an introduction by Dick Davis