



RUTH VALENTINE

RUBAIYAT

FOR THE MARTYRS OF TWO WARS

When poet Ruth Valentine visited Iran, she came away wanting to write “not about the staggering beauty of palaces, mosques and gardens, but the disquieting gaze of the ‘martyrs’ who look down from lamp-posts and drinking fountains. And as, back in London, I wondered how to write, the first British newspaper I’d seen for a fortnight reported the death of a young Black man on the streets of South London.”

The theme of martyrdom, and how young men from two different cultures take on the status of martyr, is at the centre of Valentine’s poem. It is written in the traditional Persian form of the rubaiyat, appropriate for a subject both ancient and enduring – how the fallen are memorialised in the aftermath of war and conflict.

Rubaiyat for the Martyrs of Two Wars includes an Introduction by the journalist and broadcaster Kamin Mohammadi, who fled Iran with her family during the 1979 Revolution; a Foreword by the British-Caribbean poet Malika Booker; and an Afterword by the poet. The verses of the poem are interleaved with haunting images by the Iranian-born artist Shahram Karimi.

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www.herculeseditions.com

Events to celebrate the publication of *Rubaiyat for the Martyrs of Two Wars*

Monday 8 May 2017

Launch at Waterstone's Piccadilly

203–206 Piccadilly, St. James's, London W1J 9HD

with guest poet Nancy Campbell

7pm–9pm (readings at 7:30pm)

free event RSVP to tamar@herculeseditions.com

Tuesday 9 May 2017

A Present-Day Rubaiyat:

Ruth Valentine in Conversation with Kamin Mohammadi
as part of the Asia House Bagri Foundation Literature Festival

63 New Cavendish Street, London W1G 7LP

1:45pm to 3pm

general admission £8, concessions £6, members £4

Tickets to be booked through Asia House:

asiahouse.org/events/a-present-day-rubaiyat/