

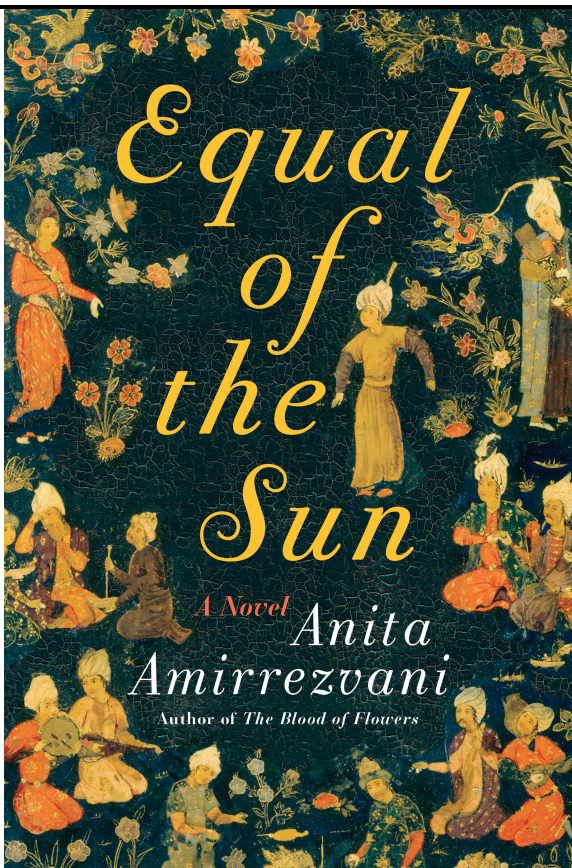
Contact
Kate Lloyd, 212-632-4951
Assistant Director of Publicity
Kate.lloyd@simonandschuster.com

*From the author of international best-seller
The Blood of Flowers*

*A compulsively readable and gorgeously crafted tale of power,
loyalty, intrigue, and love in the royal court of 16th-century Iran*

Equal of the Sun

Anita Amirrezvani



Praise for *Equal of the Sun*

“An ambitious, well-crafted historical tale set in her native Iran, featuring a memorable heroine. This time, the setting is the intrigue-filled 16th century Persian court (picture the Tudor court, times 10). . . . Fans of smart historical fiction should be on the lookout for this one.” —BookPage

*“In *Equal to the Sun*, Anita Amirrezvani again draws on a rich, storied Persian heritage for a novel that is both timely and timeless. This kind of story, this kind of imagination, this kind of intrigue - is what we need and love as readers. Knowing it comes from a place too many of us know too little of makes it even more vital and elegantly alive in the present.”*

—Rick Simonson, Elliott Bay Book Company

*“Anita Amirrezvani evokes Shahrazad in this mesmerizing tale of a princess and her eunuch advisor in sixteenth century Iran. Employing language as lush and exotic as its setting, she gives us a novel about love, devotion, trust, intrigue, and, ultimately, justice. *Equal of the Sun* is as captivating and entertaining as any work a reader may encounter.”*

—Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books

*In 2007, Anita Amirrezvani's debut novel **THE BLOOD OF FLOWERS**—longlisted for the Orange Prize—delighted readers and critics alike. An international bestseller, the novel was called “a passion-filled, exotic*

delight” by *USA Today*. Now comes the second delight from Amirrezvani: **EQUAL OF THE SUN**, which Scribner will publish June 5.

Iran, 1576. The shah has just died under mysterious circumstances, and so suddenly that there is no apparent heir. His daughter Pari, a powerful princess with great influence among the court, takes charge temporarily while her exiled brother journeys back to the kingdom to assume the throne. With the help of her most trusted servant, eunuch (and narrator) Javaher, she is able to maintain the peace and prepare the royal subjects for the new shah, long-exiled but deeply loved by Pari.

When the new shah arrives, however, it becomes clear that he is not the generous and ebullient brother who was banished many years ago—and before long Pari falls into disfavor, and when the new shah begins executing perceived enemies, danger. Together with Javaher, Pari must navigate the increasingly complex politics of the harem and the men who rule it. **EQUAL OF THE SUN** is a delicious story of royal intrigue: intricate power struggles, epic battles of heart and mind, and of course the passionate love affairs that seem to bloom only inside palace walls. Amirrezvani is a master storyteller, and her characters and plot twists in **EQUAL OF THE SUN** will no doubt bring to mind an addictive, steamy cable miniseries.

History books and novels are full of stories about legendary female leaders like Queen Elizabeth, Catherine of Aragon, and the Boleyns. But few people realize that highly-placed women in the 16th century Muslim world also served as key advisors to rulers, lobbied to get their sons power, formed major alliances, got exiled for misbehavior, and sometimes paid the ultimate price for their ambitions. With dazzling prose and unforgettable characters Anita Amirrezvani tells one such story. I hope you make plans for **EQUAL OF THE SUN** in your June books coverage.

ANITA AMIRREZVANI is the author of *The Blood of Flowers*, which was longlisted for the Orange Prize, and a former staff writer and dance critic for the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Contra Costa Times*. She is currently an adjunct professor at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

| <u>APPEARANCE SCHEDULE</u> | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| San Francisco | Books, Inc. / Mountain View | Wednesday, June 13 / 7pm |
| Seattle | Elliott Bay Book Company | Friday, June 15 / 7pm |
| | Seattle Iranian Festival | Saturday, June 16 / time tk |
| Santa Rosa, CA | Copperfield's | Thursday, June 21 / 7pm |
| Corte Madera, CA | Book Passage | Sunday, June 24 / 7pm |
| Ann Arbor, MI | Nicola's Books | Wednesday, June 27 / 7pm |
| Petoskey, MI | McLean & Eakin | Thursday, June 28 / 7pm |

For additional information or to schedule an interview with Anita Amirrezvani contact:
Kate Lloyd / 212-632-4951
kate.lloyd@simonandschuster.com

Equal of the Sun
Anita Amirrezvani
on-sale June 5, 2012
978-1-4516-6046-3

www.simonandschuster.comwww.anitaamirrezvani.com

ABOUT SCRIBNER
Scribner is an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc., part of the CBS Corporation. Simon & Schuster is a global leader in the field of general interest publishing, dedicated to providing the best in fiction and nonfiction for consumers of all ages, across all printed, electronic and multi-media formats. Its divisions include the Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing Group, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, Simon & Schuster Audio, Simon & Schuster Digital, and international companies in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. For more information, visit our website at www.simonandschuster.com.