



## The End of Manners: A Novel

By Francesca Marciano

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From the critically acclaimed author of *Rules of the Wild*, a thrilling, timely, and darkly funny story of friendship, human frailty, and war--and the role of outsiders in a country where they do not belong.

Maria Galante--rule-abiding, shy, a perfectionist--and larger-than-life journalist Imo Glass are on assignment in Afghanistan: Imo to interview girls who've attempted suicide rather than be married off to older men, Maria to photograph them. But in a culture in which women shroud their faces and suicide is a grave taboo, to photograph these women is to dishonor--and perhaps endanger--them. Maria and Imo must find their way among spies, arms dealers, and mercenaries, and through the back alleys of Kabul and into Pashtun villages, where the fragility of life stands out in bold relief. Before the assignment is over, Maria will have to decide if it's more important to succeed at her work--and please Imo--or to follow her own moral compass.

Stunningly evocative and richly observed, *The End of Manners* is a story of friendship and loyalty, of the transformative power of journeying outside oneself into the wider world.

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In Marciano's brisk third novel (after *Rules of the Wild* and *Casa Rossa*), an unlikely pair of women are dispatched to war-torn Afghanistan circa 2004 to report a story about young Afghan women attempting suicide rather than entering into arranged marriages. Imo Glass is a flamboyant magazine writer who wants the story no matter what societal taboos she tramples. Maria Galante, an award-winning but emotionally withdrawn photojournalist, has forsaken dangerous assignments to take pictures of fancy food for fancy magazines, until her agent persuades her to take this job. With a fluid mix of gritty irony and palpable fear, Marciano's evocation of landscape and environment brilliantly captures a devastated Kabul, a messy war and the soulless arms dealers and cold-blooded mercenaries drawn to the fractured nation by the lure of money. Equally intense is her compassionate depiction of a culture where taking photos of women is forbidden and religious doctrine dictates the way of life in a world of a far greater insanity than Maria, for one, had envisioned. This work of fiction, rooted in harsh reality, tackles moral complexities with powerful self-assurance. (*May*)

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## Review

“In Marciano’s brisk third novel, an unlikely pair of women are dispatched to war-torn Afghanistan circa 2004 to report a story about young women attempting suicide rather than entering into arranged marriages. . . . With a fluid mix of gritty irony and palpable fear, Marciano’s evocation of landscape and environment brilliantly captures a devastated Kabul, a messy war and the soulless arms dealers and cold-blooded mercenaries drawn to the fractured nation by the lure of money. Equally intense is her compassionate depiction of a culture where taking photos of women is forbidden and religious doctrine dictates the way of life in ‘a world of a far greater insanity’ than Maria [the narrator] had envisioned. This work of fiction, rooted in harsh reality, tackles moral complexities with powerful self-assurance.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“The narrator of Marciano’s contemporary novel is an Italian photojournalist, [Maria Galante, whose] agent persuades her to go to Afghanistan with Imo Glass, a flamboyant London-based journalist, to do a story on Afghan women who attempt suicide in order to avoid arranged marriages. Together dealing with the unending problems of language, cultural differences, unreliable transportation, and security issues, Maria and Imo enter into a friendship that heals [Maria] in many ways, and Maria leaves Afghanistan with an appreciation for the country, a true sympathy for its citizens, and the realization that this experience has made her grow. Writing with grace and heartfelt emotion, Marciano, both a novelist and an Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, is a born storyteller. Her engaging work is strongly recommended for all libraries.

—Lisa Rohrbaugh, *Library Journal*

“Marciano explores the fractured political landscape of contemporary war-torn Kabul. Two women—Maria, a photographer and also the narrator, and Imo, a freelance writer—go on a mission to Afghanistan to chronicle one of the unforeseen consequences of war: women who are forced into marriages and who have dealt with this social tradition by attempting to kill themselves. . . . Imo is at first the hard-as-nails reporter willing to go to any length to get her story, while Maria is more timid and dewy-eyed. After a disquieting journey to the fierce countryside outside of Kabul, however, both women get into a frightening situation that threatens to

spin out of control. This allows Maria to show her strength while Imo's toughness [is] shown to be a mask covering a more vulnerable self. . . . A novel at once both sensuous and terrifying."

–*Kirkus Reviews*

"Thrilling . . . Stunning . . . A captivating story of a mismatched pair of women journalists covering what they soon realize is an impossible assignment in a place most Westerners visit only through the morning headlines and the evening news. . . . A poignant depiction of Afghanistan . . . The beauty of the novel is in how easily and readily readers are caught up wanting the heroine, [Maria,] to be braver, before realizing that they also would not be braver. . . . By making Maria real in this way, Francesca Marciano also makes Afghanistan real. [An] up close and personal look at Afghanistan."

–Kristin Grabarek, *armchairinterviews.com*

"Rich and real, *The End of Manners* transports us into the worlds of Afghanistan and journalism with women who are navigating life's complexities (both geo-political and personal) with courage and humor. A timely novel that offers refreshing—and long overdue—perspectives."

–Holly Morris, director/writer, and host of PBS's "Adventure Divas" and author of *Adventure Divas: Searching the Globe for a New Kind of Heroine*

"Marciano writes movingly, brilliantly of the moral disturbances between men and women, country and country, wartime and peace, memory and history, and of two particular women who experience the violence at the heart of things and yet refuse to be used or to use others. A remarkable book."

–Susanna Moore, author of *In the Cut*

"A tender and illuminating story of friendship and encounter, and a reminder of the joys and heartache of discovering the dark beauty that is Afghanistan."

–Jason Elliot, author of *An Unexpected Light*

"Humane, moving, and rich with insight, *The End of Manners* shines with the exotic brilliance of a saffron sky. A novel full of wonders."

–Dan Fesperman, author of *The Amateur Spy*

About the Author

**Francesca Marciano** is the author of two previous novels and several screenplays, including *Don't Tell*, which was nominated in 2005 for an Academy Award in the category of Best Foreign-Language Film. She lives in Rome.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Jessica Garcia:**

As people who live in the modest era should be update about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe may update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what one you should start with. This *The End of Manners: A Novel* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and need in this era.

**Calvin Baker:**

This book untitled The End of Manners: A Novel to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this book in the book store or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this guide from your list.

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**Karen Saldivar:**

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