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Autore Faizullah Tarfia

Titolo Seam / / Tarfia Faizullah

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Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith; Reading Willa Cather in Bangladesh; [I place one foot then the other . . .]; Dhaka Aubade; Elegy with Her Red-Tipped Fingers; Reading Transtromer in Bangladesh; Instructions for the Interviewer; [Tell her what happened to you . . .]; Interview with a Birangona: 1. What were you doing when they came for you?; Interview with a Birangona: 2. Where did the Pakistani military take you, and were there others there?; Interviewer's Note: i. [You walk

past white high-rises]

Interview with a Birangona: 3. Would you consider yourself a survivor or a victim?Interviewer's Note: ii. [You listen to the percussion]; Interview with a Birangona: 4. Were there other women there? Did you get along with them?; The Interviewer Acknowledges Desire; Interview with a Birangona: 5. Who was in charge at this camp? What were your days like?; Reading Willa Cather in Bangladesh; Interviewer's Note: iii. [If burnt, she said, I' Il turn to ash,]; Interview with a Birangona: 6. Many of the birangona had children by Pakistani soldiers. Did you have a child as well?

Interviewer's Note: iv. [Today there is no drinking]The Interviewer Acknowledges Shame; Interview with a Birangona: 7. Do you have siblings? Where were they?; Interviewer's Note: v. [But wasn't it the neat narrative]; The Interviewer Acknowledges Grief; Interview with a Birangona: 8. After the war was over, what did you do? Did you go

back home?; Reading Celan at the Liberation War Museum; [Many corpses are stacked, . . .]; Aubade Ending with the Death of a Mosquito; Dhaka Nocturne; Reading Willa Cather in Bangladesh; En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith [I struggled my way . . .]Other books in the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry; Back Cover

Sommario/riassunto

The poems in this captivating collection weave beauty with violence, the personal with the historic as they recount the harrowing experiences of the two hundred thousand female victims of rape and torture at the hands of the Pakistani army during the 1971 Liberation War. As the child of Bangladeshi immigrants, the poet in turn explores her own losses, as well as the complexities of bearing witness to the atrocities these war heroines endured. Throughout the volume, the narrator endeavors to bridge generational and cultural gaps even as the victims recount the horror of grief and p