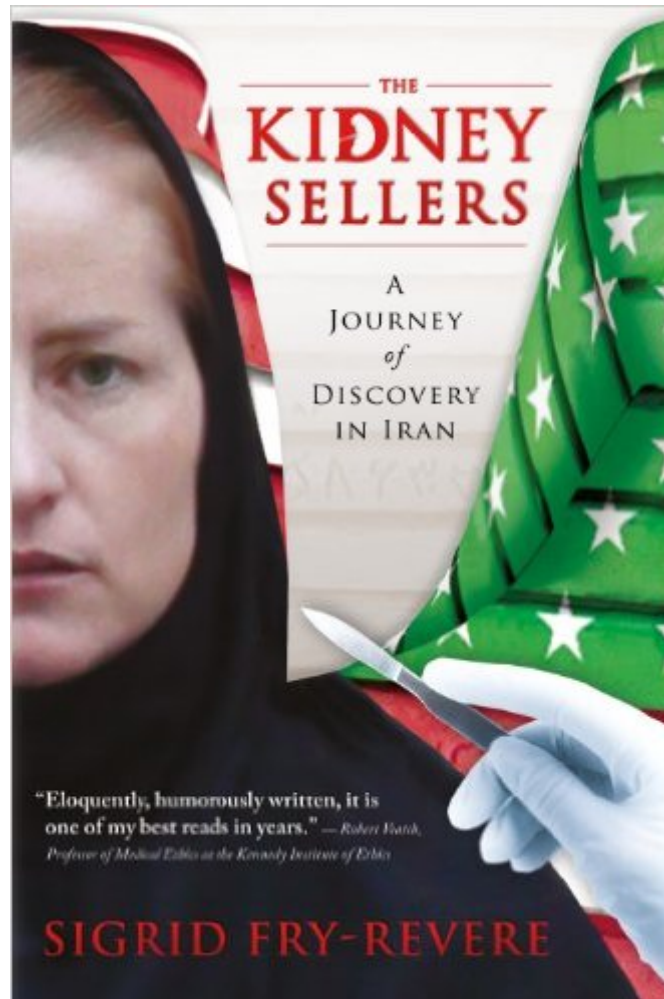


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# The Kidney Sellers: A Journey Of Discovery In Iran



## Synopsis

Rarely does an adventure story carry such social significance as in this groundbreaking ethnographic research book. Dr. Fry-Revere's exploration of the medical ethics of compensating organ donors takes us deep inside Iranian culture to provide insight and understanding into how Iran has solved its kidney shortage. *The Kidney Sellers: A Journey of Discovery in Iran* addresses the question: How is it possible that in Iran there is a waiting list to be a donor, while in the United States hundreds of thousands of people have died for lack of a kidney? Dr. Fry-Revere is the first Westerner ever to witness firsthand Iran's organ procurement system. She shares what she discovered in this fascinating book: part diary of living in a dangerous country, part ethnographic essay, and part tale of people working together to overcome death and financial ruin. *The Kidney Sellers* is a shocking, thought-provoking true story. To view the promotional trailer for this book, please visit the author's web page by clicking her name above.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*The Kidney Sellers: A Journey of Discovery in Iran* By Sigrid Fry-Revere Dr. Fry-Revere's brand-new ethnographic research book, *The Kidney Sellers: A Journey of Discovery in Iran* addresses exploration of the medical ethics of compensating organ donors and that takes the reader deep inside Iranian culture, providing insight into and understanding of how Iran has solved its kidney shortage crisis. This powerfully argued new research book makes clear that the wider the gap between ethics and medical technology becomes, the harder it is for a government and ethnopsychologist to bridge it: put simply, what is good for one side is bad for the other. It is also

clear that the need for serious action has never been greater for those who suffer from kidney disease. An estimated 26 million adults, or one in nine Americans, have chronic kidney disease, and another 20 million are estimated as being at risk of developing the disease. Dr. Fry-Revere's years of research have led her to investigate, how it is possible that in Iran there is a waiting list to be a donor, while in the United States hundreds of thousands of people have died for lack of a kidney? Putting her own personal safety at risk, without knowledge or consent from the Iranian government, the author traveled the country and interviewed kidney donors, recipients, Iranian transplant staff, medical transplant physicians, and Anjonman staff, who provided much information on the historical to current practices in Iran. With nine binders of just video transcripts alone, Dr. Fry-Revere and Dr. Bahar Bastani have documented the raw and honest data affording possibilities for answers to the American kidney crisis. When I was first approached through my website to review this non-fiction, I thought why choose me?

I was given a copy by the author to give my honest review. I found the story engaging and nicely written. This story is about Sigrid Fry-Revere trying to evaluate whether or not Iran, of all places, has solved their kidney shortage. The argument on whether the USA and the rest of the world should allow people to sell their kidney (Having two of them in good working order) to anyone that needs them, in return for compensation for the kidney. Sigrid, to achieve this, goes undercover as an Iranian woman. She does this without the knowledge of Iranian authorities. She collects first hand stories from the Sellers and recipients regarding kidney sales, not government propaganda provided to the public. Sigrid's venture into Iran forces her to follow the rules of a female Muslim. Being opinionated, it was hard for her to conform. The story, along with her thoughts as she collects data, are very compelling and forthright. Honest in her assessments, giving the good and bad of the system in Iran. Near the end of the book she gives her opinion to the US government. She stated they needed a match for waiting kidney transplant recipients to shorten the time spent on dialysis. Did you know that dialysis only removes 10% of the toxins from your body? I didn't know that! In the overall writing of this story, it has good pacing with humor inserted in places. The characters are real people. She tries to explain and understand why a person would sell a kidney to someone, having major surgery in the process. She has to change the names of the Iranian subjects to protect them.

I received an advance copy of this book from the author...and I am so pleased to have been chosen to read & review it. Read this book. Seriously. Read this book. My fellow bookworms know how stingy I am when it comes to handing out 5 star ratings to books I've read. In order to receive a 5 star rating

a book must make me care about the subject and intellectually stimulate me while also providing humorous moments. I'm happy to say that *The Kidney Sellers: A Journey of Discovery in Iran* met all of my requirements to receive a 5 star rating. I learned so much about so much by reading this book. Prior to reading this book I knew little about Iran, little about the kidney donation shortage in the US & absolutely nothing at all about selling kidneys in Iran. Now that I have read this book I understand much more about all three. Prior to reading this book I had no idea the severity of the kidney donation shortage in the US. Per Dr. Fry-Revere, "In the US, an average of 20 to 25 people die every day waiting for a kidney. Of the more than 100,000 waiting, only 15 percent get transplants, and over 30 percent of those will lose that kidney within the first five years." Iran's shortage was erased within 15 years of legally allowing donors to sell their kidneys. How can we not entertain the idea of reducing or eliminating the shortage in the US when there is such impressive evidence of a solution? The cultural, historical & religious information provided about Iran in the book are very helpful in understanding how selling a kidney in Iran is viewed and allowed in religious and legal contexts.

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