

The universally respected NPR journalist and bestselling memoirist Scott Simon makes a dazzling fiction debut. In *Pretty Birds*, Simon creates an intense, startling, and tragicomic portrait of a classic character—a young woman in the besieged city of Sarajevo in the early 1990s. In the spring of 1992, Irena Zaric is a star on her Sarajevo high school basketball team, a tough, funny teenager who has taught her parrot, Pretty Bird, to do a decent imitation of a ball hitting a hoop. Irena wears her hair short like k. d. lang™s, and she loves Madonna, Michael Jordan, and Johnny Depp. But while Irena rocks out and shoots baskets with her friends, her beloved city has become a battleground. When the violence and terror of ethnic cleansing against Muslims begins, Irena and her family, brutalized by Serb soldiers, flee for safety across the river that divides the city. If once Irena knew of war only from movies and history books, now she knows its reality. She steals from the dead to buy food. She scuttles under windows in her own home to dodge bullets. She risks her life to communicate with an old Serb school friend and teammate. Even Pretty Bird has started to mimic the sizzle of mortar fire. In a city starved for work, a former assistant principal offers Irena a vague job, duties as assigned, which she accepts. She begins by sweeping floors, but soon, under the tutelage of a cast of rogues and heroes, she learns to be a sniper, biding her time, never returning to the same perch, and searching her targets for the mist that marks a successful shot. Ultimately, Irena™s new vocation will lead to complex and cataclysmic consequences for herself and those she loves. As a journalist, Scott Simon covered the siege of Sarajevo. Here, in a novel as suspenseful as a John le Carre thriller, he re-creates the atmosphere of that place and time and the pain and dark humor of its people. *Pretty Birds* is a bold departure, and the auspicious beginning of yet another brilliant career for its author. From the Hardcover edition.

Mary Anerley, *Out of the Darkness*, *Overwhelm Me* (Callahan Series Book 1), NRSV “The Go-Anywhere Thinline Bible with the Apocrypha [Bonded Leather, Black], *Artfully Easy Flowers: A Delightfully Simple Adult Coloring Book* (Artfully Easy Coloring Books), *In Safe Hands* (Grace & Poole Book 1), *Wau-bun*, the early day in the North-west ([Selected Americana from Sabins Dictionary ... ]), *The Mission of Methodism* (1890), *Let It Come Down: A Novel*, *Spy Boy*, *Cheyenne*, and *96 Crayons: A Mardi Gras Indians Story*,

*Pretty Birds* is the first novel by accomplished journalist Scott Simon, who weaves his own observations as a war correspondent during the crisis in Sarajevo into. In *Pretty Birds*, Simon creates an intense, *Pretty Birds*. A Novel. A Novel. By Scott Simon Even Pretty Bird has started to mimic the sizzle of mortar fire. Summary and reviews of *Pretty Birds* by Scott Simon, plus links to a book excerpt from *Pretty Birds* and author biography of Scott Simon.

How do you write a novel about the savage ethnic cleansing of the The remaining member of the family is Pretty Bird, a beloved parrot with. Scott Simon, host of NPR's Weekend Edition Saturday, talks about his debut novel, *Pretty Birds*. The story centers on a young Muslim woman. Those experiences formed the basis for his debut novel, *Pretty Birds*, the story of a year-old girl who adapts to.

I enjoyed how the novel speculates about what happens to people during a war. It doesn't explain anything, but it elucidates the chaotic. In *Pretty Birds*, Simon creates an intense, startling, and tragicomic portrait of a boldly told story and clean, forceful prose distinguish this striking first novel. First, Simon™s visiting NYC on business™ reserved an hour to read from his debut novel *Pretty Birds*. And what artwork adorned Simon's.

Listen to Pretty Birds: A Novel audiobook by Scott Simon. Stream and download audiobooks to your computer, tablet or mobile phone. Bestsellers and latest.

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