

*ROSE PETALS AND TEA LEAVES*

*Roses of the Alhambra  
and other stories*



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and other stories*

Barbara Bahtiar

All memories and stories in this book belong exclusively to the author's imagination. Most stories in this book were first published in *ROSE PETALS AND TEA LEAVES, childhood memories and other stories* by Barbara Bahtiar, 2018. All pictures are taken by Barbara Bahtiar.

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## *PREFACE*

In this book I will travel far. I will travel to my childhood in Holland, to my memories of a life in France and to my reminiscences of a life in Spain.

I cherish all these lives, whether real or fantasy. In my imagination I always travelled, visiting far away countries, like Indonesia or India, or even more the imagery island of Avalon.

May my memories inspire you to create your own, for I strongly believe we all have hidden memories, kept secret inside of us, that wish to see the light shining upon them.

I dedicate this book to my two beautiful daughters, Sophie with her French name and descendants and Anisa with her Indonesian name and Spanish roots.

Enjoy the book, for using your imagination is a gift we all could use once and a while.

A special poem in this book, *The Rose Garden*, is dedicated to my mother, Dora Keizers, who envelops my life with laughter and silent support. As she once told me and my sister, “we will always help you, even when we are in heaven”.

*ROSE PETALS AND TEA LEAVES, roses of the Alhambra and other stories* includes the “Roses of the Alhambra” and “Girl in the White Dress”, published for the first time. They remind me of the beautiful roses of the Alhambra in Granada and of the pureness of my beloved tea plantation in Gambung, two of my favorite beautiful places.

Forever in love, May 3, 2018, Barbara Bahtiar.

*CONTENT*

*PREFACE*

<i>Tribute to Avalon</i>	10
<i>Entrance Meditation to Avalon</i>	10

*PART ONE      ROSE PETALS*

*1.1 PINK ROSES*

<i>Childhood memories</i>	12
<i>Rose leaves</i>	13
<i>Pink roses</i>	16
<i>The Rose Garden</i>	17
<i>The girl with the rose leaves</i>	18
<i>Rosa, the flower girl</i>	19

*1.2 RED ROSES*

<i>The rose inside my heart</i>	21
<i>The fields outside Paris</i>	23
<i>A Jewish girl in Paris</i>	26
<i>Seville</i>	29

<i>Seville, my golden heart</i>	33
<i>The Moorish girl</i>	34
<i>The Gypsy Girl</i>	36
<i>Gypsy Heart</i>	39
<i>My purest soul</i>	41

### 1.3 WHITE ROSES

<i>Cordoba</i>	44
<i>Cordoba, city of my heart and soul</i>	46
<i>Cordoba, mirror of my soul</i>	47
<i>The Jewish girl – part 1</i>	50
<i>The Jewish girl – part 2</i>	51
<i>The girl with the golden hair</i>	55
<i>Faith</i>	57
<i>The white rose</i>	59
<i>Florentine</i>	60
<i>My heart is my castle</i>	61
<i>My beloved son</i>	62
<i>My motherland</i>	63
<i>Private space</i>	64

## 1.4 PINK AND WHITE ROSES

<i>Granada</i>	65
<i>The gardens of the Alhambra</i>	69
<i>Roses of the Alhambra</i>	72
<i>A Moorish girl in the Alhambra</i>	74
<i>Precious sisters</i>	77
<i>Precious time</i>	78
<i>Summer in Granada</i>	79
<i>Past times</i>	81

## PART TWO    TEA LEAVES

### 2.1    BLACK TEA

<i>Tea Embrujo de Granada</i>	83
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### 2.2    BLACK AND GREEN TEA

<i>Indonesia</i>	85
<i>East-Indies girl</i>	87
<i>Girl in the white dress</i>	90
<i>Mountain girl</i>	92

<i>Indonesian child</i>	94
<i>Indonesian mothers</i>	95
<i>Gambung</i>	97
<i>Malabar</i>	102
<i>Roses and Tea</i>	107
<i>Miranti, my beloved girl</i>	109

### 2.3 GREEN TEA

<i>India</i>	110
<i>Renuka</i>	112
<i>Himalaya girl</i>	114
<i>Darjeeling Tea plantation</i>	117

### EPILOGUE

<i>Sweet memories</i>	119
<i>Once in a lifetime</i>	121
<i>Flamenco girl</i>	124

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

## *Tribute to Avalon*

In my fantasy I used to travel to the isle of Avalon. An imaginary isle that used to exist at the times of King Arthur in old England. Avalon still exists in the hearts of people who remember Avalon in their souls.

Nowadays more and more people connect or reconnect to Avalon again. Avalon is close by for everyone who wishes to land on its shores and wishes to reconnect to the Goddesses inside of us.

Avalon is there for all of us who look for comfort, love and joy. The Avalonian shores open up to everyone who wishes to be part of a lovely paradise, to everyone who longs for peace inside and to everyone who seeks a comforting environment.

As a tribute to Avalon, the imaginary isle, I will share an entrance meditation to Avalon with you, born out of my fantasy. In my next book on Avalon I will certainly share more meditations on Avalon with you.

I wish you a lovely journey and hope you enjoy reading this book. May it inspire your imagination to start reading, meditating and writing about the things in life you cherish the most.

## *Entrance Meditation to Avalon*

Imagine the isle of Avalon in your fantasy.

See how you reach the isle, by boat, by foot or otherwise.

Feel the waters, see how the mists part.

See your surroundings. Imagine them clearly and vividly.