



**THE WEIGHT OF SAND**  
**My 450 Days Held Hostage in the Sahara**  
Edith Blais

The story of Canadian Edith Blais who was held hostage by a group of Islamic terrorists in Africa and escaped in 2020.

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> Over 85,000 copies sold in French

January 2019: Canadian Edith Blais and her Italian friend Luca Tacchetto went missing in Africa, somewhere between Togo and Burkina Faso. Their families spent the next 15 months in agonizing worry without any news. March 2020: while the rest of the world was plunging into the pandemic, Edith and Luca resurface. They managed to escape their captors and reach Mali and safety. News of their abduction and escape hit media outlets all over the world.

*The Weight of Sand* is Edith's story of how her life and her view of the world were put to the test during her captivity. Why and how were they kidnapped? How they survived, in what conditions? How they escaped? A lover of nature and travel and a self-taught artist, Edith Blais emerged changed but unscathed from the hands of her dangerous captors and from the harsh conditions of the African desert, saved by hope, chance, good hearts and poetry. Her forceful and compelling story of courage, resilience and compassion will keep you on the edge of your seat and leave you breathless but also emotionally drained.

Author's take: "I was their hostage: both a treasure and a nobody."

Publisher's take: "Once we have read it, we became convinced that we had in our hands a powerful and luminous book, one of those books that touch you deep into the heart and that you feel you must put down really gently after the last word, for fear that something inside might break."

**STRONG POINTS**

- A hostage memoir from a civilian point of view, with details about the conditions in which hostages are held and an insider view on a terrorist organisation's functioning.
- A high-profile story, combined with a true literary and artistic value.
- Magnificently illustrated by poems written in captivity and art by the author herself, who is also a very inspiring 37-year-old storyteller.
- The book contains a photo insert.

**Subjects:** memoir, hostage, terrorism, international affairs

*Edith Blais is a seasoned traveller and nature lover who voluntarily leads a simple life. After becoming interested in international cuisine on her many journeys, she has made it her job. Endowed with remarkable creativity and artistic talent, she has learned to paint and write intuitively by teaching herself. The Weight of Sand: My 450 Days Held Hostage in the Sahara is her first book.*