

and murder of Wall

Street Journal reporter

Daniel Pearl.

Reviewed by **Marina Budhos**
Special to the Star Tribune

MUMBAI, INDIA — I am sitting in a restaurant with a few journalism friends, having come to India to report a story about media and democracy. Joanna Slater, the Wall Street Journal bureau chief, is telling us about the tips she picked up on her five-day course in war reporting. The unspoken shadow hanging over us is Daniel Pearl, the Journal reporter who was kidnapped and murdered in Pakistan in early 2002.

Ironically, this is the same training Pearl recommended to the Journal years before. Pearl was no swashbuckling war reporter — he was a gentle, inquisitive man with a quirky sense of story, who strayed into the lair of terrorists when investigating the links between Richard C. Reid, the would-be shoe bomber, and Sheikh Gilani, a radical Muslim cleric.

Though I did not know Pearl, he was, as this dinner last month reveals, just one beat removed from my life: My friend Narresh Fernandes used to copyedit Daniel's pieces; Joanna is a friend of a friend. We all, in a way, were deeply changed by the Daniel Pearl tragedy, for it brought home to us the perils — and necessity — of seeking truth during dangerous times.

Two new books remind us that these dark days will be with us for long, long time: "A Mighty Heart" by Mariane Pearl, who recounts the agonizing days of her husband's abduction, and "Who Killed Daniel Pearl?" by Bernard-Henri Lévy, a French intellectual who has retraced Pearl's footsteps and asked some hard questions.

PEARL continues on E12:

— *The two books offer very different takes.*



Daniel Pearl was a Wall Street Journal reporter who was kidnapped and slain in Pakistan in early 2002. Provided by the Daniel Pearl Foundation

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