



Taboo: A Ph. D. Girl in the Red Light Area

By Fouzia Saeed

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The book is a journey of discovery into the infamous red light district of Lahore, Pakistan, known as the *Shahi Mohalla* (the Royal Bazaar), of *Heera Mandi* (the market of diamonds). The phenomenon of prostitution coupled with music and dance performances had ancient roots in South Asia. Regardless of the stigma attached to prostitution, it has given birth for centuries to many well known performing artists. The book paints a more realistic picture of the phenomenon through the stories of the people living there: the musicians, the prostitutes, and their pimps, managers and customers.

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Editorial Review

Review

...a zealous study by a feminist committed to understanding and overturning male prejudices, government prescriptions, social and moral contradictions, and sexual discrimination. Social Anthropology Fouzia Saeed's work Taboo is a serious study of the power dynamics involved in prostitution in Pakistan ... she presents what she has seen without any judgements ... They say that the hallmark of a good book is that it changes the way you look at the world. Taboo makes one rethink the way one looks at prostitutes. The News, Pakistan

About the Author

Fouzia Saeed, with a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Minnesota, has spent the past twelve years in positions related to the task of engendering social change in Pakistan, with organizations like National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Aga Khan Foundation, and UNDP, Pakistan. She was a founder of the first private organization in Pakistan providing direct services to women in psychological crises, especially those related to rape and domestic violence.

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