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Shamed: The Honour Killing That Shocked Britain - By The Sister Who Fought For Justice



Synopsis

In 1998, Sarbjit Athwal was called by her husband to attend a family meeting. It looked like just another family gathering. An attractive house in west London, a large dining room, two brothers, their mother, one wife. But the subject they were discussing was anything but ordinary. At the head of the group sat the elderly mother. She stared proudly around, smiling at her children, then raised her hand for silence. "It's decided then," the old lady announced. "We have to get rid of her." Her was Surjit Athwal, Sarbjit's sister-in-law. Within three weeks of that meeting, Surjit was dead: lured from London to India, drugged, strangled, and her body dumped in the Ravi River, never to be seen again. After the killing, risking her own life, Sarbjit fought secretly for justice for nine long, scared years. Eventually, with immense bravery, she became the first person within a murderer's family ever to go into open court in an honour killing trial as the Prosecution's key witness, and the first to waive her anonymity in such a trial. As a result of her testimony, the trial led to the first successful prosecution of an honour killing without the body ever being found. But her story doesn't end there. Since the trial, her life has been threatened; her own husband arrested after an allegation of intimidation. Shamed is a story of fear and of horror – but also of immense courage, and a woman who risked everything to see that justice was done.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It was not the best written book I have ever read, but it tells a story that everyone should read. That such terrible violence is still committed by family members on female family members, supposedly, in first world countries is outrageous. Those who commit or are implicated in such crimes to receive the heaviest possible sentence.

The story is gripping. The writing is not great but it is detailed and heartfelt. This book reveals the hard truths about a culture where women have no value. As a country we need to decide our moral path between "freedom of religion" and the "abuse of women and children".

This read has me thinking about how many of these different nationalities are so much the same in these foreign countries. Reading this was like reading about the women being treated in Iran. It is very disturbing on how females can be treated in these countries around the globe. This honour killing was an incident that should of never happened and the family that was involved should not have gotten away with it for so long. Don't want to say to much for I don't want to give information away on others that would like to read this book. It does keep you in suspense and I read this within 8 hrs. The reason I gave it a 4 stars to let you know that there are misspelled words and some repeated information throughout the book but if you want to read another story about the poor treatment of women in a different culture besides Iran then this book is for you.

You read about honor killings and this book really opened my eyes. I couldn't put the Kindle down. It's the true story of 2 women who live in the same house and how one of them is killed because she is doing things that dishonor the family. Sort of mind blowing to know that things still go on in the world. It really gave me a better look into a different culture.

What a brave women to expose this atrocious act. It is a great read that gives good insight into the Seik beleifs both good and bad in this modern world. It is amazing that this can actually happen but we have all been raised differently in diffferent cultures. Would highly recommend this book.

I found this a fascinating but at the same time a shocking story of how such a thing could have occurred among people living in Britain in this day and age. I have read about honour killings in

other cultures ut did not know anything about the strictness of the Sikh way of life. A well written book that was easy to read.

it is frightening that in this time and age these barbaric customs have survived and that these killings are still going on. I have to admit that I got frustrated and impatient with the author for being so meek and spineless until finally finding enough courage to do the right thing but I was not brought up in her culture where obedience to the family is everything. all in all a fascinating read.

This reinforces my belief that being agnostic is the answer for me. When religion, culture, etc. play such a strong part of your life that it results in behavior like this that is horrible misfortune. This woman will live with the guilt of not coming forward as strongly as she should have to save the life of someone close to her.

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