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**Qaisra Shahraz**

**Perempuan Suci**

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## Description

Zarri Bano, seorang perempuan Muslim nan jelita, berkali-kali menolak lamaran laki-laki sampai akhirnya ia bertemu Sikander, yang memikat hatinya pada pandangan pertama. Namun, ketika Jafar, adik lelaki Zarri Bano, penerus martabat ayah mereka satu-satunya, tewas dalam kecelakaan, sang ayah memaksa Zarri Bano menjadi Perempuan Suci. Ini berarti ia tidak boleh menikah, karena satu-satunya yang boleh ia nikahi adalah Al-Quran.

Api asmaranya bersama Sikander pun dipaksa padam, justru pada saat mereka benar-benar ingin mereguk cinta. Yang lebih menyakitkan, dalam puncak kekecewaannya, Sikander malah mengawini Ruby, adik Zarri Bano. Demikianlah, selama bertahun-tahun, kesedihan, amarah, dan perang batin Zarri Bano tersembunyi rapi di balik burqa hitam yang membungkus tubuhnya, dan membatasinya dengan dunia luar.

Terjadi di negeri Pakistan yang eksotis, novel yang banyak mendapat pujian ini memaparkan secara melodramatis peliknya realitas seorang perempuan yang hidup di tengah kungkungan tradisi yang dibangun oleh laki-laki.

## Insightful reviews

Tahieuba Chaudhry: This is the first Asian novel I have read, which to me is very surprising. Most of my friends have read Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* and Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* and I haven't. So I took the plunge and read 559 page novel and you know me by now, I'm a slow reader.

*The Holy Woman* is gripping family drama, a romantic story of love and betrayal in a wealthy Muslim community, with all the pressures and conflicts of modern life and old traditions. Taking place in modern Pakistan, London and Egypt, the protagonist Zarri Bano is a glamorous 28 year-old daughter of a rich Muslim landowner. She falls in love with business tycoon Sikander and plans to marry him. However her father, Habbib Khan, takes an instant irrational dislike to the new man. When his only son is killed in a freak riding accident, Habbib Khan decides to make Zarri Bano his sole heiress, thus resurrecting an ancient tradition which decrees that an heiress must remain celibate. Zarri Bano is forced into a marriage to her religion and the Holy Koran, becoming her clan's 'holy woman' - a nun.

For me, reading this novel was very much like watching melodramatic Pakistani/Indian drama – very dramatic, slow in some scene and overall a really unnecessary long book which made my head spin. But there were elements that I liked because as a young modern Muslim woman I can resonate.

This book subtly illustrates a woman's role in a patriarchal society. She is reminded of her izzat, (honour) to be submissive and silent. It's a man's world, and a woman has certain values: an obedient wife, serving her husband and taking care of her household. A veil must always be on her head within the presence of a male guest. This poignant theme is echoed throughout the novel.

The style of writing is very much tell-me rather than show-me and most of the dialogue is unrealistic in wording, as if it was translated direct from Urdu to English. As far as romantic

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sagas go, Shahraz has done a marvellous job.

To read the rest of this review go to [Published Book Reviews by TLChaudhry](#)

© itugitugitu 2012: Inilah enaknya baca novel terjemahan; kita bisa tiba-tiba berada di tengah tempat yang tak pernah kita tahu tapi bisa kita bayangkan. Kita pun dibawa dengan santun ke dalam kebudayaan asing di sana. Bahkan emosi kita bisa membaur dan lepas semauanya. Kita bisa ikut merasakan, membayangkan, atau malah merasa aneh.

membaca 'perempuan suci' nya Qaisra Shahraz itu seperti jalan-jalan ke afganistan. di sana ada nilai kearifan lokal yang masih dijunjung tinggi. biarpun begitu, tanda-tanda kehidupan modern sudah mendapat tempat di kota-kota besar seperti Kabul. Lalu ada seorang perempuan yang awalnya sangat memuja feminisme tapi harus berhadapan dengan keputusan besar dari sang ayah. sebuah keputusan yang harus membuatnya terpaksa menyembunyikan perasaan di balik rasa hormat kepada sang ayah dan rasa takzim kepada agamanya. sebuah keputusan menjadi sahzadi ibadat.

akhirnya saya tergugah kepada konsistensi pengarang dalam menghadirkan hal-hal detail dalam karyanya. deskripsi yang rinci, karakter yang ramai, dan setting yang verbal-visual (?).

Oh ya.. saya juga pernah ketemu sama pengarangnya. Kita foto bareng waktu di Gramedia ada bedah novelnya. Saya termasuk yang dapet hadiah 2 novelnya: Perempuan Suci dan Perempuan Terluka

Endah widayati: Novel yang menggigit, mengacak, mengaduk perasaan kita. Sebuah kesyukuran ketika bisa ketemu langsung dengan penulisnya, qaisra di gedung serba guna, Salman ITB. Dengan keramahan, dan bahasa Inggris yang enak didengar, saya termotivasi sekali untuk menulis. Qaisra mengaku lama menuliskan novel ini. Namun, untuk hasil yang luar biasa, dibutuhkan kesabaran ekstra, hingga tibalah momen kebesarannya.

Novel ini berkisah dengan lakon utama Zarri Bano, putri sulung keluarga tuan tanah kaya-raya di Pakistan dalam novel Perempuan Suci karya Qaisra Shahraz. Demi memenuhi keinginan ayahnya, ia menjadi seorang Shahzadi Ibadat.

Zarri tak berdaya menentang kehendak sang ayah, meskipun Zarri seorang aktivis feminis di negaranya. Novel Perempuan Suci ini, berangkat dari tradisi lama Pakistan. Habib, ayah Zarri Bano, telah memaksakan kehendak pada putri sulungnya untuk menjadi seorang shahzadi ibadat, yakni seorang perempuan suci yang menghabiskan seluruh hidupnya hanya untuk beribadat kepada Allah. Ia tak boleh menikah, sebab telah dinikahkan dengan Al Qur'an. Ia wajib membungkus seluruh tubuhnya dengan burqa hitam. Sebagai imbalannya, shahzadi ibadat ini akan memperoleh seluruh warisan keluarga berupa tanah dan sawah ladang berhektar-hektar. Tradisi ini dijalankan oleh keluarga yang tidak memiliki anak lelaki sebagai ahli waris.

Setelah kematian anak lelakinya, Jafar, praktis Habib hanya memiliki dua anak perempuan : Zarri Bano dan Ruby. Sebelum Jafar meninggal, Habib adalah tipe ayah moderat. Ia menyekolahkan putri-putrinya sampai ke jenjang sarjana. Ia

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juga membiarkan putri-putrinya memilih jodoh sendiri. Namun dengan kematian Jafar, ia berubah menjadi seorang tiran. Dengan kekuasaannya yang nyaris tak terbantah, ia memaksa Zarri Bano menuruti kehendaknya menjadi seorang shahzadi ibadat. Ia merampas hak menikah putri sulungnya itu secara semena-mena. Dan Zarri Bano pun - sebagaimana halnya Siti - harus tunduk, melepaskan semua impian indah tentang asmara dan perkawinan bersama kekasihnya, Sikander.

Melalui novelnya ini, Qaisra Shahraz bukan saja menampilkan kehidupan sebuah keluarga muslim dan keislaman (ia mengurai soal kerudung, jilbab, dan haji), tetapi juga menggugat nasib perempuan yang kerap dipojokkan oleh tradisi, budaya, dan agama. Kaum perempuan seolah tak berhak menentukan sendiri nasib dan masa depannya. Bahkan seorang terpelajar seperti Zarri Bano pun akhirnya tak kuasa melawan "takdir" yang disodorkan ayahnya.

Akhirnya gimana? Baca aja deh..ga bakal nyesel :P

Anna Fillaah: Kompleks. Menurut saya, buku ini keren. Menampilkan konflik yang tak terduga dan membawa pembaca hanyut bersamanya. Beberapa kali saya geregetan membacanya, menitikkan air mata karena haru ataupun sedih. Zhahzadi ibadat itu ternyata istilah yang hanya dibuat oleh penulisnya, tetapi tentang kondisi terkungkungnya wanita dan tradisi patriarkat itu memang masih berlaku di sana. Saya selalu suka dengan buku yang menampilkan kisah menyangkut kebudayaan, kebiasaan, dan tempat secara mendalam dan nyata. Saya banyak belajar dari buku ini. Bagi saya, ada hikmah yang bisa saya petik dari seorang perempuan suci yang awalnya seorang feminis. Sebenarnya saya lebih dahulu kenal dan bertemu penulisnya di MIWF 2013. Tetapi sayangnya, saya tidak mengikuti satupun workshopnya saat itu:(. Hanya berjumpa tetapi tidak mendengar suaranya. Dalam buku ini, banyak assertion religius yang 'diputarbalik'. Akhirnya, berpihak pada kebenaran. Saya selalu penaSaran dengan penulis buku yang saya sukai, saya juga ingin tahu.

Karen: historic customs and relatives traditions conflict with own wants and aspirations of freedom of a contemporary day Pakistan lady in Qaisra Shahraz's The Holy Woman. Zarri Bano is the 28 yr previous daughter of a filthy rich Muslim landowner. Breathtakingly attractive and clever she has an self reliant streak and a powerful will that has visible her reject the overtures of many suitors, none of whom meet her exacting standards. simply while she does meet a person who awakens the passionate facet of her nature and is her highbrow match, a relatives tragedy disrupts the marriage plans. Her elder brother, inheritor to the family's lands, is killed in a driving coincidence and Zarri's father comes to a decision to make her his heiress. In doing so, he resurrects an historical culture of the Holy lady or Shahzadi Ibadat, a lady devoted to a lifetime of celibacy and data of the Holy Quran.Zarri feels obliged to obey her father's will, placing apart her personal wishes of a existence as a writer and a wife. She therefore relinquishes her jewels, make up and clothier outfits for a black Burqa and turns her again on her fiancé for marriage and devotion to the lessons of her faith.The booklet lines her inner fight among her objectives and private wishes and her feel of honour and accountability in the direction of her father and her clan. alongside the way in which we get an perception into the attitudes of girls who undertake the veil and of how within which girls consider powerless in a

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patriarchal society. That was once the point of the booklet that stuck my recognition whilst I first heard of *The Holy Woman*. even though it does not look that there relatively is a job within the Muslim global referred to as the *Shahzadi Ibadat*, i used to be nonetheless hoping that by way of studying this ebook i might research anything of the ideology at the back of the concept that of the veil and its value in Muslim society which would support me additionally comprehend the talk it draws in lots of western countries. however the approach *Shahraz* offers with this topic did not carry any nice new insights or appreciation. We get fairly too many laboured intrusions of the narrator's voice to make the studying enjoyable. this can be only one example: "Zanni Bano had no chance, overwhelmed by contrast wall of patriarchal tyranny. in spite of her youth, feminism and a college education, and with an outgoing and assertive character on her side, she used to be nonetheless father to be the loser during this video game of male power-play. Like her mother, it were drilled into her from infancy to either admire and pay homage to her father's needs and people of the male elders." Even whilst Zanni speaks in her personal voice, her speech trend feels compelled and unnatural. "I am not just your daughter. i'm me! yet you and Father have brutally stripped me of my id as a standard lady and as a substitute decreased me to a task of a puppet..... You have all jailed and numbed me right into a dedication which i'll need to associate with - yet now not willingly." I observed one touch upon Goodreads to the impact that the characters during this novel are "without exception three dimensional and entire of life". I had the complete opposite reaction. all of them came upon as pedestrian, cardboard-cut-outs to me who converse in very unnatural ways. *Sharaz* can have performed a lot more with this ebook yet in its place permits it to descend right into a moment cost romance with a really predictable, and to me, unimaginable ending. A stable suggestion however the execution did not reside as much as my expectancies at all.

sinta nisfuanna: Sempat terbersit rasa malas saat alur cerita di awal mengangkat tema #feminisme yang menggebu, tirani #patriarki, kekangan bernama #purdah. Namun, menjadi menarik ketika Zarri Bano, sang feminis, ternyata malah 'berlutut' pada kekuasaan patriarki dengan harga diri yang hancur lebur. Tema perempuan dan patriarki yang kerap menjadi obyek 'pembicaraan' dari Timur Tengah ditampilkan penulis tanpa condong pada pemikiran tertentu. Penulis berusaha menampilkan sisi manusiawi. Sosok ayah yang memaksakan "kekuasaan"nya untuk menjalankan #tradisi dan menjadikan anaknya perempuan suci, ternyata memendam penyesalan dan kehilangan yang besar dari keluarganya. *Purdah* yang seringkali dipandang mengungkung wanita, malah mengantarkan pemakainya kuliah ke mesir dan mengikuti konferensi di berbagai negara. Rasa yang kuat dari novel #PerempuanSuci adalah sisi sentimental yang terpelihara sampai akhir cerita. Tak lupa, nilai budaya yang tergambar dari upacara-upacara adat dan deskripsi kostum.

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