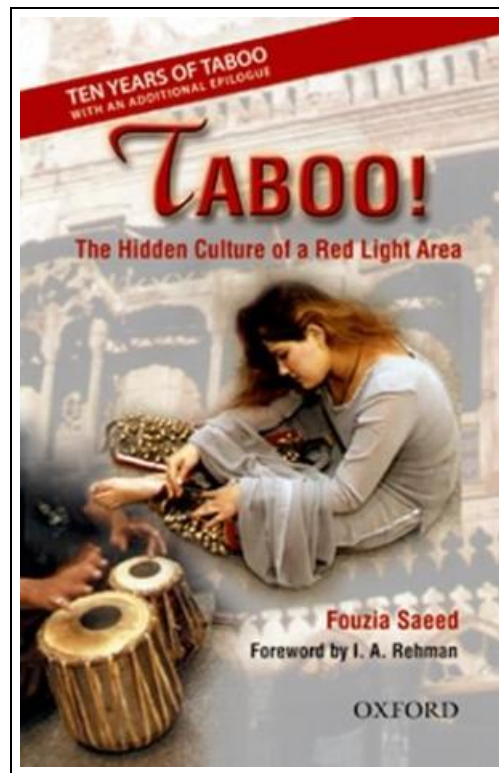


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TABOO!: THE HIDDEN CULTURE OF A RED LIGHT AREA, WITH AN ADDITIONAL EPILOGUE (PAPERBACK)



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OUP Pakistan, Pakistan, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. 2nd Revised edition. Language: English . Brand New Book. Pakistani society has created and reinforced many myths to explain why the phenomenon of prostitution has nothing to do with nice people . These myths put all the blame on immoral women who are understood to be responsible for tricking honest men into sinful acts. Our society has also strongly discouraged anyone from questioning these myths or even trying to look at the issue in a realistic manner. This resistance stems from the unspoken fear that any honest assessment of the situation would uncover the double standards that the South Asian patriarchal system has created for distinguishing good from bad women, thus threatening our society's fake sense of morality. This book is a journey of discovery into the famous red light district of the Shahi Mohalla (the Royal Bazar), or Heera Mandi (the market of diamonds). The phenomenon of prostitution coupled with music and dance performances has ancient roots in South Asia. The areas where the practice is centered have given birth for centuries to many well-known performing artists. The areas are hubs for creative productions as well as nurture the talents of poets, singers, actors, and the gurus, musicians and composers of classical music. These places are quite different from the typical red light districts in the west. The social stigma attached to prostitution has led our governments over the years to initiate several brutal attempts to eradicate the phenomenon in the Shahi Mohalla and elsewhere. However, every effort to curb this phenomenon has only resulted in a destruction of the traditional controls over the practice and the links between prostitution and art. Ironically, these efforts also served to drive the practice out of its traditional centers and into the nicer parts...



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