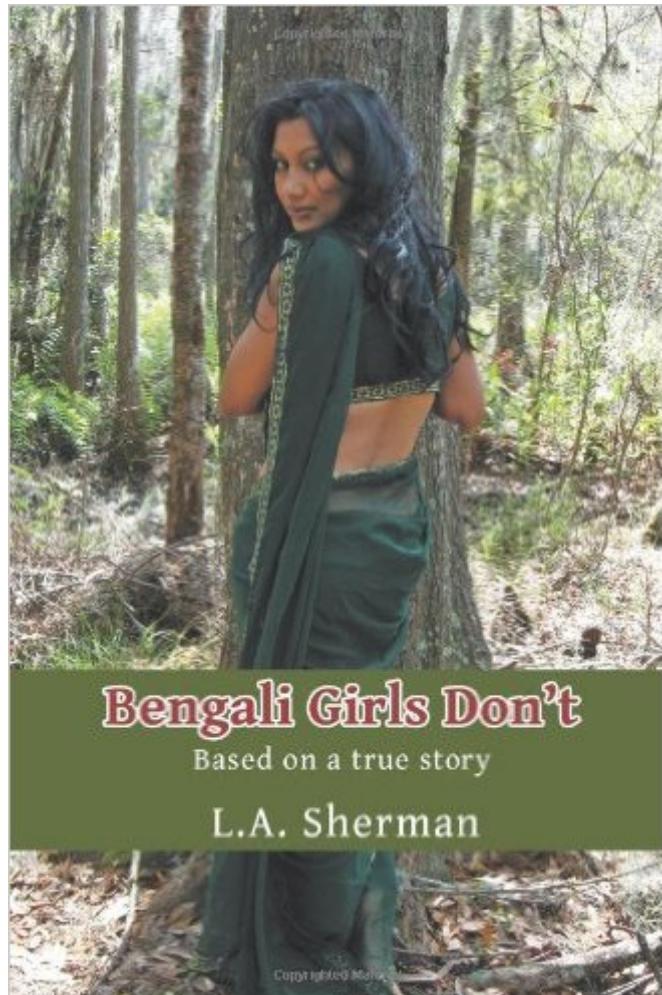


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# Bengali Girls Don't: Based On A True Story



## **Synopsis**

Tells a triumphant story of a young woman achieving her own personal freedom after enduring years of oppression. You will travel with Luky to Bangladesh and England (and back again) while experiencing her painful journeys and betrayal by those closest to her. Her experiences will provoke an emotional response that causes the reader to rally behind Luky. -- Nicole Renguso, Hillsborough County Chair at The Children's Movement of FloridaA modern day Cinderella story about the author Luky and her incredible journey from her birth during Bangladesh's liberation war to the present. Her desperation to be a 'normal teenager' turned into a nightmare when she was betrayed by her parents and forced into an arranged marriage with an older man at age 15. My heart ached when I read what horrendous conditions she endured. Her descriptive writing had me visualizing everything she suffered through. I was amazed at Luky's strength and determination she used to survive each day in the hope of one day being home again. This is one story that will forever be etched in my mind and heart. --From the Publisher

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest reviewLA Sherman's Bengali Girl's Don't is one of the best books I've read this year. It's beautiful, lyrical and full of fantastic insight into the experience of Muslim children raised in Western societies. Sherman's writing is full of depth and beauty, pulling us into the world of the main character: Luky. I am reminded of What the Body Remembers: A Novel by Shauna Singh Baldwin for it's raw intimacy and multi-generational/cultural storyline.Bengali Girl's Don't is written in third person memoir style and the first half of it is exquisite, full of details from Bangladeshi life that resonate with the reader no

matter your personal cultural history. Rahman and Sunia (Luky's parents) live through the revolution and partition of Bangladesh from Pakistan. The personal and political details included in the story make it rich and vibrant. An absolute joy to read. Rahman and Sunia take their sons (I'm not sure how many, as one of them inexplicably seemed to have two names: Pilton and Saqir) and daughter to England, where Sunia gives birth to a number of daughters. Rahman and Sunia try desperately to raise their children as proper Muslims and Bengalis. In their own way it's clear their intentions are good and they wish good things for their children. Cultural standards, aspirations for popularity and the crushing pressure of being the eldest daughter push Luky to a breaking point. Desperate for freedom and individuality, she seeks a reprieve from her parents strictness and abuse in a series of ill fated romantic entanglements.

As interesting as Luky's story is, the book is not very well written. I have continued reading only because of my interest in the details of her story. I don't agree with some of the other reviewers who feel sympathy for the parents. I'm sure the parents loved her very much, but that does not excuse them for keeping her confined and barring her from the basic things a teenager would do and then tricking her into marriage. Clearly this was bad and unethical parenting. I also think the author is having an identity crisis, which is apparent not only in her writing but also in some of her interviews that I've found online. She did an interview with Fox radio where the radio hosts used her as an example of how brutal Islam is and how America is the savior, and she played into it (seemingly with some uncertainty, but still). It doesn't seem that she was trying to denigrate Muslims but she has to be firm about not being used by the extremely anti-Islam propaganda machine that is Fox. These are the kinds of racist and essentialist tropes in the media that contribute to hate speech and hate crime in the general population against Muslims and people who even appear to be Muslim. It's not going to help sell books no matter what her agent or manager tells her. My main recommendation to the author (I heard she's working on a second book) is to GET A GOOD EDITOR who can do a close reading of her work and help her settle on a fluid tone, style and fix her sentences and grammar. This is not a complete condemnation of her writing, but very few people, even top authors, are able to submit first drafts that are perfect. This was clearly an unedited first draft, submitted in a time crunch, that went straight from word processor to print.

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