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Harem Slave: One Thousand Nine Hundred And Four Days Of Hell On The Persian Gulf (Human Trafficking Series Book 1)



Synopsis

If you are expecting pornography, do not buy this book. *Harem Slave* is not your predictable formulaic sex-slave novel; it is above all, a gripping and often suspense-filled documentary of the harrowing life of a victim of human trafficking. It is, in many respects, a survival guide for girls who find themselves in such unthinkable circumstances. Intended for mature readers, *Harem Slave* is not gratuitously pornographic, but due to the subject matter, does contain considerable erotic material. Tammy Simmons is every parent's dream daughter: 18, blonde, a majorette, and unimpressed with how beautiful she is. An honor roll student preparing to enter Georgetown University, she seems destined to take her comfortable place in upper-middle-class America. She has taken to heart the high moral principles instilled in her by her tight-knit family, and dreams of being a diplomat. While visiting friends in Europe, however, she is abducted, and to her stunned disbelief, shipped to the Middle East and sold as a harem slave to an 81-year-old sheikh. He is scandalized when he discovers she's not the buxom Swede he ordered, and sells her to the brooding and cantankerous Sheikh Saud. A year later, she becomes the property of Sheikh Fahd, who dyes the girls in his Rainbow Harem different colors; she is Miss Green. When Miss Purple furtively poisons him, she is bought by the handsome but mentally imbalanced Prince Ibrahim, who has been known to put slaves to death so he and his guests can enjoy their fresh corpses at his lavish parties. Fortunately or unfortunately, instead of taking her into his own harem, he leases her to an elite gentlemen's club, part of a dark underworld on the Persian Gulf where brothels cater to every taste, every perversion, every excess. She quickly learns that brutality, even in the opulent clubs, is the norm: in the worst, life expectancy is calculated in weeks. Disciplinary problems are threatened with being sent to a snuff club, where they are tortured to death as entertainment. To this point, Tammy has managed to adjust to slavery without completely negating her persona, but now, she almost comes unglued. She has no other choice, if she wants to survive, but to swallow her self-respect and obey orders. It's a constant struggle. She is proud of herself for not falling apart during one particularly horrible assignment and then is immediately trundled off to another that's even worse. How Tammy remains sane in this horrific environment is a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit, to the power of love toward those who deserve it the least, and to the defiant determination to find glimmers of joy and even lasting love in a life awash with daily humiliation and degradation. Her caring heart, courage, and ability to understand her masters as fallible humans grappling with their own sets of demons are ultimately the keys to her salvation.

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Customer Reviews

Sex slave trafficking is a multi-billion dollar global industry that operates above and beyond the conventional criminal justice system on account of its protagonists actually being key players in their respective Establishments. Nowhere is this more true than in the middle east. European girls, enticed by false employment adverts, are drugged and simply vanish into 5-star brothels catering for the most wealthy men on the planet. Such is the background to this harrowing novel. Other 5-star reviewers have more than adequately outlined the work's story and I endorse their sentiments unreservedly. I'm pretty hard case, but have to admit this was one of those rare books which kept me awake after diving into it. If the book does have weaknesses then there are two of them. First, the happy upbeat ending is at complete and awkward odds with the rest of the book: it's too good to be true in my opinion. Second, I found Tammy's enthusiastic adaptation to her new life in a production line brothel something of a stretch and, for me, it lacked a ring of credibility. In my experience, otherwise wholesome people [e.g. prisoners of war] who have become institutionalized either adopt a live and let live dumb obedience [not enthusiasm] or they never stop plotting and planning and scheming to escape. In both instances, they form tight bonds with co-detainees and possess a finely developed Us [prisoners] versus Them [guards/oppressors] "prison culture". So at

some level I tended to struggle with Tammy's very different pattern of behaviour. All in all, please read the other reviews to get a balance and give serious consideration to buying this deeply moving and evocative work. [Note: Action writer Andy McNab has produced a splendid novel "Zero Hour" on a similar out-of-sight-out-of-mind theme: child trafficking - highly recommended.]

This book was so awful and insulting both to women who have been trafficked and to readers, that I had to write this review. First of all don't believe for one second that this story is based on fact or based on the story of a number of women. That is a lie and a simple google search would prove that. Please don't be gullible. The publishers allege that a friend of Ms. Hartwell was trafficked and that's what compelled her to write this novel. That is highly doubtful. More likely what compelled Ms. Hartwell is that human trafficking now seems to be the cause du jour, honor killings and female genital mutilation are so 1990's. Ms. Hartwell saw an opportunity to profit off of the misery of others and that is exactly what this novel is. Now if she had said it was all fiction, I don't think I'd be so livid. The fact that she tries to pass this off as reality and is what really made my skin crawl when reading the content of the novel. There are actually scenes in this book where the so called victim is enjoying sex with the men she has been prostituted to. There are scenes where she is cozying up to them and being playful with them and claiming to be in love with them. You might say she was doing this to survive, but since we're privy to her thoughts, this is not the case. There is also her know-it-all, condescending attitude all the way through the end of this novel. No woman who has gone through the supposed horrors she went through would act the way she acts. Never once does she display a sense of humbleness, humanity or maturity. I'm disgusted that a woman wrote this novel which basically fetishizes human trafficking and exploits those poor souls who have suffered and continue to suffer. This novel is little more than rape porn and Ms. Hartwell should be ashamed of herself. Oh and it was very poorly written on top of everything else.

Although written as a novel, the story was inspired by actual events recounted by several women. The author seamlessly weaves their stories together into one. Human trafficking gets little attention as an international human rights issue. This book is informative & enlightening; it should be required reading by everyone who cares about human rights!!

THIS BOOK SHOULD BE REQUIRED READING FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE U.S. AND EUROPE! It is based on a true story involving human trafficking to Saudi Arabia, and the absolutely sickening perversions that many, many of the wealthiest Saudi men feel they have every

right to perform on the kidnapped women they introduce either into Sheikhs' multiple personal themed harems or, worse, into their so-called Gentlemen's Clubs. At one point, when the author (an 18-yr-old Bethesda, Maryland girl abducted in a Marsailles shop in an Arab marketplace) starts describing the various "themes" of these assorted clubs -- up to and including horrific torture and snuff clubs -- I cried for half an hour, my heart breaking for those girls. They're very big on themes... some center on surgically-designed freaks (e.g., women with the soles of their feet grafted together... think about that for a minute), some on "blood and gore", etc., etc. These people are absolute barbarians... even the best of them treat their wives like good dogs and the "whores" like fresh meat with short shelf-lives (you're useless after age 26). Truly, you will be shocked by the content here. I have a pretty creative imagination, and still had my jaw resting on my chest for most of the book. Read this book with an open mind. See if it doesn't impact your worldview just a bit.

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