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## The Invisibles: A Tale of the Eunuchs of India

By Jaffrey, Zia

Vintage, 1998. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: In this superb work of investigative reporting, Zia Jaffrey pursues the riddle of India's most elusive subculture, the cross-dressing and often-castrated figures known as "hijras" whose very name means neither male nor female. Are the hijras lucky or dangerous? Are they a nurturing community of outcasts or a criminal network that kidnaps and mutilates recruits? Do they number in the thousands or in the millions? As she talks with policemen, a unionizer of eunuchs, and with the hijras themselves, Jaffrey unravels veils of rumor and deception to locate the nature of our sexual and social thresholds, and the people who dwell on them. Deeply resonant, uniquely insightful, *The Invisibles* is an enthralling work. "A magnificent journey. Jaffrey writes about this fascinating and delicate subject with human understanding and warmth."--Ryszard Kapuscinski "Sensitively written, eloquent, and compassionate."--New York Times Book Review.



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Zia Jaffrey, daughter of the well-known Indian food writer Madhur Jaffrey and heir to a hybrid Indian-American culture, found herself fascinated on a visit to India. Free shipping over \$10. Nanda's book is full of conjecture and Western psychology. She includes next to nothing about the long history of eunuchs in Muslim culture- hmm, wonder why hijras exist in the north of India and not so much in the south? She never even goes over the etymology of the term hijra. Jaffrey assumes nothing and writes an utterly honest, genuine book from the standpoint of human. Her book is incredibly informative, though lacking in some respects- more theoretical discussion of gender would have been interesting. ix, 293 pages : 22 cm. In 1984, Zia Jaffrey traveled to Delhi, and there glimpsed a group of cross-dressing men who had walked, uninvited and unannounced, into a wedding. They sang out of tune, hurled insults at the guests, and were finally paid to leave. She learned that these often-castrated, elusive figures were known as the hijras - "neither male nor female"--Or the eunuchs, of India. They existed in thousands in every major city, were tolerated yet reviled, thought to bring good luck to newlyweds and newborns, yet also called extortionists and kidnapers. Jaffrey set off on a job. This is an exploration of eunuchs ( hijras ) in Indian culture - who they are, why the subject is taboo and why their history is hidden. The book traces the traditions of eunuchs through layers of Hindu, Muslim and British history and through talking to the eunuchs themselves. Product Identifiers. Publisher. Orion Publishing Group, Phoenix (An Imprint of the Orion Publishing Group Ltd). ISBN-10. 0753804638. The Invisibles book. Read 21 reviews from the world's largest community of readers. In this superb work of investigative reporting, Zia Jaffrey pursues ... There seems to be a good bit of published material out there about eunuchs in India, but Jaffrey doesn't seem to trust it, perhaps with good reason. This book kind of meanders through the subject, trying to get a feel for the culture that supports/produces/accepts/rejects hijras. The mutilation is horrifying, especially in that many claim it to be done. I fluctuated in my opinion of this book. It's hard for me to categorize. I guess it's extended journalism, with a whole lot of research involved. There seems to be a good bit of published material out there about eunuchs in India,