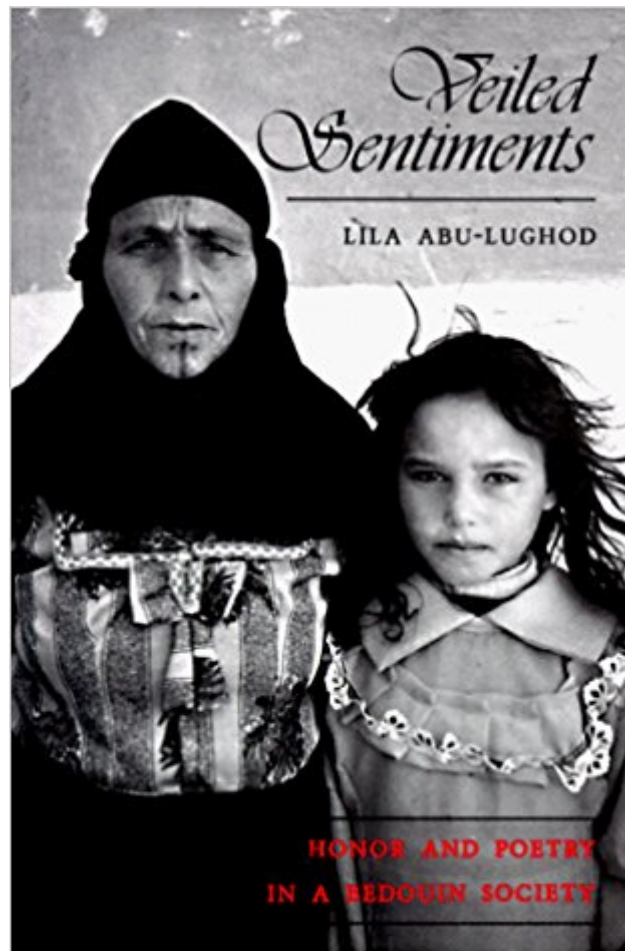




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Veiled Sentiments: Honor And Poetry In A Bedouin Society



Synopsis

Lila Abu-Lughod lived with a community of Bedouins in the Western Desert of Egypt for nearly two years, studying gender relations and the oral lyric poetry through which women and young men express personal feelings. The poems are haunting, the evocation of emotional life vivid. But her analysis also reveals how deeply implicated poetry and sentiment are in the play of power and the maintenance of a system of social hierarchy. What begins as a puzzle about a single poetic genre becomes a reflection on the politics of sentiment and the relationship between ideology and human experience.[Note: This 1987 edition is now out of stock. A New Updated Edition is now available.]

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A valuable contribution in many areas, giving us new dimensions of nomadic and Arab culture, poetry, women, and gender roles and a fresh way of looking at the interrelatedness of the ideology and politics of sentiment. An outstanding anthropological ethnography of the Bedouin of the Egyptian desert, as well as an unusually skillful analysis of gender and social structure as it is expressed through womens poetic discourse. -- International Journal of Middle East Studies

"A truly extraordinary book—beautifully and modestly written, remarkably insightful, consistently compelling."—Edward Said, author of Out of Place: A Memoir

I write thrillers and have a protagonist in Morocco and a Bedouin woman in Spain; I'd like the Bedouin to be a voice of Muslim feminism. When I started to look into feminism in Islam,

Abu-Luhod's title caught my eye and I finally ordered the paperback after finding neither Kindle edition nor even a "Read inside". It is copyrighted in 1986, so I suppose that explains the lack of 'modern' reading tools. I was simply stunned at the quality of her writing and the flow of her prose. She is a seriously good writer. Abu-Lughod spent nearly two years embedded in a Bedouin village in Egypt, studying poetry and the community of women that made up such a large part of the social structure of the village. Her observations about social customs and the traditions that underlie them is a marvelous read. She may not describe well the modern Bedouin woman as she has evolved over the past twenty-five years since publication of *Veiled Sentiments*, but her thinking is timeless and important. Robert Cook[...]

Lila Abu Lughod, an Arab American woman, lived among the Awlad Ali tribes of the North West of Egypt for two years. *Veiled Sentiments* is the book she wrote on the lives and poetry of Awlad Ali. Abu Lughod field work was clearly not carried out from a "superior" stance; she sympathized with her subjects and dealt with them as equal human beings rather than inferior specimen or cultures. Abu Lughod attitude, intelligence, training and tremendous analytical ability helped her in developing great insight and understanding of this fascinating culture. Abu Lughod analysis of concepts such as "hishma" was truly incisive and shed a great deal of light on the nature of modesty between women and men and amongst men and women. The analysis seems to explain behaviors and norms witnessed elsewhere in Egypt and indeed other parts of the Middle East. An important thesis of Abu Lughod is that the Awlad Ali people often communicated in very conservative and modest way directly through words; they only said what was proper and fitted the norms. Yet a second mode of communication far more true and expressive was found in their little songs or poems. Abu Lughod discussed gender relation amongst Awlad Ali at length and the relationship between women and the families of their husbands and the society at large. I really enjoyed this book and would highly recommend it. For an excellent work on veiling and gender issues, I would recommend Leila Ahmed's *Women & Gender in Islam*.

Fascinating insight into another culture; can be tedious at times.

So much food for thought. Lila Au Lughood is so good at just presenting what happens or her observations. Fascinating topic and lovely writing style. Highly recommend.

Good book

Great Price! Great Product!

Needed it for class. Don't regret having to read it for class. Taught me a lot about the Bedouin culture. I love that they tell stories through poetry. It really makes me appreciate the people.

Good, no complaints about purchase.

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