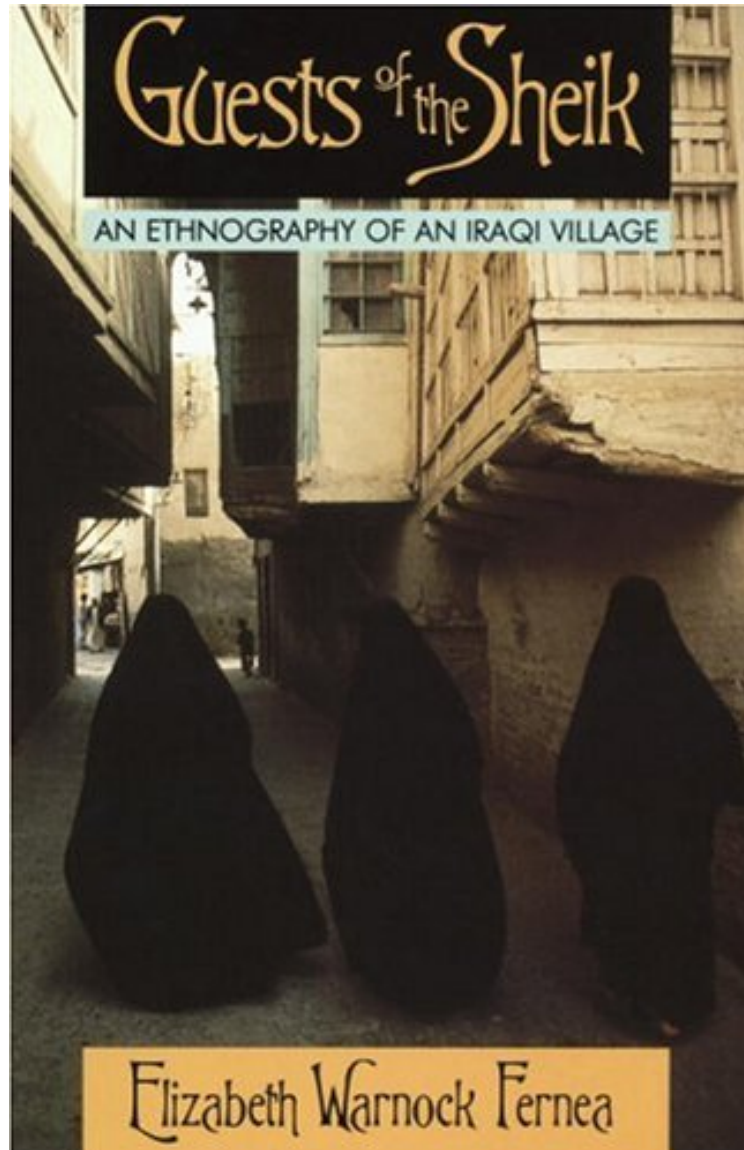


[Free pdf] Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village

## Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village

*Elizabeth Warnock Fernea*

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**Elizabeth Warnock Fernea : Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read. Even today...By C. Cronk What a fabulous book about 1950's life in Iraq as a woman and what they faced and what their lives were like - many were so happy in their sheltered existences as part of the Sheik's "family". Truly an eye opening narrative. Highly recommend. I wonder if

much has changed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beyond Fascinating By Lula Torintza This is a great look at 1950s, rural, female, Iraqi culture. It was fascinating to read about a time and culture so different. The author actually lived in a rural community in Iraq for years so she thoroughly learned about the village lifestyle, and expectations of women in various levels of social interactions--home, family, community. It's a story about her experience and is in no way "text-bookish," which made it an easy read. I also appreciate the author's respectful tone and willingness to learn with little negative judgment about cultural differences. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book for an Anthropology course, but ... By Sarah I bought this book for an Anthropology course, but it is one that I won't be selling at the end of the year. Fernea is an engaging writer and despite this being an assigned reading, I found myself reading ahead. Fernea spent nearly two years living with the women of the Iraqi village and she learned much about them and their lives in the time period. However, her ethnography is not a dry description of what she learned. Instead, she presents that information through a series of anecdotes that tell about their lives and her struggle to fit into their lifestyle.

A delightful, well-written, and vastly informative ethnographic study, this is an account of Fernea's two-year stay in a tiny rural village in Iraq, where she assumed the dress and sheltered life of a harem woman. This volume gives a unique insight into a part of the Middle Eastern life seldom seen by the West. "A most enjoyable book about [Muslim women]--simple, dignified, human, colorful, sad and humble as the life they lead." --Muhsin Mahdi, Jewett Professor of Arabic Literature, Harvard University.

There are 800 million Muslims in the world today, yet Islam is one of the world's least understood and appreciated religions. The culture of Islamic women and the mystery of a veiled society have endured any number of uninformed or hostile interpretations. Elizabeth Warnock Fernea spent the first two years of her marriage in the 1950s living in El Nahra, a small village in Southern Iraq, and her book is a personal narrative about life behind a veil in a community unaccustomed to Western women. She arrived speaking only a few words of Arabic and feeling dubious about her husband's expectation that she adapt completely to the segregated society in order to accommodate his anthropological study. When she left two years later she was an accepted and loved member of the village, inspired for a lifetime of work in Middle Eastern studies. The story of her life among the Iraqis is eye-opening, written with intellectual honesty as well as love and respect for a seemingly impenetrable society. Although the book was originally published in 1965, it surfaced again during the Gulf War in 1991 when many small villages were destroyed in Southern Iraq. This book gives readers a fuller sense of those communities and brings home the cost of war waged against civilians. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14. -- From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Rebecca Sullivan From the Publisher A delightful, well-written, and vastly informative ethnographic study, this is an account of Fernea's two-year stay in a tiny rural village in Iraq, where she assumed the dress and sheltered life of a harem woman. From the Inside Flap A delightful, well-written, and vastly informative ethnographic study, this is an account of Fernea's two-year stay in a tiny rural village in Iraq, where she assumed the dress and sheltered life of a harem woman.