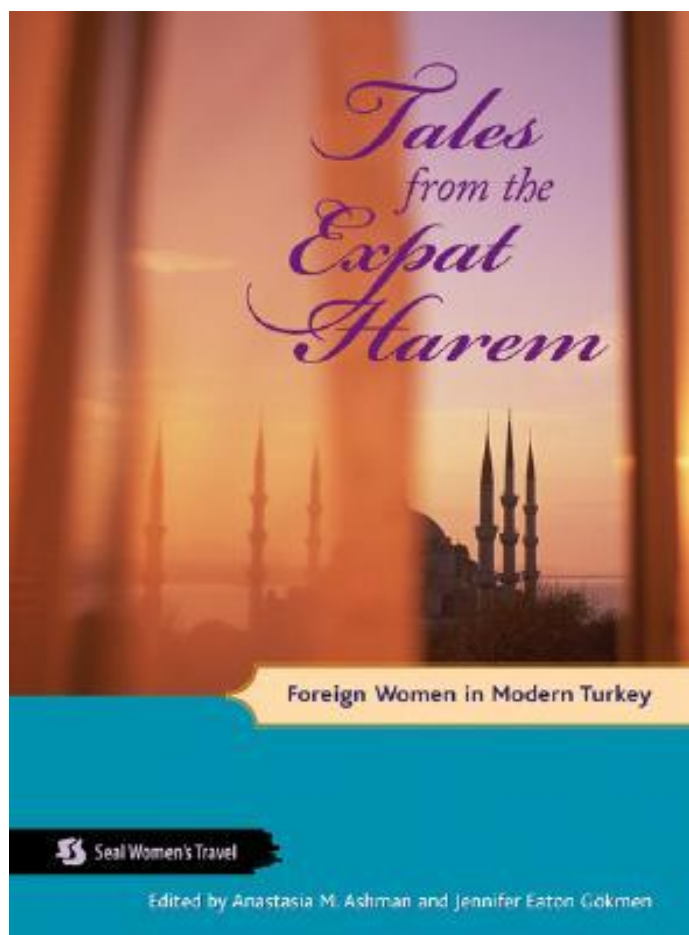

Anastasia M. Ashman

Tales from the Expat Harem: Foreign Women in Modern Turkey



Title: Tales from the Expat Harem: Foreign Women in Modern Turkey

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Description

As the Western world struggles to comprehend the paradoxes of modern Turkey, a country both European and Asian, forward-looking yet rooted in ancient empire, *Tales from the Expat Harem* reveals its most personal nuances. This illuminating anthology provides a window into the country from the perspective of thirty-two expatriates from seven different nations - artists, entrepreneurs, Peace Corps volunteers, archaeologists, missionaries, and others - who established lives in Turkey for work, love, or adventure. Through narrative essays covering the last four decades, these diverse women unveil the mystique of the "Orient," describe religious conflict, embrace cultural discovery, and maneuver familial traditions, customs, and responsibilities. Poignant, humorous, and transcendent, the essays take readers to weddings and workplaces, down cobbled Byzantine streets, into boisterous bazaars along the Silk Road, and deep into the feminine stronghold of steamy Ottoman bathhouses. The outcome is a stunning collection of voices from women suspended between two homes as they redefine their identities and reshape their worldviews. Coining the "expat harem" as a distinct community, the editors also boldly reclaim the concept of an Eastern harem-long the subject of erroneous Western stereotype. "Much like the imported brides of fifteenth-century sultans, our expat harem is conjured by the shared circumstance of being foreign-born and female in a land laced with a harem tradition," Ashman and Gokmen declare. "Our writers are inextricably wedded to Turkish culture, embedded in it, yet alien nonetheless."

Insightful reviews

Judith van Praag: Trials and trepidations of life in a foreign culture is often underestimated. The women who tell their stories in this book shed a light on what it's like to always be the foreigner, the stranger, even after years of being married to a local. If you think you need to don a veil to enter this modern day harem you're mistaken. Entering is recommended, the tales I've read so far are all fresh and entertaining if not enlightening.

Alice: That's it! I'm dropping everything and moving to Turkey NOW!!! Oh, well I can't really - but this book is inspiring! It's not all fun and games, but Turkey seems like a great place, and I can't wait to visit.

Nico: I happened to get this book from my parents somehow. They traveled to Turkey, and maybe it was something someone gave them... I am not sure. Even though I don't specifically have (or I should say "have had") an interest in Turkey as such, this book really helped me appreciate the culture, people, and customs...for a time when I might - some day - perhaps be able to travel again. This book was published before the serious unrest and influx of refugees from Syria, which I think needs to be taken into account. Even so, it's a wonderful read.... There are a number of short stories written by a variety of English-speaking women from different backgrounds. Well written, concise, and interesting. A lucky find for me!

Lori Ann: This booklet encouraged all people on my booklet staff to go to Istanbul. nice money owed from girls residing and touring throughout the kingdom as foreigners. Re-read this 12/10 whereas in Istanbul. magnificent as a manner of having a few extra perception into town and

country.

J: I enjoyed this choice of tales from this varied workforce of expatriate ladies in Turkey; having visited the rustic in 1995, the entire tales resonated with me. I loved how diversified all the tales have been and that it used to be non-fiction: there has been now not a "single painting" of the country, yet really a extra nuanced photo from having learn the numerous women's stories. Excellent. JB

Rasheedah: nice travel/living overseas essay assortment - even if you are interested in Turkey. whatever is protecting me from giving it a five yet i can't positioned my finger on it. Amazingly interesting, from women's perspectives, effortless to read, nice insights, not easy to place down. nice for a protracted flight and wet days.

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