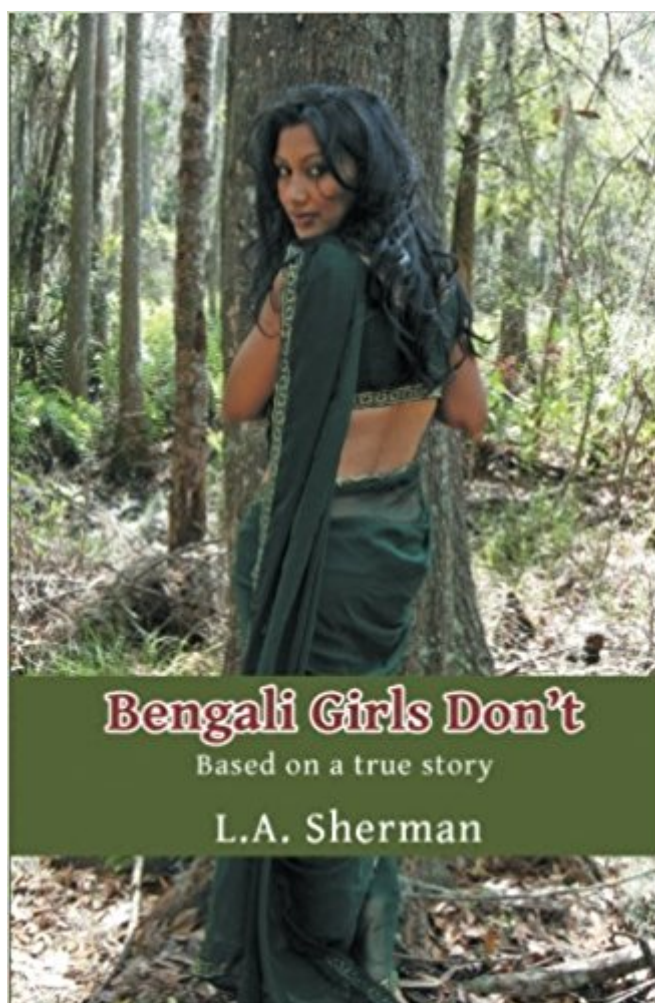


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# Bengali Girls Don't: Based On A True Story



## Synopsis

Tells a triumphant story of a young woman achieving her own personal freedom after enduring years of oppression. You will travel with Luky to Bangladesh and England (and back again) while experiencing her painful journeys and betrayal by those closest to her. Her experiences will provoke an emotional response that causes the reader to rally behind Luky. -- Nicole Renguso, Hillsborough County Chair at The Children's Movement of Florida

A modern day Cinderella story about the author Luky and her incredible journey from her birth during Bangladesh's liberation war to the present. Her desperation to be a 'normal teenager' turned into a nightmare when she was betrayed by her parents and forced into an arranged marriage with an older man at age 15. My heart ached when I read what horrendous conditions she endured. Her descriptive writing had me visualizing everything she suffered through. I was amazed at Luky's strength and determination she used to survive each day in the hope of one day being home again. This is one story that will forever be etched in my mind and heart. --From the Publisher

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Pulls no punches as it tells an extraordinary story that spans the globe . . ."-- Eastern Eye Newspaper of London

"I've laughed, cried and relived some of my past through your words. Painfully beautiful."-- Summer Yasmin, writer and blogger at TwoMangoes.com

"Will inspire many women."-- Kunal Trivedi

"I hate my life! I hate this culture. I can't go anywhere. Or do any damn thing. I hate it so freaking much!!"

-- L.A. Sherman, when talking to her mother as a teen.

"Almost every Bengali

girl must have said this - - I'm one of them! L.A. really gave a true insight into a Bengali girl's life - - amazing xXx"Ã Å -- Shuhena Mikail Begum, a Bengali-Muslim girl in Sweden

I bought this book because I like to learn about other cultures but if this story is reflective of this culture, yikes! Do these people hate each other or what? I was begging for her mother's mother not to be dead because she was the only reasonable and likable character. I cannot knock a story that is truthful yet depressing. The reason for the low stars is that her writing is something between stream of conscious, fragmented sentences, weird narration, and an interview with some mysterious person. I agree with one reviewer, the Jamaican story was case in point. Did she dream that? What did the Jamaicans do to them? And, for a person that felt so out of place in England, it really disgusted me to hear her talk so awfully about the Jamaicans. Only the "white people" seemed exempt from her vile prejudices. There is a sickness in this book that caused me to put it down. About 40% of the way through, I watched the youtube video to see what happened versus finishing the book. I hope beyond hope that the author is in a better place and I don't just mean in the U.S.

As interesting as Luky's story is, the book is not very well written. I have continued reading only because of my interest in the details of her story. I don't agree with some of the other reviewers who feel sympathy for the parents. I'm sure the parents loved her very much, but that does not excuse them for keeping her confined and barring her from the basic things a teenager would do and then tricking her into marriage. Clearly this was bad and unethical parenting. I also think the author is having an identity crisis, which is apparent not only in her writing but also in some of her interviews that I've found online. She did an interview with Fox radio where the radio hosts used her as an example of how brutal Islam is and how America is the savior, and she played into it (seemingly with some uncertainty, but still). It doesn't seem that she was trying to denigrate Muslims but she has to be firm about not being used by the extremely anti-Islam propaganda machine that is Fox. These are the kinds of racist and essentialist tropes in the media that contribute to hate speech and hate crime in the general population against Muslims and people who even appear to be Muslim. It's not going to help sell books no matter what her agent or manager tells her. My main recommendation to the author (I heard she's working on a second book) is to GET A GOOD EDITOR who can do a close reading of her work and help her settle on a fluid tone, style and fix her sentences and grammar. This is not a complete condemnation of her writing, but very few people, even top authors, are able to submit first drafts that are perfect. This was clearly an unedited first draft, submitted in a time crunch, that went straight from word processor to print. There were way too

many errors in the book - the isolated and unresolved chapter/incident with the Jamaicans, the dialogue with her therapist/hypnotist[?] in italics, the sudden use of texting lingo [i.e., 'U' and 'cuz'], the abrupt jump in the story from her life at 16 living with her in laws to the last chapter where she's in America working to support her in laws, and the list goes on. That last chapter in particular seems as if it was written with a deadline looming and/or just to get the project over with. After finishing the book I would have had no idea from the writing itself how she made it to America and what followed her divorce, had I not read her interviews online. The pictures tacked on to the end of the book have Facebook like captions, and it seems she tried to tell the missing parts of the story with her captions rather than detail them in the book itself. I hope she figures it all out for her second book because she does have storytelling skills. She can definitely tell a narrative, however choppy and flawed it is. As a final recommendation, it would be wise to stay away from cheesy descriptive sentences and personifications. She isn't at the point yet where she can pull such things off. One example (the first one I could find flipping through right now, but there are many others): "Now the sun lowers his head and bows to the oncoming darkness with deference, ending one day and beginning another." (p. 250). And that isn't even the most egregious example that I can think of. Perhaps it's a personal preference or perhaps some writer's workshop or creative writing classes are in order? With all of the above said, the book is a page-turner for at least the first half of the book, and that for 99 cents on Kindle, so I would recommend it to someone who is willing to overlook the aforementioned flaws and deal with the rather unsatisfying, incomprehensible (apparently she's describing a phone conversation with her mom in that last paragraph) and abrupt ending.

the story was ok at the beginning but suddenly started jumping around in time. Then someone else was talking or narrating but we never found out who or why. At one point it appeared to be a piece of a transcript from an age regression hypnosis session. But again no explanation for this. Over all her life was pretty awful. I think I kept reading to try to find out who this other person was and why were they asking her to relive parts of her life and why would they do an age regression. But this was never answered. At roughly 63% every time the word "you" appeared it suddenly became "u" and "you're" and "your" became "ur". that was very annoying. I can't really recommend this one. She says she is working on a second one, but I won't be reading it.

The story is about a very rebellious teen, Luky, who really hates her Bangladesh heritage and wants desperately to be like the English girls in London. She is teased by some of the English girls for the cultural foods that her mother cooks and how her family dresses. Unfortunately, she becomes very

rebellious and really mean to her younger brothers and sisters. She is out of control and her parents are trying to protect her from her own self destructive behavior. They want her to get an education and have a better life than they have, for ex. her dad tells her that if she studies hard, she could even be a doctor. But she resents them and runs away at 14. She is Bangladesh and wants to be like all the other girls from England. Her younger sister, Salena, is the one who has a good heart and tries her best to help her mother out and also takes the brunt of the punishment for Luky. I cannot recommend this book because the swear words are atrocious and I feel that The story could have been told without all the explicit language. This girl had a mom and dad who loved her but they were at their wits end to understand how to deal with her wild behavior. The stealing, sneaking around, lies etc. All came to a head when the parents thought by marrying her off at 16 she would calm down. Some would think this young girl could have benefited from counselling with a social worker or a psychiatrist. There really is a sickness within her. She is never happy, always angry and blames other people for her troubles, instead of taking responsibility for her own actions. It seems that the author has married a white man who traces his ancestry back to the Civil War. She is very proud of this- I am not sure why. It must have to do with her obsession to be white and live in the more liberal culture of the USA and England? I think it was a total shame the way she shows photos of her parent's home and mocks them for their cultural way of decorating. I feel sorry for the parents that still have to put up with her degrading treatment after all these years. Terrible Story.

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