

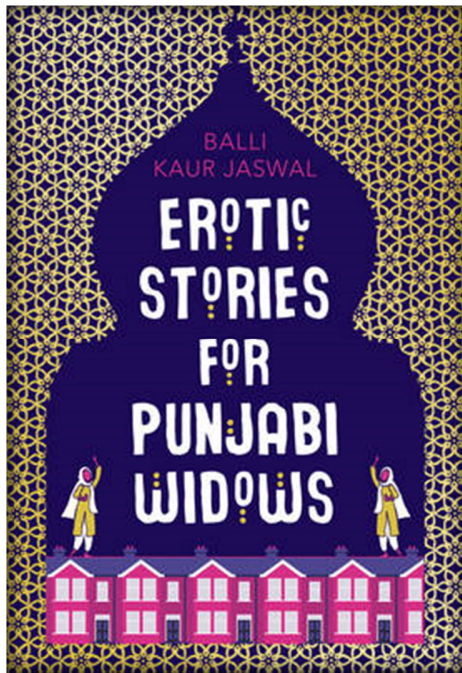


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HarperCollinsPublishers

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Erotic Stories For Punjabi Widows** by Balli Kaur Jaswal

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Deborah Mika

This is a story of many parts. There are the erotic stories told by the Punjabi widows as the title suggests. Who knew old ladies had such interesting tales to tell? The effect they have on their community and not just sexual outcomes.

There is a mystery or two, a fire, a romance and an integral battle of the sexes all in this one book.

***What a fascinating and enjoyable read.** To think you could go to a writing and learning English group and gain so much from it! I wish the classes I have been to were as interesting and challenging as this group*

appears.

I loved this book and if you don't mind the odd erotic story then this book is definitely worth reading.

I shall look out for more by this author as she definitely packs a lot into one story.

Angie Rhodes

***Words cannot describe how much I loved this book,** but I will try, so here goes.*

Nikki is a good Punjabi girl who takes a job as a creative writer at her local temple. Her dreams are to teach the women how to write stories, but first to her horror, she has to teach them to write!

All of the women are widows, women who have lived in the shadows of their

families for long enough and now decide it is their time to shine. They open up to each other and to Nikki. As the lessons begin to grow, so does the friendship between the women and the stories they tell are enough to make you blush! It is hilarious, touching, tender, and sad and you will love it.

As tradition meets modern and East meets West, you will meet the widows and you will hope there will be a second book about the Punjabi Widows.

Pearl Wilson

Addictive, funny yet serious undertones which will have you thinking about this book long after the last page is reached. A brilliant read throughout.

The main character is Nikki a Muslim girl who has strayed away from the life she was born into. When we first meet her, she accepts she is a disappointment to her family and I could feel her pain as she tries her best to hide from their constant criticisms especially when it comes to her job and the fact she has left home before marriage. But soon Nikki has got a new job but not quite the job she was expecting. I loved Nikki as a character as she clearly cared for those she has been given the job of teaching the very precious gift of reading and writing. Yet as she teaches the women she meets at the class which is held in the temple she has many bad memories from, she is soon learning so much more from her students, and maybe the life she was born into does hold something special after all.

The story was intriguing and so very addictive, as though the characters were separate and they had indeed their own story to tell yet when they were brought together in the classroom that was when the fun started. Yet though a close religion, the author opened up to me how the dark side was still there holding on tight to the people of this very private place of worship. The domineering side was hard for me to understand and accept yet as I read not only Nikki's story the story of the other characters though showing a face of courage to the outside world yet when they reached home and the door was shut only then they allowed themselves to fall apart and let their pain out. But soon the hand of friendship was soon giving those around them a strength they could only dream of having.

The book had many comedy moments, especially when it came to Nikki and her unique look at life.

You can follow Pearl on Twitter: @petraz38

Donna Smith

A great story of Punjabi widows in the west. These woman still have thoughts, feelings and desires despite being widowed.

This book definitely has an interesting title. It peaked my interest and that of people I spoke with, raising eyebrows and sniggers at the same time. Being a young widow myself I was intrigued as to what this book could possibly tell me. I felt that the book was well set out, well-paced in its prose and storytelling, and I felt that the characters were well represented in the story. It does a good job of indicating what the Punjabi culture and communities are like within the western world. The lead character Nikki is westernised in her thinking whilst the rest of the characters are constantly reminding her of the traditional values. I really liked the way the book discussed the loneliness of widowhood.

Regardless of your age, and the belief that as a widow you are expected to “forget” all basic human feelings, your life is assumed as over by all those around you but it doesn’t work that way. Thoughts, feelings and emotions are still there living. I loved the idea that these women wanted to write these stories; that they gained a voice from them; that their community “grew” because of them. I like how these women empowered others to speak out for their needs. The twist in the story was an interesting one, illustrating how a community can cover up, through fear and bullying, a serious and nasty situation. Overall, a good book, quite chick-lit and ending a little cleanly and succinctly for me.

Alison Battye

Titillating, but not captivating, thought-provoking, but not fascinating. Altogether a bit unsatisfying... *This was a fairly light, entertaining read, but I came away feeling a bit unsatisfied! There are serious issues here: the isolating effects of migration; everyday sexism and racism; intimidation and secrecy within a community; and yet this novel still seems to lack depth. I found the dialogue awkward, the characters unconvincing, and the storyline overdone. There was a lack of descriptive richness: I like to be delighted, and yes, titillated, by the quality of the writing, and this did not tickle my fancy. Whilst I applaud the writer's tackling this subject, I felt it just could have been better: more emotionally complex, more subtle, and more immersive. It's a good read, but not a great read.*

Sharon Wood

Nikki, a young modern British Punjabi woman has distanced herself from her traditional upbringing and culture. Applying to teach creative writing to a group of older Punjabi women at the community centre in Southall, she is shocked to find the level of illiteracy and their lives lived in the shadows of their menfolk, but also increasingly surprised at their tales of sex and intimacy, real or imagined, and the secrets of the community that they keep.

This is a tale of East meets West and the divisions that exist, not only between cultures, but also between generations. The title is undoubtedly the first thing to grab attention but the book turns out to be humorous and sensitive with well described characters. It sheds light on many of the issues today - division, prejudices, closed communities and a continuance of cultural beliefs versus modern day law.

I enjoyed the book a great deal and was interested to learn about the Punjabi traditions and their experience of life in an often unwelcoming Britain. *The book grew from a tale of community life into solving a whodunnit and ultimately all of the women in the story finding strength and standing up to some of the injustices they faced. The erotic stories were quite cheeky too!*

Farah Alam

The book was very interesting and really highlighted the importance of allowing a women to embrace independence is whatever way she wants to regardless of cultural norms suggesting otherwise. *I'm not sure if I liked the protagonist of this story but it was nice to see how all the women generally developing as more independent people.*

Katie Young

A fun East meets West novel with some real laugh out loud moments.

Although this book does address some serious issues immigrants may face, it is a really enjoyable read.

Nikki is a modern Punjabi girl struggling to find a direction to her life having dropped out of university, much to her parents' disappointment. When she sees a vacancy for a writing class teacher at the temple she sees it as a chance to further her own editing ambitions. She does not expect to meet a group of feisty

widows with hardly any literacy skills but some very vivid imaginations!

There are some real laugh out loud moments in the widows' stories which made this a thoroughly enjoyable read, only slightly let down by what I felt was a rushed ending.

Edel Waugh

*The story is based around two women, Kulwinder and Nikki. Both have very different personalities but find themselves thrown together when they both work at their local Temple. Nikki is employed by Kulwinder to teach English classes to the ladies there to help them write and gain confidence. What starts of as an English class quickly escalated to erotic story time classes for the older women in the class, kept secret from those outside it, especially the men. **The story was beautiful and tragic and I loved the authors writing style, these characters came alive for me and I could picture their comraderie and fun as a group of women talking and sharing their dreams and lives. A wonderful story!***

Daran

Something Completely Different.

This book was a totally different genre for me, however I found this very unique, informative, erotic Oh! and a great story.

Nikki is a young British woman of Indian descent living in London, she is a bit down, and she's left home to live above a pub, where she also works, dropped out of Uni and blames herself for her dad dying of a heart attack.

She takes a part time role teaching Indian Seek women to read and write English but this turns out to be where the erotic stories are written, the shock is that these women are mainly widows or are of an older generation. There are other underlying parts of the story which enhance the tale, an alleged murder of Nikki's boss's daughter, Nikki's sister and both their boyfriends, the relationship she has with her mum and the local religious people called the brothers.

I really enjoyed this and think that I have learned something from this novel.