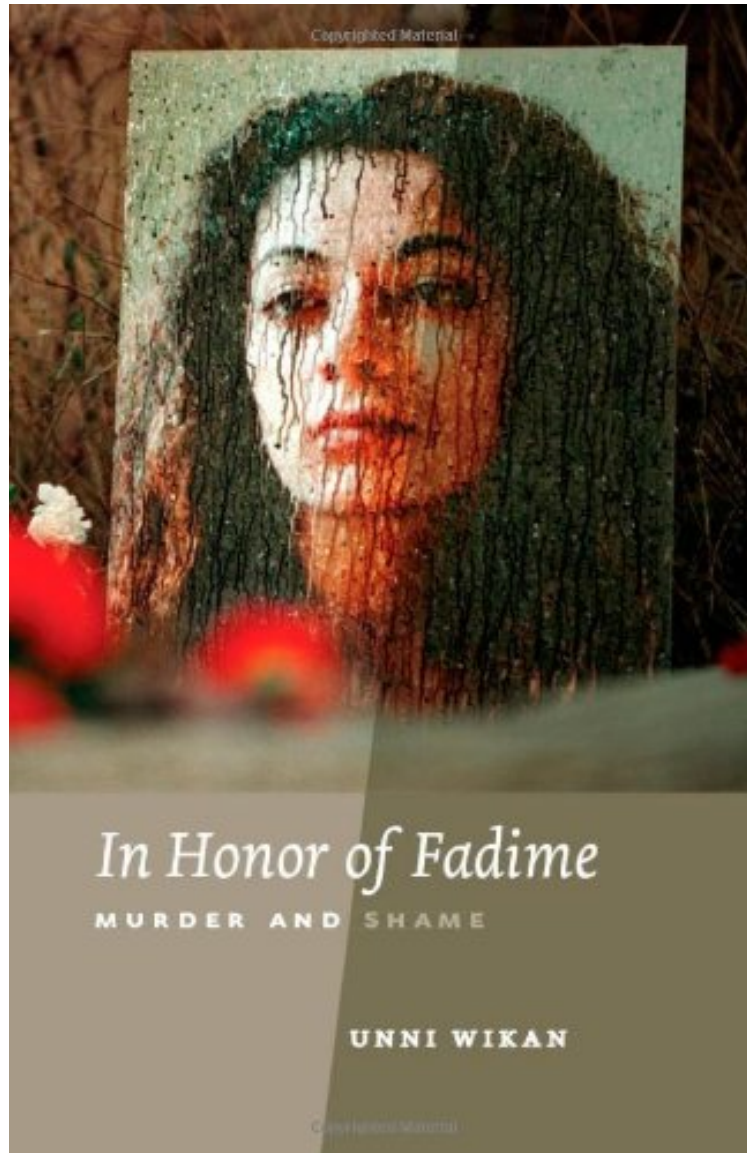


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In Honor of Fadime: Murder and Shame

Unni Wikan

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Unni Wikan : In Honor of Fadime: Murder and Shame before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Honor of Fadime: Murder and Shame:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I think it was a great read. The author provides wonderful examples of how ...By BamaPrincess80I think it was a great read. The author provides wonderful examples of how Honor Killing isn't always the solution. My only problem with this book is that she mentions that Honor Killings can happen in other religions. What she fails to mention is that as a collective, Islam encourages the practice more than the other

religions combined. Although I found this book insightful into a subject that interests me, her "compassion" for the fathers or family members of the victims shocks me. No matter their culture or circumstances they are free thinking human beings and could have made the choice not to murder. People who choose to move to western nations and have their children in those environments should reasonably expect that their child will want to assimilate by choice. This book is a great read if you want a step by step analysis with other examples of one victim of honor killings. I was personally not impressed with what I believed to be liberal overtones of "tolerance" towards people sent to kill family members for daring to be free thinkers in a democracy. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. For some perspective By _()_/It is very easy to label honor killings as a barbaric custom from backwards countries done by the ignorant, but that does nothing to help in understanding why they occur. Unni Wikan presents honor killings as an academic subject from the perspective of a European, namely countries like Sweden and Norway. The first third of the book explores the meaning of honor as it pertains to the cultures which practice honor killings and how it differs from the Western definition. The story of Fadime, an Kurdish girl who falls in love with a Swede and refuses to marry her cousin, is studied as an example of an honor killing in the West; and reasons are presented for why it was done other than the obvious. The book, however, is not a biography of Fadime. Her story is central, but others are also discussed, broken up into bits and mixed all together so there is not one story flowing seamlessly throughout. If you are looking for a straight biography, this is not the right book for you. The author takes great care to emphasize it is not one religion nor one country or culture that practices honor killing, but it is easy to conclude which countries to which the subject of honor killings is a foreign concept so difficult to understand that threats of honor killing are not taken seriously. Conversely, there are parts of the world to which such ideas are well understood. The rules of honor killings, the ties to religion and culture, what alternatives are available and how they are done are discussed. I finished the book more enlightened than when I started. It would make good reading for discussion in a classroom setting. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good for class discussion By Cultural Anthropologist I agree with the previous reviewer, who said "It would make good reading for discussion in a classroom setting." I am planning to assign it to the students in my Middle Eastern Society and Culture course next fall. Wikan's critique of attributing honor killings to culture(s) is due to her opposition to government agencies giving rights to collectivities rather than to individuals, as the law specifies. She doesn't want "culture" to be given practical, political power. But, as a result, she gives up the intellectual, explanatory power of culture. Instead, she attributes honor killings to "tribal society," a more imprecise explanation than culture.

In 2002 young Fadime Sahindal was brutally murdered by her own father. She belonged to a family of Kurdish immigrants who had lived in Sweden for almost two decades. But Fadime's relationship with a man outside of their community had deeply dishonored her family, and only her death could remove the stain. This abhorrent crime shocked the world, and her name soon became a rallying cry in the struggle to combat so-called honor killings.

Unni Wikan puts tough questions to herself and to her readers in this spellbinding, astonishing and courageous account of her personal journey across moral universes. In *Honor of Fadime* is far more than a eulogy; it is the best case study ever written about the way liberal and illiberal moral communities misunderstand and react to each other in Northern Europe. If murder is defined as a wrongful killing, is an honor killing murder? What precisely makes an honor killing wrong if it is an act of collective defense and a last resort to protect a family from humiliating and socially consequential harms inflicted on it by one of its members? This brilliant book takes us far beyond the banality of evil as we arrive at an eye-opening (even if troubling) comprehension of how a morally decent husband and wife come to feel they have no choice but to kill their daughter. --Richard A. Shweder, University of Chicago