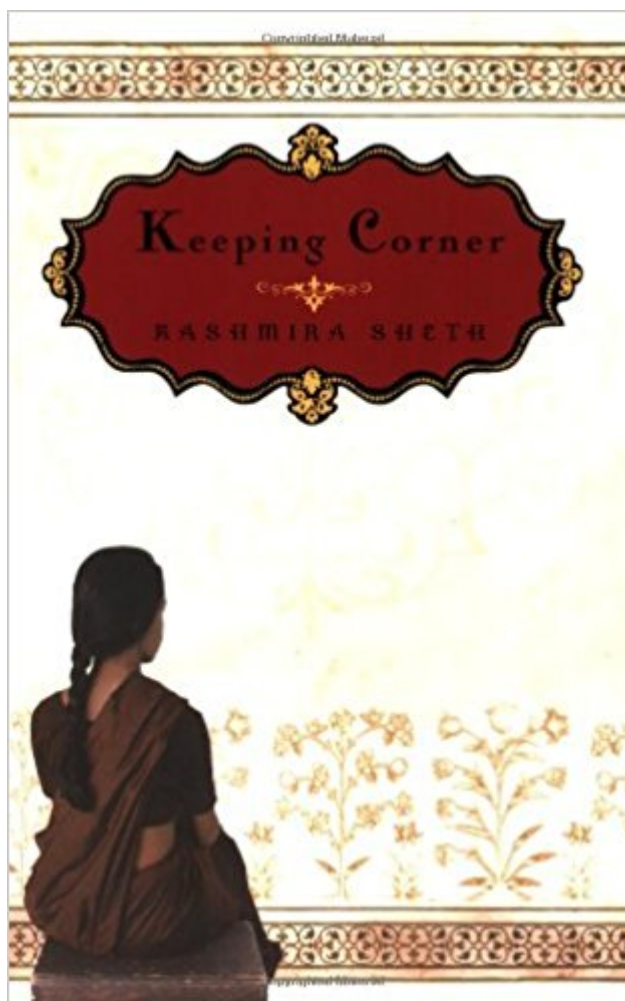


The book was found

Keeping Corner



Synopsis

Ba slipped the gold bangles from my wrists. The gold ones were plain so I didn't mind taking them off, but I loved wearing my milk-glass bangles and the lakkh bracelets. "A widow can't wear bangles," she said. "They are signs of a woman's good fortune. When your husband dies it's over." "What if my good fortune comes back?" "It doesn't." Pretty as a peacock, twelve-year-old Leela had been spoiled all her life. She doesn't care for school and barely marks the growing unrest between the British colonists and her own countrymen. Why should she? Her future has been planned since her engagement at two and marriage at nine. Leela's whole life changes, though, when her husband dies. She's now expected to behave like a proper widow: shaving her head and trading her jewel-toned saris for rough, earth-colored ones. Leela is considered unlucky now, and will have to stay confined to her house for a year-keep corner-in preparation for a life of mourning for a boy she barely knew. When her schoolteacher hears of her fate, she offers Leela lessons at home. For the first time, despite her confinement, Leela opens her eyes to the changing world around her. India is suffering from a severe drought, and farmers are unable to pay taxes to the British. She learns about a new leader of the people, a man named Gandhi, who starts a political movement and practices satyagraha-non-violent protest against the colonists as well as the caste system. The quiet strength of satyagraha may liberate her country. Could she use the same path to liberate herself?

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion; Reprint edition (March 17, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786838604

ISBN-13: 978-0786838608

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #197,304 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Kashmira Sheth was inspired to write her first novel, *Blue Jasmine*, by her own experiences as a

teenager who moved from India to the United States. The book went on to win an Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award. Kashmira is also the author of the young adult book, *Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet*. Kashmira lives in Madison, Wisconsin with her family.

This is the story of Leela who is a young girl (12) in India at the time of the initial rise of Gandhi. She is about to be married and enjoys the pleasures of her caste and is spoiled by her parents. Her cares focus mostly on new bangles and clothes. When her husband dies she becomes a widow and has a difficult time adjusting to the restrictions that this places on her life- dull clothes, no jewelry, shorn head and restrictions to her family home for a year. Her brother helps her by finding a teacher for her so that she can continue her education at home and she slowly blossoms into awareness of the possibilities in life and the changes in the world around her. I found the cultural and historical aspects of the book fascinating and it was interesting to see Leela grow and change over time. This would be a great young adult book to introduce some history and customs of India.

Amazing find . I am an Indian immigrant and was able to really have my 11 yr daughter who is born and brought up here have a sense of India and its customs before and how we have come such a long way . I enjoyed reading it myself

information in this book is very enlightening.

Excellent cover to cover! I loved the insight into the culture and the viewpoint from the young girl. So eye opening! Plus I learned more about India. Highly recommend!!! My teenage daughter read it as well and LOVED it. We discussed it over an Indian meal!

This is the best book I have read in a long time and getting to know the Indian culture and traditions, I have learned so much. Highly recommended.

Poignant depiction of suffering caused by the inherent injustices of society and the strength of one very young girl to make the best of her situation. I read it in one sitting.

After returning home from a months' long visit to India, our one Granddaughter brought over a copy of this book, "Keeping Corner" for us to read. She had checked it out from her school library. Reading this book really took us back to how it REALLY is in India. Very seldom does one get out of

their Caste system beliefs. This book was 100% about what we learned. After reading this book, I bought a copy from .com for another granddaughter. This book has been passed on to several generations within our family for reading enrichment. A Wonderful, true, reading experience to be enjoyed by all ages.

This book had a lot of history and the distionary behind it was very helpful. There was alot of insight into their culture I enjoyed.

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