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## Veiled Sentiments (Honor and Poetry In A Bedouin Society)

*Lila Abu-Lughod*

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**Lila Abu-Lughod : Veiled Sentiments (Honor and Poetry In A Bedouin Society)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Veiled Sentiments (Honor and Poetry In A Bedouin Society):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Stunning VoiceBy Robert E. CookI write thrillers and have a protagonist in Morocco and a Bedouin woman in Spain; I'd like the Bedouin to be a voice of Muslim feminism. When I started to look into feminism in Islam, Abu-Luhod's title caught my eye and I finally ordered the paperback after finding neither Kindle edition nor even a "Read inside". It is copyrighted in 1986, so I suppose that explains the lack of 'modern' reading tools. I was simply stunned at the quality of her writing and the flow of her prose. She is a seriously good writer.Abu-Lughod spent nearly two years embedded in a Bedouin village in Egypt, studying poetry and the community of women that made up such a large part of the social structure of the village. Her observations about social customs and the traditions that underlie them is a marvelous read. She may not describe well the modern Bedouin woman as she has evolved over the past twenty-five years since publication of Veiled Sentiments, but her thinking is timeless and important.Robert Cook[...]7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Tremendous InsightBy AALila Abu Lughod, an Arab American woman, lived among the Awlad Ali tribes of the North West of Egypt for two years. Veiled Sentiments is the book she wrote on the lives and poetry of Awlad Ali. Abu Lughod field work was clearly not carried out from a "superior" stance; she sympathized with her subjects and dealt with them as equal human beings rather than inferior specimen or cultures. Abu Lughod attitude, intelligence, training and tremendous analytical ability helped her in developing great insight and understanding of this fascinating culture.Abu Lughod analysis of concepts such as "hishma" was truly incisive and shed a great deal of light on the

nature of modesty between women and men and amongst men and women. The analysis seems to explain behaviors and norms witnessed elsewhere in Egypt and indeed other parts of the Middle East. An important thesis of Abu Lughod is that the Awlad Ali people often communicated in very conservative and modest way directly through words; they only said what was proper and fitted the norms. Yet a second mode of communication far more true and expressive was found in their little songs or poems. Abu Lughod discussed gender relation amongst Awlad Ali at length and the relationship between women and the families of their husbands and the society at large. I really enjoyed this book and would highly recommend it. For an excellent work on veiling and gender issues, I would recommend Leila Ahmed's *Women Gender in Islam*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Customer College reading material, delivered as promised.

Analysis from anthropological point of view, of poetry in the indigenous tribes of North Africa.