

## SHEILA FLAHERTY

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### Praise for “East of Mecca”

“*East of Mecca* offers a deeply engaging narrative on the brutality waged against women and the bonds that unite them. The vivid and powerful scenes illuminating this story will stay with you.”

—**David Finch, author of New York Times bestseller *The Journal of Best Practices: A Memoir of Marriage, Asperger Syndrome, and One Man's Quest to Be a Better Husband***

“Brilliantly captures the everlasting ties of sisterhood, the struggle of the forsaken, and a mother's resolve to protect her family in the face of grave danger. If you're somehow able to set this book down, it will probably take you a moment to remember you're not actually living the story.”

—**Kristen Finch, Life Coach**

“*East of Mecca* is an elegant balance of cultural nuance and moral inquiry, well-told with precise detail and emotional impact. It is an important story for our time.”

—**Mark Bryan, founding member of Oprah Winfrey's Change Your Life team.**

“This is an important story that is written so well that you won't be able to turn off your bedside lamp until you've turned the last page. Sarah is a woman that most of us can relate to and will feel a kinship with as she faces the many challenges that come with being a woman in Saudi Arabia.”

—**Janeen Halliwell, Founder & Director of We Move Forward International Women's Day Conference**

“This would make an excellent companion piece to *A HOLOGRAM FOR THE KING*. But while Eggers novel highlights the absurdities of life in a conservative, oil rich kingdom, Flaherty deals with the horrors of a dogma that considers women little more than property. The story is riveting, and Flaherty's prose is elegant and powerful. This is definitely a book not to miss.”

—**Eric Diekhans, Screen Writer and Television Producer**

“This is a cautionary tale of good intentions gone wrong, of the skewed power dynamics that couples are likely to confront, both within and outside their home, if they choose to pursue the American dream overseas in a society that denies women basic human rights.”

—**Mary Trouille, Professor of Women's Studies, Illinois State University**

“Sheila Flaherty is a gifted writer. Her compassionate words paint the picture and touch the reader's heart. Her descriptive language and knowledge of the country is convincing and believable. The brutality also forces the reader to look closely at their own beliefs and search for the truth of Godly love. This message makes the book a must read!”

—**Carl Ray Copeland, Retired Haltom H.S. Football Coach, Texas**

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“It is the kind of book you have to talk about once you're done, so you'll bug your friends to read it, you'll make your book club pick it.”

—**Ellen Maddy**

“Flaherty captures the exotic magic of the Middle East and with vivid imagery, transports the reader to this faraway land where you can almost feel the oppression of the desert heat and the extremist regime. Incredible story that is beautifully written!!”

—**Diane Moore**

“Every detail, characterization, plight, physical and psychological, rings true. Written in first-person, Sarah holds the reader close while she journeys through the maze of Saudi, Ocmara, family relationships and feminism, hers and Saudi women's.”

—**Anne Lamas**

“East of Mecca will capture your interest and heart within ten minutes. Just be ready to stay up late reading.”

—**Zazapen, reader on Goodreads.com**

“This is a story for both men and women -- especially those who want to explore the underbelly of a sex-separate society as it goes about its daily routines.”

—**Paul Fields, Retired Attorney**

“This book has changed the way I look at woman garbed in the traditional dress of the Middle East. The characters still linger in my consciousness, the sign of a great piece of writing.”

—**Sarah Thurber, Managing Partner, FourSight LLC**

“This was a FABULOUS book!! It was difficult to put down, the author draws you in and doesn't let go! My Book Club read this and the author, Sheila Flaherty Skyped in with us to discuss the book! She loves to connect with her readers! Buy this book ASAP!!!!”

—**Tracy L. Cook**

“I will await the movie version, as in addition to great dramatic conflict, this is also a highly visual, even cinematographically, compelling work.”

—**Brian Smolens**

“East of Mecca is a beautifully written story! From page one I was hooked.

—**Jason Sarna, author of *Night Burger***

“Could not put this book down, the story is fascinating. It's been many years since I stayed up half the night reading but this one did that. I felt like I was living the part and felt withdrawal when the book ended.”

—**Amazon Customer**

“The account written about in East of Mecca is moving and draws you into the lives of the characters. It is well written and has an important message to convey to its readers.”

—**Michael Wall, CPA**

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“I could not put this book down! It was gut-wrenching, haunting, enlightening, angering, thought provoking, exciting, sad, loving and more.....a compelling "read" that I am highly recommending to everyone!”

—**Amazon Customer**

“Very interesting book...I finished it near 3 in the morning - could not stop. If I had seen this fifteen years ago, I would have thought it a nice story but nothing like reality. But after reading more about the Saudi culture and traditions including the religious police and honor killings and intolerance, I see where most of the incidents could have been lifted out of a news report or hospital entries.”

—**K. S. Rude, Shamanic Practitioner, Environmental Advocate, Author**

“Written in a first person perspective point of view, the main character tells her unique story of living in an Islamic country, where women are treated much, much differently than they are in the United States.”

—**Wayne Reinagel, reader on Goodreads.com**

“Sheila did a wonderful job of portraying the plight of victimized women in a Saudi Arabian company town without attacking religion but by uncovering the true cause of the disparity. Well written and thought provoking.”

—**Melissa Heisler, Stress Reduction Expert, Author**