



Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India

By Amana Fontanella-Khan

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A triumphant portrait of a fiery sisterhood changing the lives of India's women.

In Uttar Pradesh—known as the "badlands" of India—a woman's life is not entirely her own. This is one explanation for how Sheelu, a seventeen-year-old girl, ended up in jail after fleeing her service in the home of a powerful local legislator. In a region plagued by corruption, an incident like this might have gone unnoticed—except that it captured the attention of Sampat Pal, leader of India's infamous Gulabi (Pink) Gang.

Poor and illiterate, married off around the age of twelve, pregnant with her first child at fifteen, and prohibited from attending school, Sampat Pal has risen to become the courageous commander and chief of a women's brigade numbering in the tens of thousands. Uniformed in pink saris and carrying pink batons, they aim to intervene wherever other women are victims of abuse or injustice. Joined in her struggle by Babuji, a sensitive man whose intellectualism complements her innate sense of justice, and by a host of passionate field commanders, Sampat Pal has confronted policemen and gangsters, officiated love marriages, and empowered women to become financially independent.

In a country where women's rights struggle to keep up with rapid modernization, the story of Sampat Pal and her Pink Gang illuminates the thrilling possibilities of female grassroots activism.

10 illustrations

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Editorial Review

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In this prescient look at contemporary Indian society, Mumbai-based Fontanella-Khan follows the case of a young woman arrested on charges of theft who claims she was, in fact, raped by her accuser. Her salvation comes at the hands of a basically illiterate former child bride who is the de facto leader of a grassroots organization of women, the Pink Gang. These primarily poor women in their distinctive saris bring attention to abuses of power on the part of elected officials, private individuals, and the police. They defend the victim and make her a cause célèbre, and soon her case rivets the nation. This story alone makes this title appealing, but Fontanella-Khan also peels back the layers of these women's lives, revealing private struggles and the insidious manner in which politics and corruption are woven into daily Indian life in a society with no regard for personal rights and a disastrously dysfunctional legal system. Fontanella-Khan masterfully exposes the complications of Indian life and the ongoing struggle for women to be heard. --Colleen Mondor

Review

"A call to women everywhere to take the world into your hands, to rise and resist." (Eve Ensler, author of *The Vagina Monologues* and *In the Body of the World*)

"A fine tribute to a remarkable woman, a close look at an India that still exists beneath the economic boom of recent years, and a rousing reminder that formidable will can make a difference." (The New Republic)

"A nuanced humanizing portrait of a teenage-mother-turned-social-crusader who is loud, boastful and blessed with a wicked sense of humor." (San Francisco Chronicle)

"A fascinating portrait of a country in flux." (New Statesman)

"Powerful. . . . draws the reader in." (Financial Times)

"Riveting, inspiring, and relevant.... A fast-paced, powerful, and sympathetic portrait of a victim and her subaltern champion in the dusty heart of northern India." (Meenakshi Venkat - New York Journal of Books)

"Fontanella-Khan brings a novelist's pacing to a timely page-turner." (Publishers Weekly)

About the Author

Amana Fontanella-Khan is a contributor to *Slate*, the *Daily Beast*, the *New York Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*, and was formerly a contributing editor at *Vogue India*. Previously based in Mumbai, she now lives in Brussels.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louetta Cantrell:

This book *Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India* to be one of several books this best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You

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Andrea Whitt:

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Evan Miller:

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the time or they will get lots of stress from both way of life and work. So , when we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the book you have read is Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India.

Pamela Stanley:

This Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it information accurately using great coordinate word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with wonderful delivering sentences. Having Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this publication already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt which?

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