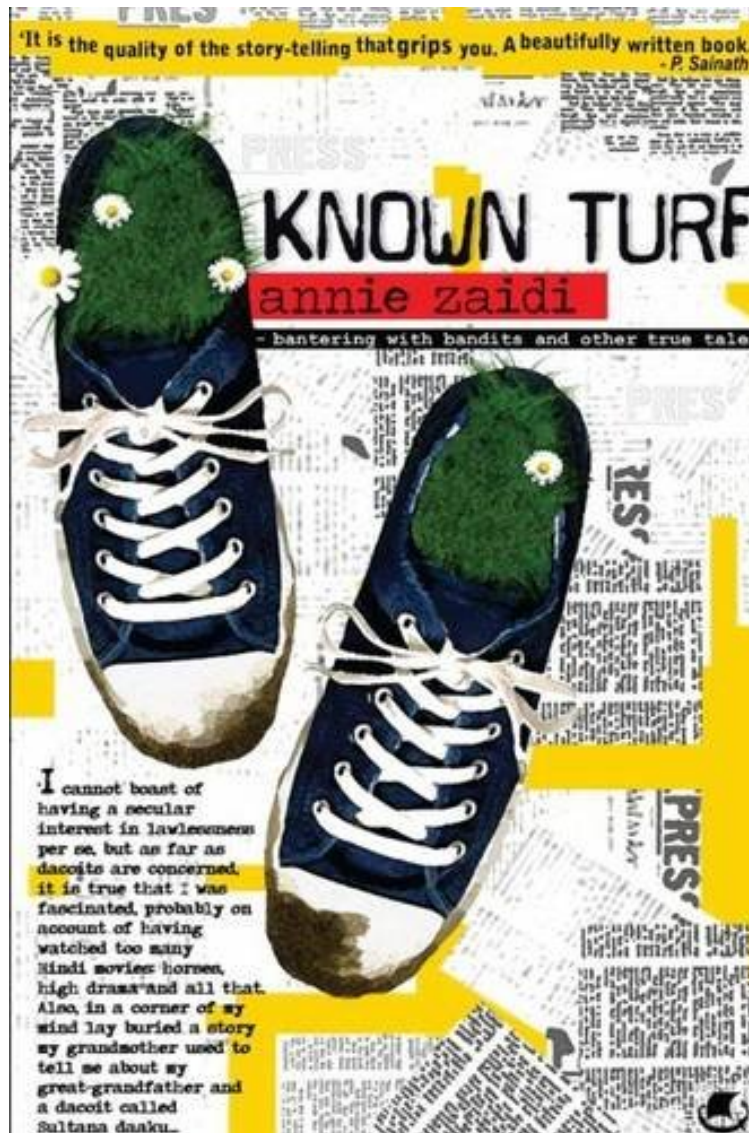


[Get free] Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales

Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales

Annie Zaidi

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Annie Zaidi : Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. first hand report of IndiaBy CustomerA book about India, written for Indians. Anne has written a superlative book that is descriptive and evocative. This is a collection of essays that covers a wide range of topics - bandits in the Chambal valley, the Muslim identity, caste politics in Punjab, hunger and female foeticide.. written in a hard-hitting unflinching style that remains optimistic. I couldn't read i at one go, having

to stop often and think about what was written. And often I was so absorbed in the writing that looking around me I would feel a little displaced - hallmark of a good writer who takes you within the world contained in the pages. Anne's descriptions of traveling unreserved in train compartments will draw a laugh of recognition from anyone who has experienced something that is very Indian - and her insights will make you look at those experiences through a different lens. The essays are interspersed with charming personal anecdotes - the journalist's fondness for chai, for instance. The book is clearly written with feeling, and a deep understanding of northern India. Highly recommend.

Known Turf is a collection of essays that slides between genres, moving from reportage to travel to memoir and back. The author recounts her experiences as a reporter covering stories as diverse as the decline of the dacoit in Chambal, hunger, female foeticide, and the seeming resurgence of Sufism in Punjab. She goes on to explore starvation, particularly amongst a primitive tribal community in Madhya Pradesh and weavers in Uttar Pradesh, and the ugly failures that permit such extremes of hunger in a nation that is more than able to feed itself. The discovery of desperate poverty in Punjab comes pegged to an explosive caste dynamic that has caused much religious controversy in recent times. The book is unflinching as it makes the connections between economic, crippling social disempowerment and the moral pressures that make for a society where millions of girls are killed at, or before, birth. However it is the stories of humble folk tortured by hunger, discriminated against for reasons of caste, or gender that linger.

"A beautifully written book, Annie Zaidi tells these stories from different parts of India with compassion, detail and importantly, with a gentle humour. The reports and conversations are very well spaced. Often, the very funny conversations, which so well capture the flavour of non-metro India, set you up for a tale of sudden brutality. The stories on dalits in the Punjab easily rank amongst the best done on the subject. This author sketches the personality of her subjects with warmth and sympathy and humour, but minus the cliché that often make such stories a heavy read. The stories span a massive range from little bus and road journeys with engaging portraits, to child hunger, debt, bondage, untouchability, religious tension and conflict and crimes against women. Above all, it is the quality of the story-telling that grips you. --P. Sainath" Annie Zaidi combines a reporter's on-the-spot perception and a writer's reflection and language to etch interesting, nuanced portraits of that half-mythical being in the throes of constant change: contemporary India." --Tabish Khair About the Author Annie Zaidi's first collection of love poems, *Crush*, was published in 2007. Her work has been anthologized in *21 under 40*, a collection of short stories. She is a professional journalist and lives in Mumbai.