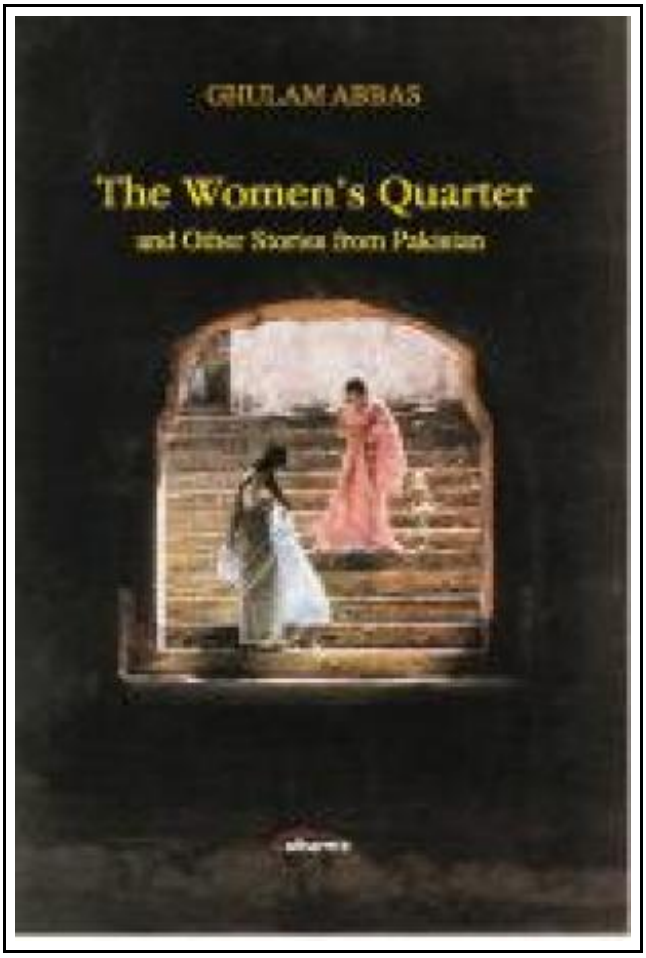
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# THE WOMEN'S QUARTER AND OTHER STORIES FROM PAKISTAN

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Alhamra. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. 1st Edition. The Room with the Blue Light It was a small room on the third floor, with a blue light that you could see from the street. It vaguely reminded you of one of those air-conditioned carriages that the railway people tag on to the trains in summer, giving them such poetical names as Silver Paradise or Summer Dream. There were just the two of them in that room. The rainy season was almost but not quite over and those who lived in the tiny flats and even tinier houses of the neighbourhood were at last beginning to be rid of the stench, perspiration and humidity of summer. Evenings had begun to get cool, but there were still insects which flew into the room, attracted by the light, a sure sign that it might rain some more. This is exactly how Najma used to part her hair, the young man said, nearly as far as the back of the head. She learnt it from a Bengali woman. Nasreen did not answer. She sat in front of the dresser in which she could see a faint blue reflection of her face. She was combing her hair as most women do before going to bed. The man lay next to her, looking comfortable, face down on the divan. His silk shirt and khaki cotton trousers looked badly wrinkled. He waited for her to say something, but when she didnt, he began to talk again, Sometimes Najmi would make a strand of hair curl up and dangle in front of her face. It would look lovely against her pink cheeks. Nasreens face showed momentary annoyance but she did not speak. She was thinking, what kind of a man was this who had...

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