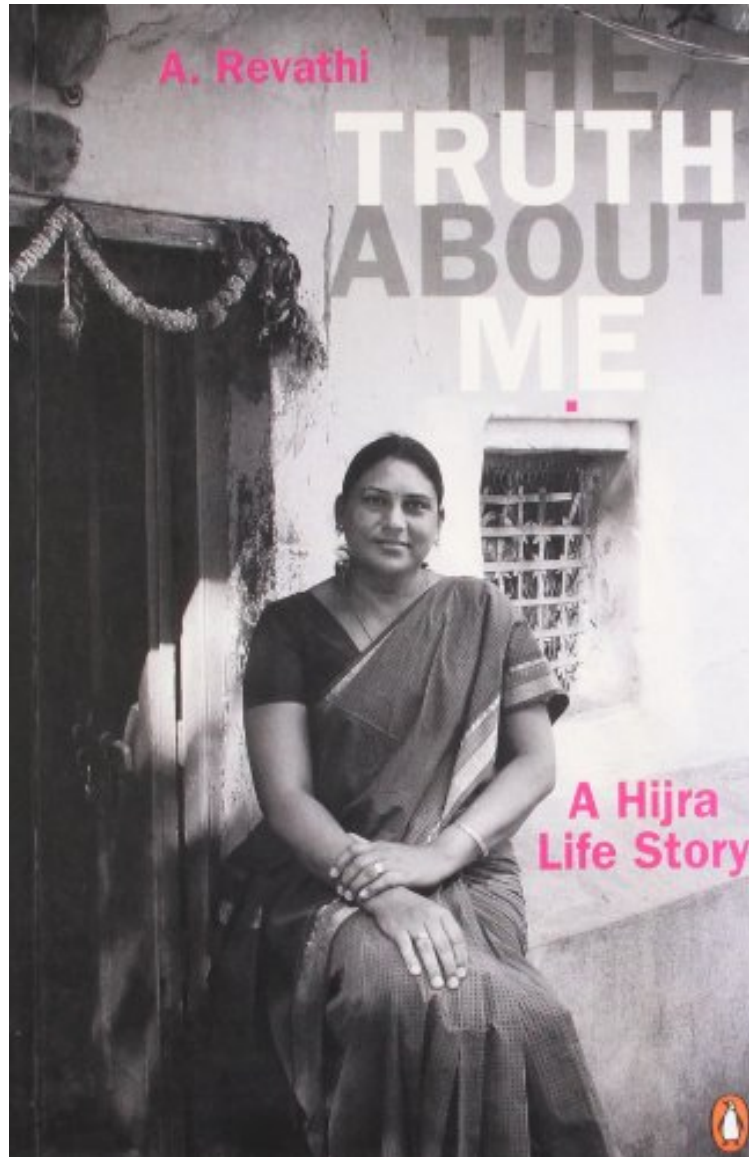


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## Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story

*A. Revathi, V. Geetha*

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**A. Revathi, V. Geetha : Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Truth about Me: A Hijra Life Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent read!By Neil HajbaAn excellent book written by a hijra- detailing her life pre and post operation as well as other aspects of transgender life in India. My only complaint is I wish that the book contained a glossary at the back of the book containing/listing the foreign terms scattered

throughout the text....it would've helped to further understand the writer and the context of certain passages.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must read if you want to understand the real life of India's official Third SexBy Paul G. JosephAn unusual book, one written based on first hand experience. Reading it, I was very impressed at how brave people like Revathi are, even if at some level, they have little or no choice but to do what they do. India is one of the few countries that officially (census records) recognizes a "third gender" and this leads to the wrong impression that hijira's are treated fairly and respectfully in Indian society. After reading this book, I learned that nothing could be further than the truth--hijira's in India are severely maltreated and brutalized, and regularly exploited by both police and criminals as well as your petty common-garden variety, married man with "alternate proclivities." I have personally visited the Nazi death camps of Chelmno, Belzec, Sobhibhor, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and have read extensively on these. After reading Revathi's life story I realized that IF I had to choose between being a hijira in India or as someone who was going to be killed in one of these death camps, I know I would choose the death camps!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy BegumInteresting quick read

We got stared at a lot. People asked out loudly some out of curiosity, others out of malice whether we were men or women or number nines or devadasis. Several men made bold to touch us, on our backs, on our shoulders. Some attempted to grab our breasts. Original or duplicate? they shouted and hooted. At such moments I felt despair and wondered if there would ever be a way for us to live with dignity and make a decent living. Revathi was born a boy, but felt and behaved like a girl. In telling her life story, Revathi evokes marvellously the deep unease of being in the wrong body that plagued her from childhood. To be true to herself, to escape the constant violence visited upon her by her family and community, the village-born Revathi ran away to Delhi to join a house of hijras. Her life became an incredible series of dangerous physical and emotional journeys to become a woman and to find love. The Truth about Me is the unflinchingly courageous and moving autobiography of a hijra who fought ridicule, persecution and violence both within her home and outside to find a life of dignity.

About the AuthorA. Revathi is a writer, actor and activist based in Bangalore. She works with Sangama, a sexuality minorities human rights organization for individuals oppressed due to their sexual preference. She is the author of Unarvum Uruvamum (Feelings of the Entire Body); and her autobiography, The Truth about Me, is the first of its kind in English from a member of the hijra community. V. Geetha is a writer, translator, social historian and activist. She has been active in the Indian women s movement since 1988, and has written widely, both in Tamil and English, on gender, popular culture, caste, and politics of Tamil Nadu.