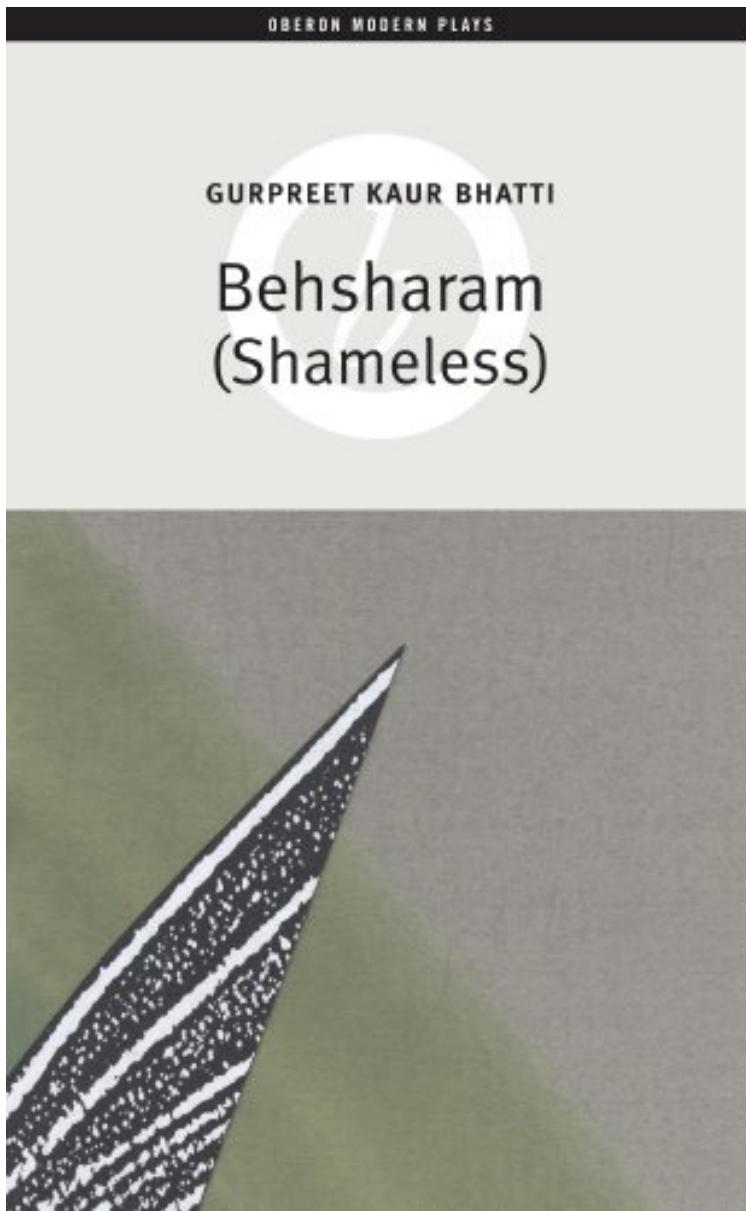


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Behsharam (Shameless) (Oberon Modern Plays)

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti
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Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti : Behsharam (Shameless) (Oberon Modern Plays) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behsharam (Shameless) (Oberon Modern Plays):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A powerful look at Indian life in the UKBy Michael J. Mazza"Behsharam (Shameless)," by Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, is a play that looks at the lives of an Indian family living in the United Kingdom. The opening pages of the book version note that the play was first performed in the UK in 2001.

The back cover notes that Bhatti has written for television and radio, and that "Behsharam" is her first play. The play opens in 1998 with Jaspal, a young Indian woman, doing her cabaret act--a sort of Karen Carpenter tribute/impersonation. Her sister Sati comes to visit her. With the third scene, the time frame shifts to 1994, where we learn more of the sister's dysfunctional 3-generation family. "Behsharam" is a fascinating and moving play. An interracial Black/Indian romance is an important element in the play; the dialogue also deals with Black/Indian relations in the UK on a broader level. One character is a frustrated poet, and his situation is an interesting counterpoint to Jaspal's artistic aspirations. Although the dysfunctional family element gets a bit shrill at times, ultimately I found this material very effective. This play is a solid exploration of creativity, the cult of celebrity, family dynamics, gender issues, and multiethnic life in the UK.

Two daughters, two mothers, one father, a cardboard cut-out and a foul-mouthed granny ; a household at war with itself, and a family which will do anything to protect its ; secrets. Behsharam (Shameless) follows second generation sisters, Jaspal and Sati, through the fantasies, dysfunctions and obsessions of their extraordinary extended family. Set in Birmingham, this is a bold, disturbing and at times hilarious exploration of the British Asian experience.

About the Author Gurpreet Bhatti's Behsharam (Shameless), also published by Oberon, received critical acclaim, and she is currently under commission to Kali Theatre, Maya Productions and the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester (UK).