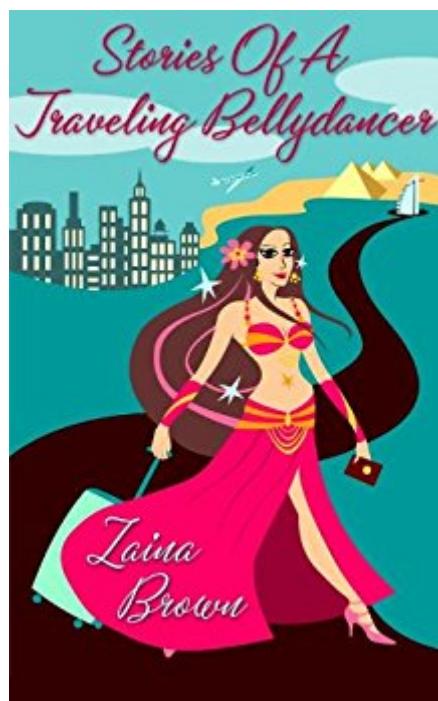


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# Stories Of A Traveling Bellydancer



## **Synopsis**

Zaina, a popular New York City based bellydancer, travels to Egypt in 2007 on a trip meant to last for two months. Instead, she remains abroad for several years, working in nightclubs and traveling through Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Mali, India, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana. Speaking directly to the reader with an upbeat tone and unexpected emotional segues, "Stories of a Traveling Bellydancer" describes the thrills and hard knocks of bellydancing overseas. In down-to-earth and often comic narration Zaina lays down her solo travels through remote villages and urban centers. At the same time she provides insights into today's highly charged political and social issues particular to the countries she visits. Discover how a sightseeing adventure evolves into a love story between a young, ambitious Western woman and Arab and African cultures. [www.Facebook.com/StoriesOfATravelingBellydancerTravelingBellydancer](http://www.Facebook.com/StoriesOfATravelingBellydancerTravelingBellydancer) in India - DOCUMENTARY <https://vimeo.com/147516421>

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## **Customer Reviews**

The subject is very appealing to those interested in bellydance, and this book offers a unique perspective on one woman's career, travels and personal experiences. As far as I can tell, though,

no editor touched this before publication; the result is a disservice to both author and memoir. A little effort to clean up the grammar and clarify the author's meaning (although she has a great gift for storytelling and is very expressive, English is not her native language) would have gone a long way toward giving it professional credibility. You're basically reading the equivalent of a student's first draft...but, once you accept that, there are many interesting anecdotes that give a real feel for her life in the Middle East.

I tore through this entire book in a single day. It's a brisk, light, fun read. You won't really learn anything about belly dance from this book, as the author doesn't really get into the nitty-gritty of her training or how she got her overseas contracts. However, you will learn a LOT about what was going on in the Middle East and Africa around 2006-2007, as the author traveled to numerous countries and details the things she did and saw, the people she met, and what it was like to dance in different environments. Sadly, this book illustrates how hard it is to travel as a woman alone, especially in some parts of the world. She describes some really harrowing street harassment and incidents of just being treated weirdly because she didn't have a man to protect or speak for her. Each chapter of the book is a different e-mail sent out to her friends, but reads like an essay or travelogue article in a magazine. There's a lot of detail and plenty of interesting anecdotes. This would be a great read on the airplane for your own travels!

As a hobbyist dancer I downloaded this book out of curiosity. Too many stories of belly dancers are intentionally salacious, written by "belly bunnies" - new dancers with no real experience - and I really hoped this was not one of those. What I got in "Stories of a Traveling Bellydancer" was an interesting travelogue of an international dancer who actual knew her stuff, both dancewise and culturally.

I was one of the select few friends who received Zaina's emails, recounting her adventures as she traveled through the Middle East and Africa. I enjoyed reading her stories then and just as much the second time around. I even found myself laughing in the same sections and teary-eyed in others. Its an experience of adventure from start to finish....all in the comforts of your own home. This book is a must-read for Middle Eastern dancers but also for those who are interested getting insight to places many of us never dream of going. Well done!

As someone that considers myself a belly dance aficionado, I was looking forward to reading this

book -- not only to immerse myself in Zaina's perspectives on the dance world in the Middle East, but also to read her impressions of culture of the various countries that she traveled to. Her book lived up to everything that I expected. It feels like she is sharing her stories with you as a close confidante, and her story-telling grabs your attention as you anticipate what dance and cultural adventures she will embark on next. I recommend this book not only to those that love dancing and traveling, but also to those that just want to read a great story by a young and talented author. I am looking forward to other books that Zaina might publish in the future!

This is a great book for anyone who is interested in the bellydance scene in the Mideast. The author captures the mood and the feeling of dance. She also pokes fun at herself at times. Overall, a fun read.

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