

ENSLAVED

THE NEW BRITISH SLAVERY

Rahila Gupta

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The New British Slavery

Rahila Gupta

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BOOKS

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Britain is once again home to thousands of slaves – they reach our shores via unimaginably perilous crossings, are confined to horrendous working lives, and forgotten. Very few ever have a chance of talking about their appalling experiences. Rahila Gupta seeks out five former slaves and persuades them to tell us their disturbing stories in this compelling and revealing book.

We meet a pregnant child from Sierra Leone who was locked up in a London house as a domestic slave; a Russian teenager trafficked into prostitution; a Chinese man, living in fear of the triads; a religious Somali woman who had to promise sex in order to eat; and a young Punjabi woman forced into marriage and repeatedly abused by her husband. They are caught in a deadly trap: their passports are in the hands of their oppressors and they live in fear of being sent back to conditions of war, persecution, sexual exploitation or grinding poverty which drove them into slavery in the first place.

These are the stories of people who have escaped, through a combination of courage, timing, luck and the humanity of those who helped them. Their testimonies are harrowing but we cannot leave them unheard.

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