

# *DailyNews*

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## **The Fall of the Black-Eyed Night by Sean Badal (Umuzi)**

In our neck of the woods, the Cape Muslim community is pretty much an enigma.

But with writers like Rayda Jacobs and Sean Badal coming to the fore and finally being noticed, a changing and a rich, colourful world is being opened up to us.

Badal offers another perspective on the previously marginalised Cape Muslim community. *The Fall of the Black-Eyed Night* is a story of dislocation, survival and redemption of a Muslim man who returns to Cape Town after living in the United Kingdom.

Shehzad Shadili returns a year after the 2005 Islamist terror scare in the UK, having survived two particularly traumatic episodes in the UK.

In Cape Town, he no longer feels at home. In a struggle to deal with the shame of events in the UK, he is also struggling to find his place in the family and the Muslim community he has returned to.

In his father's shame at the hands of a Saudi Arabian imam who replaces him at his Athlone mosque, Shehzad finds an avenue through which to extract a measure of revenge for his father as well as himself.

It backfires in the end, but his act is the crucial spark for him - he gains control in a space that he feels he has had no control for too long.

Filled with colourful characters that Shehzad encounters in his job as a front manager at a hotel, this book is also littered with detail and wonderful, intimately-told sub-stories.

A great read.

**Meneesha Govender**