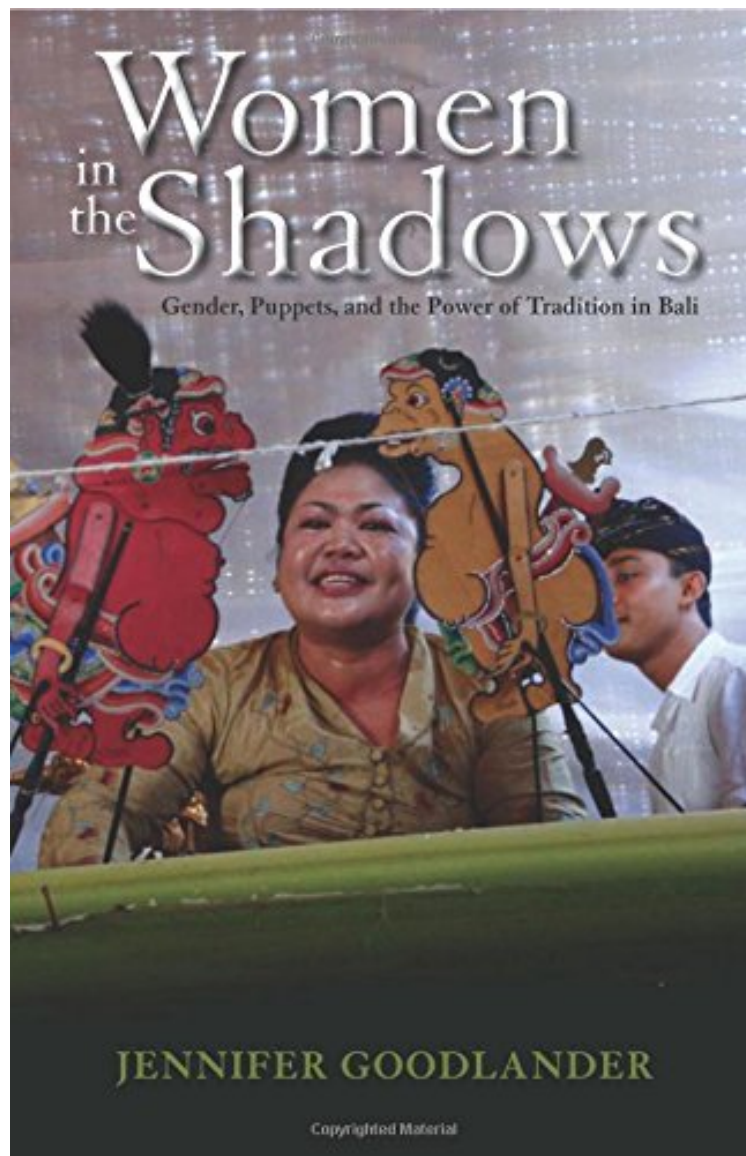


(Mobile pdf) Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali (Ohio RIS Southeast Asia Series)

## Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali (Ohio RIS Southeast Asia Series)

*Jennifer Goodlander*

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**Jennifer Goodlander : Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali (Ohio RIS Southeast Asia Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women in the Shadows: Gender, Puppets, and the Power of Tradition in Bali (Ohio RIS Southeast Asia

Series):

Goodlander presents an intimate, detailed account of her studies to become a dalang, contextualizing her experiences with those of the few Balinese women dalangs. She contends that this incursion must ultimately be perceived within the gendered power systems of Balinese culture. Summing up: Recommended. CHOICE Wayang kulit, or shadow puppetry, connects a mythic past to the present through public ritual performance and is one of most important performance traditions in Bali. The dalang, or puppeteer, is revered in Balinese society as a teacher and spiritual leader. Recently, women have begun to study and perform in this traditionally male role, an innovation that has triggered resistance and controversy. In *Women in the Shadows*, Jennifer Goodlander draws on her own experience training as a dalang as well as interviews with early women dealing and leading artists to upend the usual assessments of such gender role shifts. She argues that rather than assuming that women performers are necessarily mounting a challenge to tradition, tradition in Bali must be understood as a system of power that is inextricably linked to gender hierarchy. She examines the very idea of tradition and how it forms both an ideological and social foundation in Balinese culture, and ultimately, Goodlander offers a richer, more complicated understanding of both tradition and gender in Balinese society. Following in the footsteps of other eminent reflexive ethnographers, *Women in the Shadows* will be of value to anyone interested in performance studies, Southeast Asian culture, or ethnographic methods.

About the Author Jennifer Goodlander is an assistant professor in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Dance at Indiana University. She has performed Balinese shadow puppetry in China, Indonesia, and around the US. Her research focuses on the relationship between tradition and modernity as expressed through puppetry in Southeast Asia.