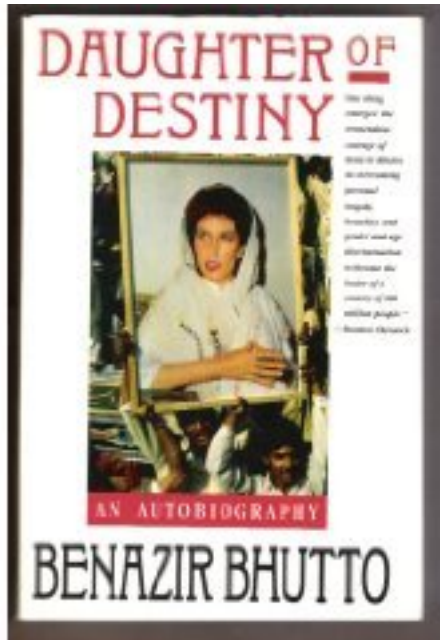


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## Benazir Bhutto

### Daughter Of Destiny: An Autobiography



Title: Daughter Of Destiny: An Autobiography

Author: Benazir Bhutto

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 0

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## Description

*Daughter of Destiny*, the autobiography of Benazir Bhutto, is a historical document of uncommon passion and courage, the dramatic story of a brilliant, beautiful woman whose life was, up to her tragic assassination in 2007, inexorably tied to her nation's tumultuous history. Bhutto writes of growing up in a family of legendary wealth and near-mythic status, a family whose rich heritage survives in tales still passed from generation to generation. She describes her journey from this protected world onto the volatile stage of international politics through her education at Radcliffe and Oxford, the sudden coup that plunged her family into a prolonged nightmare of threats and torture, her father's assassination by General Zia ul-Haq in 1979, and her grueling experience as a political prisoner in solitary confinement.

With candor and courage, Benazir Bhutto recounts her triumphant political rise from her return to Pakistan from exile in 1986 through the extraordinary events of 1988: the mysterious death of Zia; her party's long struggle to ensure free elections; and finally, the stunning mandate that propelled her overnight into the ranks of the world's most powerful, influential leaders.

## Insightful reviews

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Tushmit:

Read as part of my personal reading challenge: read a book (I haven't read before) from every top 10 list of books that have touched them (that I have been tagged in).

**Format** autobiography

**Pre-reading thoughts** don't know a whole lot about her, but I am curious about her since she was a female head of state in a country like Pakistan. And I'm curious to know her thoughts about Bangladesh.

### Mid-reading thoughts

Don't know if I'm going to finish this, but more on that later. First of all, I want to say, man, this woman can write. I was not expecting her to be such a good writer. But then again, I didn't know that she went to Harvard and Oxford.

The set up to her story could be the set up to a modern political intrigue novel. Daughter of a rich landed renowned family, very ambitious, born in a time when her country is going through major changes - this is the stuff of really good fiction. But this isn't fiction. It's an autobiography and real life does not fall into a neat three-act structure. Real life tends to drag. Which leads me

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to why I might not finish the book. It's huge and it's starting to drag. I can only read so much about being in captivity. And while the politics isn't too heavy-handed, at a certain point it does get to a point of overload.

But there is SO MUCH to talk about in here, that I am not even going to start touching on them. From gender issues, to politics, to religion and culture. Most of all, when you read her own words, you can't help but find her an incredibly inspiring figure. And seriously, she's from PAKISTAN. The Pakistan in Benazir Bhutto's autobiography is actually quite different from the Pakistan I read/hear about.

I have been skipping around a bit. Might skip around some more before abandoning. One interesting part towards the end was when she talks about her marriage. She says that her husband had no interest in politics, and his reasons for marrying her were, well...I'm not sure she even fully understood his reasons for marrying her. This is all very interesting because this book stops in the late 80s I think. I know about the corruption charges against her husband, and I know that after her death (well, assassination), he eventually went on to be the President and served a long term. So yeah, interesting. Makes me realize that I would have to read the rest with a grain of salt.

But of course, my main interest had been in reading about Bangladesh. of course, I was expecting terms that are contrary to the text I have grown up with. "Rebels" instead of "freedom fighters", "civil war" instead of "liberation war", "the fall of Dacca" instead of "glorious victory". She talked about how, at Harvard, when Pakistan was criticized, she would defend her country and claim the Bengalis did not initially want sovereignty.

But then she wrote this. And reading this from a Pakistani was a big deal:

"How many times since have I asked God to forgive me for my ignorance. I didn't see then that the democratic mandate for Pakistan had been grossly violated. The majority province of East Pakistan was basically being treated as a colony by the minority West. From revenues of more than 31 billion rupees from East Pakistan's exports, the minority in West Pakistan had built roads, schools, universities, and hospitals for themselves, but developed little in the East. The army, the largest employer in our very poor country, drew 90 percent of its forces from West Pakistan. Eighty percent of government jobs were filled by people from the West. The central government had even declared Urdu our national language, a language few in East Pakistan understood, further handicapping the Bengalis in competing for jobs in government or education. No wonder they felt excluded and exploited."

### **Post-reading thoughts**

I definitely did not finish it. Skipped some chapters about confinement, because there is only so much of that you can take. Also read select parts after the confinement. Given the way it ends, there is a very vague novel structure to the autobiography, if you allow for a really dragged out middle, but there is a lot to get out of this book. It's shocking to realize how secular Pakistan

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was an one point (not unlike the first book I read from the challenge, [Persepolis](#) ), and inspiring to read about a woman with so much ambition, and drive to fight for what she believed. Despite all the struggles she goes through, she is also aware that she is from a privileged class, and included snippets about the plight of other women in her country, and the contrast is striking.

I marked it as abandoned because I did skip at least one entire chapter, but I felt like I read enough to rate it. :P

Himani Bahuguna: A tragic tale of a family who struggled to restore democracy in a troubled nation although quite one sided in its account. The book got me hooked to know more about Pakistan's history. Despite all the controversy surrounding her, Benazir will always be an admirable and courageous woman.

Intikhab: a narrative of a protracted political struggle, victimization, and deprivation. the main points of the ordeal and hardships she and her mom went via by the hands of army dictator Zia-ul-Haq are so bad and center wrenching. Her reports with Pakistani politicians and armed forces institution after she grew to become the best Minister of Pakistan in 1988 is helping one comprehend the soiled dynamics of Pakistani politics. She made attractive admission viz-a-viz her brothers' involvement in acts of subversion from the platform of Al-Zulfiqar. There are another startling money owed from her reviews within the book. For example, how basic Hamid Gul's army plan to takeover Jalalabad failed, leaving millions of Afghan 'mujahideen' useless in a poorly deliberate assault that aimed to assist Pakistani sponsored Afghan teams identify a consultant govt in Afghanistan by means of taking pictures a huge Afghan city.

Syed Misbahuddin: Well, being Indian, I dont understand a lot approximately PAKISTAN . this is often an autobiography yet reads greater than a unique , higher than drama, higher than motion book. My curiosity in Mrs.Zardari (Benazir Bhutto) rose after her tragic end. If anybody ruler of a rustic can declare the seat of major MINISTER through LOVE of people, her identify has to be foremost. I am surprised on the quantity of detentions she suffered, additionally the writing sort of this booklet doesn't learn like a celebration manifesto, nor does it learn like a vindictive person. As stated by means of her illustrious father Zulfikhar Ali Bhutto, she used to be way more influenced by way of the affection of her humans than us general universal folks. Misery of jails and the results of her being elected leading minister conjures up a fairy story like series in our minds. it isn't a couple of kingdom dont mistke this book. it's approximately woman maturing "REALITY retains CHANGING" throughout her. this can be the recommend her father gave to her and she or he believed in him with all her soul. This isn't an extended book, it really is approximately three hundred pages yet a lot of people learn it in a single sitting like I did. My chest is stuffed with amazement on the volume of affection someone can obtain during this world. goal excessive it doesn't matter what the odds, you are going to achieve close to your aim. Yo! realities preserve changing, dont be bitter ever with lifestyles !!!!

Rahul Sharma: I be mindful the day Benazir Bhutto used to be assassinated in Pakistan. i used to be traveling in a bus and whilst I examine it on my mobile, I nearly shouted in shock. She was once one of many few leaders in Southeast Asia whose political trip regularly involved me. it is a tale of lengthy political struggle, victimization, and deprivation. The ebook talks intimately approximately Zia's army coup, overthrowing of Zulfikhar Bhutto's govt with next Islamization of

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Pakistan. The chapters the place she talks approximately her detention are chilling and also you can not help yet appreciate the braveness and resilience which Bhutto showed. whether one is a critic; s/he cannot forget about the struggle she had submit opposed to Zia and her efforts in the direction of taking Pakistan toward democracy. My basically factor with the booklet was once its 'Holier than thou' tone for the Bhutto family members and the unilateral procedure for describing the PPP government. She merely highlights the positives and does not speak a lot of the corruption fees opposed to her government. She does not criticize her brother's involvement in developing 17 November Al-Zulfiqar. But, what else can one count on from an autobiography! In spite of its flaws, it is a needs to learn for a person who's drawn to Politics!

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