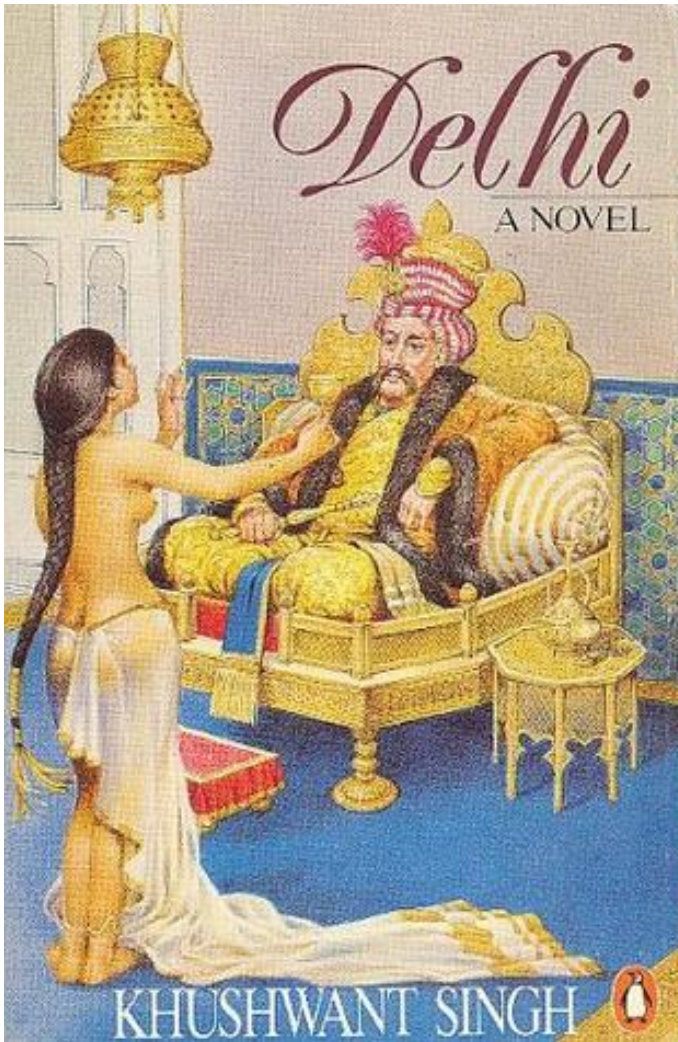

Khushwant Singh

Delhi



Title: Delhi

Author: Khushwant Singh

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Language:

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Description

I return to Delhi as I return to my mistress Bhagmati when I have had my fill of whoring in foreign lands.

Thus begins Khushwant Singh's vast, erotic, irrelevant magnum opus on the city of Delhi. The principal narrator of the saga, which extends over six hundred years, is a bawdy, ageing reprobate who loves Delhi as much as he does the hijra whore Bhagmati - half man, half woman with sexual inventiveness and energy of both the sexes. Travelling through time, space and history to 'discover' his beloved city, the narrator meets a myriad of people-poets and princes, saints and sultans, temptresses and traitors, emperors and eunuchs - who have shaped and endowed Delhi with its very special mystique. And as we accompany the narrator on his epic journey we find the city of emperors transformed and immortalized in our minds for ever.

Insightful reviews

MADitya: It's an intriguing read. It's a controversial read. Two ppl can't read it and be left with the same set of emotions for it.

So, here is what I understand from this novel. Through this book, the author has tried to express his own feelings, his own thoughts about various incidents that took place in Delhi, going back by at least 500 years or more. This entire novel is written in the form of small autobiographies narrated by different people involved with the history of Delhi like Aurangzeb, Nadir Shah etc. Am not so well aware of the Mughal history, so not sure where to draw line between fact and fiction. I also got a good insight into the origins of Sikhism in India, though, again, am not sure how much of that is fact. Coming back to the narration style, the story goes back and forth between the past and the present. The present is narrated by a person (Sikh, if u r desperate to know the religion), who rambles off mostly about sex, in particular with his *hijra* girl-friend Bhagmati. As the story goes forth we understand the author has nothing to add to the 'present' story, so we find more and more pages being narrated by historical characters. Most surprising of them all is the one by Aurangzeb, it gives one a totally different perspective of how he could have well been the most mis-understood emperor of India/Hindustan. As the past slowly starts converging with the present, the religious conflicts seem inevitable...hindus vs muslims, muslims vs sikhs, sikhs vs hindus, thus covering all possible permutations. Almost everybody rapes everybody, everybody kills everybody, the story ends at the point where Sikhs are being massacred by the Hindus in retaliation to Indira Gandhi's murder.

All through the story, the only constant is "conflict", be it religious, be it for power, be it for kingdoms and in the end he shows the conflict still continues.

Though the author shows the negative side of this conflict very well, he couldn't show much of the 'irresistible' Delhi, as that's what he mentions all through the book.

So, why only 3 stars? It is a bold book, but not a good one at that! To me it looked like a collection of ramblings of people from different backgrounds, of different prejudices, might have as well been

Khuswant Singh's own thoughts. But do i really care what his thoughts are? NO!

Sabil Ali: This book i may not tell it is a axcellent one, But it stands out with its different kind of narration. How the present delhi is how the past was. I was always fascinated about the indian history especially about the mughal empire and sort of. He narrates the story from each persons perspective. We will get a good knowledge about indian history and it is really interesting to read because of khushwanth singhs narrational style. There were some part which described how he seduced womens and things like that which were really interesting ;-). A good read. :)

Rishi Prakash: Got this book from a friend and he said just read it slowly and be receptive!

KS has really done a great job by depicting a different side of the great city. It is not something which many writers have seen/shown to us.

I think Delhi is one of the best books about the city, precisely because it didn't try to mask it's repugnant ugliness beneath a mask. This book was published more than twenty years ago but it still holds a lot of relevance to the city today. You have to read between the lines, and simultaneously look outside the window of our comfortable home, and into the smelly, dirty roads of the city, to be able to appreciate it.

A great read for everyone who has ever stayed/lived in this great city.

Aviral: Khushwant Singh turns out keen about sex..and with fart. After some extent it acquired super boring. nearly each personality within the ebook (and that incorporated loads of old characters) seemed to have a fetish for sex. the one technique to insult anyone used to be to make impolite gestures or convey your deepest parts. Initially i needed to provide it 2 stars yet additional one other celebrity whilst i noticed that I realized a number of issues concerning the Indian heritage from it. Bhagmati is an allegory for Delhi. She is a hijda(transgender) prostitute who's infested with pock- marks on face as a result of small pox. Of the various characters within the book, she is the main interesting. maybe it's simply because she is Delhi herself. I have learn a couple of books on Indian independence, and little bit at the historical past of spiritual conflicts to achieve that there can't be any peace within the nation until we cease obsessing approximately our religion. The booklet has proven how Delhi has been ravaged within the identify of Hinduism, Islam and later Sikhism. Actually, it's not anything however the strength fight being performed lower than the apparel of shielding one's faith. Also, how the spiritual sentiments are exploited through the powers that be is aptly depicted here. humans of this nation were divided for hundreds of years due to their religion. the writer has subtly attempted to place this aspect throughout as he had performed in educate to Pakistan. i cannot say that I loved it a lot. which will examine Delhi, urban of Djinnns by way of William Dalrymple is the easiest ebook to head for.

Gorab Jain: tips on how to narrate heritage interestingly? by utilizing autobiographical narration style, and through injecting exchange chapters of weirdness! i began loathing this e-book until eventually round four chapters. After each one old episode(total 10), the time shifts to trendy period with the protagonist detailing his dating with Bhagmati, an eunuch transvestite prostitute! And in among a committed bankruptcy on types of farts! Ugggh!!But then i used to be

mesmerised by way of the trade epic tale telling of Mughals, Sultans, poets and courtesans spanning seven-hundred years of Delhi ranging from 1265AD! Deserves a minimum of five stars only for the final 3 chapters (building up of recent Delhi, assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi). even supposing arguable yet very strong indeed. Could have loved greater if my historical past wisdom wasn't so poor! may learn a few elements back after studying the facts.

Farrukh Pitafi: a few day i'll write an analogous publication approximately my cherished city. I promise. do not ask which city. yet i'll ;)

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