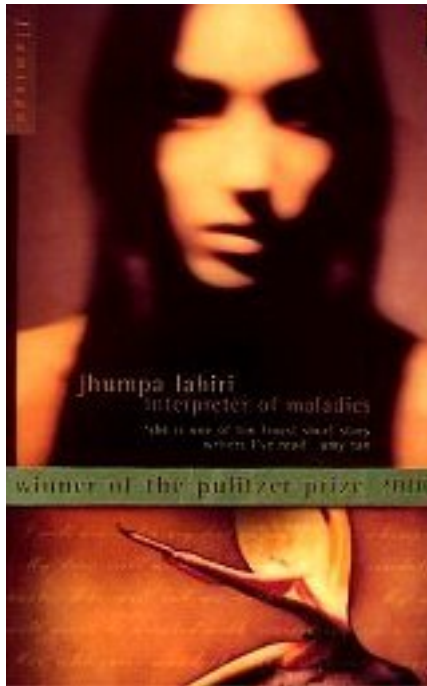

Jhumpa Lahiri

Interpreter of Maladies



Title: Interpreter of Maladies

Author: Jhumpa Lahiri

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Description

Jhumpa Lahiri's stories tell the lives of Indians in exile, of people navigating between the strict traditions they've inherited and the baffling New World they must encounter every day.

Insightful reviews

Krys: By and large I found this collection overrated. Which is not to say that I didn't find some of the stories fantastic, the title story for example, as well as the 2nd story in the book. And nothing was really bad here, but seldom did any of these stories strike me as anything as phenomenal as Ms. Lahiri's novel *The Namesake*.

The collection can be sorted into two main types of stories, those in the East, and those in the West. In both cases, what separates most of these stories from the tale of *The Namesake* is that they simply reproduce all the stereotypes and tropes of Indian-Bengali culture, whereas the novel actually took the time to explore the realities of such cultural norms. And maybe *The Namesake* could take that time BECAUSE it was a novel. But for a book to receive as much praise as *Interpreter of Maladies*, I was hoping for similar insights, merely compressed and distilled into short stories, but no such luck. Instead I found most of the stories repeating the same-old learning to love (or not love) the person with whom your marriage has been arranged (the American stories) and a couple commentaries about the persistence of the caste system (the Bengali stories). The characters do not challenge the culture (which I admit is a very Western expectation), but they didn't even add any nuances to the day-to-day of arranged marriage.

Lahiri is a good writer, as a few of these stories and her novel indicate. But high expectations can only hinder you with this collection. Read *The Namesake* instead, and watch it succeed despite the dominance of exposition over scene!

Darwin8u: Some of the stories were brilliant, some were very good and only a couple were meh. This novel captures for me the right tension between foreignness and loneliness and those small wires, crumbs of connection that bridge people and cultures. Yeah, I dug it.

Personally, I don't care about awards (See [William H. Gass](#)). And I really don't care that she's a woman (other than the fact that I'm trying to read more women this year) or that she's Indian American (although both are a significant part of this collection).

I don't believe she was subsidized for either being a woman or being Indian, or if she was I really don't care. Everybody is subsidized by something. White men get the white men subsidy. The rich get the rich subsidy. The educated get the educated subsidy. The poor and broken get the helluva life story subsidy. If I could sum it up, I'd guess that this book probably won the writer lottery: the right good book gets published at the perfect moment.

The stories themselves gave me the same temperate, nuanced, soft vibe I get when I read Kazuo Ishiguro or Julian Barnes. So, at least in my mind, she fits/resonates more into/with the:

über-educated, upper-middle, British/East Coast US, 'outsider now inside' club(s) more than the female writer or even Indian American clubs. But then again, I could be wrong.

Anyway, I don't have to say that this was her first published book and she still ended up writing (from what I've heard) solid, serious fiction. So that.

Brilliant stories:

A Temporary Matter
Interpreter of Maladies
Mrs Sen's
This Blessed House

Good stories:

When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine
Sexy
The Third and Final Continent

Meh stories:

A Real Durwan
The Treatment of Bibi Haldar

- [Robert Farwell](#) / Edward Jones library / [Mesa](#), AZ 2014

Jonathan: The short story collection entitled Interpreter of Maladies is a powerful novel featuring characters caught between cultures, families and often identities. Jhumpa Lahiri as the writer and omniscient observer sympathises with the plight of such characters, having felt herself a sense of identity crisis.

The collection won a Pulitzer prize and I believe that it is firmly deserved. The prose is powerfully moving and emotional providing insight into how culture, or a lack of, influences individuals.

I personally found however that I could not relate to many of the instances described within the book interesting and beautifully written as the stories were. I have never been an ex-patriot, I have never truly suffered through identity crisis and I have no firm grasp of cultures as Lahiri depicts them.

The tales within, however, are beautifully and elaborately constructed and deserve much applause. Lahiri clearly has a firm grasp of language when she can place words together in sentences like: "Her soliloquies mawkish, her sentiments maudlin, malaise dripped like a fever from her pores." Perhaps if the tales within had mirrored my own circumstances or had struck

me with greater emotional depth than I may have enjoyed this collection all the more. But that is my personal sentiment.

Book'd: Interpreter of Maladies was once prompt to me through certainly one of my acquaintances who saved harping concerning the publication forever to an volume that every-time i assumed approximately him it was once this e-book that i'd see swimming in entrance of my eyes. Okay, so i used to be now not reluctant approximately examining it yet coming from an individual who seldom learn books, i used to be simply pushing it for later. Having learn it now, i'm chuffed I did as Jhumpa is an grand story-teller and all her brief easy stories during this publication have gotten me enchanted. The 'Namesake' used to be the 1st Jhumpa Lahiri novel i would learn and used to be rather mesmerized through her type of writing. permit me no longer omit to say that it used to be the motion picture starring 2 of my favourite actors - Tabu & Irfan Khan that i might watched first whence I got here to understand in regards to the novel. So, after all I needed to learn it. after which there has been my buddy selling Interpreter of Maladies as if his existence trusted it. i began analyzing it leaving different books nonetheless ready so that it will close him up really. Now, i like to learn books in response to Indian Literature exploring Indian names, Indian cities, Indian way of life etc. which Lahiri's novels are abundantly wealthy with. they offer a feeling of belonging and that i simply relate to them. Interpreter of Maladies which after all deserved The Pulitzer Award is deeply mesmerizing with easy yet brimming-with-intense-emotions brief tales that threaten to stay on your stories for years to come. Jhumpa's beautiful writing manages to run you thru the tale as though you have been one of many items of fiction within the story. The e-book is a suite of 9 brief tales a brief topic whilst Mr. Pirzada got here to Dine Interpreter of Maladies a true Durwan horny Mrs. Sen's This Blessed apartment The therapy of Bibi Haldar The 3rd and ultimate Continent (My favourite one of the nine) Each tale has a tendency to go away a mark on your reminiscence with the insightful message that it ceases to convey. This piece particularly is superbly sad, sentimentally severe and one who makes you cease and skim it again" there are occasions i'm bewildered through every one mile i've got traveled, each one meal i've got eaten, everyone i've got known, each one room within which i've got slept. As traditional because it all appears, there are occasions while it truly is past my imagination. "Jhumpa intricately defines how the characters fight to keep up a stability among their tradition and their newly followed life-styles in overseas countries. Places, names, food, faith and every thing from Indian foundation are fantastically defined in her books that supply the reader a first-hand wisdom approximately Indian tradition and Traditions that make Jhumpa the most eminent writers. As I learn it at the again disguise of the booklet "Jhumpa Lahiri is the type of author who makes you must seize the subsequent individual you spot and say, 'Read this.'" i'm yes each of these who've learn and traveled in the course of the myriad of stories during this ebook rather conform to it similar to I do.

Cheryl: while you are a lover of the quick story, you are going to hug this book. it's a excellent rendition of the form, with characters who're pushed via osmosis. No ask yourself it received the Pulitzer. there are numerous issues Lahiri does so good that I enjoyed. issues that made me stick with this collection, completing it in a single day. Did she use her tales to notify of the Indian Diaspora, one wonders? Oh no, no longer fiction writers, they aren't purported to write with a few agenda...blah blah. good if she did not suggest to be so translucent, she definitely ended up being simply that. and that i enjoyed it. The India-Pakistan Partition, Indian immigrant struggles, religion, prepared marriages, economically and socially established wives, have been

all issues explored. Well hi thematic appeal, why do all collections no longer abide by means of you? The writing is unadorned: terse prose with sporadic use of metaphors. you aren't getting a weather-man-like one-page description that makes you need to scream, stoppp, simply inform me the tale already. You get a stark sentence: "the rain had stopped and now the bitter scent that rises from rainy mango leaves was once placing low over the alley." The characters do not simply have eco-friendly cards, they've got "sixth preference" eco-friendly cards. they do not simply smoke cigarettes, they "smoke Rothmans." they do not simply put on shoes, they wear, "black-patent leather-based mules with heels like golfing tees, open toes, and just a little dirty silk labels at the instep the place her soles had rested." they do not simply adventure windy days, they adventure a "wind so powerful they had to stroll backward." Mrs. Sen did not simply fresh fish. She "stroked the tails, prodded the bellies, pried aside the gutted flesh. With a couple of scissors, she clipped the fins. She tucked a finger below the gills, a crimson so vivid they made her vermilion look pale" (now if you have ever wiped clean and gutted fish before, you are smiling a bit at this imagery). each be aware is punctiliously placed, each one personality propelled through a journey. I enjoyed all of them yet my favorites were: A genuine Durwan- i actually loved the secret of Boori Ma, the lady who continuously advised humans approximately what she had misplaced after she used to be deported to Calcutta. used to be she relatively a riches-to-rags girl or an easy stairwell sweeper? inform me more, please. Mrs. Sen's--a homesick girl with an aloof husband, takes cares of a tender boy with an aloof mother. while Mr. Pirzada got here To Dine-loved the ancient context given via dialogue. "Mr. Picada is not any longer thought of Indian," my father announced, brushing salt from the cashews out of his trim black beard. no longer because Partition. Our kingdom was once divided. 1947."When I acknowledged i assumed that used to be the date of India's independence from Britain, my father said, "That too. One second we have been unfastened after which we have been sliced up, " he explained, drawing an X along with his finger at the countertop, "like a pie. Hindus here, Muslims there. Dacca not belongs to us."

Sze: the previous few traces from the 3rd and ultimate continent is so basic and therefore earrings so true: "I recognize that my fulfillment is kind of ordinary. i'm really not the single guy to hunt his fortune faraway from home, and definitely it's not that i am the first. Still, there are occasions i'm bewildered through each one mile i've got travelled, every one meal i've got eaten, all people i've got known, each one room within which i've got slept. As traditional because it all appears, there are occasions whilst it really is past my imagination."

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