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## The Glass Palace: A Novel

Von Amitav Ghosh

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"An absorbing story of a world in transition, brought to life through characters who love and suffer with equal intensity."—J. M. COETZEE


# The Glass Palace

AMITAV GHOSH

A NOVEL



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**Von Amitav Ghosh : The Glass Palace: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Glass Palace: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen18 von 18 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Mitreisende FamiliensagaVon Ein KundeDer Leser wird bereits auf der ersten Seite in den Bann dieses Buchs gezogen, wo er gemeinsam mit dem Held in einer kleinen Garkche in Burma sitzt und die Strassenszenen, die Gerusche und die Gerche Asiens wahrnimmt, als ob er sie selbst gerade erlebt. Er begleitet ihn und seine

Nachkommen durch Burma, Indien und Malaysia und lernt die bewegte Geschichte dieser Region kennen. Jedes Kapitel dieses Buches ist eine kleine Reise in eine andere Welt, die sorgfältig recherchierte Geschichte schliesst zudem zahlreiche Wissenslücken über Politik, Land und Leute bis hin in unsere Zeit. Mehr als eine Familiensaga. Ein Must für alle Asien-Fans und für solche, die es noch werden wollen. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. BUY THIS BOOK! Von Kunde Bestes Buch, das ich jemals gelesen habe. Es hat mein Leben bereichert. Basiert auf einer wahren Geschichte und erzählt auf persönliche und mitreissende Art die Geschichte Indiens und Myanmars vom ersten bis zum zweiten Weltkrieg. Es fängt bei einer Geschichte an und spinnt schon die nächste. Zusammen ergibt es die unglaubliche Geschichte einer Familie über mehrere Generationen. Ich konnte es kaum weglegen. Ganz ehrlich, wenn dieses Buch nicht bewegt, fehlt irgendwas Grundstätzliches. Ich habe noch nie eine Kaufempfehlung aufgeschrieben, aber in diesem Fall muss ich sagen - kaufe es und lass dich überraschen. Ich habe es vor Jahren das erste Mal gelesen und bisher nur auf Englisch. Best book I have ever read. I gained a lot from it. Based on a true story, it tells a personal and compelling tale amidst India and Myanmar from World War 1, through World War 2 and after. While it begins with one story, it already draws the next. Altogether it recounts the stunning history of a family over generations. I was barely able to put it aside. Honestly - whoever is not moved by this book, lacks something basic. I have never before given a recommendation to purchase, but in this case - do buy this book and be amazed. 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Verzettelt Von Holger K. Amitav Ghosh kann schreiben. Keine Frage. Sea of Poppies beispielsweise ist einfach großartig, sowohl von der Story als auch den Charakteren. The Glass Palace war allerdings ein vielleicht zu ambitioniertes Projekt: die Geschichte Indiens, Burmas und Malaysias über rund hundert Jahre anhand einer Familiensaga zu verquicken - eine gute Idee, aber leider nicht überzeugend ausgeführt. Viele Charaktere und Einzelgeschichten sind spannend und geschichtlich interessant, aber viele Personen auch seltsam blass. Richtig nahe gingen mir die Protagonisten eigentlich nicht. Was mich wirklich gestört hat, sind die Zeitsprünge - manchmal werden einzelne Geschehnisse und Tage sehr intensiv geschildert (dann ist Ghosh stark), dann wieder werden ein paar Jahre in zwei, drei Stufen abgefertigt und die nächste Generation ist dran. So bekommt man den Eindruck eines Flickenteppichs statt eines Films. Vielleicht hätte Ghosh zwei oder drei Bücher aus dem Stoff machen sollen. In jedem Fall war dies - für mich - keins der Bücher, das ich nicht aus der Hand legen konnte. Ein einzigartiges Buch, gewiss, und sein Geld wert, aber nicht uneingeschränkt begeisternd. Gleichwohl: von Amitav Ghosh erwarte ich noch viel, denn er scheint stetig besser zu werden.

Kurzbeschreibung Brilliant and impassioned, *The Glass Palace* is a masterly novel by Amitav Ghosh, the gifted novelist Peter Matthiessen has called an exceptional writer. This superb story of love and war begins with the shattering of the kingdom of Burma and the igniting of a great and passionate love, and it goes on to tell the story of a people, a fortune, and a family and its fate. *The Glass Palace* tells of Rajkumar, a poor boy lifted on the tides of political and social chaos, who creates an empire in the Burmese teak forest. During the British invasion of 1885, when soldiers force the royal family out of the Glass Palace and into exile, Rajkumar befriends Dolly, the woman whose love will shape his life. He cannot forget her, and years later, as a rich man, he goes in search of her. Beginning in 1885, with the British invasion of Mandalay and the capture of the Burmese king and queen, and encompassing over 100 years to modern-day India and Burma (Myanmar), Amitav Ghosh has created in *The Glass Palace* a monument to life in colonial central and Southeast Asia. The story follows three generations from three families, spreading its wings across the world, from Malaya to New York. Yet despite the epic scale, the gentle and intimate detail of the characters and their interwoven relationships removes any need for an understanding of this area of the world in geographical or historical terms. The map at the back of the book is useful for following the characters' travels as their fortunes and rulers (British, Japanese, military government) change, but it is the atmosphere and feel of the era and location that Ghosh captures astutely. Each city or border is not a mark on a map with political significance but a home, a memory and a reality. With each generation the characters' lives and personalities contrast and intertwine according to the rise and fall of the countries'--and the world's--politics. Rajkumar, the Indian peasant who makes a fortune through teak and his wife Dolly, the breathtakingly beautiful maid of the Burmese royal family, contrast to Uma the Indian widow who becomes a champion for Indian independence after her liberating time in the USA and the Americanised Matthew who makes a life in his half-native Malaya as a rubber plantation owner, while Uma's Bengali nieces and nephew contrast to Rajkumar and Dolly's newly wealthy sons. Yet they all suffer in the Second World War, whether as a soldier, refugee or evacuee discriminated against because of their skin colour. Ghosh's focus on the war in Burma, from the viewpoint of Indian officers in the British army, who have been imbued through their regimental history to believe in their allegiance to "their" country (i.e. Britain and not India), reveals a side of both world wars that is rarely told. The struggle these British subjects experience, as to whether colonial or fascist masters are better, is not something that shaped the general European knowledge of the Second World War, where "good" and "evil" seemed much clearer. However, *The Glass Palace* is not only about war; and the full circle it travels, from one glass palace in the lush and rich 19th-century Burma to another glass palace in repressed and impoverished Myanmar is,

seemingly with ease from the lush and rich prose, satisfying and informative. It is a novel in which the characters will always go on living, and whose ideals will never die. --Olivia Dickinson.co.uk

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