



The Enchantress of Florence: A Novel

By Salman Rushdie

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The Enchantress of Florence is the story of a mysterious woman, a great beauty believed to possess the powers of enchantment and sorcery, attempting to command her own destiny in a man's world. It is the story of two cities at the height of their powers—the hedonistic Mughal capital, in which the brilliant emperor Akbar the Great wrestles daily with questions of belief, desire, and the treachery of his sons, and the equally sensual city of Florence during the High Renaissance, where Niccolò Machiavelli takes a starring role as he learns, the hard way, about the true brutality of power. Profoundly moving and completely absorbing, *The Enchantress of Florence* is a dazzling book full of wonders by one of the world's most important living writers.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best of the Month, June 2008: Trying to describe a Salman Rushdie novel is like trying to describe music to someone who has never heard it--you can fumble with a plot summary but you won't be able to convey the wonder of his dazzling prose or the imaginative complexity of his vision. At its heart, *The Enchantress of Florence* is about the power of story--whether it is the imagined life of a Mughal queen, or the devastating secret held by a silver-tongued Florentine. Make no mistake, it is Rushdie who is the true "enchanter" of this story, conjuring readers into his gilded fairy tale from the very first sentence: "In the day's last light the glowing lake below the palace-city looked like a sea of molten gold." At once bawdy, gorgeous, gory, and hilarious, *The Enchantress of Florence* is a study in contradiction, highlighted in its barbarian philosopher-king who detests his bloodthirsty heritage even while he carries it out. Full of rich sentences running nearly the length of a page, Rushdie's 10th novel blends fact and fable into a challenging but satisfying read. --*Daphne Durham*

From Publishers Weekly

Listeners who can make sense out of this clear but unengaging readingshould win an award. Firdous Bamji employs the same technique throughout (pushing out chosen words in each phrase for emphasis), and the sentences begin to sound alike and the listening mind begins to wanders. It's hard to distinguish or care about the many characters, and Bamji doesn't help determine time or place as the book hops around in different eras and locations with abandon. But poor Bamji had a terrible task before him: the muddle of history, mystery, fact, fiction and fairytale in Rushdie's new novel would confound any narrator. *A Random House hardcover (Reviews, Mar. 24). (May)*

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From School Library Journal

Booker Prize winner Rushdie's (*Midnight's Children*) complex new novel centers on 16th-century Mughal emperor Akbar the Great and a mysterious European traveler who arrives in his court with an extraordinary story to tell. While the print edition received excellent reviews, this audio version, with Bombay-born movie and television actor Firdous Bamji's slow and deliberate reading, is less successful. Recommended with reservations for larger public libraries where Rushdie and literary fiction have followings. [With tracks every three minutes for bookmarking; the Random House hc was "highly recommended," *LJ*

5/15/08.—Ed.]—Mary Knapp, Madison P.L., WI

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michele Stein:

This book untitled The Enchantress of Florence: A Novel to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this publication from your list.

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Joel Padilla:

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