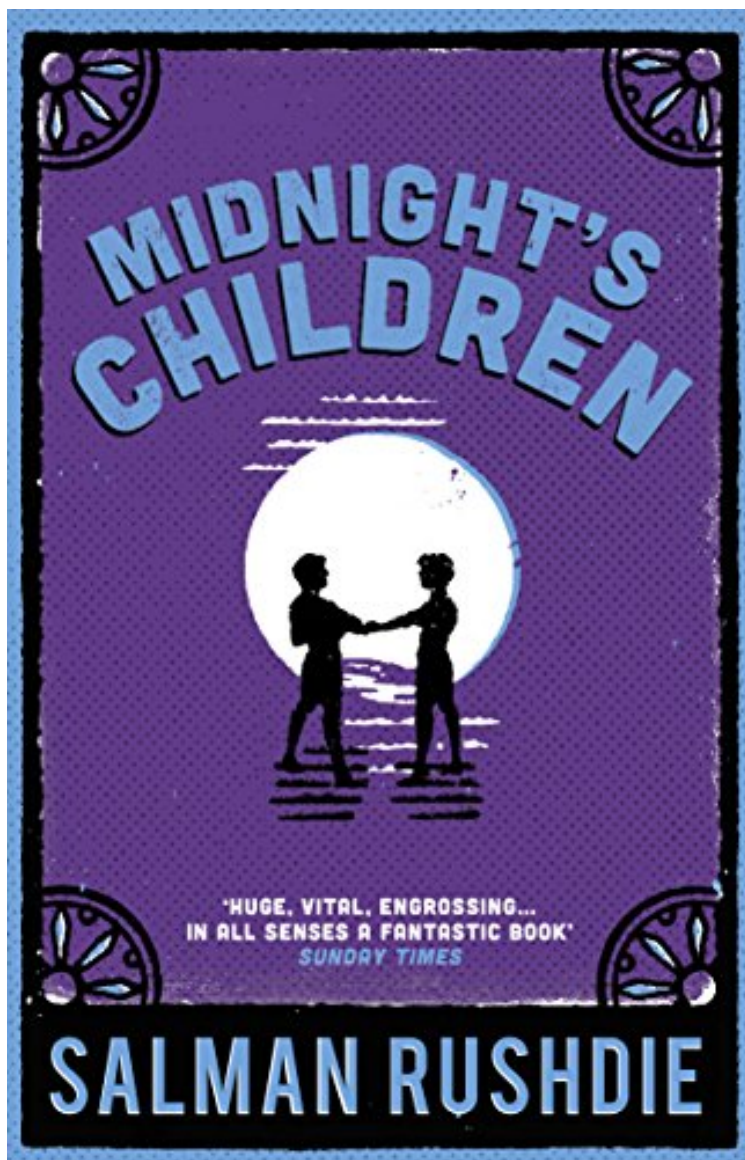


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Midnight's Children

Von Salman Rushdie

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Von Salman Rushdie : Midnight's Children before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Midnight's Children:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Ein groartiges BuchVon Peter LoetschEs gibt nicht viele Autoren mit einem derart weit gefassten Horizont. Inhaltliche und auch literarische Vielfalt berzeugen auch nach fast dreiig Jahren.7 von 7 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension

hilfreich. Meisterwerk des Humors und der Erzhlfreude Von Michael Dienstbier 1993 wurde Salman Rushdie's Roman "Midnight's Children", der das erste Mal 1981 verffentlicht wurde, zum besten Gewinner des renommierten Booker Price seit 1968 gekrt. Und das vllig zu recht. Dabei ist der Roman nun wahrlich keine einfach zu lesende Unterhaltungslektre. Rushdie's magischer Realismus macht es dem Leser beizeiten ziemlich schwierig, der Handlung zu folgen. Saleem Sinia berichtet seine bewegte Lebensgeschichte seiner Geliebten Padma, da er sich im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes in Luft aufzulsen scheint. Er wurde am 15. August 1947 zur Mitternachtsstunde geboren, genau in der Sekunde, als Indien ihre Unabhngigkeit erlangte. Alle Kinder, die in der ersten Stunde der jungen Nation geboren wurden, haben eine gewisse magische Fhigkeit. Sie knnen durch die Zeit reisen, mit Tieren reden, sind ungeheuer stark oder knnen, wie Saleem, die Gedanken anderer Menschen lesen. Saleem's Leben spielt sich nun vor der Geschichte Indiens ab. Kriege und Wahlkampfeschlachten behandelt Saleem ebenso wie das Leben seiner abgefahrenen Familie. Der Roman ist, wie gesagt, nicht einfach zu lesen, doch bietet er fr jeden etwas. Der Leser mag sich manchmal vorkommen wie die gute Padma, die der Geschichte ihres Geliebten lauscht und immer wieder die Nerven verliert, wenn Saleem zum wiederholten Male seine Erzhlung unterbricht, um Anekdoten aus der Vergangenheit, Gegenwart oder Zukunft zum Besten zu geben. Dabei ist es genau das, worum es in "Midnight's Children" im Kern geht. Wie kann man die Vergangenheit eines Menschen oder einer ganzen Nation fr die nchste Generation, also fr uns Leser, rekonstruieren und somit nachfhrlbar machen? "I told you the truth", erklrt Saleem seine Art zu erzhlen Padma. "Memory's truth, because memory has its own special kind. It selects, eliminates, alters, exaggerates, minimizes, glorifies and vilifies also; but in the end it creates its own reality, its heterogenous but usually coherent version of events; and no same human being ever trusts someone else's version more than his own." (211) Dies ist die bergeordnete Thematik, die die Geschichte ber Politik, Macht, Religion, Liebe, jede Menge Sex und ein Schuss Magie zusammenhlt. brigens, htten die humorlosen Ayathollas dieses Buch, welches acht Jahre vor "The Satanic Verses" erschienen ist, gelesen, htten sie wahrscheinlich schon 1981 die Fatwa ber den Ketzer Rushdie verhnigt. Denn schon hier wird zwischen den Zeilen nicht mit Spott und Sarkasmus an der fundamentalistischen Interpretation des Islam gespart. Ein Beispiel: "I studied history at my aunt Alia's college; but not even learning could make me feel a part of this country devoid of midnight children, in which my fellow-students took out processions to demand a stricter more Islamic society - proving that they had contrived to become the antithesis of students everywhere else on earth, by demanding more-rules-not-less." (310) Fazit: nicht nur ein Roman, sondern ein Erlebnis. Ein an Humor und Erzhlfreude kaum zu berbietendes Meisterwerk. 4 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Way over rated! Von happydancer While prolific at times, there is too much "borrowing" from other authors, which I found upsetting. Particularly Marquez's use of "butterfly imagry" and the non-stop sentences. Can't we be a little more original? This really irritated me. I plowed through this book, and found some parts flowing and well written, while other parts were forced over exaggerations, and very pretentious on the authors part. Don't know how I ever managed to finish it, but was glad when it ended, leaving me with very little (I read it in India, but that didn't help). While an Indophile, I tend to read everything Rushdie anyways, and feel he doesn't come into his own until "The Moors Last Sigh," which I really loved. I am now busy with "Ground Beneath Her Feet," which so far (and I just began), has a bit of immaturity and silliness to it, but I'll give it a chance. I feel "Midnight's Children" is a bit disjointed and its "brilliance" is very inconsistent.

Kurzbeschreibung Born at the stroke of midnight, at the precise moment of India's independence, Saleem Sinai is destined from birth to be special. For he is one of 1,001 children born in the midnight hour, children who all have special gifts, children with whom Saleem is telepathically linked. But there has been a terrible mix up at birth, and Saleem's life takes some unexpected twists and turns. As he grows up amidst a whirlwind of triumphs and disasters, Saleem must learn the ominous consequences of his gift, for the course of his life is inseparably linked to that of his motherland, and his every act is mirrored and magnified in the events that shape the newborn nation of India. It is a great gift, and a terrible burden. de Anyone who has spent time in the developing world will know that one of Bombay's claims to fame is the enormous film industry that churns out hundreds of musical fantasies each year. The other, of course, is native son Salman Rushdie--less prolific, perhaps than Bollywood, but in his own way just as fantastical. Though Rushdie's novels lack the requisite six musical numbers that punctuate every Bombay talkie, they often share basic plot points with their cinematic counterparts. Take, for example, his 1980 Booker Prize-winning *Midnight's Children*: two children born at the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1947--the moment at which India became an independent nation--are switched in the hospital. The infant scion of a wealthy Muslim family is sent to be raised in a Hindu tenement, while the legitimate heir to such squalor ends up establishing squatters' rights to his unlucky hospital mate's luxurious bassinet. Switched babies are standard fare for a Hindi film, and one can't help but feel that Rushdie's world-view--and certainly his sense of the fantastical--has been shaped by the films of his childhood. But whereas the movies, while entertaining, are markedly mediocre, *Midnight's Children* is a masterpiece, brilliant written, wildly unpredictable, hilarious and heartbreaking in equal measure. Rushdie's narrator, Saleem Sinai,

is the Hindu child raised by wealthy Muslims. Near the beginning of the novel, he informs us that he is falling apart--literally: I mean quite simply that I have begun to crack all over like an old jug--that my poor body, singular, unlovely, buffeted by too much history, subjected to drainage above and drainage below, mutilated by doors, brained by spittoons, has started coming apart at the seams. In short, I am literally disintegrating, slowly for the moment, although there are signs of an acceleration. In light of this unfortunate physical degeneration, Saleem has decided to write his life story, and, incidentally, that of India's, before he crumbles into "(approximately) six hundred and thirty million particles of anonymous, and necessarily oblivious, dust." It seems that within one hour of midnight on India's independence day, 1,001 children were born. All of those children were endowed with special powers: some can travel through time, for example; one can change gender. Saleem's gift is telepathy, and it is via this power that he discovers the truth of his birth: that he is, in fact, the product of the illicit coupling of an Indian mother and an English father, and has usurped another's place. His gift also reveals the identities of all the other children and the fact that it is in his power to gather them for a "midnight parliament" to save the nation. To do so, however, would lay him open to that other child, christened Shiva, who has grown up to be a brutish killer. Saleem's dilemma plays out against the backdrop of the first years of independence: the partition of India and Pakistan, the ascendancy of "The Widow" Indira Gandhi, war, and, eventually, the imposition of martial law. We've seen this mix of magical thinking and political reality before in the works of Gnter Grass and Gabriel Garca Mrquez. What sets Rushdie apart is his mad prose pyrotechnics, the exuberant acrobatics of rhyme and alliteration, pun, wordplay, proper and "Babu" English chasing each other across the page in a dizzying, exhilarating cataract of words. Rushdie can be laugh-out-loud funny, but make no mistake--this is an angry book, and its author's outrage lends his language wings. *Midnight's Children* is Salman Rushdie's irate, affectionate love song to his native land--not so different from a Bombay talkie, after all. --Alix Wilber.co.uk Before Salman Rushdie had that problem with a certain religious-political figure with a serious need to chill out, he'd already shown he was an important literary force. Quite simply, *Midnight's Children* is amazing--fun, beautiful, erudite, both fairy tale and political narrative told through a supernatural narrator who is caught between different worlds. Though it's a big book, with big themes of India's nationhood and of ethnic and personal identity, it's far from a dry history lesson. Rushdie tells the story in his own brand of magical realism, with a prose of lyrical, transcendent goofiness.