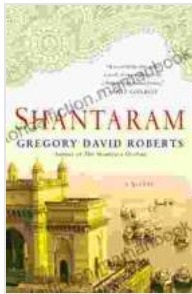


Shantaram: A Journey of Love, Loss, and Redemption

Shantaram is a novel by Gregory David Roberts that tells the story of an Australian man who flees to India after escaping from prison. The novel follows the man's journey as he becomes involved in the Mumbai underworld and falls in love with a local woman.



Shantaram: A Novel by Gregory David Roberts

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2798 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 946 pages



The novel is based on Roberts' own experiences. In 1980, Roberts was sentenced to 19 years in prison for armed robbery. He escaped from prison in 1984 and fled to India. He lived in India for 10 years, during which time he became involved in the Mumbai underworld and fell in love with a local woman named Karla.

Shantaram is a sprawling and ambitious novel that explores themes of love, loss, and redemption. The novel is also a vivid portrait of Mumbai and the Indian underworld. Roberts' writing is lyrical and evocative, and he brings the sights, sounds, and smells of Mumbai to life.

Plot

Shantaram tells the story of Lin, an Australian man who flees to India after escaping from prison. Lin is a complex and flawed character. He is intelligent and resourceful, but he is also impulsive and reckless. He is drawn to the Mumbai underworld, and he quickly becomes involved in its violence and corruption.

Despite the dangers, Lin also finds love in Mumbai. He falls in love with Karla, a local woman who is both beautiful and compassionate. Karla helps Lin to find redemption and to come to terms with his past.

The novel follows Lin's journey as he becomes involved in the Mumbai underworld and falls in love with Karla. The novel is also a vivid portrait of Mumbai and the Indian underworld. Roberts' writing is lyrical and evocative, and he brings the sights, sounds, and smells of Mumbai to life.

Characters

The novel features a large cast of characters, including:

- **Lin:** An Australian man who flees to India after escaping from prison. Lin is a complex and flawed character. He is intelligent and resourceful, but he is also impulsive and reckless. He is drawn to the Mumbai underworld, and he quickly becomes involved in its violence and corruption.
- **Karla:** A local woman who is both beautiful and compassionate. Karla helps Lin to find redemption and to come to terms with his past.
- **Khader Khan:** A powerful crime boss who takes Lin under his wing. Khader Khan is a ruthless and violent man, but he also has a sense of

honor.

- **Prabaker:** A young Indian man who becomes Lin's friend. Prabaker is a kind and compassionate man, and he helps Lin to adjust to life in Mumbai.
- **Madame Zhou:** A mysterious woman who runs a brothel in Mumbai. Madame Zhou is a powerful and influential woman, and she has a reputation for being both ruthless and compassionate.

Themes

Shantaram explores a number of themes, including:

- **Love:** The novel explores the power of love to redeem and transform. Lin's love for Karla helps him to find redemption and to come to terms with his past.
- **Loss:** The novel also explores the pain of loss. Lin loses his family and friends when he flees to India. He also loses Karla when she is killed.
- **Redemption:** The novel explores the possibility of redemption. Lin is a flawed and broken man, but he is able to find redemption through his love for Karla and his work with the poor.

Reception

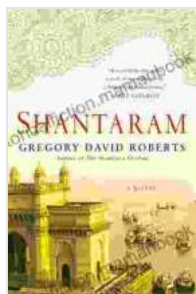
Shantaram has been praised for its lyrical writing, vivid characters, and complex themes. The novel has been translated into 40 languages and has sold over 10 million copies worldwide.

Shantaram has also been criticized for its length and its graphic violence. However, the novel's fans argue that its length and violence are essential to

its realism and power.

Shantaram is a sprawling and ambitious novel that explores themes of love, loss, and redemption. The novel is also a vivid portrait of Mumbai and the Indian underworld. Roberts' writing is lyrical and evocative, and he brings the sights, sounds, and smells of Mumbai to life.

Whether you love it or hate it, there is no denying that Shantaram is a powerful and unforgettable novel.



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