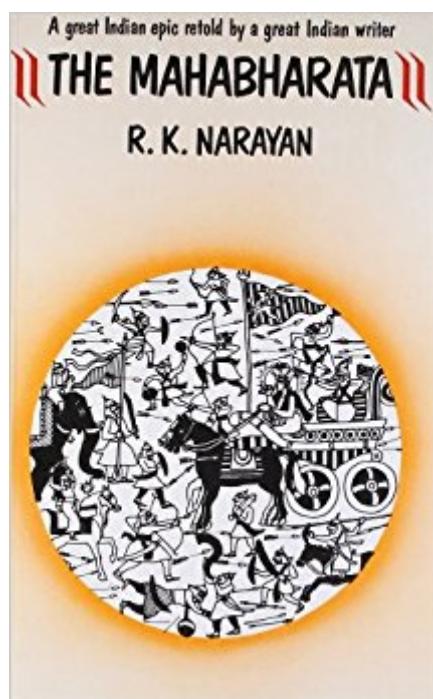


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The Mahabharata



Synopsis

Approximately 3,500 years old, The Mahabharata is a tale that embellishes the triumph of right over wrong, truth over lies, and good over evil. The Mahabharata and The Ramayana are the roots of the religious and cultural heritage of India. The Mahabharata is the story of two branches of a certain family, the Pandavas and the Kauravas, which turn against each other through strange twists of fate. This enmity and bitterness results in an 18-day war, which is waged at Kurukshetra, a district in the state of Haryana in modern day India. Lord Krishna, one of the most important Hindu deities, plays a key role in deciding the fate of the war when he sees Arjuna facing the terrible dilemma of waging a war against his loved ones. R.K Narayan's direct and simplistic writing makes The Mahabharata a great read and sheds even more light onto the characters that make the epic what it is. The tales of nobility, greed, hatred, love, sorrow, and sacrifice are wonderfully weaved and re-told by the writer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

R.K. Narayan is fondly remembered for bringing the attention of the world towards Indian English literature. Narayan created the fictional town of Malgudi, which was to be the setting for a lot of his work. It was a semi-urban town with a rich history. Novels such as The Man-eater Of Malgudi and A Tiger For Malgudi are set in this fictional town. Malgudi Days, a collection of short stories, is also based around the town of Malgudi. Some of Narayan's other works include novels like The World Of Nagaraj, The Guide, The Vendor Of Sweets, and Talkative Man. He also has written a version of The Ramayana. Narayan has won numerous awards for his immense contribution towards Indian

English literature, such as the second-highest civilian award in India, the Padma Vibhushan. As mentioned before, Narayan had the ability to bring his characters to life and could actually make the readers feel for them. Compressing narratives without losing the structure or the plot was also one of his key features as a writer. Narayan was born in the year 1906 in Madras (now known as Chennai). From a very early age, he found an interest in reading. Narayan's family mostly conversed in English, which led to him honing his English skills. His first few books, which include the likes of *Swami And Friends* and *The Dark Room*, got critical acclaim but no financial success.

These are both excellent editions of R.K. Narayan's books. I have a collection of most of his works and, like most English reading and school-going Indian children of my time, I grew up reading and re-reading his Malgudi stories. These two books are concise retellings of rich mythological stories of India and I got them to read to my 8-year-old daughter. They are perfect for that purpose.

It is a short, precise, and fun read. If you don't have enough time to read the main thing, try this. You won't be disappointed.

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