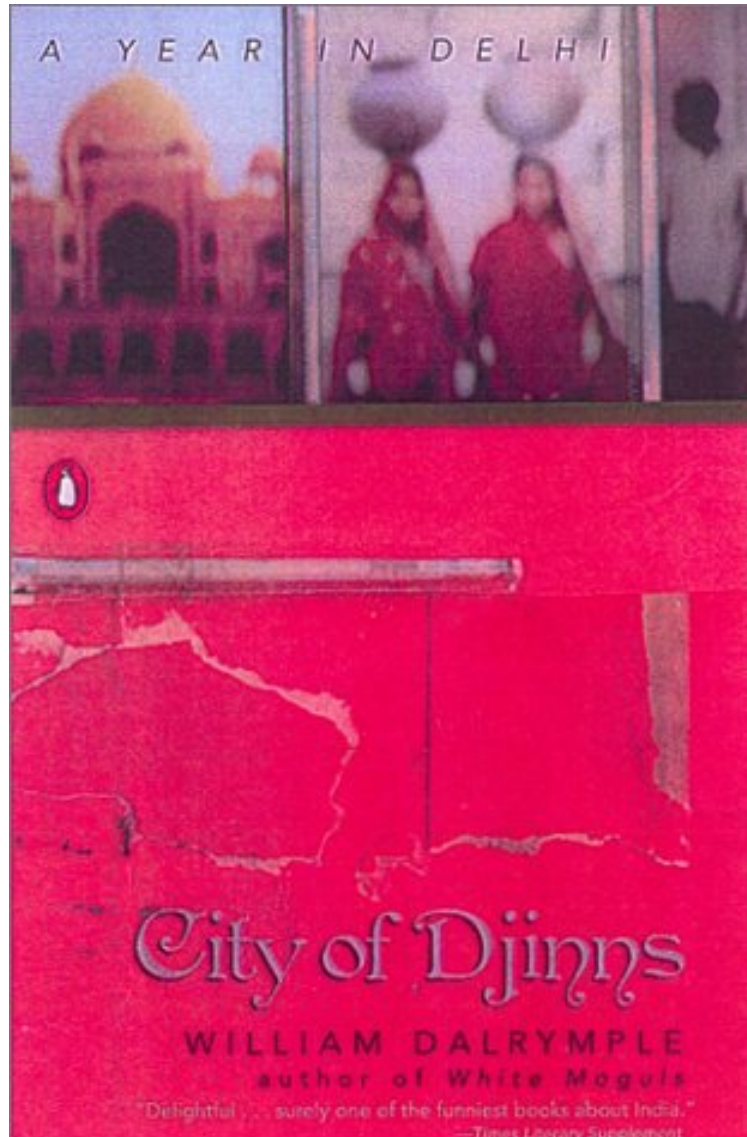


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## City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi

*William Dalrymple*

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**William Dalrymple : City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised City of Djinns: A Year in Delhi:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Purchased for a friendBy Sheryl W.I read this book when it was first published; I was living in New Delhi at the time. Dalrymple's writing astounded me, especially for one so young as he was then. I've thought of the book many times in the past 15 or so years, and when I learned one of my friends plans to

travel to N.D. in the coming spring, I knew I had to gift her with this book. She will love it as much as I do, I predict. The layers of the city are peeled back through Dalrymple's sensitive approach to history and culture, and the reader is transported to places and times that are long gone, as well as those that are contemporary. Walking through the streets of New Delhi and Old, the reader feels as though the City has come alive in some other dimension. Voices speak from the past, and some of those voices have lessons to share. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Relentlessly Ponderous By Paul C. Curley I found the author's relentlessly ponderous writing style to be unreadable. It was like reading a catalogue. I quit around page 100. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for a city which doesn't exist By Bob M This is an outstanding book about Delhi. It is well written, engaging and informative. It was recommended to us when we moved here. However, this is not a book about the Delhi of today, and readers looking for information about today's city, or planning a trip on the basis of the book would be disappointed. Nevertheless, it is well worth a read. And the djinns still inhabit the ruins, if you know where to look.

Sparkling with irrepressible wit, *City of Djinns* peels back the layers of Delhi's centuries-old history, revealing an extraordinary array of characters along the way—from eunuchs to descendants of great Moguls. With refreshingly open-minded curiosity, William Dalrymple explores the seven "dead" cities of Delhi as well as the eighth city—today's Delhi. Underlying his quest is the legend of the djinns, fire-formed spirits that are said to assure the city's Phoenix-like regeneration no matter how many times it is destroyed. Entertaining, fascinating, and informative, *City of Djinns* is an irresistible blend of research and adventure.

From *Library Journal* Delhi has a richly layered past, and Dalrymple (In *Xanadu*, McKay, 1990) deftly peels away each layer to reveal how the city came to be what it is today. Djinns are spirits said to be seen only after prolonged fasting and prayer; they too are integral to understanding the city. The author, a young Scot carrying on the fine British tradition of travel writing, has a knack for meeting fascinating people and capturing their most revealing remarks. He introduces us to dervishes, eunuchs, partridge fighting, weddings, and expatriates. His wife contributes sketches that nicely complement his text. Considering the importance of Delhi, the capital of the world's second most populous nation, this book deserves to be in most public and academic libraries. Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. 'Delightful ... Surely one of the funniest books about India' TLS 'Now read by Tim Pigott-Smith, *City of Djinns* gets a wonderful new lease of life. Dalrymple has a rare gift for historical narrative and catches the engaging, Anglo-Indian speech of his cast with telling accuracy.' Independent 23/5/98 About the Author William Dalrymple was born in Scotland and brought up on the shores of the Firth of Forth. He wrote the highly acclaimed bestseller *In Xanadu* when he was twenty-two. The book won the 1990 Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award and a Scottish Arts Council Spring Book Award; it was also shortlisted for the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize. In 1989 Dalrymple moved to Delhi where he lived for six years researching his second book, *City of Djinns*, which won the 1994 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award and the Sunday Times Young British Writer of the Year Award. From the Holy Mountain, his acclaimed study of the demise of Christianity in its Middle Eastern homeland, was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award for 1997; it was also shortlisted for the 1998 Thomas Cook Award, the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the Duff Cooper Prize. A collection of his writings about India, *The Age of Kali*, was published in 1998. William Dalrymple is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Royal Asiatic Society, and in 2002 was awarded the Mungo Park Medal by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for his outstanding contribution to travel literature. He wrote and presented the British television series *Stones of the Raj and Indian Journeys*, which won the Grierson Award for Best Documentary Series at BAFTA in 2002. His Radio 4 series on the history of British spirituality and mysticism, *The Long Search*, recent won the 2002 Sandford St Martin Prize for Religious Broadcasting and was described by the judges as 'thrilling in its brilliance... near perfect radio.' He is married to the artist Olivia Fraser, and they have three children. They now divide their time between London and Delhi.