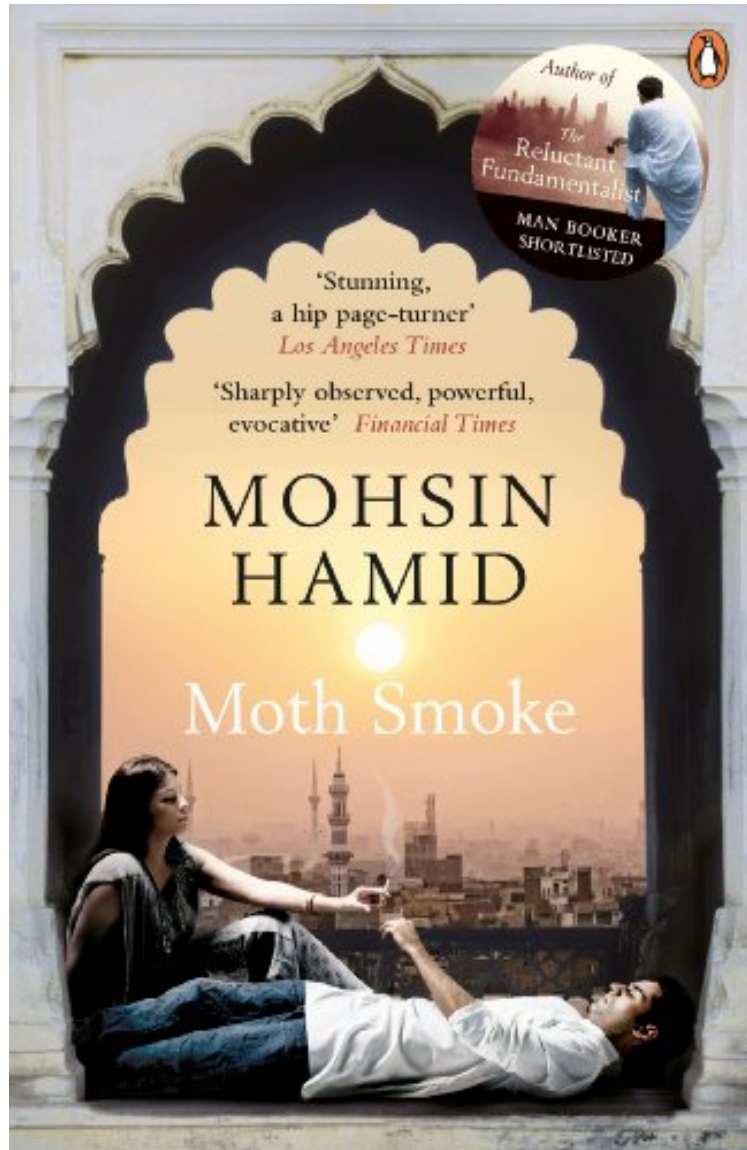


(Library ebook) Moth Smoke

Moth Smoke

Von Mohsin Hamid

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Von Mohsin Hamid : Moth Smoke before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moth Smoke:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Brilliant DebutVon Book LoverI had heard about the book late last year from a Pakistani friend based in New York. I had to wait patiently these past months until it became available in Pakistani bookstores. Was it worth the wait? Yes, most definitely. Mohsin Hamid is a truly gifted writer. Being a fan of Garcia Marquez, Vargas Llosa and Kundera, I

sincerely believe that if this young man maintains Moth Smoke's audacious style and depth of characterisation in his future works then he has a good chance of making it to the very top of an extremely gifted ladder. How accurate are the depictions? For non-Pakistanis the answer is: only too real unfortunately. For nearly all of Pakistan's 53 years of history its millions of impoverished citizens have been ruled by a select elite whose numbers have expanded over the years to include new wealth - mostly corrupt. Mohsin Hamid has brilliantly captured the dissolute absurdities of a young generation belonging to the Lahore segment of this privileged elite. My favourite part of the book is when one of the characters justifies his father's massive corruption by saying: 'What's the alternative? You have to have money these days. The roads are falling apart, so you need a Pajero or a Land Cruiser. The phone lines are erratic, so you need a mobile. The colleges are overrun with fundos who have no interest in getting an education, so you have to go abroad. And that's ten lakhs a year, mind you. Thanks to electricity theft there will always be shortages, so you have to have a generator. The police are corrupt and ineffective, so you need private security guards. It goes on and on. People are pulling their pieces out of the pie, and the pie is getting smaller, so if you love your family, you'd better take your piece now, while there's still some left. That's what I'm doing. And if anyone isn't doing it, it's because they are locked out of the kitchen.' So say all of Pakistan's corrupt cocktail of bureaucrats, businessmen, politicians and generals. Well done, Mohsin Hamid!

3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Moth Smoke
Von Ein Kunde
This is a beautiful, haunting book which brings to mind *The Wanderer* by Alain-Fournier. The self scrutiny of the characters is intense, (believable and unbelievable) giving the reader a strange sense of belonging in an rapidly evolving and exotic community. Highly recommend.
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Pakistan...
Von Sumbal
The novel was great. If i didnt have to go to work, i wouldve finished it in one sitting without a doubt. One of my favorite lines in the novel, and im paraphrasing, is where Daru goes for an interview and says that there are about 100 other guys applying for the same job he is, and no matter what qualifications he has, the guy with the connections is going to get the job. As far as i've seen, "connections" are the way to a steady future in Pakistan. I have personally asked all my close friends to read this novel. So far, they agree with me in regards to this being a great novel. Great work Mohsin...i am anxiously awaiting ur next novel.

Kurzbeschreibung Moth Smoke is the first novel by Mohsin Hamid, author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. You know you're in trouble when you can't meet a woman's eye, particularly if the woman happens to be your best friend's wife. In Lahore, Daru Shezad is a junior banker with a hashish habit. When his old friend Ozi moves back to Pakistan, Daru wants to be happy for him. Ozi has everything: a beautiful wife and child, an expensive foreign education - and a corrupt father who bankrolls his lavish lifestyle. As jealousy sets in, Daru's life slowly unravels. He loses his job. Starts lacing his joints with heroin. Becomes involved with a criminally-minded rickshaw driver. And falls in love with Ozi's lonely wife. But how low can Daru sink? Is he guilty of the crime he finds himself on trial for? A vivid portrait of contemporary young Pakistani life, where frustration and insecurity feed not only the snobbery, decadence and aspirations of the rich, but also the resentment of the poor. The Times' Fast-paced, intelligent . . . pulls us, despite ourselves, into its spiralling wake. New Yorker' A subtly audacious . . . prodigious descendant of hard-boiled lit and film noir. A steamy and often darkly amusing book about sex, drugs, and class warfare in postcolonial Asia. Village Voice' Stunning, a hip page-turner. Los Angeles Times' Sharply observed, powerful, evocative. Financial Times' A novel of remarkable wit, poise, profundity, and strangeness. A treat. Esquire' Mohsin Hamid is the author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, *Moth Smoke* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*. His fiction has been translated into over 30 languages, received numerous awards, and been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He has contributed essays and short stories to publications such as the Guardian, The New York Times, Financial Times, Granta, and Paris. Born and mostly raised in Lahore, he spent part of his childhood in California, studied at Princeton University and Harvard Law School, and has since lived between Lahore, London, and New York. deSince the late 1970s, India in all her infinite variety has been brought to life as a posse of Indian authors writing in English have exploded onto the scene: Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Anita Desai, Rohinton Mistry, Vikram Seth, Bharati Mukherjee--the list is legion. But what of Pakistan--that Siamese twin, painfully separated in the partition of 1947? Though neither as numerous nor as well known as their Indian counterparts, Pakistani writers are beginning to make an impression on Western readers. Novelists from Rushdie to the Pakistani Bapsi Sidhwa have written about the partition and the bloody civil war that followed; even stories set in modern-day Bombay or Lahore cannot escape the aftershocks of the division. On the surface, Mohsin Hamid's first novel, *Moth Smoke*, seems more domestic than political drama: narrated from several different perspectives, it tells the story of Daru Shezad's ill-fated affair with his best friend's wife, Mumtaz. But in a country like Pakistan, the personal and the political are difficult to separate, and as the story moves along, the divisions between gender, class, and opportunity provide a not-so-subtle commentary on the fissures that run through contemporary Pakistani society. The novel begins, tellingly, with a historical fragment about the internecine wars of succession that followed the rule of Emperor Shah Jahan (builder of the Taj Mahal): Imprisoned in his fort at Agra, staring at the Taj he had built, an aged Shah Jahan received as a gift from his youngest son the head of his eldest.

Perhaps he doubted, then, the memory that his boys had once played together, far from his supervision and years ago, in Lahore. Jump ahead several hundred years to Lahore in the summer of 1998. Childhood playmates Daru and Ozi have just reunited again after Ozi's three-year stay in America. Glad as he is to see his old friend, Daru can't keep his eyes off of Ozi's wife, Mumtaz. "You know you're in trouble when you can't meet a woman's eye," he says. But woman trouble isn't his only problem; he's also addicted to hash, which leads to his dismissal from an upscale job as a banker. Soon Daru spirals out of control into a degraded existence on the fringes of society. Then a young boy is killed in a hit-and-run accident, and he is accused and jailed. Shah Jehan would probably recognize this age-old story of love and revenge playing out once more--this time against the backdrop of the Indian-Pakistani arms race. Hamid artfully weaves the subcontinent's tragic history into his characters' no-less-tragic present, rendering *Moth Smoke* a novel that resonates on many levels. --Sheila Bright *Pressestimmen* "A rare glimpse into modern-day Pakistan . . . The voices that emerge are sarcastic and sad, a lively lament . . . reminiscent of V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie."-Carolyn Alessio, "The Chicago Tribune" "It's Hamid's achievement that we remain charmed by Daru throughout; the fast-paced, intelligent narration pulls us, despite ourselves, into his spiralling wake."-"The New Yorker" "Not often does one find a first novel that has the power of imagination and skill to orchestrate personal and public themes of these consequences and achieve a chord that reverberates in one's mind. "*Moth Smoke*" is one of the two or three best novels I have read this year."-Nadine Gordimer "[A] brisk, absorbing novel . . . Hamid steers us from start to finish with assurance and care."-Jhumpa Lahiri, "The New York Times Book " "A first novel of remarkable wit, poise, profundity, and strangeness . . . Hamid is a writer of gorgeous, lush prose and superb dialogue .