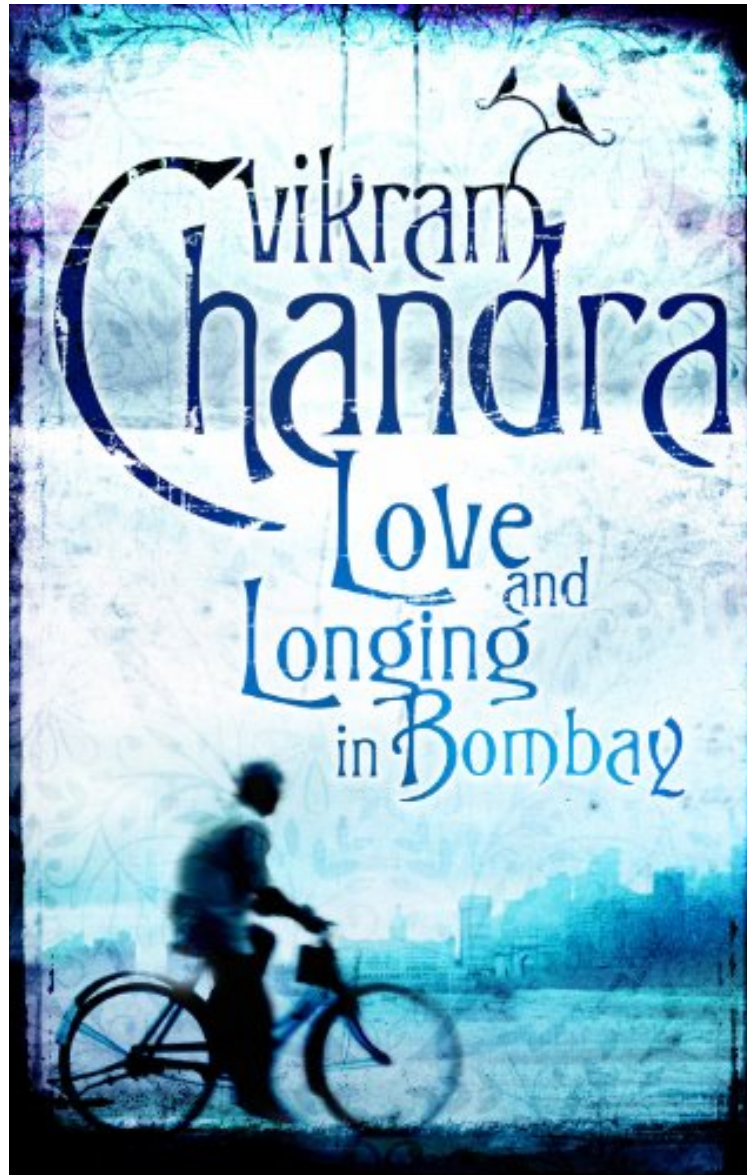


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Love and Longing in Bombay (English Edition)

Von Vikram Chandra

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #375124 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2011-05-05Erscheinungsdatum: 2011-05-05File Name: B004ZWNQP0 | File size: 53.Mb

Von Vikram Chandra : Love and Longing in Bombay (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love and Longing in Bombay (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Heartbreaking, captivating stories. Perfectly written.Von Ein KundeI am a resident of Bombay, and I was amazed about how these perfect stories smelled and tasted of the streets of the city. I am away from home, and these stories

made me homesick. They are captivating, heartbreaking, tender stories. I read them again and again, and each time they reveal something new about themselves to me. Anybody who loves Bombay or wants to know what the city is like should read these.² von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Superb Collection of Contemporary Tales Von Ein Kunde A year ago, I read the Booker Prize-winning novelist Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* on a whim and - I'll admit it - on its wave of accolades. I enjoyed it thoroughly. It heralded for me a year of informal study of South Asian literature written in English. The next book I happened to pick up was Vikram Chandra's *Love and Longing in Bombay*, a collection of three short stories and two novellas that left me with an even stronger sentiment, one of being simply "blown away". The five tales in this collection are, at several levels, linked to one another and though the title of the collective work might suggest otherwise, they deal with nearly every aspect of contemporary life in India. If there is any one theme that stands out, I would submit that it is that age-old topic of literature: loss. These are "slice of life" stories that reflect upon the dazzling complexities, conflicts and vicissitudes inherent to life and they - like life itself - do not arrive at neatly packaged conclusions. I found the prose to be at once simple, yet elegant and sophisticated. The storytelling prowess of Mr. Chandra is obvious from the get go, and though it is undoubtedly true that he has been endowed with a gift from the gods, it is also equally true that the young author is a well-studied stylist. There are passages in this collection that I have committed to memory, simply for the joy of hearing the language in my mind. Mr. Chandra is an incredibly observant, psychologically-minded and sensitive author and his supremely well-rounded characters have stayed with me - shall I dare say? - for an entire year, such is the impact of his prose. With the exception of the final tale ("Shanti"), they are all set in Bombay, the mega-metropolis of modern-day India. Each one is begun with the enigmatic storyteller, a retired civil servant named Subramaniam, uttering the enticing, "Listen," and each one may be considered a genre piece. So, for example, there is a ghost story ("Dharma"), a high-brow soap opera ("Shakti"), and a murder mystery detective story ("Kama"). If - as people have correctly pointed out to me - each one is a gem, then the two novellas, "Kama" and "Artha", I would argue, are very close to being nearly perfectly-cut diamonds. Having given this collection as a gift to a number of people, I can state unabashedly that not one has uttered anything short of superlative to describe his time spent with this book. I, for one, started each story with a piping hot cup of chai masala and could hardly wait to come back to them after a long day's work. This one is a must read for anyone who enjoys that sublime pleasure of succumbing to the powers of a truly gifted and immensely talented storyteller.¹ von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. masterful manipulation of the "contemporary" in India Von chinna69@hotmail.com Vikram Chandra's *Love and Longing in Bombay* is refreshingly contemporary. He writes eloquently and convincingly of a Bombay populated by real people not the angst-ridden characters laden with 'history' that one is apt to encounter in books by the Indian postcolonial male. The story I loved best was the one about computer programmers racing to save their business told against a wrenching story of homosexual love interrupted by the brutal punch of right-wing religious politics in Bombay. The figure of the young man mourning his lost partner and their abruptly extinguished love on the beach is one that haunts me as does the account earlier of their lovemaking. Chandra is an exciting new writing talent who like Arundhati Roy sets new, higher standards for Indian writers than an earlier generation of largely over-rated scribes.

Kurzbeschreibung Set in contemporary India, *Love and Longing in Bombay* confirms Vikram Chandra as one of today's most exciting young writers. In five haunting tales he paints a remarkable picture of Bombay - its ghosts, its passions, its feuds, its mysteries - while exploring timeless questions of the human spirit. 'When *Midnight's Children* first arrived on the scene, it became necessary to reevaluate stories from and about India. With Vikram Chandra's collection - his second book - it is time to take stock again . . . Breathtaking.' Observer.de Dieser Titel ist in englischer Sprache. Willkommen in Fishermans Rest, einer kleinen Bar am Rande des Sasoons Docks in Bombay, in der Mr. Subramaniam seine Geschichten für erlesene Zuhörer ausspinnt. Das ist der Rahmen für Chandras Sammlung *Love and Longing in Bombay*, die aus sieben Kurzgeschichten besteht, und Subramaniam ist seine Scheherazade. Mit diesen Geschichten hat Chandra das ganze Spektrum der Genres erfaßt: Es gibt eine Gespenstergeschichte, eine Liebesgeschichte, eine rätselhafte Mordgeschichte und einen Krimi, und sie sind alle durch die Stimme des im Hintergrund bleibenden Erzählers miteinander verbunden. Eine Auseinandersetzung über Immobilien in "Shakti" führt zur Geschichte eines Soldaten, der ein gespenstisches Kind aus seinem Heim austreiben muß. In "Shanti", der letzten Geschichte, wird die Verzweiflung einer jungen Frau über die Verhältnisse in ihrem Land zum Sprungbrett für eine Geschichte über Liebe und Hoffnung. *Love and Longing in Bombay* ist eine faszinierende Sammlung voller ausgereifter Charaktere und voller Geschichten, die noch in uns erklingen, wenn das Buch schon längst wieder im Regal steht. Chandras Prosa glänzt, seine Geschichten erfüllen alle Erwartungen. Scheherazade wird sicherlich beeindruckt. Kurzbeschreibung Set in contemporary India, *Love and Longing in Bombay* confirms Vikram Chandra as one of today's most exciting young writers. In five haunting tales he paints a remarkable picture of Bombay - its ghosts, its passions, its feuds, its mysteries - while exploring timeless questions of the human spirit. 'When *Midnight's Children* first arrived on the scene, it became necessary to reevaluate stories from and about India. With Vikram

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