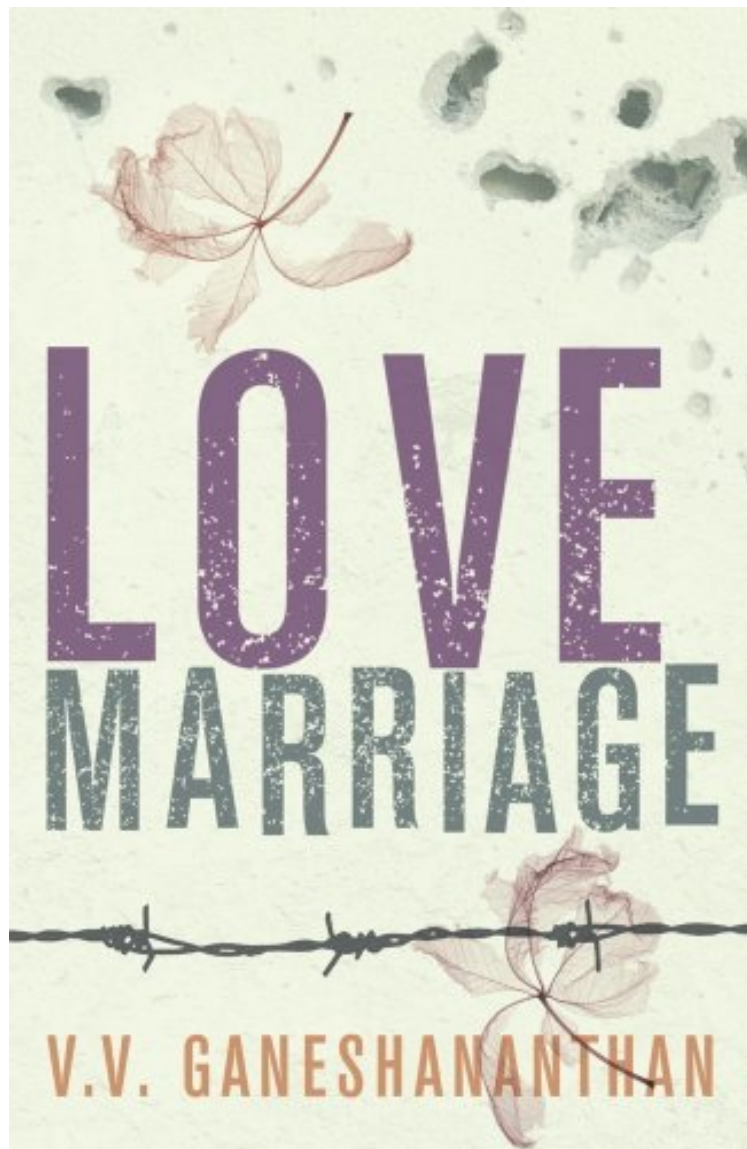


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Love Marriage (English Edition)

Von V.V. Ganeshanathan

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Von V.V. Ganeshanathan : Love Marriage (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love Marriage (English Edition):

Kurzbeschreibung 'In this globe-scattered Sri Lankan family, we speak only of two kinds of marriage. The first is the Arranged Marriage. The second is the Love Marriage.' An outstanding debut novel of fractured family relationships in modern Sri Lanka. Reverse a family tree and branches of blood are whittled down to one person - in this case, the young female narrator, Yalini - composed of all the women and men who came before her; the result of many marriages. Parents want nothing more than to prevent their children from colliding with inevitability: that in a different world, there is a different kind of marriage. Yet Tamil and Sinhalese parents - particularly after the great ethnic violence in Sri Lanka in 1983 - watch helplessly as their children cut themselves free of the need to please their ancestors. They walked out of the country to give their children opportunity, but this was not the opportunity they intended them to take: Western marriage. For Yalini and her generation, they are the children of their parents, but have entered other countries in which the rules of marriage - Love Marriage, Arranged Marriage, and all that lies in between - dramatically do not apply. From Publishers Weekly Several generations of a Sri Lankan family touched by the country's civil war confront the limits of ethnic and familial allegiance in Ganeshanathan's forceful but patchy debut. First-generation American Yalini, daughter of Sri Lankan Tamil parents Vani and Murali, is an awkward 22-year-old who has spent her youth burdened by family secrets from their lives before emigration. Confronted with her enigmatic dying uncle, Kumaran, who had a shadowy role in Sri Lanka's insurgent Tamil Tigers, Yalini is driven to examine her relatives' marriages as a means of figuring out their alliances and her own unsettled identity. Her parents fell in love in New York and escaped arranged marriages back home; her grandparents, aunts and uncles have their own stories; Kumaran's 18-year-old daughter chooses to wed a Tamil Tiger financier. Written in short blocks of text, the book is structured as a kind of day book where Yalini records her progress. Repetitions create a meditative mood, but dull the book's emotional core and make emphasis on marriage seem forced. The most vivid character, Rajie, the daughter of an old family friend, appears only briefly. And the issues that plague Yalini remain vague until the last third of the novel, when the narrative suddenly takes on real power. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Pressestimmen 'Ganeshanathan mixes up the sequence, tossing before the reader shards of memories which look like pieces of broken bangles. But when we look at those broken bangles through her kaleidoscope, her twisting of the lens reveals patterns that make it possible to understand aspects of the conflict, even if the horrors cannot be excused' THE INDEPENDENT 'The prose is beautiful - elegant, elegiac, precise... This is a very classy novel' (4-stars) THE BOOK BAG.CO.UK 'This story is written in a series of many short extracts, fragmented parts of the whole and it works really well. This is how events happened and it's that useful imagery of the patchwork or the jigsaw that prevails so slowly all the gaps are filled... A beautifully written story' DOVE GREY READER 'An unusual and accomplished first novel... Sadly topical and widely relevant, but also an assured piece of writing and a commentary on a situation many of us know little about' CORNFLOWER 'Sri Lanka's civil war forms the backdrop to a powerful debut novel that explores the diverse possibilities of different marriages... Moving and intelligent' METRO 'Innovative... this is an ambitious family drama about an underreported part of the world, filled with well-shaded characters (and) gorgeous flourish... Buy it' NEW YORK MAGAZINE 'In spare, lyrical prose, VV Ganeshanathan's debut novel tells the story of two Sri Lankan Tamil families over four generations who, despite civil war and displacement, are irrevocably joined by marriage and tradition... Powerful' MS MAGAZINE 'A haunting debut written with great finesse, this is a beautiful novel' WATERSTONES BOOKS QUARTERLY 'Ganeshanathan has created a slow-burning and beautifully written debut in Love Marriage. It is an evocative examination of Sri Lankan cultural mores, and the way one family is affected by love and war' FINANCIAL TIMES 'The book is at times witty and always beautifully written' IRISH TIMES