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Brahma Dreaming: Legends From Hindu Mythology



Synopsis

Brahma Dreaming is master storyteller John Jackson's latest collaboration with the acclaimed artist, Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini. John's intriguing versions of the tales of the Hindu's great gods are graced by Daniela's brilliantly reimagined illustrations of the deities, each a masterpiece of detail and drama, reminiscent of Dulac and Rackham, and the glorious Golden Age. These are the tales of the Trimurti – the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva – and Brahma Dreaming is divided into three sections representing their continuous forces of creation, preservation and destruction. The work begins with Lord Brahma dreaming the universe into being and from there unfolds an enthralling collection of interconnected tales that span the entire spectrum of human experience, dark illusions and earthly temptations. Here are brave princes, divine divas and demon kings, family feuds and epic battles, burning loves and lies, tragic deaths and glorious rebirths. There are tales about dancing elephants, peacock warriors and monkey armies, all retold by Jackson with great character, warmth and wit. Jackson's collaborator, artist Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini, has been inspired to create what she describes as the best work of her career in Brahma Dreaming with over fifty exquisite fonts and illustrations hand-drawn in black ink. These are the Hindu gods and goddesses as they have never been seen before! Brahma Dreaming has been crafted using the same methods and attention to detail used to create the earliest illustrated gift books from the turn of the twentieth century and the result is itself a work of art. With a distinctive black dust jacket, Brahma Dreaming is finished in black laminate with orange varnish details. Underneath the black cloth cover is a fully illustrated front and back with foil stamping and debossing, also in black and orange. It features elaborate endpapers and is completed with a tangerine ribbon marker.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • This anthology of Indian mythology focuses on the lives, loves, and struggles of the Mahadevas, the Great Gods of Hinduism. Jackson divides his stories into tales of creation, destruction, and preservation, giving readers an overview of the more famous stories surrounding Brahma the Creator and his fellow gods, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer. The arrangement lends itself to some jumps in narrative, but the tales are told in a clear, easy-to-follow voice. Striking black-and-white illustrations add drama to the text in some places but seem incongruous in others. Illustrations of women come across as more Western in appearance, as compared to many of the men, children, and deities depicted. The nature of some of the illustrations, one of which features a semi-nude woman, may limit the title to older audiences. Readers who have exhausted collections of Greek and Roman mythology may find these tales engaging.

• Elisabeth Gattullo Marrocolla, Darien Library, CT

Brahma Dreaming by John Jackson, illustrated by Daniela Jaglenko Terrazzini, is an unusual book in which the author with extremely good story-telling skills retells the ancient Hindu tales of their great gods, The Mahadevas, The book is sensitively illustrated by the well-known artist Terrazzini, who created black and white prints which look very much like ancient Indian cultural styles, with dream-like quality to the brush strokes. The sections are divided into Tales of Creation; Tales of Destruction; and Tales of Preservation. If you have ever been interested in Hindu culture and beliefs you will find this book really interesting and well done for modern eyes and ears. The beautifully produced art-book, with thick paper and monochrome prints, is in the style of books from the golden age of children's literature in the early decades of the last century. Like many, I devoured my parents' copies of these books in my childhood. Among them were illustrated fairy tales that brought the narratives to life, whether it was H.J. Ford images in Andrew Lang's Fairy Books series, or Margaret Tarrant's drawings for Hans Christian Andersen's stories. For an older generation, J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens will always be associated with Arthur Rackham's drawings rather than the later cartoon versions. The successors of these illustrators worked in more contemporary children's books, so Robin Jacques' drawings were instantly recognizable, as was the later rock album art of Roger

Dean. The images were integral to the books, illustrating key moments and episodes, and remain forever part of the text itself. Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini's images draw on this different lineage of illustration as a new way of presenting the familiar tales of Hindu mythology. The style of the stories of the gods, told by John Jackson, is also redolent of this era of fairy tales. The simple language brings characters to life and presents situations afresh with deceptively plain sentences, with vivid descriptions and pithy dialogues.

Very interesting

Interesting read.

met expectations arrived early

This is a good book to introduce to Kids who are eager to know about Hindu mythology...and also for parents who want to enjoy :)

Exceeded expectations...the illustrations are amazing!

Brahma is dreaming all of us. He is there, sleeping, dreaming us. We are but his dream. That somewhere is the premise of Hindu Mythology and connecting this, John Jackson gives us a graphic novel called, "Brahma Dreaming". I would not really call it a graphic novel; it is more of a novel with some stunning black and white illustrations. The novel is divided into three sections: tales of creation, tales of destruction and tales of preservation, all taken after the three Gods, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Each section has its own mythological tales to it from each perspective of course. Jackson mostly understands Indian mythology and the illustrations by Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini beautifully complement every single tale. To me it was more about the joint experience of the effort that it turned out very well. As an Indian, it came very easy for me to see mythology from a non-Indian perspective. In fact, I also wanted to see to what extent language or its interpretation would affect the book, however it did not. The tales are lucid and most of them are superbly written. His version of Hindu Gods and Goddesses are his own and that is what I loved the most about this book. He doesn't try and subscribe to what was. The basic premise may be that, but I could sense a refreshing change as I turned the pages of this

one. Every illustration and every story is in place. I could not get enough of this book. I only wish there was more to it. There is not a single flaw with this big book of Hindu Gods and Goddesses and somewhere down the line, I also hope that there is a sequel in store for us readers. A read not to be missed and I am glad I did not, while the year is ending.

Thank you to the publisher for the review copy. Published by: JJ Books. Brahma

Dreaming is master storyteller John Jackson's latest collaboration with the acclaimed artist, Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini. John's intriguing versions of the tales of the Hindu's great gods are graced by Daniela's brilliantly reimagined illustrations of the deities, each a masterpiece of detail and drama. First of all, this really is a beautiful looking and feeling book aesthetically speaking it is a wonder and I am extremely happy to have it in my ever growing book collection it is one I will return to a great deal I imagine to enjoy the wonderful illustrations and, indeed, some of the stories within it. Large hardback with a ribbon bookmark, absolutely perfect. I went into this with no expectations at all, I had no idea what to expect considering I had no prior knowledge beyond the extremely peripheral of Hindu Mythology. Not a book I would have immediately put on my reading list it has to be said, and that would have been a shame. It was VERY easy to immerse myself in these tales and alongside the absolutely stunning illustrations (they stole the show if I'm honest) I found myself dipping in and out of this one alongside all my usual reads and considered it a treat each and every single time. The stories are broken down, after the three Gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Each one a little gem and a fabulous way to get a feel for the culture and stunning mythology surrounding each one, yet told in the author's own way and with his own particular twist. I'll talk a little more about the illustrations for a moment such creativity and so elaborate that you will find something new every time you go back and a perfect accessory to the stories being told, bringing each and every one to life. Fantastic. Overall I would say this would be a perfect present for someone interested in the subject matter OR someone who appreciates the fine art and absolute grace of an appealing and handsome looking book. If you fancy this one, get the proper book. Not the Kindle version. That would be my advice for any avid reader or book collector.

This has some of the more popular stories in Hindu Mythology along with a few very nice drawings. I have both the Kindle version and the audio book. But I would've preferred getting the hardback in retrospect because drawings are always nicer to look at in real books. The Kindle version is as

expected. The audiobook is narrated by the author. He's not boring to listen to, but he's not very animated either which may or may not be a good thing depending on your taste. The only thing I didn't get is that at the end of the book there is a story involving some of the mythological characters that the author claims to have written himself?? I didn't get this at all. Why would someone put their own creation at the end of a mythology book? I found that confusing. Still over all I like this book lots.

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