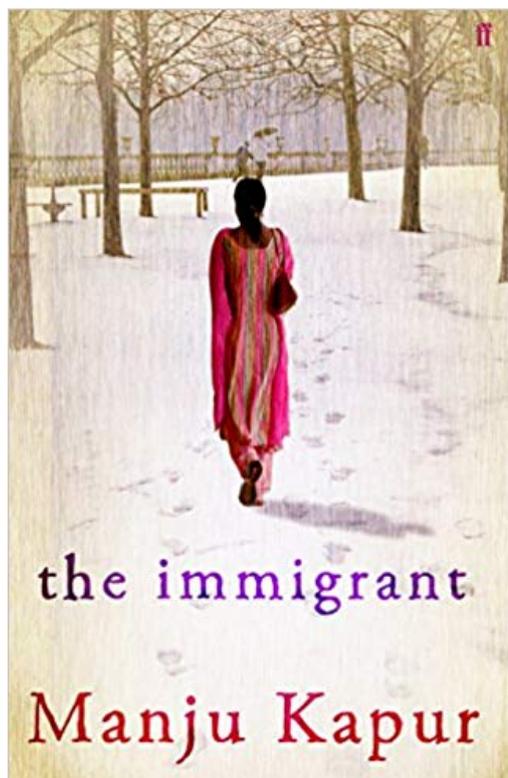


Immigrant



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Reviews of the Immigrant

Tiainar

The book was good & had Indian culture interwoven in the story. The characters were realistic & I learned some interesting facts.

Light out of Fildon

I liked this book, it kept my interest from beginning to end.

Tehn

The most fascinating part of this novel was the stark contrast explored between a woman's life in India and a woman's life as a new immigrant in the US. The author shows us how even in the new environment, the main character is trapped by the customs of her heritage and the expectations of her new husband. I enjoyed watching her grow wings.

Qwert

The author's writing style is too choppy -- she tries simultaneously to employ different narration techniques (present tense, past tense, narrator-style, etc) within the same chapters, leading to a disjointed and messy flow. Not sure if this was deliberate (way too postmodern for my liking) or was an editorial fail, but it seriously hinders the narrative and appears contrived. The plot itself is okay, although the complexity and nuance of the situation was under explored, in my opinion. Read more like a series of descriptions and observations that didn't allow the reader to engage or empathise/identify with the characters. Left me feeling 'cold' and uninterested in a topic (the

immigration experience) that can really be so vibrant and textured.

Uaoteowi

Received the item as ordered. The book is in good shape and arrived on time. Once I finish reading it, I'll order another one.

Moswyn

I have found Manju writes in an English which to begin with I found different, but once I embraced it, I found it was part of the enjoyment of the type of novel it is and what it is about.

I have read a few of her books now, and have truly appreciated the open honesty with which she has revealed so much about India and its people. One grows to love the characters in her books; especially the way they teach about the incredible love and desire the parents have towards their children. The love shines through in so many ways, so that even though arranged marriages are maybe not the norm in Western Society, it is the underlying route of the incredible love and desire for the wellbeing and prosperity of the couple as well as their lives within the family that are so intriguing. The women take their roles very seriously and the reader is drawn emotionally when the inability to bare a child can have catastrophic consequences or when a young girl places education higher than that of being obedient to marrying the man chosen for her by the family. Manju's novels have joy and sadness mixed and are exceptional and honest in revealing human nature, desire and ambition. She is an exceptional author and I highly recommend her novels to people who care about people. Their content is all about situations, emotions and families and one cannot help but be drawn in and be held from start to finish. I do not recommend them to young readers though due to the sexual aspects/content.

I look forward to seeing and reading more of Manju's book releases in the future.

Landaron

This is actually the story not of one but of two immigrants from India, Nina and Ananda. But it is the vulnerable Nina with whom the author clearly sympathizes and with whom, I guess, she feels a sense of feminist sisterhood. Ananda has his own vulnerabilities and one has to feel sorry for him without ever liking him.

After the death of his parents, Ananda had gone to Halifax, Nova Scotia to work as a dentist. He had no intention of going back to live in India and wanted nothing more than to become a proper Canadian. We see the adjustments he had to make to life in Canada. He did quite well; but the one thing he did not seem to manage was to establish a relationship with a Canadian girl. Back in India, his sister was trying to find him a wife. A matchmaker put her in touch with Nina's mother.

Nina is an academic in Delhi, whose "spiritual home is Europe". She is beautiful but unmarried, living in straitened circumstances with her widowed mother who is desperately anxious for Nina to find a husband. Nina has so far resisted all her mother's attempts, but at thirty she is herself beginning to feel desperate also.

Ananda flies to Delhi to see Nina; and though each of them is irritated by the pressures exerted by his sister and by her mother, Ananda has no doubts, and Nina, whose feelings are much more complex, eventually accepts him. The events around the wedding are beautifully described: already, though still in India, Nina is taken out of the world to which she was accustomed.

In Canada she has much more trouble adjusting than Ananda had had; and Ananda, with his own deep-seated insecurities, is insensitive, "never understood a word she was saying", and is unhelpful. It would give too much away to go into details; but Nina's lonely, isolated, jobless, sexually frustrated and childless life is filled with great sadness.

We learn, graphically, about the problem which most troubles Ananda and about his attempts to overcome it - but that scarcely helps Nina, who eventually seeks help for herself - and that does not

please Ananda. But they both feel 'liberated' to do things they would not have done before - and find that there is a heavy price to pay.

An engrossing, but a sad, sad book. I read into it a suggestion that in India the extended family provides such a strong communal life that an unhappy arranged marriage would not lead to the isolation that Nina experiences in Canada. If that is what the author is wanting to convey, I think that would be a generalization both about India and about Canada. But it is certainly true of the particular situation in this novel.

This is a nuanced, realistic portrayal of two people from the same country who try to make a marriage work in a new land, each with his/her own baggage and expectations trying to pull together.

An excellent read, with none of those stereotypes that become so tedious after a while. Both major characters are fluent in English and don't have to 'rise up' from ghettoised immigrant communities, a common theme in immigrant literature. This is the story of the skilled migrant. The relationship with the foreign uncle is presented so realistically, I'm sure anyone who had to suffer the high handed indignities of one's first world relatives would wonder how Kapur got it so right.

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