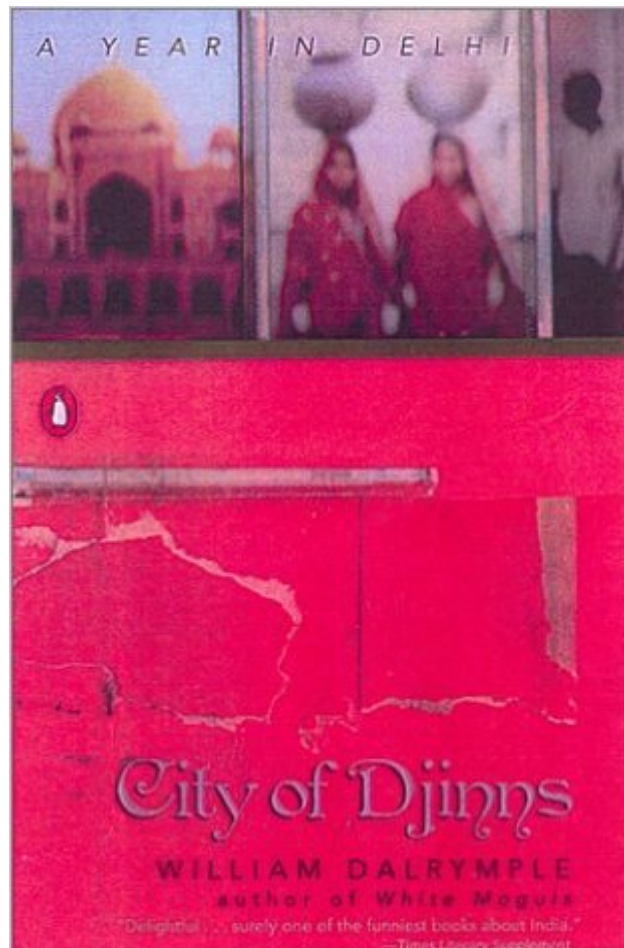


The book was found

# City Of Djinnns: A Year In Delhi



## Synopsis

Â Sparkling with irrepressible wit, *City of Djinns* peels back the layers of Delhi's centuries-old history, revealing an extraordinary array of characters along the way—from eunuchs to descendants of great Moguls. With refreshingly open-minded curiosity, William Dalrymple explores the seven "dead" cities of Delhi as well as the eighth city—today's Delhi. Underlying his quest is the legend of the djinns, fire-formed spirits that are said to assure the city's Phoenix-like regeneration no matter how many times it is destroyed. Entertaining, fascinating, and informative, *City of Djinns* is an irresistible blend of research and adventure.

## Book Information

Paperback: 350 pages

Publisher: Penguin Books; Reprint edition (March 25, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142001007

ISBN-13: 978-0142001004

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (114 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #319,367 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #160 in Â Books > Travel > Asia > India > General #282 in Â Books > History > Asia > India #1470 in Â Books > Travel > Travel Writing

## Customer Reviews

This book, 90% informative and 10% humorous, equals 100% reading enjoyment. It's a delightful and entertaining history of Delhi, India told in a very ingenious way: it runs in reverse pattern from conventional history books in that it starts with the most recent history first and then gradually works back into time, ending in the ancient. However, what I enjoyed the most was how the author always introduces some present-day aspect (an existing ruin or a living person) as background material on which he weaves his historical journey in and out of Delhi's past and present. For example, a Dr. Jaffrey is his link to the Red Fort; a now very old Indian-born English woman, Alice, describes her associations with Lutyens, the creator of New Delhi; a Pakeezah Begum, a crown-princess and librarian, is one of the last surviving descendants of the Mughal emperors and becomes the modern-day connection to history of the Mughal dynasty; and the very decrepit Residency tells you about Delhi's romantic past in the era when it was beautifully intact. I don't know why, but to me the

most poignant stories told were about the Anglo-Indians who ended up abandoned by both Britain and India after the birth of an independent India. I never realized such unfortunate people existed, becoming political refugees denied rights by India, the country of their birth; and by the UK, to which they had blood ties. Mr. Dalrymple interviews a few of these people who by now have grown old and are the living remnants of hardball politics of a bygone era. They give their personal accounts of their own hardships. As victims abused by the system, they were denied basic privileges. These interviews are still quite vivid in my memory. In the midst of all the daunting history of this city, Mr.

City of Djinn: A Year in Delhi by William Dalrymple is an excellent portrait of a fascinating city. I have to admit, having read a few travel essay books on India that the image I had of the city was of a fairly uninteresting place, a "city of gray bureaucracy" as the author put it. Dalrymple showed me just how wrong I was in this intimate depiction of Delhi, past and present. One of the first things the reader learns in this book is that there is more than one Delhi. The two main Delhis are Mughal Old Delhi and Punjabi New Delhi, each keeping largely to itself, each "absolutely certain of its superiority over the other." Old Delhi has been inhabited for thousands of years, its Urdu-speaking elite (both Hindu and Muslim) having lived in the city for many centuries, the city an ancient one of sophistication and culture, though also a city in severe decline, with many of its once magnificent palaces, gardens, tombs, and mosques, once examples of the "silky refinement" of Mughal architecture now crumbling into ruin, decaying into "something approaching seediness." Many of its citizens are among the last to practice trades dating back to Mughal times, and a large number of them live in exile in Pakistan. In contrast, New Delhi is a growing, booming, bustling city of hard-working nouveau-riche entrepreneurs, largely comprised of people whose roots only go back to the catastrophic days of Partition in 1947, when hundreds of thousands of Punjabi Sikh and Hindu refugees poured into the city.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

City of Djinn: A Year in Delhi  
Current Developments in Animal Virology: Papers Presented at the First ICGEB-Uci Virology Symposium New Delhi, February 1995  
Pop-Up NYC Map by VanDam - City Street Map of New York City, New York - Laminated folding pocket size city travel and subway map, 2016 Edition (Pop-Up Map)  
Big Blow: A Tale From Ocean City (Ocean City Mysteries Book 3)  
The Ancient Maya and Their City of Tulum: Uncovering the Mysteries of an Ancient Civilization and Their City of Grandeur Mexico City, Mexico, 2016 Edition  
City Map (Spanish Edition)  
The City & The City  
Inequality and One City: Bill de Blasio and the New York Experiment, Year One  
Unprocessed: My City-Dwelling Year of Reclaiming Real Food  
The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City

Neighborhood HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR. Kids Coloring Book.: Children Activity Books with 30 Coloring Pages of Chinese Dragons, Red Lanterns, Fireworks, Firecrackers, ... 3-8 to Celebrate Their Fun Chinese New Year! Dragon Dance: a Chinese New Year LTF: A Chinese New Year Lift-the-Flap Book (Lift-the-Flap, Puffin) LEGO Minifigure Year by Year: A Visual History The Little e-Book of Raw Vegan Holiday Recipes: 50 recipes for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day Brunch The Year-Round Vegetable Gardener: How to Grow Your Own Food 365 Days a Year, No Matter Where You Live Saving Container Plants: Overwintering Techniques for Keeping Tender Plants Alive Year after Year. A Storey BASICS® Title Gardening: Perennial Vegetables - Plant Once and Harvest Year After Year (3rd Edition) (botanical, home garden, horticulture, garden, landscape, plants, gardening) The First Year: Hepatitis C: An Essential Guide for the Newly Diagnosed (First Year, The) The First Year: Type 2 Diabetes: An Essential Guide for the Newly Diagnosed (The Complete First Year) Birthdays, She Believed Birthday Book: Dates to Remember Year After Year (Anne Taintor)

[Dmca](#)