



Anna and the King

Elizabeth Hand

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Arriving in Siam as governess to the King's royal children, the recently widowed Anna brings with her a fiercely independent spirit, a passion for justice, and a hidden loneliness.

As Anna learns more about her exotic students and their proud, handsome father, the ancient, exotic land of Siam approaches a critical moment in history. fighting to keep his equal -- and more. In Anna and the King, the world will rediscover the "almost true" story of love, loyalty, and loss that has moved generations to gentle smiles and bittersweet tears.

Anna and the King Details

Date : Published December 8th 1999 by HarperEntertainment (first published 1999)

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Author : Elizabeth Hand

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Romance, Classics, Adult

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Brian Howald says

I'm a big fan of Jodie Foster and after seeing the film, I had to buy the novelization, a tie-in concept that's almost extinct nowadays. The book fills in some of the gaps and provides enough backstory to illuminate the events and characters swirling around the plot.

Brittany says

"...all who gazed upon them that night knew they gazed upon the most enduring true nobility, of heart as well as spirit."

I loved the meeting of two cultures, two belief systems, two families, two people seen here. But what I love most of all is the character that was maintained through the relationship that built. But their actions showed only the utmost in respect for each other, their families, their belief systems and their cultures. They were changed for the better because they knew each other, understood each other, loved each other. It is a "romance" novel unlike any other and I like to think we are all the better for it.

Kim says

After listening to this book on tape I realized I liked the movie much better. It was a very quick read, and somewhat cool on the historical factor. Not one of my favorites, but still glad to have read it. I wasn't happy with the ending at all.

Rhonda says

I love the movie The King and I starring Yul Brenner :0) but I did not really enjoy this book as much as I have the movie. I found the book dry in places and had a hard time keeping my attention. I fully expected the book to be better than the movie but in this case it was not.

However- one good thing did come out of me reading the book, I did a bit of research and Anna and the King is based on an actual event..so I have Mem's biography on order and will be reading the true story of "Anna and the King". I understand that the biography is quite a bit different than both the movie and the novelization of the movie.

Ashley says

I enjoyed reading this novelization of an amazing film. I loved the meeting of two cultures, two belief systems, and two families. I thought the book was well written because of the amazing story. It is a must read.

KeirSilver Griffin says

I liked this book well enough, but I was surprised at the plot, having first seen the movie. I didn't find the writing very captivating or interesting.

Leah says

One of my top favorite books! I love the story and writing style. I love how the author gave brief synopsis on other characters in the book. I usually dislike when authors do that, but the way Hand did this was excellent. I wouldn't necessarily have this as a romance, but a historical fiction. I learned alot about Bangkok and I think the story between Anna and the King was one of respect and love. There are few books I keep for rereading purposes and this book falls among the re-reads. I am now going to rent the movie so I can watch this brilliant book and hope the movie can deliver the same goodness.

Ivana says

Kniha zalozena na scenari k rovnomennemu filmu. Film milujem, kniha je napisana slusne, takze za 4*. Pribeh o britskej ucitelke, vdove, ktora prijme ponuku siamskeho krala Mongkuta na uenie jeho syna. Pribeh, kde zena zo Zapadu uci napokon nielen vsetky deti (a ze ich bolo pozehnane) velkeho panovnika Siamu, ale i samotneho krala. A on zas vselico nauci ju. Pribeh o tom, ze veci nie su na prvvy pohlad take ako sa zdaju, pribeh o tom, ze ani britske ucitelky ani siamski krali nemozu robit vzdy co chcu. Pribeh o tom, ze mlady chlapec casto vidi viac, ako samotni dospeli...

P. S. Hoci je pribeh zalozeny na skutocnych udalostiach, tak ako je stvarneny vo filme ci tejto knihe, je fikciou.

Bay says

This is really an incredible book! It's based on the filmscript, but don't think then it something junk they made to make more money. It is beautifully described and you really get the aura of Siam (now Thailand) Of cause it can be that because I've been in Thailand before I have a easier time to imagine the impression Thailand has. But I wanna bet that even so, you would still get some of the impressions. It's a really beautiful lovestory. If you havn't seen the movie - do it! Their love for each other is so strong, and yet so simple. There is nothing sugarsweet about their love. They handle it like adults, but still just some simple few words is enough to tell you how strong their feelings are. If you are a bit tired of the normally "I would rather die, than live without you"-romance, then this is the book. Lovely, lovely, lovely. It's definetly a favorite!

Chanel Thyson says

Good book. You just have to read it yourself. It's indescribable, at least to me it is.

Izida says

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Anne Lydolf says

A really charming and lovely book, very romantic. Good for a rainy day.

Rissa Yullita says

aku liat film versi lamanya.. trus baru baca bukunya n nonton film yg versi jodie foster n chow yun fat ceritanya bener2 memikat, meski di akhir cerita anna and the king cintanya ga nyatu, tapi banyak pelajaran yang bisa diambil dr cerita ini. its amazing story...

Louise says

Nu er det ved at være noget tid siden jeg læste Anna og kongen, men jeg husker dem som rigtig flot (sprogligt) og meget fængende. Jeg læste den færdig i løbet af et par dage og var rigtig glad for den. Jeg tror det er så længe siden jeg læste den at jeg vil genlæse den snart for at kunne skrive noget lidt mere betydningsfuldt end "den var vist nok god."

In all seriousness. Det forhold de to bygger op virker slet ikke som et kærlighedsforhold til at begynde med, det gør den sjov på sin egen måde at se de to meget forskellige personer forsøge at komme overens. Jeg husker den ikke til at være cliché, faktisk husker jeg ikke 100 % hvordan den ender men har en ret god fornemmelse af at det ikke endte som jeg forventede og næsten håbede på. Jeg vil rigtig gerne opdatere denne anmeldelse efter jeg har genlæst den for jeg har kun gode minder om bogen.

Randi says

Bogen var meget bedre end jeg havde forventet men der var visse punkter hvor den ikke helt ramte hvor jeg mente at den burde.

Generelt var den flot beskrivende og jeg følte alle konflikterne.

Fx ved visse dødsfald, jeg forstod at det var sørgelig men jeg følte det ikke hos mig selv.
