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# The Buddha of Suburbia

*By Hanif Kureishi*



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## The Buddha of Suburbia By Hanif Kureishi

Karim Amir lives with his English mother and Indian father in the routine comfort of suburban London, enduring his teenage years with good humor, always on the lookout for adventure—and sexual possibilities. Life gets more interesting, however, when his father becomes the Buddha of Suburbia, beguiling a circle of would-be mystics. And when the Buddha falls in love with one of his disciples, the beautiful and brazen Eva, Karim is introduced to a world of renegade theater directors, punk rock stars, fancy parties, and all the sex a young man could desire. A love story for at least two generations, a high-spirited comedy of sexual manners and social turmoil, *The Buddha of Suburbia* is one of the most enchanting, provocative, and original books to appear in years.



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## **The Buddha of Suburbia** By Hanif Kureishi Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

There's quite a bit of activity in *Buddha of Suburbia*. A bureaucrat becomes a suburban guru who marries a follower with a son who's a punk rocker named Charlie Hero. Consequently, the guru's son is propelled from his bland life into a series of erotic experiences in London. All the while, Hanif Kureishi keeps the tone lively with wry wit. On the description of suburban life: "We were proud of never learning anything except the names of footballers, the personnel of rock groups and the lyrics to 'I Am the Walrus.'" He also bends cultures, classes and genders while blasting the racism of British life in this 1990 Whitbread Prize winner.

### From Publishers Weekly

Karim Amir, bored with his suburban lifestyle in England, is propelled into the fast lane and introduced to disparate cultures, classes and genders thanks to a disorienting chain of events sparked by his father, a self-proclaimed guru. PW called this "delectable. . . . Resembling a modern-day Tom Jones , this is an astonishing book, full of intelligence and elan."

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### From Library Journal

Kureishi is the author of two controversial screenplays, *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985) and *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* (1987). This novel, written in a similar vein, deals with many of the same themes: father-son relations, punk rock, bisexuality, and class and racial prejudices in England. The story is told through the eyes of Karim Amir, "an Englishman born and bred, almost." Karim is a Holden Caulfield-like character who observes and analyzes the shortcomings of his society as he moves out of London's suburbs into the larger world. The book provides a witty, satiric view of English popular culture in the 1960s and 1970s, but it is fairly thin on plot and character development. This may be one instance where the movie version will actually be better than the book.

- William Gargan, Brooklyn Coll. Lib., CUNY

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## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Barbara Stewart:

The experience that you get from *The Buddha of Suburbia* is the more deep you rooting the information that hide into the words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but *The Buddha of Suburbia* giving you buzz feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood through anyone who read the item because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this particular *The Buddha of Suburbia* instantly.

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#### **William McCown:**

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