



 Get Print Book

An Obedient Father

By Akhil Sharma



Download



Read Online

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma

“A powerful debut novel that establishes Sharma as a supreme storyteller.”?Philadelphia Inquirer

Ram Karan, a corrupt official in New Delhi, lives with his widowed daughter and his little granddaughter. Bumbling, sad, ironic, Ram is also a man corroded by a terrible secret. Taking the reader down into a world of feuding families and politics, *An Obedient Father* is a work of rare sensibilities that presents a character as formulated, funny, and morally ambiguous as any of Dostoevsky's antiheroes.



[Download An Obedient Father ...pdf](#)



[Read Online An Obedient Father ...pdf](#)

An Obedient Father

By Akhil Sharma

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma

“A powerful debut novel that establishes Sharma as a supreme storyteller.”?Philadelphia Inquirer

Ram Karan, a corrupt official in New Delhi, lives with his widowed daughter and his little granddaughter. Bumbling, sad, ironic, Ram is also a man corroded by a terrible secret. Taking the reader down into a world of feuding families and politics, *An Obedient Father* is a work of rare sensibilities that presents a character as formulated, funny, and morally ambiguous as any of Dostoevsky's antiheroes.

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #858801 in Books
- Published on: 2014-04-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x .70" w x 5.50" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages

 [Download An Obedient Father ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online An Obedient Father ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Readers opening this first novel from Akhil Sharma find themselves face to face with a wildly unappealing main character. Ram Karan is a corrupt civil servant, chubby and self-hating. "I had been Mr. Gupta's moneyman for a little less than a year and was no good." Ram has no illusions about his failings: "My panic in negotiations was so apparent that even people who were eager to bribe me became resentful." Things at home aren't so hot either: Ram's wife has recently died, as has his son-in-law, and so his daughter Anita and granddaughter, Asha, have moved in with him. The first chapter of *An Obedient Father* is lugubrious and oily and awkward, like its narrator; then suddenly the whole thing breaks wide open. Drunk one night, Ram touches Asha with his penis. Anita walks in, and the family's secret is out all at once, like a just-freed, very angry cat: Ram forced Anita to have sex with him repeatedly when she was 12.

Sharma, a Delhi-born New York investment banker, has written a novel that's satisfyingly ambitious and full of really lovely imagery (tulips, for instance, are "heavy-hearted"). He squares Ram's downfall in the context of the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. As India descends into political turmoil, Ram is made accountable for corruption both at work and at home. What gives the book its engine is its even-tempered handling of Ram himself: he is always complex, never a moral lesson or a villain. By the time Anita exacts her quietly devilish revenge, we feel neither glee nor pity, just sadness. Sharma doesn't have perfect control of his material--the transitions between personal and political can be abrupt, the tension between father and daughter unravels sloppily. Still, this is a new voice of great subtlety and care. --*Claire Dederer*

From Publishers Weekly

A supernova in the galaxy of young, talented Indian writers, Sharma debuts with a bold and shocking novel that casts a mesmerizing spell. Ram Karan is a widower whose widowed daughter, Anita, and eight-year-old granddaughter, Asha, live with him in a tiny apartment in one of Delhi's poorer sections. Nominally a functionary in the physical education department of the city's schools, Ram is in fact "Mr. Gupta's moneyman"; that is, he coerces bribes for his boss, who funnels the money to the Congress Party. At first, Ram's candid admissions of "general incompetence and laziness" are perversely endearing, but when the real cause of his self-hatred comes to light, the reader's perceptions begin to change. In a moment of temptation, Ram commits a furtive sexual act with his unwitting granddaughter and his downfall begins. Twenty years ago, he had repeatedly raped Anita, who now becomes unhinged at the thought that her daughter may be in peril. Anita's bizarre revenge will result in Ram's complete degradation; ironically, the repercussions of her obsessive need for disclosure cause even more emotional damage to everyone involved. Concurrent with these personal tragedies and the breakdown of one family, Sharma draws an acid-etched picture of modern Indian society, in which the corrupt political system victimizes all citizens. When Rajiv Gandhi is assassinated during the 1991 parliamentary elections, Mr. Gupta switches his allegiance to the rival BJP party, commencing a dangerous political game that embroils Ram. Sharma's depiction of a society riddled with graft, violent religious prejudice, male chauvinism and bigoted cultural attitudes is a cautionary tale about what happens to the individual spirit when poverty, superstition, racial tension and general hopelessness are exacerbated by the absence of judicial morality. This caustic yet darkly comic story resonates powerfully, as the reader comes to sympathize with fallible human beings trapped in circumstances that corrupt the soul. (July)

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Kirkus Reviews

Storywriter and investment banker Sharma's first novel is in equal parts squalid and compelling: the tale of a

corrupt civil servant in Delhi who ruins lives, his own included, by having seduced his own daughter. Ram Karan, 48 and obese, is moneyman for Mr. Roshan Gupta, education head. Karan's job, which he's very good at, is to keep the budget in operation by extorting money and collecting bribes for Mr. Gupta, which he does on a steeply increased scale when Mr. Gupta is put up as a political candidate and needs breathtakingly large amounts of money to campaign. As Karan gets drawn more deeply into the frightening criminality of political financing, he also relates the story of his life--love for his mother, his grief when she died in his childhood (and witnessed her cremation), his joyless marriage, the births of four children--and his unspeakable, repeated, compulsive seduction and rape of his second daughter, Anita, when she was 12. And now? Grown, Anita herself has a daughter who's 12, and, one night after Karan has had too much to drink, she walks in to find him touching the girl with his penis--with the result that the volcanic power of her previously repressed hatred and rage begins to emerge, to the point that her father may not--does not--survive it. The story is almost Aeschylean in the tumult of its misery--deaths, heart attacks, widowings, suicides, even murder--yet the plain, unstoried quality of life itself is never neglected by Sharma. The daily life of poverty-stricken Delhi is ever made real, and even the ruinously monstrous Karan--narrator of much of the book--consistently makes evident his intelligence, depth, and sensitivity as one who's light-years away from any sort of cardboard villain. So full it threatens sometimes to collapse or overflow; but a debut, on balance, that's pathetic, remorseless, and wrenching. -- Copyright © 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Albro:

Within other case, little folks like to read book An Obedient Father. You can choose the best book if you love reading a book. Given that we know about how is important some sort of book An Obedient Father. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world with a book. Absolutely right, since from book you can realize everything! From your country until finally foreign or abroad you will be known. About simple thing until wonderful thing it is possible to know that. In this era, we are able to open a book as well as searching by internet gadget. It is called e-book. You should use it when you feel fed up to go to the library. Let's go through.

Melanie Fox:

The book An Obedient Father gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You may use to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book An Obedient Father to get your habit, you can get considerably more advantages, like add your personal capable, increase your knowledge about many or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like open up and read a guide An Obedient Father. Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this reserve?

Ann McLemore:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book.

It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a reserve. The book An Obedient Father it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

Mark Morrow:

On this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to get a look at some books. One of many books in the top collection in your reading list is actually An Obedient Father. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking right up and review this e-book you can get many advantages.

**Download and Read Online An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma
#38TL2KMR64Q**

Read An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma for online ebook

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma books to read online.

Online An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma ebook PDF download

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma Doc

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma Mobipocket

An Obedient Father By Akhil Sharma EPub