



Slumdog Millionaire: A Novel

By Vikas Swarup

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Eighteen-year-old Ram Mohammed Thomas is in prison after answering twelve questions correctly on a TV quiz show to win one billion rupees. The producers have arrested him, convinced that he has cheated his way to victory. Twelve extraordinary events in street-kid Ram's life - how he was found in a dustbin by a priest; came to have three names; fooled a professional hitman; even fell in love - give him the crucial answers. In his warm-hearted tale lies all the comedy, tragedy, joy and pathos of modern India.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

After enduring a childhood of poverty, violence and exploitation, Ram Muhammad Thomas wins a game show prize of one billion rupees. But the producers believe he has cheated and send him to the police to coerce a confession. Now, Thomas must defend his achievement and explain how a nobody without formal education won against impossible odds. Christopher Simpson's performance is both compelling and questionable; he conveys emotion powerfully but his mimicry of an Indian accent might make some listeners uncomfortable and sap the authority of the first-person narrative. Fans of the Academy Award-winning film adaptation of the novel (originally published as *Q&A*) will find that this version offers nuanced pleasures of its own. *A Scribner hardcover. (Mar.)*

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From [Booklist](#)

Swarup's inventive debut traces the fortunes of Ram Mohammad Thomas from "Asia's biggest slum" to his sudden acquisition of enormous wealth as the biggest winner on the popular quiz show, *Who Will Win a Billion?* A poor, uneducated waiter, Ram is arrested after the final episode in the belief that he must have cheated. In jail he shares his hardscrabble life with his lawyer: his abandonment at birth in a used clothing bin, the church orphanage where he was dubbed an "idiot orphan boy," the foster home where children were purposely crippled and forced to beg, the estate of an Australian diplomat who was really a spy, the home of an aging Bollywood actress, and his meager waiter job. Each chapter in Ram's life provided him with a correct answer on the show, as a la Forrest Gump, he has been in the right place at the right time. Ram's funny and poignant odyssey explores the causes of good and evil and illustrates how, with a little luck, the best man sometimes wins. *Deborah Donovan*

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Review

"Fun, intelligent and leaves you wanting more." (*Toronto Star*)

"A dream of a book." (*Winnipeg Free Press*)

"This brilliant story, as colossal, vibrant and chaotic as India itself . . . it is not to be missed." (*The Observer*)

"A rare, seemingly effortless brew of humour, drama, romance and social realism. . . . Swarup has achieved a triumph with this thrilling, endearing work which gets into the heart and soul of modern India." (*New Zealand Herald*)

"Swarup is an accomplished storyteller, and [*Slumdog Millionaire*] has all the immediacy and impact of an oral account." (*Daily Mail*)

"Mingling broad humour with incisive social comment . . . absorbing and richly entertaining reading." (*The Times*)

"This lively picaresque novel has an original and telling premise . . . a colourful portrait of Indian society is painted with remarkable lightness and wit." (*Sunday Telegraph*)

"A hugely successful mixture of satire and intrigue." (*Independent on Sunday*)

“Sweet, sorrowful and funny. An enchanting tale.” (*The Sunday Tribune* (India))

“This page-turning novel reels from farce to melodrama to fairy tale.” (*You Magazine*)

“A very clever story told very cleverly and at a relentless pace.” (*Sydney Morning Herald*)

“Poignant, funny, rich . . . with an utterly original and brilliant structure at its heart.” (Meg Rosoff, author of *How I Live Now*)

“That rare novel that chugs along on the parallel tracks of being a rollicking read as well as being a polished, varnished, finished work of impressive craftsmanship.” (*Hindustan Times*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or even goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they consider because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like studying a book? Sometime, man feel need book once they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this *Slumdog Millionaire: A Novel*.

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