



Guardian of the Dawn

Richard Zimler

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In an age of faith and fire

In a land of many gods

A journey of survival is about to begin....

In his acclaimed novels *Hunting Midnight* and *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon*, Richard Zimler has spun luminous historical fiction from the experience of the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula. Spanning decades and continents, his new novel is set in the lush world of colonial India during the age of the Inquisition. Here is the astonishing story of Tiago Zarco, a young man whose family fled forced conversions in Portugal and now lives in a twilight between local Hindus and the ruling Portuguese Catholics. As Tiago comes of age in Goa, the capital of the spice trade, he struggles to keep the far-reaching powers of the Inquisition from destroying his family and pulling him apart from the Hindu girl he loves. When an act of betrayal puts his beloved father in prison, Tiago is forced to hunt down the traitor and make an unimaginable choice...and for him, a harrowing journey begins—one that will show him the depths of human depravity, and the dark, poisonous salvation of revenge....

At once a grand historical adventure and a riveting tale of love and mystery, *Guardian of the Dawn* brilliantly illuminates a world that has rarely been described—in a novel that blazes with passion, fury, and hope.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Guardian of the Dawn Details

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From Reader Review Guardian of the Dawn for online ebook

Miranda says

is the first book richard I've ever read and i enjoy a lot!

Was difficult to stop reading it, because we always want to read a little bit more.

The description is fabulous, brings us In india, the smells, the heat, the spicy meals, and the way of being of its habitants...

I recommend :D

Good reads for everyone

Sonia189 says

I liked this one better than the previous one. It was great to be able to learn a few things - this author does make you want to google some names or facts.

Even more interesting was to be able to wonder about the notion humankind has always tried to convey the message there will always be some people who will be considered superior to others for a multitude of reasons and, after centuries, Man has not yet understood this to be strong enough to change it.

Ana says

Sou fã confessa de Zimmler. Gosto da forma simples como escreve e trata de questões tão complexas. Um livro que surpreende pela pertinência da crítica face à intolerância em todas as manifestações de fé e às posições ideológicas extremistas.

Nitya Sivasubramanian says

Consider it a childhood perversion of mine that has lived on into my adulthood, but I have always been far more interested in so-called villains in stories than in heroes. Ravan has always tickled my fancy more than Ram, and I'd rather spend an evening in conversation with Iago than Othello. So this story appeals to me simply by telling the tale of how an innocent young man turns his hand to cruelty. In the strictest sense though, Ti is more Edmond Dantes than Patrick Bateman, and the story takes an inordinately long time getting to where it's going, a shortcoming only mildly mitigated by the fact that the time it spends meandering is spent in lush 17th century Goa.

Stan says

I think Zimmler is a great writer, though I don't think this book matches up against the Last Kabbalist, Warsaw

Anagrams or the Seventh Gate. This is perhaps the most depressing book I have ever read, and what the Inquisition does to the narrator is almost unbearable. Still, the writing is very strong, and it is a page turner.

Fi Morais says

Adorei este livro. Uma história poderosa. Ri, chorei e terminei com um aperto no peito. Sempre surpreendente e encantador o Richard Zimler. Custa pousar o livro no final.

Jessica says

So far, the best-written fictional story I've come across that's set in 16th century colonial Goa. The reason I've only given it a 3-star rating is that I struggled at times to keep reading because the language slowed me down.

Helenafrentini says

One the best books I ever read!

Carla Luis says

Empolgante, absorvente, muitíssimo bem escrito e com descrições maravilhosas. As descrições de ambientes são toda uma viagem, sentimo-nos a entrar no quotidiano e lugares das personagens. A forma insidiosa como é descrita a inquisição, aliás Santa, os padres, os portugueses e os católicos, é todo um tratado.

Mais uma vez são, praticamente, vários livros dentro do mesmo, mas tudo faz sentido. O livro agarra até ao fim, é completamente viciante. Depois acaba e queremos mais - acho que vou começar a ler outra vez. Uff, é mesmo muito intenso...

Olivia says

Astounded. Hard to know what to think of it at this stage.

Superbly researched and written it is a tale of a 16thC world which was.

Actively invoking, in literary form, the Merchant-Ivory film production 'Shakespeare Wallah' later by some 450 years.

The images will not cease when the cover is closed or that telling of a tale is so richly told.

India with its own compelling lives, and ability to absorb spiritual diversity meets the compulsion of the Inquisition and the Portuguese importers of religious tyranny where Sephardic jews had founf refuge amongst the tolerance of the many Indian castes.

Many of the scars have closed over but the cost is delicately and deeply drawn by Zimmler.

Margarida de Sousa (IcthusBookCorner) says

I can't even!

Kim says

Amazing book , this book made me cry

Ian says

I came to this novel after reading the author's excellent Warsaw Anagrams and sadly I was a bit disappointed. I did learn quite a lot about 16th Century Goa, India and the Portuguese Roman Catholic Inquisition that was used to suppress all other local faiths, but it was at times very slow. I also felt that the character of Tiago often seemed somewhat 20th Century in his expressed views and philosophy. However, I did greatly enjoy it in parts, just not throughout and certainly not as much as his later work.

Shrilekha says

Books that can make me cry have a special place in my heart. You'll hate the protagonist sometimes but you'll also feel sorry for him and would like to protect him. And that's true for many of the characters. It is a sad book but beautiful. The kinds that get etched into your memory and haunt you at nights.

Carla says

Adorei o livro!

A história escrita por Richard Zimler retrata-nos a cidade de Goa, sob o domínio de Portugal, nessa altura integrado no Império Espanhol, e de outros territórios indianos, no final do século XVI, de uma forma tão absorvente, que nos faz transportar para essa época como se, de facto, lá estivéssemos estado.

A Santa Inquisição, que de nada tinha de "Santa", chegou a todos os territórios ultramarinos dominados pelos portugueses, sendo impiedosa com todas as outras crenças religiosas, fossem elas judaicas ou hindus, querendo, pela tortura e pelo medo, erradicar todos aqueles que acreditassem noutros deuses, destruindo o corpo e a alma dos seres humanos que, ou se convertiam à força e denunciavam todos os que amavam, ou eram assassinados.

A intolerância religiosa do catolicismo revela, como muito bem o narrador diz, por outras palavras, a própria falta de crença em Cristo por quem tanto o apregoava.

A história de Tiago, da sua irmã Sofia, do seu pai, da sua empregada e madrinha Nupi, dos seus tios, do seu primo Wadi e da sua amada Tejal, é simultaneamente bela e trágica, onde todos os sentimentos afloram, os bons e os maus: o amor, a amizade, o companheirismo, o respeito, o ciúme, a inveja, a incompreensão, o

remorso e a vingança.

Confesso que o final da história foi surpreendente, pois só muito perto do fim e pouco antes de o narrador o ter revelado, é que me apercebi de quem denunciou Tiago e o seu pai à Inquisição. De facto, o amor ou, antes, a incompreensão do mesmo pode destruir-nos a nós próprios e a quem amamos.

Mas para Tiago, tal como para todos, a vingança nunca traz paz, somente uma amarga e breve satisfação que nos corrói por dentro.

Não posso deixar antes de terminar o meu comentário, de escrever a seguinte citação do autor, que, infelizmente, continua atual: "Nestes últimos meses, sentado à secretária a escrever sobre Sofia, Wadi, Tejal, o meu pai e Phanishwar, tenho sido capaz de, para lá de mim próprio, espreitar para os calabouços de Goa, de Lisboa e de uma centena de outras cidades na Ásia, na Europa e na América. Vi os homens e mulheres a apodrecer em nome de Cristo, Maomé e Krishna."

Phyllida says

For a book set in 16th century India the writing style was far too modern.

John says

I had no idea what the Inquisition was up to in Goa and this book was a real eye opener. Similar to Othello in many ways, although Zimler does mention he's drawn comparisons.

The subject is handled sensitively and the reader's attention is held by the fast pace.

A recommended read for anyone interested in this period.

Ana Paula says

One of the best books I ever read. Caught my attention from the first to the last page.

Lisa says

Not as good as The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon, but still really interesting to learn about the Inquisition in India.

César Lasso says

My rating: 3.5 stars.

The book manages to keep intrigue and shows how the inquisitorial system and society might have broken a life, and the protagonist's reaction to that reality.
