



Doctor Margaret in Delhi (The Azadi Series #2)

Waheed Rabbani

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Doctor Margaret in Delhi is Book 2 of The Azadi Series and a sequel to, Book 1: Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest. This historical fiction novel continues with Margaret's journey from the time she and her Canadian husband participated in the 1854 Crimean War.

Doctor Margaret travels alone to India to be with her parents at the American Presbyterian Mission at Futtehgurh, and then on to her posting at a hospital in Delhi. There she has to not only overcome work pressures, but also deal with her intimidators and intrigues of the Mughals, at the Delhi Red Fort.

Margaret's tormentor since her childhood, Captain Albert, also joins a British regiment bound for service in India. The Russian, Captain Count Nicholai, whom Margaret had met in Crimea, also arrives in India under the guise of a French physician.

The events leading up to the Indian Mutiny/Rebellion that breaks out in 1857 profoundly affect not only Margaret's life, but also of those who love her and others' who wish her harm.

Also, mixed-up in the bedlam is one of the King of Delhi, Shah Zafar, Red Fort's Guard's sepoy, Sharif Khan Bhadur, the grandfather of Doctor Wallidad, an American doctor.

The Azadi Series covers the exciting events and turmoil that inflamed India from 1857 to 1947, and led to her independence. Those incidences engulf the characters of this story at that time, and then later their descendant's lives, again in the 1960s.

Doctor Margaret in Delhi (The Azadi Series #2) Details

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Author : Waheed Rabbani

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From Reader Review Doctor Margaret in Delhi (The Azadi Series #2) for online ebook

Javaneh says

I was given this book by the publisher and requested to review it by the author.

This book is a follow up to the excellent Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest. It follows the heroine from her devastating loss of her husband in Crimea to India where a hospital job and her parents await her. Along the way to India she meets many new people who will help and hinder her in India and she gives us a tour of the pre-rebellion country. She has her child from her late husband and makes a good impression on the locals she meets.

I was slightly disappointed by this book. The first one started off slow but once it caught pace it took off and I couldn't put it down. This book was a very slow walk through India. Margaret was less of the strong, determined woman she was in the first book and more of a weeping, weak mess in this one. She faces not one but multiple attempts at sexual assault by Humphrey but dismisses the violent attempts and even considers marrying him. She only because outraged by him when he doesn't want to marry her but rather have her as a mistress. I was disappointed that she would be okay with him forcing himself on her so long as she can get a ring security out of it. She mostly seemed to eat constantly and be assaulted by men often when she wasn't handing her new child off to get nanny.

The book was still chalk full of history and information. There were plenty of references to the social strife the Indians were dealing with with the East India Company run by Britain. We also see the English treat the Indians with disregard to their lands and values. The Company's most ambitious officials go out of their way to ensure the various kings and kingdoms lose everything to Britain.

Redemption for a slow start and weak Margaret is found in the last few chapters as she flings closer to the middle of the whirlpool of her dilemma with Humphrey and Albert. She gains some courage and insight with the help of Sharif and Mumtaz and escapes Delhi to go work for the Rani of Jhansi. I am REALLY looking forward to book 3 as I feel the action and adventure will hit an all time high for this series, which is an excellent read if you want to learn more about India and its problems with Britain. It will certainly strike up a passion for history and also revenge. I can't wait to see what happens to the dreadful Albert and Humphrey.

Marian Thornley says

Doctor Margaret in Delhi is the second book in the Azadi Series. Although some other reviewers have said it is best to read No. 1 first, I had not done so and did not find anything in the second difficult to follow. This is a gentle and enchanting book, set during the British Raj in India. Doctor Margaret travels by boat from Calcutta to Delhi and we see, with her, the scenery, temples and towns, we learn of their history and of the politics of the declining Indian princedoms and increasing power and greed of the East India Company. Doctor Margaret has to contend with half-unwanted suitors, and the author has skillfully captured the formality and sensibility of the mid-Nineteenth century, perhaps at times to the detriment of characterisation. This is a meticulously researched book and a fascinating read.

Aki Mititiuc says

This book was sent to me in exchange for an honest review. :)

I decided to give this book a 3.5 out of 5. Book 2 of the Azadi series follows the story of a pregnant Dr Margaret as she makes her way from Crimea to India to reunite with her family at the missionary in Futtehghurh. For the most part, I enjoyed the book. It was a bit slow for me at first but Waheed Rabbani does such a great job of building Margaret's character that you can't help but root for her throughout her adventures. I loved her interactions with Queen Zinat and the description of the scenery in the book was beautifully done.

The style of writing and attention to detail is very much reminiscent of old classic literature so it may not suit everyone's tastes. Also, at times I was overwhelmed with the numerous information dumps of people, places and dates but in the end it was a pleasurable read that I'd recommend to anyone looking for a nice relaxed historical fiction about the beautiful country of India!

Please Pass the Books says

Waheed Rabbani's Doctor Margaret In Delhi begins with a pregnant Dr. Margaret arriving in Calcutta, attempting to reconvene with her missionary parents and siblings in Futtehghurh. Before embarking on a trek to an offer of employment in a Delhi hospital, she delivers child number three and teaches English to the local Nawab. After a spectacular journey, Dr. Margaret finally settles in Delhi with an ancestor of Dr. Wallidad Sharif, Sharif Khan. All the while, the advances of the undesirable Humphrey and the presence of the diabolical Albert Miller stalk her like an objectionable shadow. Dr. Margaret perseveres despite this, playing a role in groundbreaking medical experiments and trials—all against the backdrop of the highest and lowest extremes in the social hierarchy of a gloriously depicted colonial India.

Laden with gorgeous imagery and exceptional prose, Doctor Margaret in Delhi is more than just a novel about a courageous woman on an extraordinary course. It is an adventure in itself. With a detailed exploration of the subcontinent, an immersion in its fractured history, and a gripping story line that engrosses completely, Doctor Margaret in Delhi is a literary marvel that pulls a reader in, charming us with classical narrative and a colorful, eloquent milieu. This novel is unreservedly, unapologetically, and absolutely deserving of five stars.

251 Things To Do says

The way the author portrays the American-Canadian female doctor and the culture in the 1850s in India seems to be extremely accurate and realistic. Showcasing Indian history, blended with a little American culture, the author creates an educational adventuresome piece. Being an independent working female in modern society today, I was intrigued to learn how it was like for an independent female professional almost 200 years ago, and throw her Americanism into the mix being based out of India is a unique perspective. Historical events riddled with personal friendships, family relationships, and cultural diversity creates this entertaining read. Very much enjoyed. Almost with every paragraph, you learn something new about life in the early days, traveling when traveling was only a privilege to a small handful, and international cultures.

Margaret says

There are a number of reasons why I wanted to read this book. Foremost I love discovering new authors, ones that I wouldn't have found on my own and for that I am very grateful to Amy at Historical Fiction Virtual Book Tours for the invite to join this tour. Location, location, location, yup that's a big one for me also. India is a country that I am fascinated with, the occupation of the British and their separation, it's a part of history that I am slowly learning about. A small portion of this book takes place in a little (well not that little) town, Grimsby, on the south shore of Lake Ontario - I grew up in Grimsby, still have family there in fact and I live not too far away - so that was a BIG bonus for me.

Doctor Margaret in Delhi is book 2 in The Azadi Series, I was a little worried about not reading the first book, but it was fine. But I will go back and read Book 1: Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest before continuing on with the 3rd book just because there were a few details that I wished I knew more about.

I really enjoyed this book, the author made me care about Margaret and her plight. He wrote of her struggles, a recent widow meeting up with her family in India. Things weren't easy during the time period depicted here, especially for women. The fact that she was a doctor impressed me. Told from her point of view it wasn't hard to really get to know Margaret and feel her emotions. She is strong and undaunted but at the same time vulnerable and on her own. It isn't a fast paced book, but rather plotted along at an even pace that kept me entertained and curious about the outcome.

It ended in a good place leaving this reader anxious for more. Highly recommend to those that like HF from this era and location.

Shane says

"Jane Austen goes to India" is how I would describe this novel, the second in the series of adventures of Dr. Margaret.

After the tragic loss of her husband in the Crimean War (covered in Book 1), Dr. Margaret Wallace, pregnant with her third child, arrives in Calcutta in a bid to be re-united with her estranged parents and siblings who are missionaries in Futtehghurh. Offered a job in a hospital in Delhi, she traverses the country by boat and road, giving us the historical and geographical armchair tour, and uncovering the simmering conflict between the ruling British and India's former rulers, the Nawabs and Maharajahs, who are being slowly edged into retirement by their interfering colonial masters. She is also the magnet for lonely men like Colonel Humphrey, who looks for every opportunity to seduce the pregnant widow and shows his contempt for her whenever she rebukes him. To add to Margaret's woes, her nemesis, Captain (now reduced to Lieutenant) Albert Miller, who was responsible for her husband's death in the Crimea, has also transferred to India and is out to settle past scores. Margaret sympathizes with the locals, ignores the class distinctions practiced by both sides, and is outspoken about British duplicity, putting herself in harm's way; she can only rely on a sepoj, Sharif Khan, and his immediate friends and family, to protect her.

The pace of this novel is slow, like a leisurely ride on the Ganges. Margaret, who narrates most of the novel, is a virtuous and cultured lady, who is precise about every detail in her recounting; I would even call her a nit-picker. We see the broader conflict brewing in India through her lens and through the domestic activities that she is engaged in. In the name of propriety, she has to submit to situations that open her to danger and scandal, like going on an innocuous horse ride with Colonel Humphrey who is having difficulty keeping his hands on the reins, like delivering a perilously positioned baby of a Moslem woman, and like treating the Queen of Delhi with belladonna - poisonous if taken in large doses. She is also faced with the constant moral

choice of either becoming the mistress of her amorous pursuer and having the material comforts of life taken care of, or standing by her principles and remaining poor and separated from her other children in Canada.

Given the author's interest in history, we are taken on detours to discover the legends behind the "Black Hole of Calcutta," "The Kohinoor Diamond," and "The Fishing Fleet." We also encounter breakthroughs in medical science that occurred at the time: Margaret experimenting with perineum episiotomies to deliver babies, and the removal of the appendix. Although we sympathize with the Indians for losing control of their country, we wonder why those Nawabs and Maharajahs didn't get off their asses and clean their palaces, relying instead on funding from the British to hire more servants to do their menial jobs? Doesn't God help those who help themselves, as Margaret epitomizes? While I enjoyed the history, I was not enamoured by the way in which the lesson was delivered: always in obvious "question and answer" dialogue; perhaps the use of a variety of devices such as exposition, epistolary, and oral storytelling may have helped.

This book, like its predecessor, is a good fictional rendition of history from an original angle, that of a progressive woman of her time, battling not only the events of history but also the restrictions on her gender. In particular, this novel covers the events leading to the first Indian Revolution of 1857, a milestone in history that is somewhat overshadowed by the events of 1947 that ultimately led to self-government. But the seeds were sown back then, during Dr. Margaret's time, and I am grateful to the author for sharing this genesis with us.

Biswanath Banerjee says

Gunfire is all around-only smoke is visible-their carriage is under attack from the plunders of India. They have native soldiers escorting them- but the robbers were equally matched for the soldiers- and they are heavily armed.

Heated lead has flied past the lady from America-an inch off its trajectory and it would be the life and death determining moment.

A man, like a demon is charging towards her- a devilish looking arm with bright metallic weapon.

She closed her eye in fear- how does death feels?

The man is fearless- in the name of goddess Kali they can even die laughing.

Another gunshot- does she have any sensation of blood dripping out of her body?

Is she feeling sleepy?

Welcome to India 1855-

Complete review at

<https://jayasreesown.wordpress.com/20...>

Diana says

book received from Historical Fiction Virtual Book Tours for an honest review

This book, Doctor Margaret in Delhi by Waheed Rabbani was an easy book to like. One I really enjoy reading about India and it's history. I'm often frustrated with myself with how little I know. It's history is so interesting and fascinating. I really liked how Rabbani combined the elements in this story. The pacing was great, the characters interesting and the setting fantastic. Although the second book in the series, I did not find that I missed out although it would have been nice to read the previous book first. Dr. Margaret Wallace

was a fantastic character to read about. She was an inspiring heroine. I really enjoyed reading about the cultural conflicts with the English and the tensions that arose. The attention to detail that the author used in this story made it come alive and I was quickly transported to India with Doctor Margaret. I'm looking forward to reading more in this series and highly recommend it to anyone looking for a strong heroine in a fascinating time period with an equally fascinating country.

Mark Kingshott says

Though the second in a series of books, this is the first that I have read. Whilst it references events from the previous book, they are not essential to the plot of the second, so it was easy for me to pick up from the start. The story itself is well written, with well rounded characters and the plot is intriguing. It is set in the backdrop of colonial India, with the greed and mercantile aims of the East India Company coinciding with the fall of the last Moghal Emperor Shah Zafar and his family.

It follows the journey of the now widowed, yet pregnant Dr Margerat as she relocates to the her parents' mission in northern India. Her position as a doctor allows the author to detail and compare the lives of the affluent European colonists with the rich and varied culture of the Indian peoples. It also allows you to see the differing viewpoints of each world and shows up the hypocrisy of many of the colonists attitudes to the Indian locals in a way that makes sense to the story. The writer's skill with words paint a colourful world and really brings to life what things were like in that time and place. The device of using a woman new to the region is a great device to allow the reader to see the world through the eyes of someone seeing these everything for the first time and he paints the wonder that was and is the vast and varied country of India.

Historically it is clear that Waheed Rabbani has done meticulous research on the era and this shows throughout the work. What's more, despite the immense amount of information he reveals about the time, he manages to blend it in seamlessly with the story, never making you feel (as in some historical novels) that the story has taken a backseat whilst the author gives out a lesson in history.

Overall I would say that this is a interesting, well-written novel that draws you in and takes you on a wonderfully visual journey through a fascinating period of history. I am going to go and read the first book and am looking forward to the third in the series.

Pawan Mishra says

This book was outstanding! Truly a delight to read ... A fast paced historically authentic story that almost played 1850s in front of my eyes.

Doctor Margaret in Delhi is a gripping tale of the struggle of an American female doctor who was posted in a hospital in Delhi in 1850's--during the sunseting times of last Mughal emperor of India, Bahadur Shah Zafar.

Margaret Wallace arrives in India—but as she finishes one long journey, she embarks on a much longer one—that of her loneliness and endurance—through an extremely political and manipulative surroundings. On one hand, she is trying to busy herself with innocent people and her newborn child in order to cope up with the loss of her husband, while on the other, she faces monstrous men who just wouldn't let any chance go of seducing her forcefully. At times when her loneliness gets better of her, she even contemplates if the

lust of these men may actually be their love for her—but she overcomes her emotional vulnerability each time as her good sense prevails in the end, thus saving her from getting trapped. Despite only a little hope of getting help from anyone, for the men involved are one of the most influential ones around, she manages to maneuver herself through every situation.

It was after a long time that I have read such an amazing historic fiction. The character development is amazing, the language wonderful, and the plot couldn't have been better. Waheed comes across as a gifted storyteller who can handle complex and sophisticated plots with such an ease! I highly recommend this book to everyone who is familiar with Mughal history of India, and feels, like I do, mesmerized about the era. The book will take you as close to the day to day experience of the era as it can get!

Michael says

There is a strong push in the world of the fiction to be edgy, gritty or offbeat. Waheed Rabbani's "Doctor Margaret in Delhi", Book 2 of The Azadi Series and sequel to "Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest", is a refreshing return to quality, mainstream literary fiction. Rabbani's polished and effortless narrative voice is a pleasure to experience. His vivid and detailed depictions of India's 1800s customs, culture and landscapes is, at times, mesmerizing. The continued unfolding of Doctor Margaret's unconventional and courageous life story is thoroughly engaging. If you enjoy historical fiction, "Doctor Margaret in Delhi" is a must for your "To Read" list. ~ Michael Dyet, author of "Until the Deep Water Stills".

Carole Rae says

This is the second in the series. I did not read the first book, but this does stand alone pretty well. I honestly do want to read the first book, so I can get to know her husband before he died and understand more of the hatred of her childhood tormentor Captain Albert. However, I was able to understand the story pretty well; just missing some backstory is all.

This was a really good historical fiction. The first two chapter were a little dry, but once the drama began I was hooked. I got this done in one sitting pretty much. It was good and a quick read. However, it did have that old feeling of writing to it, which I liked immensely. It felt real and written in that era, so I approve.

Speaking of which, the writing style was beautifully done. The descriptions of the area brought India to life!

I am bummed that it was left on a cliffhanger, but I am curious to see what is coming up next for Margaret! I have hope for her, but I know some bad times are coming up for not only her, but for India itself. I worry, but I am curious to see how everything ties together and what is coming next! But yes...the ending was good, but it was a cliffhanger and those make me twitch!

Poor Margaret...especially near the end. :/ I really liked her, but I felt really bad for her. No matter what she did something would go wrong and she was screwed over. Especially at the end. I hope everything works out for her in the next book!

In the end, this was a pretty good historical fiction. I do want to read the first book and the next one! It does well as a stand alone, but it will make you want to read the next one in the series. I liked Margaret, but I did feel bad for her and I hope she gets a HEA. It doesn't seem so, but I am hopeful. The writing style was beautiful and it truly made the story come to life. It was a quick read, so I recommend this to those that need

a quick historical fiction fix! So, I shall stamp this with...4 stars.

Michael Aloysius O'Reilly says

This ambitious story with several threads is narrated by an American woman doctor in mid-19th Century India who contends with British imperial colonialism, and the decline of the Mughal empire collapsing under the British Raj while showing the field mechanics of mercantilism. The book is a lesson of how wealth was extracted from the Indian sub-continent by military power leading to a mop-up by the East India Company. These are the stories of racial triumphalism and military adventures that made England the 19th Century's richest nation.

Moreover, if those narrative lines were not enough, the doctor is pregnant with a son conceived with her Canadian husband before his death in the Crimea. If that is still not enough plot, the doctor narrates a travelogue of the doctor's journey up the Ganges from Calcutta to Delhi. It may be that no significant structure is left undescribed.

The Brits are a parade of snide and self-satisfied believers in the destiny of England as a colonial power. Their self superiority is both snotty and snooty. Add to this humble Indians of great dignity and scheming Indians losing their wealth as the Brits take power and you have an immense architecture. The travelogue slows down the narrative of the good doctor while never losing its teaching value.

The 'little brown brother' paternalism is unalterably revealed as nonsense. The history of British colonialism is rape of those unable to defend themselves enriching the mother country. revealed as the doctor shares dinner with the officers of the British Raj who made it possible to bring great wealth through the East India Company. The officers are as certain of their right of sexual dominance over women as they are justified in their rape of the Indian sub-continent.

Miranda says

Waheed Rabbani's novel Doctor Margaret in Delhi—the second in The Azadi Series—is a captivating historical fiction novel chronicling the life of Doctor Margaret Wallace. After the tragic loss of her beloved husband Robert in the Crimean War, a pregnant Doctor Margaret travels to India where she intends to start a new life as the first female doctor at the hospital in Delhi. First reuniting with her estranged missionary parents and siblings in Futttehgurh, Margaret remains with them until she gives birth to her third child, in the meantime teaching English to the local Nawab and dealing with the advances of potential suitor Colonel Humphrey.

Margaret soon travels to Delhi and begins her work at the hospital, settling into her new life. She eventually finds a home with Sharif Khan—the ancestor of Doctor Wallidad Sharif, who is writing Margaret's biography in 1967—and his family. But the arrival of her longtime nemesis, the villainous Lieutenant (Captain) Albert Miller, and the continued pursuit by the amorous Colonel Humphrey make things difficult for her. Will Margaret be able to avoid those who wish to do her harm or fall prey to their evil machinations?

Self-published in 2015, Doctor Margaret in Delhi is filled with compelling, relatable characters and rich, believable settings. Fascinating historical details and events are brilliantly weaved throughout the story. A fair bit of the Indian dialect is used throughout, but a glossary is provided that helps with the translation of most words. This novel is a sequel to Rabbani's Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest, and while Doctor Margaret in Delhi stands on its own for the most part, I recommend reading the first book in the series before this one, as

there are occasions where events from the first novel are mentioned and not expanded upon, which may cause some mild confusion for new readers. Geared toward adults, this novel is a truly enjoyable read.

Waheed Rabbani is a splendid storyteller, and I cannot wait to read his next novel, which I hope will be the next book in The Azadi Series. I highly recommend this novel to historical buffs and to anyone who wants to read a truly delightful story.
