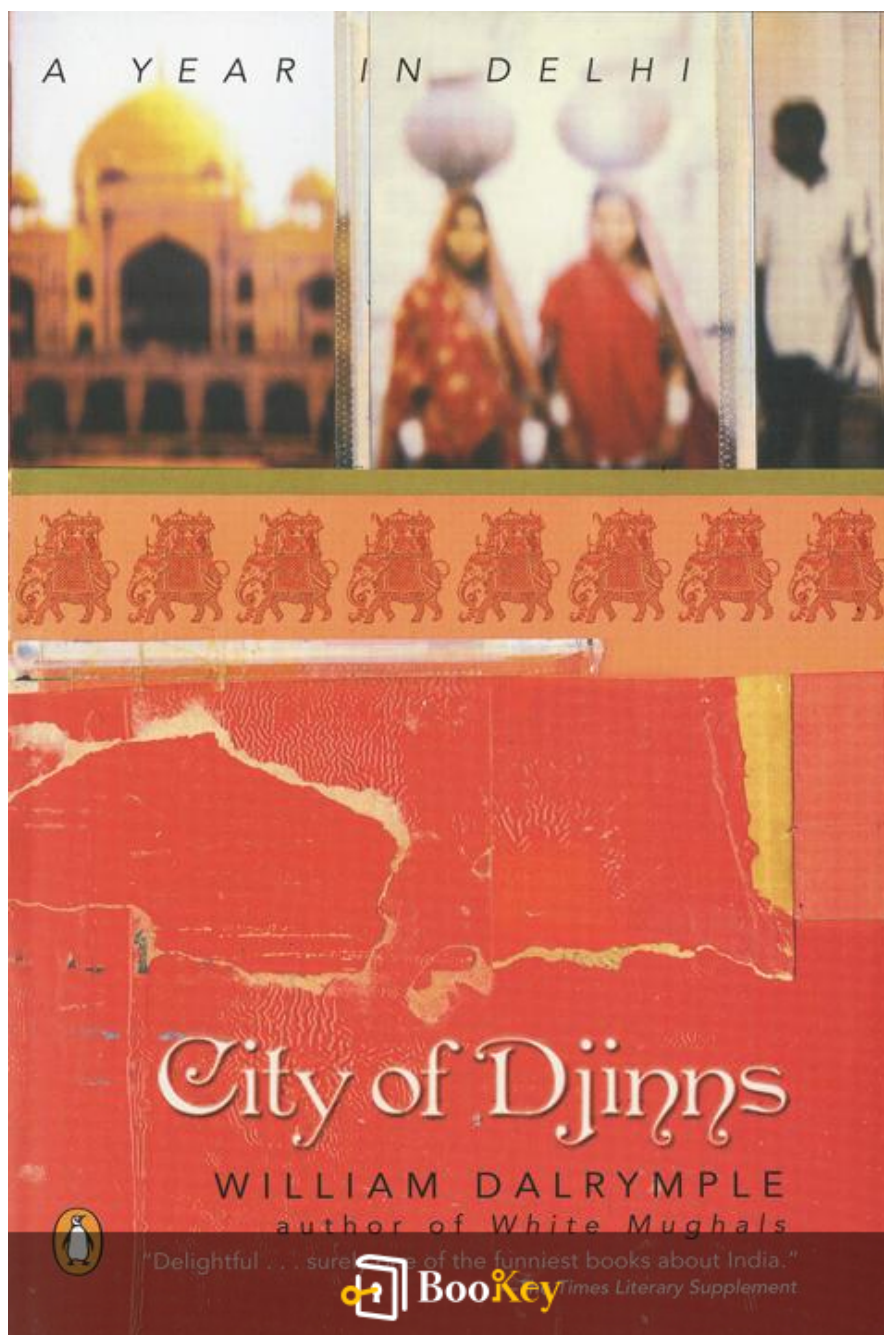


City Of Djinn's PDF (Limited Copy)

William Dalrymple



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City Of Djinns Summary

Discovering Delhi's Enigmatic Past Through Djinns and Diverse Characters.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In "City of Djinns," William Dalrymple takes readers on an engaging journey through Delhi, a city steeped in history and myth. He explores its complex past through the lens of its diverse population, introducing an eclectic array of characters that brings the city's vibrant history to life. Among them are eunuchs, often marginalized yet integral to Delhi's culture, and the proud descendants of the powerful Mughal emperors who once ruled India.

Dalrymple's exploration is guided by the concept of djinns—supernatural beings from Islamic folklore thought to inhabit and influence places. The legend of these mystical spirits serves as a thread throughout the narrative, symbolizing Delhi's perpetual cycles of destruction and rebirth. As Dalrymple uncovers the seven historical "incarnations" of Delhi—from its earliest settlements to its present-day form—he intersperses historical facts with personal anecdotes, making the past palpable and relevant.

His open-minded curiosity leads him to traverse not just the physical landscape of Delhi, but also its emotional and cultural undercurrents. In exploring the remnants of the British Raj and the lasting impact of colonialism, Dalrymple paints a nuanced picture of a city that is both deeply rooted in its history and vibrantly alive in the modern era. The blend of thorough research and adventurous storytelling crafts a unique narrative that

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illuminates Delhi's multifaceted identity, celebrating both its legends and its realities.

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About the author

William Dalrymple, a celebrated Scottish author and historian, is best known for his immersive travel literature exploring the rich cultural tapestry of South Asia. He grew up by the scenic Firth of Forth, where his passion for storytelling began. Early in his career, Dalrymple achieved critical success with **In Xanadu**, which won the 1990 Yorkshire Post Best First Work Award and set the stage for his future endeavors.

In 1989, he moved to Delhi, igniting a profound interest in India's history and culture that culminated in his acclaimed book, **City of Djinns**, published after six years of in-depth research. This work not only captured the essence of Delhi's mythical and real dimensions but also earned him the 1994 Thomas Cook Travel Book Award, marking him as a significant voice in travel literature.

Dalrymple continued to explore the intersections of culture and history in his subsequent works, such as **From the Holy Mountain**, which journeys through sacred sites in the Eastern Mediterranean, and **White Mughals**, a narrative detailing the romance and complexities between British and Indian cultures during the late 18th century. Both titles received accolades, further establishing his reputation as a historian who not only informs but also entertains.

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Beyond writing, Dalrymple is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Asiatic Society and has co-founded the acclaimed Jaipur Literature Festival, which celebrates literary dialogue in India. His contributions to broadcasting, through award-winning television and radio series, have expanded his influence in the cultural realm, earning him multiple honors, including an honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of St Andrews.

Currently, he resides in the countryside near Delhi with his artist wife, Olivia Fraser, and their three children, continuing to weave narratives that connect the past with the present, highlighting the rich cultural diversity of the region. Dalrymple's works invite readers to delve into the complexities of historical narratives while experiencing the beauty and vibrancy of South Asia.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

Summary of Chapter 1 from "City of Djinns" by William Dalrymple

In the opening chapter of "City of Djinns," the narrative unfolds within a dusty flat atop Mrs. Puri's house, an environment reminiscent of the gothic imagery found in "Great Expectations." Mrs. Puri, the authoritative landlady and a resilient Sikh refugee, plays a central role in this setting. Her life story is marked by the trauma of losing everything during the Partition of India in 1947, an event that violently divided the subcontinent along religious lines, leading to widespread displacement and suffering. Despite these hardships, she has built a comfortable life through sheer determination, thrift, and entrepreneurial ventures, including creating an etiquette school for village girls.

Mrs. Puri's demanding nature reflects her frugality; she expects her tenants to mirror her lifestyle, which becomes particularly apparent when issues arise concerning their water supply—an annoyance born from the lavish bathroom habits of their guests. This tension illustrates the cultural norms surrounding domestic help in India, where the protagonist and his wife grapple with an overwhelming influx of servants essential for maintaining their social standing.

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Among the cast of characters, Mr. Puri emerges as a complex figure whose personality is shaped by traumatic memories of communal riots. He embodies the duality of devoted Sikh nationalism and a waning grasp on reality, leading to poignant yet fragmented conversations that reveal both his fervor and mental decline.

As the protagonist navigates the bustling life of Delhi, his experiences with their taxi driver, Balvinder Singh, serve as a lens into the chaotic yet structured nature of the city's traffic. Balvinder's brash individuality offers a commentary on social classes and their stark disparities, exemplifying the diverse tapestry of life in Delhi.

The chapter paints a vivid picture of a city in transition, where rapid socio-economic changes have created a stark divide between the affluent and the impoverished. The atmosphere reveals a blend of modernization intertwined with traditional values, while societal attitudes grow increasingly intolerant. Through descriptions of bustling markets, colorful street vendors, and shifting social norms, the protagonist observes moral shifts within the city, alongside the rising discontent among its residents that breeds tension among various communities.

In conclusion, Chapter 1 of "City of Djinnns" intricately weaves personal narratives and broader social commentary, offering a layered exploration of life in Delhi. The protagonist and his wife confront the complexities of

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Indian society as they embark on their new life, both captivated and challenged by the vibrant, yet tumultuous, landscape around them.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In Chapter 2 of "City of Djinn" by William Dalrymple, the narrative unfolds with the tragic assassination of Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984. Following a seemingly normal breakfast, Gandhi was shot by her Sikh bodyguards, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh. Although rushed to the hospital, she likely succumbed to her wounds before arriving.

The immediate aftermath of her assassination unleashed a wave of violent riots throughout Delhi, primarily targeting the Sikh community. In these chaotic scenes, mobs sought retribution, indiscriminately attacking Sikh families. The Puri family, whose home was vandalized, narrowly evaded the violence due to their quick thinking and a readiness to defend themselves.

Amid the turmoil, Balvinder Singh, a taxi driver, found himself face-to-face with an enraged mob. He and his brothers made the desperate decision to flee as the situation escalated, unfortunately leading to the loss of several relatives. In the face of such chaos, Sikh communities banded together, striving to protect themselves amidst the unfolding horror.

The chapter moves to the heart-wrenching events in Trilokpuri, a poorer neighborhood in the city, where Sikh residents faced brutal massacres. These violent incidents were often underreported or dismissed by witnesses, revealing a disturbing trend in the public discourse surrounding such

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tragedies.

Sohan Singh Sandhu, a survivor, recounts his gut-wrenching experience of hiding with one son while losing two others to the mob's violence. Despite the profound grief, Sandhu's family clung to resilience, showcasing a remarkable spirit of survival in the midst of unspeakable loss.

Dalrymple then delves into Delhi's historical context, emphasizing the city's long-standing tradition of violence, including its tumultuous past marked by riots and communal strife. The narrative points to events like the Partition of India, which dramatically reshaped the demographic fabric of the city and set a precedent for future conflicts.

The chapter concludes with a reflection on the cultural paradox of Delhi, where the warmth of local hospitality exists alongside an unsettling capacity for brutality during times of communal discord. This duality captures the complexity of human nature in a city steeped in both kindness and violence, setting the stage for a deeper exploration into the city's historical and cultural layers.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

Chapter 3 Summary: City of Djinns

Punjab Singh's Story of Partition

In this chapter, Punjab Singh shares poignant memories of his hometown, Samundra, a village in Punjab celebrated for its exquisite sweets. His nostalgic reflections are abruptly shattered by the violence of Partition in 1947, when communal tensions ignited. Initially in disbelief at the upheaval, Singh recounts a dramatic confrontation where armed Muslims threatened his village. As panic spread, he devised an unconventional strategy: he offered jalebis, a traditional sweet, to the attackers, which successfully diffused their hostility and ultimately attracted the attention of the British army, who intervened to rescue the villagers.

Tales of Refugees in Delhi

The narrative shifts to the plight of refugees who fled to Delhi, grappling with the realities of their new lives. The Puris, who escaped from Lahore with a tentative hope of returning, arrive to find their home in ruins amid the chaotic backdrop of a transformed city. Their struggle mirrors those of countless others, recounting harrowing tales of family separations, violent

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encounters, and the profound sense of loss that accompanied their displacement.

Contrasting Cultures in Delhi

Dalrymple delves into the cultural clash that emerged between the old residents of Delhi and the influx of Punjabi immigrants. The latter reshaped the city's demographics and economy, yet they faced scorn from the established Urdu-speaking elite, who regarded them as uncultured interlopers. The coexistence of these communities reveals underlying tensions rooted in class distinctions rather than merely religious differences.

Dussehra Celebrations

The chapter also explores the Dusshera festival, showcasing how cultural traditions have adapted in contemporary Delhi. As Hindu and Muslim communities celebrate, their distinct festivities highlight the cultural divide exacerbated by Partition, with each group reflecting their own values and narratives in their celebrations.

Decay of Old Delhi

The transition of Shahjehanabad, once a thriving center of culture and arts, into a landscape of decay is emphasized. As the area falls into disrepair and

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slum-like conditions, it stands in stark contrast to the burgeoning prosperity experienced by Punjabi settlers in New Delhi. The rich historical and artistic heritage of Old Delhi faces erosion in the wake of modernity and the nostalgia for its once-vibrant identity.

Surviving Traditions and Calligraphy

Shamim, an Urdu calligrapher, exemplifies the struggle to preserve the fading art of calligraphy amidst a marketplace increasingly dominated by Punjabi influences. Conversations with Shamim illuminate the challenges of retaining cultural identity, showcasing generational gaps in the transmission of artistic practices and the ongoing fight against obsolescence.

Ahmed Ali's Exile

Ahmed Ali, a prominent literary figure known for his work **Twilight in Delhi**, expresses his sorrow over the cultural fragmentation caused by Partition. He feels disconnected from both India and Pakistan, mourning the loss of a harmonious era infused with both Hindu and Muslim traditions. The chapter crescendos with his reflections and those of other exiles, who share a collective remembrance of a rich cultural tapestry that now lies disjointed and overshadowed by nostalgia.

Through these intertwined narratives, the chapter vividly captures the

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enduring scars of Partition, weaving a complex tapestry of memories, identities, and the profound losses woven into the fabric of contemporary Delhi life.

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Chapter 4:

Summary of Chapter 4 - City of Djinns

The chapter opens with the author recounting a challenging return to Delhi from Karachi, where he must retrieve his belongings—including a computer, printer, cassette recorder, and electric kettle—from the burdensome confines of the Delhi Customs Shed. After enduring a bureaucratic maze of exit permits and visas, a customs officer informs him that he cannot exit India without presenting his imported goods, contradicting the short-term nature of his trip and highlighting the often perplexing rules governing customs.

Upon his return to Delhi, the author is unexpectedly reunited with Balvinder Singh, a taxi driver who had recently fallen into a downward spiral after being evicted by his wife. Balvinder had succumbed to a lifestyle of excess, frequenting bars and associating with sex workers. Now, however, he seems to have reclaimed control of his life, proudly claiming to have resolved his financial difficulties, thus marking a brief, hopeful turnaround in his tumultuous existence.

The narrative then shifts to Coronation Park, a site once basked in imperial glory under British colonial rule, now a desolate shadow of its former self. The author reflects on the stark contrast between his expectations and the

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reality of this once-grand location, illustrated by the imposing yet neglected statue of George V. This decay serves as a metaphor for the broader cultural shift in India, as the nation distances itself from its colonial past.

The chapter dives deeper into the evolution of language in India, particularly the emergence of "Hinglish," a linguistic blend of Hindi and English rife with unique expressions. The author references lighthearted articles from the *Times of India*, highlighting amusing cultural practices, such as the tradition of "condoling" significant losses, showcasing how colonial influences persist in contemporary Indian vernacular.

In a broader architectural context, the author examines the work of Sir Edwin Lutyens, whose grand designs for New Delhi mirror the authoritative nature of the regimes responsible for monumental art. Through Lutyens's letters, the author reveals the architect's complex character: a brilliant mind tempered by deeply ingrained biases against Indians, prompting a reflection on the paradoxes tied to colonial legacies.

A chance encounter with Iris Portal, an elderly woman with nostalgic recollections of her colonial childhood in India, adds depth to the chapter. Iris evokes a sense of bittersweet remembrance for an era defined by imperial power and its eventual dissolution. Her reflections on social dynamics among colonial families provide a nuanced perspective on the interplay of nostalgia and regret regarding the British Empire's impact.

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The author also visits the Haxby sisters, Phyllis and Edith, who live in Simla and grapple with their new reality post-empire. Living in relative isolation and harboring fears of the local population, their stories echo a longing for the comforts of Britain and the emotional intricacies faced by those who

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Chapter 5 Summary:

Summary of Chapter 5: City of Djinns by William Dalrymple

As November arrives, Delhi transforms in anticipation of Diwali, a festival of lights celebrated by diverse communities. The streets buzz with vibrant markets showcasing clay lamps and sweet treats, as even those who typically abstain from the festivities join in the joyous atmosphere. Muslims, among others, participate by lighting oil lamps in honor of a revered Sufi figure, demonstrating the festival's expansive cultural significance.

Different interpretations of Diwali emerge in the chapter, primarily through Mrs. Puri's perspective, which emphasizes the financial implications tied to the celebration. She associates Diwali with the Goddess of Wealth, Laxmi, rather than the traditional tales of Rama and Sita, bringing forth a critical contrast between economic and cultural dimensions of the festival.

As Diwali festivities conclude, the narrative pivots to the onset of a harsh Delhi winter. The cold drives residents indoors, evoking a sense of melancholy that mirrors the historical decline of the city. This backdrop sets the stage for exploring Delhi's complex past, detailing key events such as the devastating Persian massacres and the oppressive British colonization that stripped the city of its former grandeur. Amidst this turmoil, the blind

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emperor Shah Alam becomes a poignant symbol of decay, representing the fall of a once-mighty royal court.

Central to the chapter is the figure of William Fraser, whose correspondence reveals his profound engagement with Delhi's culture amidst colonial rule. His narrative reflects both admiration for Indian traditions and the tension of British presence, illustrating the intricate weave of identities and cultural exchanges at play during this period.

The dynamics between British officials and Anglo-Indians are unraveled, revealing how cultural changes birthed new prejudices and exacerbated identity crises. The experience of Anglo-Indians, caught between their mixed heritage, highlights the struggles of reconciling their dual identities in a post-independence landscape.

The chapter concludes with a somber reflection on the aftermath of the 1857 uprising, marking a significant shift in Delhi's historical trajectory. The violent repercussions of colonialism starkly contrast with the earlier cultural investments, leading to a poignant contemplation of coexistence. Memorials dotting the city—honoring British valor and reclaiming spaces for Indian independence—illustrate the deep-seated historical tensions that define Delhi's complex legacy.

In this chapter, Dalrymple intricately weaves together cultural, historical,

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and personal narratives, providing a rich portrayal of Delhi during a time of transformation and enduring consequence.

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Chapter 6 Summary:

Summary of Chapter 6 from “City of Djinns” by William Dalrymple

Chapter 6 presents a vibrant tableau of Delhi's New Year celebrations, sharply juxtaposing the stark realities faced by the city's poor against the opulent festivities enjoyed by the wealthy elite. As affluent citizens indulge in lavish parties, characterized by luxury, music, and lively gossip, the less fortunate gather around bonfires beneath flyovers, highlighting a profound socio-economic divide.

The chapter unfolds at a gala hosted by a magazine editor, where the conversations among guests—journalists, politicians, and fashion designers—reveal a society engrossed in wealth and status. The humor shared about their reliance on drivers and servants underscores a disconnection from the struggles of those outside their privileged bubble, painting a portrait of a world seemingly oblivious to broader societal issues.

Amidst the revelry, the narrative shifts to Mrs. Puri, a middle-class landlord contemplating her decision to raise rents amidst economic challenges. Her reflections provide a poignant counterpoint to the earlier scenes, blending humor with stark realities that illuminate the hardships faced by ordinary citizens in contemporary Delhi.



The author then visits Safdarjung's Tomb, a historical site that resonates with the regal past of the Mughal Empire. Safdarjung, a Persian noble, symbolizes the cultural richness of a time now in decline. The analysis of the tomb's architecture reveals a transition from grand Mughal artistry to a more flawed aesthetic, encapsulating the historical shifts that have shaped modern Delhi.

As the narrative progresses, it delves into the cultural vibrancy of Safdarjung's era, filled with poetic expression and celebratory gatherings, contrasting sharply with the bureaucratic nature often associated with present-day Delhi. Through the tales of Dargah Quli Khan, the author evokes a colorful, spirited past that still echoes in the city's streets.

An exploration of Delhi's eunuchs commences, shedding light on their multifaceted lives within the societal fabric. Despite their marginalization, these individuals offer rich insights into their roles and traditions, providing a counter-narrative to the glamorous events of the elite.

The chapter culminates with an intimate look at Chaman Guru, the matriarch of a eunuch community, and her followers. Their stories of transition, laced with humor and resilience, exemplify the struggles and sense of belonging inherent in their lives. Chaman Guru's household serves as a microcosm of the broader societal dynamics at play, reinforcing themes of community and

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identity amidst adversity.

In essence, Chapter 6 presents a mosaic of contemporary Delhi life, deftly illustrating the dichotomy between wealth and poverty while exploring the rich, yet complex, tapestry of marginalized communities through both their challenges and their joys.

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Chapter 7 Summary:

Chapter 7 Summary: City of Djinns

As winter rains begin at the end of January, the narrator and Olivia find themselves in a fort near Delhi, only to return to the city amid serious flooding that disrupts daily life, particularly in the Old City. This setting serves as a canvas for the intersections of culture, history, and modern societal challenges that unfold throughout the chapter.

The narrator visits Dr. Yunus Jaffery, a historian steeped in the rich legacy of Persian scholarly tradition, who works in a Mughal-era building, Zakir Hussain College. His office, filled with classical Persian texts and a simmering samovar, is a reflection of his commitment to preserving the past.

Dr. Jaffery is deeply engrossed in transcribing the *Shah Jehan Nama*, a chronicle of the Mughal Empire's golden age, and is also working on a newly discovered manuscript about Shah Jehan's formative years. However, he expresses a profound sadness about the waning interest in classical Persian literature, lamenting that the appreciation for cultural heritage is eroding in contemporary Delhi.

Their philosophical conversation highlights Dr. Jaffery's grief over the

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fading cultural values, suggesting that the disappearance of an educated elite is eroding the social fabric. Through anecdotes from classical Persian literature and personal experiences, he evokes nostalgia for a bygone era, painting a vivid picture of the cultural richness that once defined Delhi.

The narrator reflects on the Mughal legacy, mentioning European travelers like Bernier and Manucci, who provided captivating insights into the court's opulence and political machinations. This reflection leads to a nuanced appreciation of the Mughal Empire, recognizing that beneath its artistic achievements lay a landscape marked by complexity and often ruthless political contests.

As spring arrives, Delhi transforms with blooming flowers and the exuberance of wedding season, bringing chaos and vibrancy to daily life. The narrator observes how Indian marriages are steeped in cultural significance and superstitions, creating a complex tapestry of societal expectations and pressures.

Humor mingles with gravity as the chapter explores the transactional nature of marriage reflected in witty advertisements for partners. The cultural commentary underscores the intricate dynamics of personal relationships in the context of traditional values.

An invitation to a local wedding further immerses the narrator in the vibrant,

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albeit chaotic, world of Indian nuptials. Attending the wedding, he witnesses the rich blend of customs alongside the stark realities faced by families today, illustrating the juxtaposition of tradition and modernity.

Discussions with Dr. Jaffery take a deeper dive into Mughal politics, specifically the rivalries between royal brothers Dara Shukoh and Aurangzeb. These narratives of complex familial relationships and power struggles highlight the factors leading to the gradual decline of Mughal influence in Delhi.

The chapter culminates in a reflection on the resilience of Old Delhi's culture, where the remnants of its grand Mughal past continue to shape contemporary identity. Through themes of nostalgia for a glorious historical epoch and the ongoing evolution of cultural identity, the chapter encapsulates the essence of a city caught between its illustrious past and an uncertain future.

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Chapter 8:

Chapter 8 Summary: The Sweltering Heat and Cultural Interactions in Delhi

As summer descends upon Delhi, the oppressive heat transforms daily life. The narrative opens with vivid imagery of the blazing sun, deserted streets, and overheated flora, highlighting the abrupt transition from late winter to the scorching summer, marked notably by the Hindu festival of Holi. This sudden shift prompts residents to retreat into air-conditioned sanctuaries during the peak heat of midday.

To cope with the sweltering temperatures, the local culture adapts accordingly. Mornings are filled with activity, while afternoons see citizens taking refuge in siestas until cool evening breezes invite them back outdoors. This shift leads to leisurely evenings spent on rooftops, where people gather to relax, read, and enjoy cold beverages, starkly contrasting the heat of the day.

The author's interactions with locals enrich the cultural tapestry of summer life in Delhi. A memorable encounter features Mr. Singh, who presents a mystical white powder aimed at 'curing' the author's wife of her sun-kissed skin, revealing deep-seated societal notions of beauty and health practices that reflect cultural nuances.

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The chapter deepens as the narrative explores the end of Ramadan in the bustling streets of Chandni Chowk. The atmosphere is alive with preparations for Id, filled with sweets, vibrant clothing, and communal festivities. This lively interaction among residents underscores the rich cultural heritage and the strong sense of community in old Delhi.

A historical thread weaves through these contemporary experiences, referencing the travels of the famed explorer Ibn Battuta in medieval Delhi. His insights into the era's political climate under Sultan Tughluk and Sufi traditions resonate with the author's present-day observations, emphasizing a continuity of cultural significance that endures through time.

Delving into the realm of spirituality, the narrative highlights the impact of Sufism and revered leaders like Nizam-ud-Din Auliya. Their teachings and healing practices underscore the faith that sustains community gatherings, enriching the urban landscape with spiritual depth amid its complexities.

The chapter culminates with a reflection on the Khwaja Khizr legend, interweaving storytelling and personal accounts that link the era of Shah Jahan to modern practices. The enduring devotion found in dargahs and the celebration of Khwaja Moin-ud-Din Chisti's festival in Ajmer exemplify the unbroken chain of tradition that binds past and present.

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In essence, Chapter 8 immerses readers in the interplay of Delhi's scorching heat and its vibrant cultural interactions, spiritual practices, and historical narratives, crafting a rich, multi-dimensional portrait of city life that resonates with both immediacy and history.

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Chapter 9 Summary:

Chapter Summary: City of Djinns - Chapter 9

Monsoon and Heat in Delhi

As July unfolds, Delhi endures the sweltering grip of the late monsoon, with humidity and oppressive heat drawing attention to the looming threat of drought and water scarcity. Residents echo a familiar lament about surviving the hottest summer in memory. Historical reflections reveal how past rulers, from the Great Moguls to British officials, escaped the stifling heat by retreating to cooler altitudes, such as Kashmir and Simla.

Journey to Simla

Seeking reprieve, the narrator and Olivia embark on a nostalgic journey to Simla aboard the Himalayan Queen train. This scenic route offers a visual feast of verdant landscapes while ushering in cooler air. Simla, rich in colonial legacy and romantic associations, stands in stark contrast to the histories of the British officials who once summered there, evoking a sense of longing for an era of elegance paired with the complexities of colonial rule.

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Mourning in Delhi

Returning to Delhi, the narrator and Olivia confront the somber news of Mrs. Puri's bereavement following the death of her husband, Mr. Puri. The chapter delves into Mrs. Puri's grief, exploring traditional Sikh mourning practices where priests perform rituals in his honor. This turn of events serves as a poignant backdrop against which Mrs. Puri's transformation from a commanding presence to a vulnerable widow is poignantly illustrated, encapsulating the fragility of human connection.

Archaeological Exploration

Shifting gears, the narrative immerses readers in Delhi's storied past through the lens of the Mahabharata, particularly the legendary city of Indraprastha. Engaging with Professor B.B. Lal, an esteemed archaeologist, the narrator learns about significant archaeological discoveries that lend credence to the epic's events. Discussions of Painted Grey Ware and historical context spark conversations about the balance between the authenticity of the Mahabharata and its narrative flourish, underscoring the ongoing dialogue about history and myth.

Traditions and Legends

As the chapter approaches its conclusion, the narrator recalls ancient

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traditions that connect Delhi to divine revelations and sacred texts attributed to Brahma. The myths surrounding Indraprastha intertwine with the present narrative, bolstered by the roar of an approaching storm that symbolizes the cyclical nature of life, renewal, and the enduring legacy of the land.

Conclusion and Farewell

With their imminent return to England, the narrator and Olivia reflect on the profound connections forged during their year in Delhi—a city vibrant with history yet riddled with contrasts. As the much-anticipated monsoon finally sweeps through, it serves as a metaphor for the renewal of life and continuity in Delhi's ever-evolving story, marking a bittersweet farewell filled with nostalgia and hope for the future.

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