



Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah: The Marriage that Shook India

Sheela Reddy

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Mohammad Ali Jinnah was forty years old, a successful barrister and a rising star in the nationalist movement when he fell in love with pretty, vivacious Ruttie Petit, the daughter of his good friend, the fabulously rich baronet, Sir Dinshaw Petit, a prominent Parsi mill owner. But Ruttie was just sixteen and her outraged father forbade the match. But when Ruttie turned eighteen, they married and Bombay society, its riches and sophistication notwithstanding, was scandalized. Everyone sided with the Petits and Ruttie and Jinnah were ostracized.

It was an unlikely union that few thought would last. But Jinnah, in his undemonstrative, reserved way was unmistakably devoted to his beautiful, wayward child-bride—as proud of her fashionable dressing as he was of her intelligence, her wide reading and her fierce commitment to the nationalist struggle. Ruttie, on her part, worshipped him and could tease and cajole the famously unbending Jinnah, whom so many people found intimidating and distant. But as the tumultuous political events increasingly absorbed him, Ruttie felt isolated and alone, cut off from her family, friends and community. The unremitting effort of submitting her personality to Jinnah's, his frequent coldness, his preoccupation with politics and the law, took its toll. Ruttie died at twenty-nine, leaving her daughter, Dina and her inconsolable husband, who never married again.

Sheela Reddy, well-known journalist and former books editor of Outlook magazine, uses never-before-seen personal letters of Ruttie and her close friends as well as accounts left by contemporaries and friends to portray this marriage that convulsed Indian society, with a sympathetic, discerning eye. A product of intensive and meticulous research in Delhi, Bombay and Karachi and based on first-person accounts and sources, Reddy brings the solitary, misunderstood Jinnah and the lonely, wistful Ruttie to life. A must-read for all those interested in politics, history and the power of an unforgettable love story.

Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah: The Marriage that Shook India Details

Date : Published 2017 by Penguin Random House India

ISBN : 9780670086436

Author : Sheela Reddy

Format : Hardcover 421 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, Cultural, India, Pakistan, Politics

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From Reader Review Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah: The Marriage that Shook India for online ebook

Mohsina Asif says

"Try and remember me beloved as the flower you plucked and not the flower you tread upon."

A nationalist or not, I would recommend this book to everyone particularly belonging to the subcontinent. This book has touched upon what I believe is one of the most tragic love stories of all time. A tale about how, so often passion brings with itself a harrowing isolation, about how while everybody was so immersed in vigorous political struggles a flower which had once bloomed to the epitome of charm, wilted.

It is a story of two utterly desolate people, both equally incapable of being effusive to one another, yet so terribly in love with each other. As Rutie said:

"and had I loved you just a little less I might have remained with you"

This book has dared to break through the walls of bias and false representations of Jinnah, his personal life, and his political aspirations and struggles. Perhaps, it is the identity of the author as an Indian which precluded this book from betraying facts such as the despise Jinnah held for all sorts of religious orthodoxy and the shortcomings he might have possessed.

The book is surprisingly easy and light, making it readable for even the otherwise avid fiction readers. History has never been served sweeter!

Vikas Singh says

The book is an eye opener in many sense. It gives a very different perspective of Jinnah's life. For me it was surprising to read his statement that he was political leader of the muslims and not their religious leader. The book offers a fascinating account of how he fought for Hindu-Muslim unity and was later disillusioned by Congress. His deep resentment of Gandhi and death of his young wife were instrumental in his turning communal in later part of his life. Well researched Sheela takes on a brave topic on a man who is despised by many in india and comes out with a great piece of historical work.

Marwa Shafique says

"When you are given a flower you do not think of the thorn. You revel in its beauty and feast in its fragrance. So is the friendship I have offered you like a rose and you must not only think of the thorn - the imaginary thorn in this case!"

This book deserves all the praise in the world. Never before have I been at a loss of words, never before has a biographical book left me in a state of inner turmoil - as I continue to ponder upon the harsh realities of life and how *nothing* is as it seems.

Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah tells you a story about two people who, to the general public, are worlds apart - but are similar in mindset, ideologies and beliefs. And yet, they come together - in ways no one can truly

understand. Led by fierce devotion and passion for each other, they marry - only for everything to come crashing down as they discover truths they had been completely blind to before.

I was completely invested in their story from the very start and the final chapter absolutely broke my heart into tiny pieces - but alas, that's just the way life is, really. All in all, I loved this book and the way it was written, and I am glad I took the opportunity to read it.

Sabari Raychaudhuri says

“Darling I love you – I love you – and had I loved you just a little less I might have remained with you – only after one has created a very beautiful blossom one does not drag it through the mire. The higher you set your ideal the lower it falls”

A letter from Mrs. Jinnah to her husband probably sums up the whole life that she had lived. Sheela Reddy unveils the lives of one of the most politically important character Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his counterpart and takes us to a journey to the bygone era in her book “Mr. And Mrs. Jinnah : The Marriage That Shook India.”

Rattanbai Dinshaw Pettit, Bombay’s young fairy princess, fell headlong in love with the charming barrister and rising star of Indian politics, Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Dazzled by his shiny exterior, she chose to overlook the stark disparity in age; but as the years progressed, the basic temperamental difference became too glaring shoving her to the life of a lonely neglected woman, cut off from the world. A life alienated from both her parents (who had disowned her upon the marriage) and husband, it became fit for the sombre tragedies she herself was so fond of.

I had picked up the book thinking it to be just yet another in the recent fad on Jinnah. But, very frankly, it turned out to be quite a bundle of pleasant surprises with such finer and elaborate details about an intriguing and pregnant era that still keeps the country captivated.

Sheela Reddy, true to her long and sound background in high-profile journalism, has done an extensive research into letters by Ruttie, the Naidu family and Kanji Dwarkadas (Jinnah’s friend and Ruttie’s unflinching support in her dark days), and various other reports of the period. She did not try to bridge the gaps with her imagination but has consistently maintained the original archives.

If you are someone truly interested in the history of Indian independence and partition, this could be a must read for you. The culpability for the partition often squarely falls on Jinnah, but people never cared to explore the series of events that led to the hapless partition in which Jinnah was just one piece playing his part in quite an enabling milieu. One can call this book somewhat an eye opener in the sense, it wrings out a gallery of prominent events from the dusty pages of history and shows up how it had affected each political move back then.

The book moves along in two parts striding side by side. In one, a young Ruttie was trying desperately to fit herself in Jinnah’s wry political life. In her frantic attempt to prove the world wrong about her decision for an against-all-odds marriage, which very few had thought would ever last, she kept going overboard with her attempts to remain close to Jinnah and his hectic public life. But despite of her attempts, the stark chasm between the two kept growing. In between the rigmarole, the young lady also becomes a mother of an almost unwanted child, who was left in the midst of maids and servants throughout her lonely childhood.

Parallel to the turmoil in Ruttie’s personal life, the book takes the readers through the events unfolding in India’s struggle for independence with vivid details. The more Jinnah got entangled in politics, the more

Ruttie was fighting out her loneliness. In the years that followed, her only companions were Sarojini Naidu and her daughters, who were also getting busier by the day with their respective lives.

In addition, Sheela Reddy has managed to show us some rare pictures of the important political leaders of that era along with Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah.

A dejected, lonely Ruttie who had knitted her life around Jinnah wrote during her last day to her beloved husband:

“I have suffered much sweetheart because I have loved much. The measure of my agony has been in accord to the measure of my love.

I have loved you my darling as it is given to few men to be loved. I only beseech you that the tragedy which commenced in love should also end with it.”

With the end of disillusioned Mrs. Jinnah, a fairy tale romance followed by marriage also came to an end. Soon after this, India got divided in two parts and a new era started.

The readers might feel at times that the book is dragging a far too much and could have been more concise but they too can't help but end up, falling in love with the headstrong girl and her suave lover and grieve that a marriage that could have been so beautiful, witnessed an unfortunate fate.

Anita Nandini says

This book draws on the marital life of Mohammed Ali Jinnah and Maryam Jinnah (born Ruttiebhai Petit), the scandal of their marriage, their life together afterwards till Ruttie's death.

There are three stories in the book actually. One of their marriage, and another of Jinnah's political journey (goes without saying it covers a lot of the freedom struggle, Gandhi, Muslim League etc), and third covers the unique relationship between Sarojini Naidu & Ruttie.

Ruttie belongs to a family of Parsi Baronets (she is also related to the Tata's and is practically Parsi Royalty) and Jinnah's family were originally Hindus from Kathiawar. His grandfather was a trader in fish and was ostracised by their community. His father (Jinnah's) thus converted his entire family to Muslims.

Its ironic that the father of Pakistan seemed in no way really keen for a separate nation(in this book at least).

Nor was he an avid follower of the faith (he smoke ,drank and ate pork). Neither was he militant nor unreasonable. He was a fastidious man who went to England to study and modelled himself on the ideal of an English Statesman both sartorially and attitudinally. Not sentimental , a work horse and one who dint believe in "Holidays" and relaxation. He loved to pontificate and hold forth about politics in private durbars.

Ruttie on the other hand was bought up in the lap of luxury. As was wont of those times (in rich households), she was raised by an army of nannies and governesses, and was spoiled for creature comforts.

Her parents kept a keen eye on her, her three brothers and their health & progress. They were hosts par excellence and their parties (the house even) was stuff of legends. Not to mention, the women in their house were very progressive and had given up Purdah a long while ago.

Jinnah was Ruttie's fathers age or older and it came as a big shock to the Baronet when Jinnah asked for Ruttie's hand. Their marriage created a big uproar, and both of them were shunned by the entire Parsi community and the Muslim community. The Parsi Panchayat went as far to say their women need to go back to Purdah and need to be curtailed. Ruttie's family had to expressly disown her in order not to be treated like pariah themselves. All the Maulanas and Maulvis were aghast at Jinnah's choice. Ruttie's provocative clothing choices added fuel to the fire. Even within his own household, his single sister (Fatima Jinnah) was not for this alliance and resented being shunted off to her older sisters residence to make way for the new bride.

Their second shunning came when Jinnah criticised Gandhi openly. Jinnah as a political figure seemed to always be against the tide and believed in fighting through the courts, through debate and carefully structured arguments. He viewed Gandhi (and so did many others) as an eccentric with hair brained schemes and solutions. He was in the forefront of politics and was tipped to be one of the leaders of free India.

The two characters are (husband and wife) are diametrically opposite in temperament , approaches, social preferences and even food. The marriage was doomed from the beginning as Jinnah is a man with a cold facade who believed revealing emotions spelled weakness in character and Ruttie was madly in love and was heavily influenced by all the romantic poets and literature she read. Having lead a protected life , she imagines the life they would lead full of adventure, exploration, and romance.

The authour clearly projects Jinnah to be one blind to his wives feelings and hardships(she recurrently falls ill in her later life). She also hints that her illness was a result of her depression more than any real ailment. Growing up she was used to much socialising and having people around always. Her marriage led her to lose all her Parsi friends, his political choices further narrowed their social life. Finally her own recklessness and need for attention made her dress tantalisingly (putting it mildly :)), chain smoke, experiment with drugs. It is hinted in the book that she attempted suicide several times. She had no one to share her anguish with on the "marriage ice" (her term) that she had to endure for years.

Ruttie for her part is disillusioned but tries very hard to be his support system. She curates every thing from his clothes, his house and even his meals. They have a child(Dina Jinnah) and tragically Ruttie mirrors his coldness to her , with the child. Sheela Reddy almost goes to say that the child was entirely raised by a battery of support staff. It baffles one to think that the child was not named till she was nine years of age!!!! This was not just Ruttie's attitude, but Jinnah's as well.

On the other hand, there is an intense graph that projects Ruttie's dependency on Sarojini and her family. She is shown to be hyper attached to her pets and Sarojini. She even spurns her moms offer for help and decides to make demands on Sarojini instead (who is torn in all directions on account of her political and personal commitments). She alternately vexes Sarojini in her latter years and makes her anxious with her bouts of ill health, fading vivaciousness and even her will to live. Sarojini treats her on par with her own children. She is known to have been close to both Jinnah and Ruttie. But she does not try to meddle with their relationship. Somehow the authour has stayed completely away from the formation of Pakistan and Jinnah's role in it, while consistently giving hints to its build up. Jinnah was a formidable man , who for the better part of his political career seemed to be playing the one step forward, two steps back ward game. As a professional though he achieved great success and earned enough wealth to bankroll Ruttie and even quit his career at will. He seems to be someone whose motivation and drive superseded normal drives and this burning need to be a national leader, led him to neglect his wife, child, sister and householder duties. In a bittersweet letter after she leaves him , Ruttie does inform him that she was unhappy in the marriage in her poetic way ("Try and remember me beloved as the flower you plucked and not the flower you tread upon").He seemed to have paid a heavy price for it and suffered regrets on that account.

It was enlightening read(and wee tedious or even frivolous at times). Story goes now that Dina Wadia (true to her blood she chose to defy her father and marry a Parsi) is demanding that her fathers house in Mumbai be handed over to her and not be considered an evacuee house.

Deliciously Ironic Excerpt from *Roses in December* (Mahommedali Currim Chagla, who was Jinnah's assistant at the time)

"Jinnah asked Dina 'there are millions of Muslim boys in India, is he the only one you were waiting for?' and Dina replied, 'there were millions of Muslim girls in India, why did you marry my mother then?'"

Tanya Sen says

A nuanced study of two fascinating characters - the beautiful, vivacious, poetic, romantic Ruttie Petit and the

ambitious, impossibly intense and hardworking Mohammed Ali Jinnah, 24 years her senior. Through reams and reams of correspondence, memoirs of their friends and associates, even scribbles in the margins of favourite books on their bookshelves, Sheila Reddy pieces together for us the story of the strange relationship of Mr and Mrs Jinnah - a love that was deep, pure and yet completely toxic simply because they were so different.

The backdrop of course is a rich portrait of communities grappling with the “teething pains” of modernisation and change - of women coming out of purdah and embracing education (and thus finding themselves often unmarried), of politicians loudly encouraging interfaith marriages (and then finding themselves horrified when their own daughters showed up with suitors of a different faith), of the building tension between the Indians that supported the British Raj and those that detested it.

If (like me) you didn’t know much about Jinnah before other than the fact that he (depending on which side of the fence you’re looking at it from) single-handedly ruptured India / created Pakistan....a fascinating window into his youth and to the experiences and people that shaped him.

The one thing I didn’t understand was why there was so much repetition of little details - almost as though the author was afraid you would get amnesia after reading each chapter and would need to be reminded of things again....but then again maybe she didn’t expect that we would remain so transfixed that we would finish the book in four sittings.

Dhanya Narayanan says

It is with immense effort that I completed reading this book titled Mr and Mrs Jinnah by Sheila Reddy, classified as non fiction. Little did I realise that I had so much of perseverance until I reached the last page of this book. I started reading this book hoping to get a realistic idea about the personal and political life of Mohammed Ali Jinnah. All I could understand after reading this book of 421 pages is that Jinnah was ‘tall and thin with chiselled features’ and wore clothes stitched from Paris and his wife who was years younger to him was ‘dainty, warm and spontaneous’!(This same description of the two individuals was repeated many times in this book) Somehow I could sympathise with neither young Ruttie nor old Jinnah.

Sheela Reddy is a journalist by profession and has somehow distorted many facts and added her own imagination to fill the gaps in the facts. Her repetitive narration is boring and painful. How many times do you need to describe the coat and tie that Jinnah wears? How many accounts of Mrs Jinnah wearing transparent saree with sleeveless blouse is needed to convince the readers? The author has assumed her own reasons for the behaviour of Ruttie or Jinnah in many instances. This sort of speculation which is practised by media personnel does no good to a narration which is supposed to be based on historical facts. The whole book, as the author claims is based on letters sent by Sarojini Naidu and her daughters. It would have been a much more satisfying experience to have those letters published as such, rather than this book where the author’s understanding of those letters are penned.

On page 193, it goes like this; ” For Ruttie, his long interview splashed in the newspaper the following Monday might have appeared embarrassingly like self promotion.” Why should the author assume what Ruttie thought? This is supposedly a book based on facts and not speculations. Another example is “Jinnah’s expressions must have shamed her into stopping” . There is no supporting evidence to many of the instances mentioned in this book, other than the ones the author has presumed from the letters that has been sent or received by Ruttie or somebody else.

This book failed to evoke any sense of empathy towards Ruttie or Jinnah. Had it been a fictional work, it would have been justified to include so many 'must haves' and 'might haves'. For a story which could be told in less than 100 pages, the author has miserably taken more than four hundred! It is a waste of time and money to read this book trying to get a glimpse of Indian history and life of Mr and Mrs Jinnah.

Anil Dhingra says

Great insight into many aspects of the India under British rule infrequently discussed. The lifestyle of the Rich Indians is interesting, not brushed under the carpet. The 5th star is for a fine depiction of Jinnah himself without getting obsessed with his negative traits as many authors do. He is shown as a suave, liberal, well groomed. He is not a fanatic, enjoying his whiskey. Shown to have a lot of positive traits with a sharp understanding of issues and legal aspect. He had an ego which is what led to the partition of India. He hated Gandhi plus had a lot of other negative traits. However on the whole he was a much better politician than many of the subsequent ones on both sides of the border.

Mubeen Irfan says

Even though I am a history buff, I am generally not too inclined to read history of South Asia particularly Indo-Pakistan. This is partially my stubbornness to indulge in anything related to patriotism. However, this book is currently much talked about therefore I picked it up half hoping it won't be too political for me to lose interest.

Mr. & Mrs. Jinnah is a marriage gone bad story. Had it been a novel, I am sure people would have liked its twistedness more than Fates & Furies (which I will maintain is not an extraordinary book). Ruttie's marriage to Jinnah was much talked about due to the age, religion & status differences. But then they split after a decade and she died soon after, at a very young age of 29. The writer has drawn extensive material from different letters Ruttie wrote to an influential Hindu political family (mother & her daughters) she knew and letters between them discussing Ruttie & her state throughout her marriage. It was a marriage that went horribly wrong eventually pushing Ruttie to drug herself to death. Jinnah later admitted that he should not have married her, not because he didn't love her but because she was a child when they married and was not able to understand him and his political pursuits.

There are many such events in the book which will make you hate Jinnah's attitude towards her but then we should remember that Jinnah probably didn't feel himself to be a normal person indulging in trivial pursuits of life. He probably (rightly) felt he has great potential and marital issues & relationships should not hold him back. Overall it's a tragic love story and a depressing read but very well written and thus recommended.

Maham Siddiqui says

Sheela Reddy has done a wonderful job penning down the memoirs of the illustrious couple. I got to see a very different side of Jinnah other than the great leader of the Muslims of the subcontinent as we were taught in our syllabus. It made me hate Jinnah to some extent but we can't blame the man too, considering he was at an age with whom reasoning was bound to be a failure, having firm habits and a personality so rigid. Also I

can't help but hold him responsible for whatever happened to Ruttie; after all he was a sage of a mature age. I can't comment if the wedding shouldn't have happened or not considering it was Jinnah's and Ruttie's decision after all and they did live happily albeit for a fewer time when they were together.

I think people should read this book in order to look at Jinnah in a broader light and to take him as a human with faults rather than putting him up on a pedestal. It also reflects the role of Ruttie on Jinnah's political career which our Pakistan Studies books have to cleverly missed.

This book has left me confused and with doubts and questions for which I will keep on searching until I get my answers.

I wish the world remembered Ruttie as it remembered Jinnah.

Sultan khattak says

' ??? ??? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ,
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I just finished my first book about the life of the eminent, Mr Mohammed Ali Jinnah. This one about his marriage to and life spent with the Lovely, Miss Ruttie petit. A book I bought by accident, thinking it was Mr Bolitho's popular 'Jinnah' biography. Which will be my next purchase, and it will surely not be the last book I acquire about Mr M.A Jinnah.

I will recommend this book to a mature reader, I feel it will be more liked by the ladies. As it is about a lady and contains all the extravagant details of the polished, elegant, fashionable and liberal lifestyles of indian women of the high society, In 1920's Subcontinent. I enjoyed so much all sections that detail Mr Jinnah's political journey in it. The book is referenced from many letters collected in correspondence to all of Ruttie's friends and family. I'm not giving too much away, But I'm going to share some lines from the book. :)

...' Was it this ease with which he was able to impose his will on his family even as a boy of fifteen that gave him his extraordinary self confidence? ' Certainly, It was the most remarkable quality about him even before he reached England. The combination of his youthful appearance and the 'self-confidence of a person much beyond his years. ...

....' He was a figure hard to overlook, even when he was starting out: a stylish, handsome young barrister who strode arrogantly down the corridors of courtrooms without talking to anyone, returning to his cheap hotel without a rupee in his pocket... '

...' Yet another official who was struck by Jinnahs confidence was Sir Charled Ollivant. He was so impressed by the fact that the young barrister approached him directly for a job instead of going through influential contacts, that he not only appointed him as a temporary magistrate but tried to persuade Jinnah to stay on permanently, offering him a princely salary of Rs 600 a month. Jinnah refused, confidently informing Ollivant that he hoped to make that much in a single day. it was no idle boast: he did succeed, and sooner than anyone could have imagined, in making more than double that amount in a day. ' ...

Divakar says

A lot of us are familiar with Sheela Reddy. She is a prolific journalist and a political commentator and in her last avatar was the books editor of Outlook magazine. She was always known for her racy style of writing and also her meticulous research..

In India, one feels sorry for the amount of negative press that Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of modern day Pakistan gets. The pipe smoking, Saville Row suited booted lawyer whom we are always reminded that he ate pork and enjoyed his scotch (both not so kosher things to do for someone bargaining for a country based on Islam as its unifying force) and how his personal ambitions to be the boss led to the creation of Pakistan and later the greatest tragedy of modern times – the mayhem due to the partition of India into the Hindu dominated India and the Muslim Pakistan where millions died on both sides.....As Indians, most of us have read enough books on the uber westernized Jinnah and his run ins with our ever so Spartan and Saintly Mahatma.....

Between this Indian narrative of Jinnah as a villain and his image in Pakistan as the father of the nation (actually Jinnah is more Indian / Guju / Mumbai boy than Pakistan...he hardly lived in Pakistan.....succumbing to Cancer within a year of Pakistan's formation) possibly lies the truth. Sheela Reddy does not write a political biography but writes on Jinnah the person – his early child-hood, his love life and marriage and its slow disintegration finally culminating in his wife's premature death. With painstaking research, she creates a compelling tale of a poor indigent Gujarati Muslim who is sent to London to work, finds that if he has to work his way up in life, he needs to be something more than a clerk in a trading house, completes his law degree against all odds and comes to India to set up a flourishing legal practice and gravitates into politics. A lot of this was revealing as I was always under the impression that he was born rich and lived richer...the popular Indian narrative never focused on his humble background and his remarkable efforts to reach above his station thru hardwork.

Enter Russië Petit. Bon vivant,bohemian....born into Parsi aristocracy (her father was amongst other thingsa Baronet) and all of 18 years old and her doomed attraction towards the successful widowed lawyer (a child marriage story is part of the Jinnah background), their subsequent marriage, the run ins with the Parsi community (she gets ex-communicated and her wealthy father also files a case of abduction against Jinnah), their complicated relationship and the final separation and later her untimely demise forms the crux of the story.

Apparently Rutti Jinnah nee Petit was a prolific letter writer. Her correspondence with Sarojini Naidu (a minor aside : During the independence struggle, Mrs Naidu was housed permanently in a suite in Taj Mumbai !) and her two daughters....Padmaja and Leelamani unspools her life as they were apparently her good friends, confidantes and her extended family after she was disowned by her own family and ostracized by the Parsis.

While the Indian Independence, the rise of Jinnah as a politician, his disillusionment with the Congress forms part of the context and backdrop of the book, it is the human story of Jinnah the son / lover / doting and indulgent husband to begin with and later the much older and wiser man trying to restore sanity and stability into his marriage which is heart wrenching,

The tragic story of the mismatched couple (he was 42 and she was all of 18) who eloped and got married, the early strains in the relationship as Jinnah got more and more busy with his legal career and his political life, the unstated expectations on both sides which were not fulfilled in the relationship, the souring of their bond,

frequent separations (where she used to move into the Taj with Sarojini Naidu who was like her surrogate mother), their reunions, her trips abroad looking for meaning and purpose in life, not to speak of the numerous undefined relationships that she got into, the drug binges, the attempts at reconciliation – both by her and also Jinnah forms the main story line.

One gets to see a different side of Jinnah...the book ends much before partition....so one is spared the blood and gore of partition.....it is mostly Jinnah's childhood, the roaring success he makes of his life as a lawyer and a freedom fighter and the doomed love story and marriage.....we walk away with a different image of Jinnah than what we have been fed all our life thru our desi-biographers.

Very interesting book....at times....some parts seems like a chic-lit...but one has to indulge the author here as her base material was letters exchanged between the young Ruttie Jinnah and the teenaged children of Sarojini Naidu.....but converted effectively into a very readable story by the author.Jinnah the manis an interesting one to know.

Sadiq Kazi says

There is still we do not know about the enigma that Jinnah was. This book makes an attempt to make the reader curious about the epic question : WHAT IF? What if, Ms. Ruttie had lived to old age? Would that have changed the course of history? Were the seeds of tragic partition of the country sown after her death? The book scores in giving a human face to an enigma, although falls a little short on answering some of the above questions. But then, if someone could unravel M.A. Jinnah, would he still be M.A. Jinnah?

Akriti says

One of the best books I've ever read! The author's great narration of historical facts, coupled with her evidently thorough research, transported me to pre independence Bombay, and the rich and tragic lives of Mr and Mrs Jinnah. A must read!

Rohan Jaikishen says

An insight into the inner Chambers of the otherwise impenetrable Jinnah, this book serves as a lovely insight into an eventful married life of the founder of Pakistan. Juxtaposed against the political and social milieu of early 20th century India, the relationship between Ruttie and her husband Jinnah had so many hues of grey that it left me captivated. A masterpiece on human relationships, the role of family, religion and society, and the mind and life of a leader, this book is a must read for those interested in history / human behavior / relationships etc. The role played by Sarojini Naidu and her family particularly piqued my interest. As did the dichotomies present in Ruthie and Jinnah as they went through their own life journeys.
