



Flood of Fire: A Novel (The Ibis Trilogy)

By Amitav Ghosh

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Flood of Fire: A Novel (The Ibis Trilogy) By Amitav Ghosh

The stunningly vibrant final novel in the bestselling Ibis Trilogy

It is 1839 and China has embargoed the trade of opium, yet too much is at stake in the lucrative business and the British Foreign Secretary has ordered the colonial government in India to assemble an expeditionary force for an attack to reinstate the trade. Among those consigned is Kesri Singh, a soldier in the army of the East India Company. He makes his way eastward on the *Hind*, a transport ship that will carry him from Bengal to Hong Kong.

Along the way, many characters from the Ibis Trilogy come aboard, including Zachary Reid, a young American speculator in opium futures, and Shireen, the widow of an opium merchant whose mysterious death in China has compelled her to seek out his lost son. The *Hind* docks in Hong Kong just as war breaks out and opium "pours into the market like monsoon flood." From Bombay to Calcutta, from naval engagements to the decks of a hospital ship, among embezzlement, profiteering, and espionage, Amitav Ghosh charts a breathless course through the culminating moment of the British opium trade and vexed colonial history.

With all the verve of the first two novels in the trilogy, *Flood of Fire* completes Ghosh's unprecedented reenvisioning of the nineteenth-century war on drugs. With remarkable historic vision and a vibrant cast of characters, Ghosh brings the Opium Wars to bear on the contemporary moment with the storytelling that has charmed readers around the world.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Ghosh imbues his narrative with historical sweep and the lavish sights and sounds of southern Asia, beautifully dramatizing the rise of Hong Kong and the strained legacy of European colonialism.” ?O: *The Oprah Magazine*

“[*Flood of Fire*] brims with wonderful historical details, clearly the result of prodigious research. . . . Ghosh has so much passion for his subject, so much care for his characters and such a command of his prose that readers will find it easy to surrender to the story.” ?Laila Lalami, *The New York Times Book Review*

“*Flood of Fire* is, for my money, the best of the three volumes: It adds colorful threads to the plot, weaving them into the existing story and tying them off in a most satisfactory way. Further, the novel provides highly dramatic depictions of key land and sea battles of the First Opium War. Beyond that, it presents a savvy account of the influence of the opium lobby on British foreign policy and the mental contortions of the "Apostles of Liberty" who identified the diabolical trade, so destructive of the people of both India and China, with freedom, commercial righteousness and religious enlightenment - all virtuously bestowed with guns and gunboats.” ?Katherine A. Powers, *Chicago Tribune*

“[Combines] a historian's affection for the archive with an anthropologist's appreciation of the thickness of local realities and a novelist's gift for plot, character, and language . . . Ghosh fashions a history that seems always on the move, vibrantly and restlessly progressing toward its conclusion.” ?*Bookforum*

“A writer of uncommon talent who combines literary flair with a rare seriousness of purpose . . . His descriptions bring a lost world to life.” ?*The Washington Post Book World*

“Dashing . . . This novel unfolds like those paper landscapes that expand under water: Each character, each situation, expands into its own world. All are woven into a four-dimensional tapestry depicting the explosive force of cultural exchange driven by the immense wealth to be derived from unchained desire.” ?Ann Klefstad, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“The [Ibis Trilogy] books are not only operatic-big personalities, lots of drama-but a compelling and vividly imagined chronicling of the height of British colonialism, and the development of modern Asia.” ?Hanya Yanagihara, author of *A Little Life*, *Harper's Bazaar*

“A writer of supreme skill and intelligence.” ?*The Atlantic Monthly*

About the Author

Amitav Ghosh is the internationally bestselling author of *Sea of Poppies* (short-listed for the Man Booker Prize) and *River of Smoke*, the first two novels in the Ibis Trilogy, of which *Flood of Fire* is the final installment. He has written ten other novels and works of nonfiction, including three essay collections. A frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, and others, his work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

Users Review

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Virginia Villalon:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information presently can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even an issue. What people must be consider any time those information which is in the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen with you if you take Flood of Fire: A Novel (The Ibis Trilogy) as your daily resource information.

Michele Stein:

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