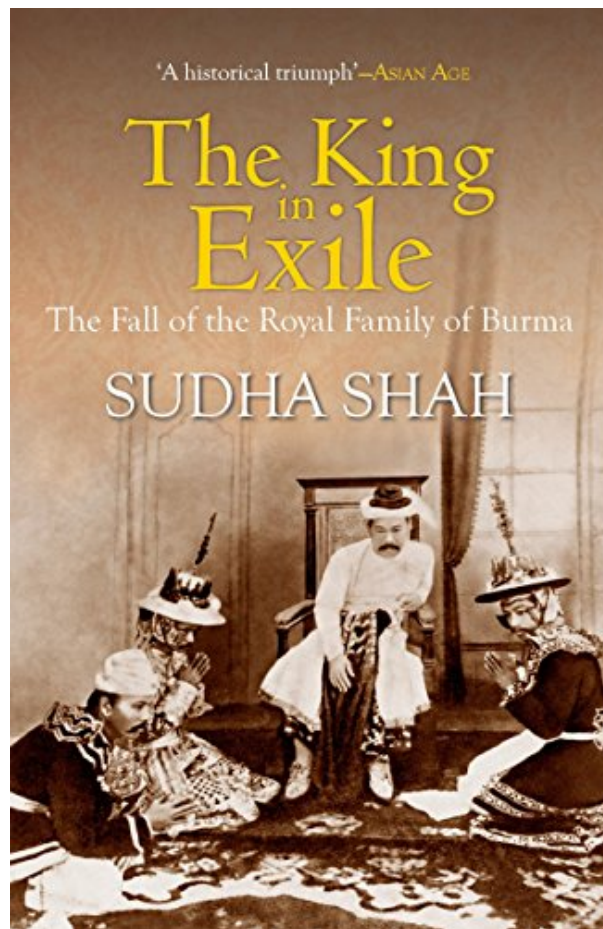


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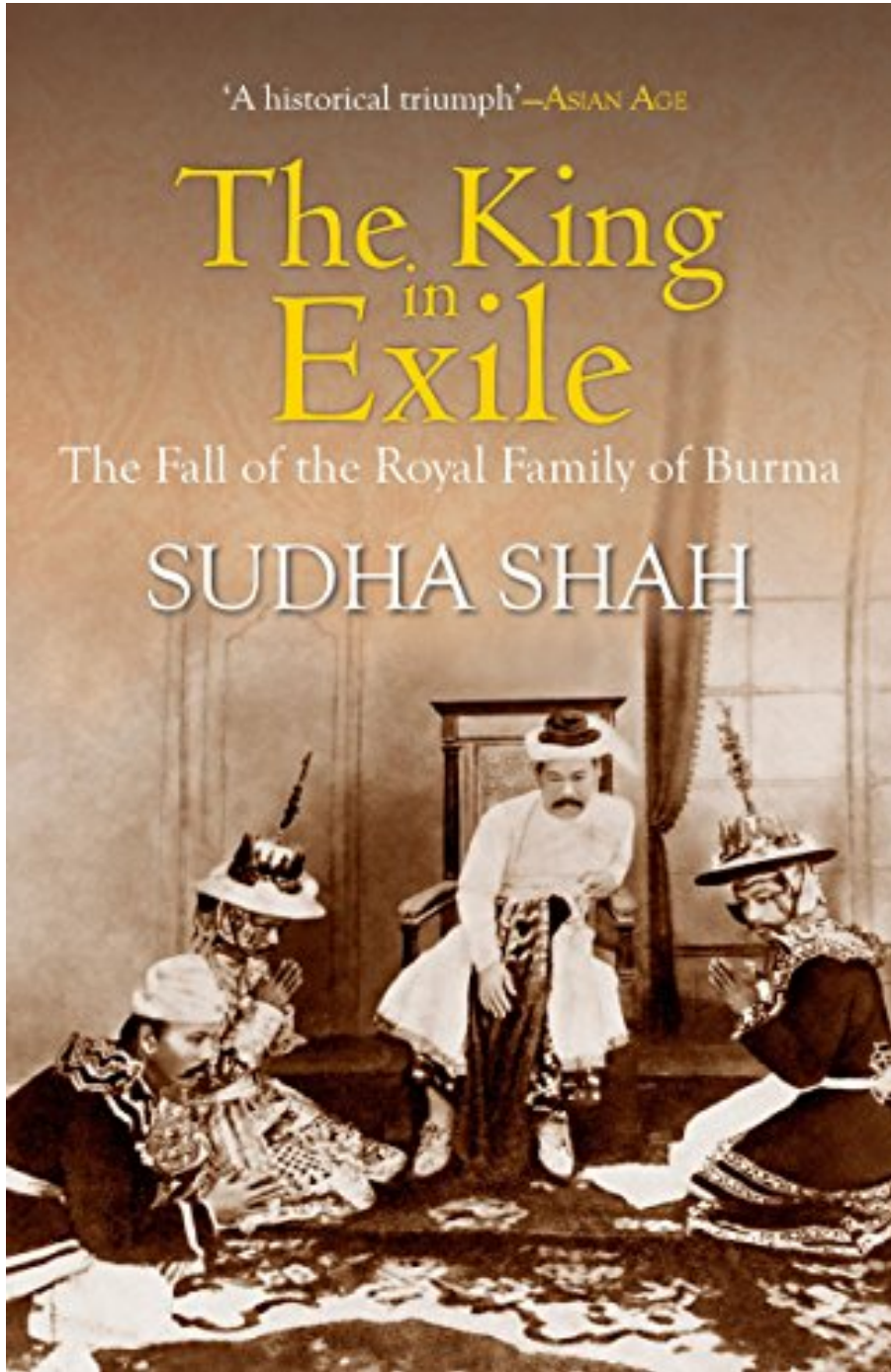


'A historical triumph'—*ASIAN AGE*

The King in Exile

The Fall of the Royal Family of Burma

SUDHA SHAH



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About the Author

Sudha Shah was schooled in Mumbai and thereafter got her degree in economics from Smith College, USA. Married and settled in Mumbai, she has one son. She has spent the last seven years researching and writing this book.

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In 1878, as the king of Burma lay dying, one of his queens schemed for his forty-first son, Thibaw, to supersede his half-brothers to the throne. For seven years, King Thibaw and Queen Supayalat ruled from the resplendent, intrigue-infused Golden Palace in Mandalay, where they were treated as demigods. After a war against Britain in 1885, their kingdom was lost, and the family exiled to the secluded town of Ratnagiri in British-occupied India. Here they lived, closely guarded, for over thirty-one years. The king's four daughters received almost no education, and their social interaction was restricted mainly to their staff. As the princesses grew, so did their hopes and frustrations. Two of them fell in love with 'highly inappropriate' men. In 1916, the heartbroken king died. Queen Supayalat and her daughters were permitted to return to Rangoon in 1919. In Burma, the old queen regained some of her feisty spirit as visitors came by daily to pay their respects. All the princesses, however, had to make numerous adjustments in a world they had no knowledge of. The impact of the deposition and exile echoed forever in each of their lives, as it did in the lives of their children. Written after years of meticulous research, and richly supplemented with photographs and illustrations, *The King in Exile* is an engrossing human-interest story of this forgotten but fascinating family.

- Sales Rank: #931447 in Books
- Published on: 2015-04-07
- Released on: 2015-04-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.90" h x 1.40" w x 6.00" l, 1.32 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 488 pages

About the Author

Sudha Shah was schooled in Mumbai and thereafter got her degree in economics from Smith College, USA. Married and settled in Mumbai, she has one son. She has spent the last seven years researching and writing this book.

Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Extremely engaging and thoroughly written

By Ananda Hongsa

This book is a priceless treasure to all Burmese people about the history of the last king and queen of Burma and their family. The book seems thoroughly researched and Sudah Shah went through great lengths to contact the present day descendents of the royal family for more personal viewpoints. Although this is a work of non-fiction, Shah writes in an engaging style that allows the book to be read more as a novel than a report. Anyone interested in Burma's culture or history, especially during British rule, should include this book in their libraries. Thank you Sudah Shah for contributing to the future generations of Burmese people this fascinating and thought-provoking book.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Thoroughly researched and gripping

By Prakash

I did NOT purchase this from Amazon because a low priced edition is available in my country.

Sudha Shah, If you are reading this, I want you to know that you should be very proud of your work.

Until I read this book, I was of the opinion that only Bill Dalrymple was capable of presenting history the way it was meant to be presented. Sudha Shah has joined this league now.

Sudha Shah's treatise gives a vivid account of Burmese history spanning from late 19th century through mid 20th century with focus on final years of Thibaw as a ruler and years in exile. English wanted him to live comfortably albeit obscurely. Sudha also covers in this book the lives of Thibaw's daughters. The eldest died in penury in India while the others either relocated to Burma a few years after the king's death or chose to settle down in eastern India. In any case, their glorious past before the exile remained a distant memory and they were never able to recapture the glory and prestige that was rightfully theirs.

Thibaw's life is a chilling reminder of impermanence nature of life and our delusioned view of our accomplishments and possessions. It is as poignant as the life and times of Bahadur Shah Zafar, last Mogul emperor of undivided India.

Incidentally, British banished Zafar to Burma after Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 while Thibaw was banished to India in 1885.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Bought Unseen, Thought it wasn't going to be good - Pleasantly Surprized

By AB

Bought Unseen, Thought it wasn't going to be good - Pleasantly Surprized...

The subject was interesting so I purchased the book. It looked initially to be dry, being broken down into chapters like The King, The Queen, First Daughter, Second Daughter, Third Daughter, Forth Daughter, etc. However, it was interesting and enjoyable. Author seems to have done lots of work, as there are numerous footnotes as to where the info was located while writing the book.

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