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# A Moment Comes



## Synopsis

Before India was divided, three teens, each from wildly different backgrounds, cross paths. And then, in one moment, their futures become irrevocably intertwined. Tariq. Anupreet. Margaret. As different as their Muslim, Sikh, and British names. But in one moment, their futures become entirely dependent on one another's. While the rest of India anxiously awaits the upcoming partition that will divide the country into two separate religious states, eighteen-year-old Tariq focuses on his own goal: to study at Oxford. But for a Muslim born and raised in India, there is no obvious path to England—until Tariq is offered a job translating for one of the British cartographers stationed in India, tasked with establishing the new borders. Margaret, the cartographer's daughter, has only just arrived in India. But already she has discovered it to be hot, loud, and dull. She can't go anywhere alone for fear of the riots and violence. Eager for a distraction, she finds one in Tariq. But it's Anupreet, another member of the staff, who has truly captured Tariq's eye. She's strikingly beautiful—but she's a Sikh, so not someone Tariq should even be caught looking at. And yet he's compelled to. | Against the backdrop of the nearly forgotten history of the partition of India, Jennifer Bradbury, as if with strands of silk, weaves together the heart-pounding tale of three teenagers on wildly different paths, on the verge of changing each other's lives forever.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars— See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #447,278 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #54 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Asia #135 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Violence

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Using the perspectives of three young adults--a Muslim male, a Sikh female, and a British female--Bradbury builds a story about the partition between India and Pakistan. The characters are believable, the story interesting, and the placement in history realistic. It provides a glimpse into a part of history that may not be well known by people in the Western world, particularly.

Source: Received an e-ARC from the publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. After taking some classes on Indian history, I discovered that I have a deep fascination for the country and its history that is not often sated in YA fiction, which so often focuses on American or fantastical worlds. Luckily we have books like this, a more serious offering from the author of *Wrapped*, the historical MG/YA. What first caught me about this book is its setting during the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, a situation whose repercussions are still felt today in seemingly unending conflict between the two bodies. I knew vague factoids about the situation but this story places you on the ground with Sikhs and Muslims battling over territory but also thankfully highlights the good of people stepping up to do the bit of good that they can do. This is demonstrated in the form of our three narrators: Muslim Tariq, craving to study at Oxford; Sikh Anupreet, a beautiful girl confined to her home to protect her from the violent angry men around her; and Margaret, the British daughter of a cartographer come to divide India who meets the previous two when they are hired as servants in her family's household. I did not read the summary very closely as it clearly states that these three would be followed so I was surprised to meet the three as narrators. Each chapter lists the narrator so it is easy to keep track that way although the personalities, wants, and desires of all three are so different that it would be simple to do even without (it is appreciated still.) Probably what I liked most about this was how everything kept building. The circumstances became darker and more violent, everyone became a bit more desperate until the great climax of these ordinary people stepping up to do what they could despite the odds. In the author's note, Bradbury writes a little about this and I loved how she brought that theme out. I do think there could have been a bit more depth into the religious, racial, and gender issues of the time, especially for people who are not familiar with the period. Still there are a few books to reference mentioned in the author's note that I think it would behoove me to check out so as to further enlighten myself. Overall: A very well-done historical novel about a time not very well-known to modern American audiences.

I picked this book up because I have an abiding fascination with all things Indian. I'd read Bradbury's *Wrapped* last year and, while I definitely enjoyed learning about the little-known Victorian

fad of mummy unwrapping, I found the story itself to be fluffy, and the characters too modern. So my expectations for *A Moment Comes* were limited. I ended up pleasantly surprised. This book exhales a wildly different and complex culture, full of life and bursting with sensory details, but tense with the fear of a country on edge. No one is safe, nothing is certain. The characters are detailed and believable as humans living in their time and place. And, once again, Jennifer Bradbury carved her story out of an underexplored bit of history. Another positive point is that the romance is kept to a minimum. Admittedly, what there is of it includes a love triangle and appears to be largely the result of raging hormones. But there is also a fair amount of more interesting manipulation taking place. It's all believably written but clean, and by the end of the book each of the three main characters has a much more respectful, less objectifying relationship with the others. I'm hoping Jennifer Bradbury writes another historical fiction novel soon!

This beautiful cover really caught my eye! I adore peacocks! This book was told in 3 POVs which were done very well! I really loved Tariq the most. I think maybe it would have been nice to have him on the cover but I love it all the same! From inner issues to just trying to survive this book really deals with some hard issues from 1947. Although I didn't know anything from this time I still found myself understanding and being immersed in the stories being told. I had no issues following the plot or story which was great. I even love that at the end of the book the author adds a note which really filled in some information of the history. It was a very interesting read and I hope that you will all join my end of the month giveaway for this as well as many other books!"\*I received a copy of this book for free to review, this in no way influenced my review, all opinions are 100% honest and my own."

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