Rushdie is a major contemporary writer, who engages with some of the vital issues of our times: migrancy, postcolonialism, religious authoritarianism. This Companion offers a comprehensive introduction to his entire œuvre. Part I provides thematic readings of Rushdie and his work, with chapters on how Bollywood films are intertextual with the fiction, the place of family and gender in his writing, the influence of English writing and reflections on the fatwa. Part II discusses Rushdie’s importance for postcolonial writing and provides detailed interpretations of his fiction. In one volume, this book provides a stimulating introduction to the author and his work in a range of expert essays and readings. With its detailed chronology of Rushdie’s life and a comprehensive guide to further reading, this volume will be invaluable to students and general readers interested in Rushdie’s work.

Abdulrazak Gurnah is a Professor of English and Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent and the author of seven successful novels.
THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
SALMAN RUSHDIE
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AMINA YAQIN School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK

1954–61  Attends Cathedral School, Bombay, an English Mission school.


1962  Family moves briefly to England and then returns to Bombay.

1964  Family moves from Bombay to Karachi, Pakistan.

1965–8  Studies history at King’s College, Cambridge, graduating with an MA with honours. During his time at Cambridge he develops his interest in the history of Islam. He also acts in the Cambridge Footlights review.

1968  Returns to Karachi in the summer to work briefly for Pakistan TV. Disenchanted by its heavy censorship, he returns to London.

1968–9  Becomes an actor with Oval House productions, Kennington, London. Also starts working in television, advertising and publishing.


1970  Meets Clarissa Luard.

Chronology

1974
Travels around India with Clarissa Luard.

1975
Grimus published by Victor Gollancz. Starts work on Midnight’s Children.

1976
Marries Clarissa Luard.

1977–83
Member of the Camden Committee of Community Relations working on projects in North London to help Bangladeshi immigrants.

1979
Son Zafar is born.

1981
Midnight’s Children published by Jonathan Cape to critical acclaim. Wins the Booker Prize, as well as the James Tait Black Prize and the English Speaking Union Literary Award.

1983

1984
Travels through Central Australia together with the author Bruce Chatwin. Meets Robyn Davidson.

1985
Produces the documentary film The Painter and the Pest.

1986
Travels to Nicaragua, invited by the Sandinista Association of Cultural Workers. Meets American author Marianne Wiggins.

1987
Publishes The Jaguar Smile: A Nicaraguan Journey detailing his journey the previous year. Marriage to Clarissa Luard dissolved.

1988
Marries Marianne Wiggins. Writes and produces The Riddle of Midnight, a documentary for Channel 4 television. September: Viking/Penguin publishes The Satanic Verses, shortlisted for the Booker Prize, wins the Whitbread award and, in Germany, the Author of the Year Award. In an interview in India Today Rushdie talks about the potentially offensive content of the book. 5 October: The Satanic Verses is banned in India; many other countries including Bangladesh, Sudan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya, Thailand, Tanzania,
Indonesia, Singapore, Venezuela and Poland follow suit. 10 December: first mass protest against the novel in London.

**1989**

14 January: public burning of *The Satanic Verses* at a rally in Bradford. 14 February: the Ayatollah Khomeini declares the *fatwa* on Radio Tehran sentencing Rushdie, his publishers and translators to death. 15 February: a bounty of £1.5 million is placed on his head. Rushdie goes into hiding. August: separates from Marianne Wiggins.

**1990**


**1991**


**1992**

Publishes *The Wizard of Oz* for the British Film Institute’s Film Classics series.

**1993**

*Midnight’s Children* wins the Booker of Bookers, the prize for the best book to receive the award in the past twenty-five years. 11 August: Salman Rushdie walks on stage during a U2 concert at Wembley Stadium. Meeting with John Major. He visits the US and meets President Clinton. He becomes Honorary Vice President of PEN America and Honorary Professor at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Marriage to Marianne Wiggins dissolved. His Norwegian publisher William Nygaard is shot dead outside his home in Oslo.

**1994**

Publication of *East, West*, a collection of short stories, by Jonathan Cape.

**1995**

*The Moor’s Last Sigh* is published by Jonathan Cape, shortlisted for the Booker Prize and wins the Whitbread Award for Best Fiction. 7 September: in London,
Salman Rushdie makes his first pre-announced public appearance since the inception of the *fatwa*.

1996  Receives the European Union’s Aristeion Prize for Literature.


1998  24 September: at the UN general assembly, the Iranian government officially distances itself from the *fatwa*.


2000  Travels to India with his son Zafar for the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize. Moves to New York.

2001  *Fury* published by Jonathan Cape.


2004  April: marries Padma Lakshmi.