

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie

Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
SALMAN RUSHDIE

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 oeuvre. 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.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie

Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE CAMBRIDGE  
COMPANION TO  
SALMAN RUSHDIE

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie

Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

THE CAMBRIDGE  
COMPANION TO  
SALMAN RUSHDIE

EDITED BY  
ABDULRAZAK GURNAH  
UNIVERSITY OF KENT



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie  
Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521609951](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521609951)

© Cambridge University Press 2007

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*  
The Cambridge companion to Salman Rushdie / edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah.  
(Cambridge companions to literature)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

978-0-521-84719-3 hardback

978-0-521-60995-1 paperback

1. Rushdie, Salman – Criticism and interpretation. I. Gurnah, Abdulrazak, 1948– II. Title. III. Series.

PR6068. U757Z585 2007  
823'.914-dc22

ISBN 978-0-521-84719-3 hardback  
ISBN 978-0-521-60995-1 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## CONTENTS

	<i>List of contributors</i>	<i>page ix</i>
	<i>Chronology</i>	<i>xi</i>
I	Introduction ABDULRAZAK GURNAH	I
PART I THEMES AND ISSUES		
2	Rushdie and Bollywood cinema VIJAY MISHRA	II
3	Salman Rushdie and the English tradition PETER MOREY	29
4	The <i>fatwa</i> and its aftermath RUVANI RANASINHA	45
5	Family and gender in Rushdie's writing AMINA YAQIN	61
PART II STUDIES OF INDIVIDUAL TEXTS		
6	Tricksters and the common herd in Salman Rushdie's <i>Grimus</i> IB JOHANSEN	77
7	Themes and structures in <i>Midnight's Children</i> ABDULRAZAK GURNAH	91
8	Reading 'Pakistan' in Salman Rushdie's <i>Shame</i> BRENDON NICHOLLS	109

Cambridge University Press  
978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie  
Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## CONTENTS

9	<i>The Satanic Verses</i> : ‘To be born again, first you have to die’ JOEL KUORTTI	125
10	The shorter fiction DEEPIKA BAHRI	139
11	The politics of the palimpsest in <i>The Moor’s Last Sigh</i> MINOLI SALGADO	153
12	<i>The Ground Beneath Her Feet</i> and <i>Fury</i> : The reinvention of location ANSHUMAN A. MONDAL	169
	<i>Guide to further reading</i>	185
	<i>Index</i>	197

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie

Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

## CONTRIBUTORS

DEEPIKA BAHRI Emory University, USA

ABDULRAZAK GURNAH University of Kent, UK

IB JOHANSEN University of Aarhus, Denmark

JOEL KUORTTI University of Joensuu, Finland

VIJAY MISHRA Murdoch University, Australia

ANSHUMAN A. MONDAL Brunel University, UK

PETER MOREY University of East London, UK

BRENDON NICHOLLS University of Leeds, UK

RUVANI RANASINHA Brunel University, UK

MINOLI SALGADO University of Sussex, UK

AMINA YAQIN School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-84719-3 - The Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie

Edited by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1947            19 June: Born Ahmed Salman Rushdie in Bombay, Maharashtra to Anis Ahmed and Negis (née Butt) Rushdie.
- 1954–61        Attends Cathedral School, Bombay, an English Mission school.
- 1961–5         Sent to Rugby School, Warwickshire, England.
- 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.
- 1969            Starts work on an unpublished novel, *The Book of the Pir*.
- 1970            Meets Clarissa Luard.
- 1970–80        Works freelance as an advertising copywriter for Ogilvy & Mather in London.

## 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 *Shame* published by Jonathan Cape, shortlisted for the Booker Prize, wins *Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger* in France. Starts work on *The Satanic Verses*. Is awarded fellowship of the Royal Society of Literature.
- 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,

## CHRONOLOGY

- 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      February: publishes the essay 'In Good Faith' explicating the novel and 'Is Nothing Sacred?', the Herbert Read memorial lecture, given in his absence by Harold Pinter. *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* published by Granta. Meets Elizabeth West.
- 1991      *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981–1991* published by Granta. July: Rushdie's Italian translator Ettore Capriolo barely survives a stabbing attack in Milan. His Japanese translator Hitoshi Igarashi is stabbed to death in Tokyo.
- 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,

## CHRONOLOGY

- 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.
- 1997 Co-edits together with Elizabeth West *The Vintage Book of Indian Writing 1947–1997*. Rushdie marries Elizabeth West, birth of their son Milan.
- 1998 24 September: at the UN general assembly, the Iranian government officially distances itself from the *fatwa*.
- 1999 *The Ground Beneath Her Feet* is published by Jonathan Cape. India grants Rushdie a five-year visa. Publication of *The Screenplay of Midnight's Children* by Vintage. Meets Padma Lakshmi.
- 2000 Travels to India with his son Zafar for the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Moves to New York.
- 2001 *Fury* published by Jonathan Cape.
- 2002 *Step Across This Line: Collected Fiction and Non-Fiction 1992–2002* published by Jonathan Cape.
- 2003 January: the Royal Shakespeare Company premieres the play adaptation of *Midnight's Children* at the Barbican Centre, London. Becomes President of PEN America. Marriage to Elizabeth West dissolved.
- 2004 April: marries Padma Lakshmi.
- 2005 *Shalimar the Clown* published by Jonathan Cape.