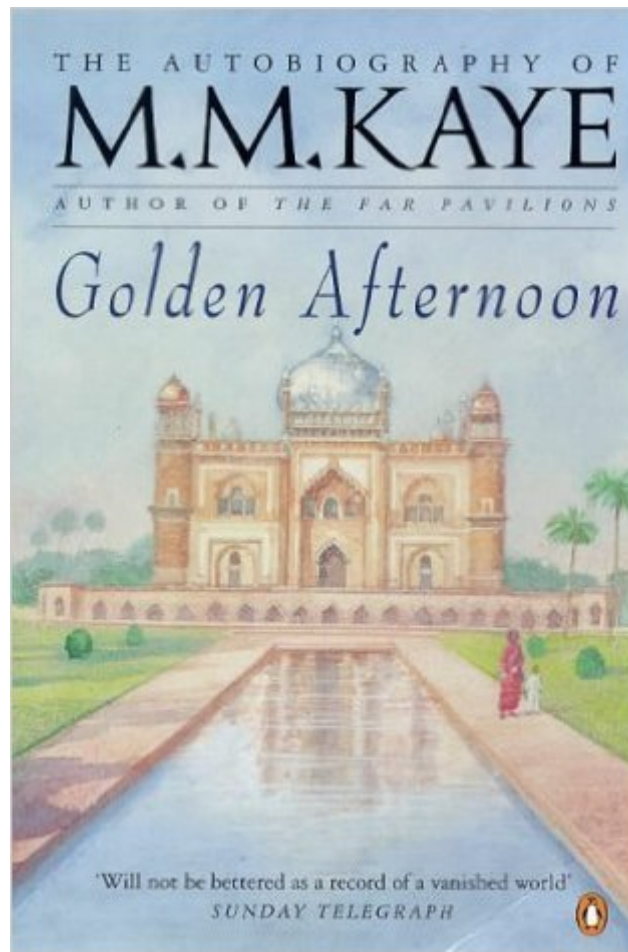


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Golden Afternoon (The Autobiography Of M. M. Kaye, Vol. 2)



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Customer Reviews

Probably neither of the two subsequent volumes of M.M. Kaye's autobiography will ever top the first. Nonetheless if you love her writing, her frequently hilarious anecdotes, her vivid descriptions of the land and its beauty, its society and her own of the Raj, you will enjoy this book, too, even though it is not as good as the first. There's nothing quite as compelling as recollections of early childhood. This book is her in-between teenage years, and while I enjoyed it, I have to say that I'm looking more forward to the next one which I assume will detail her courtship and marriage. I've become almost a die-hard fan in spite of the fact that her bias towards the Raj and its influence pops out strongly from time to time. I have learned a lot of India's history from reading her books, and not just the autobiography. If you've read her fiction, particularly *The Far Pavilions*, you will enjoy learning where some of the incidents derived from. I'm impressed with not only how much she learned about the various religious groups and their behavioral strictures but also how much she felt her life enriched by growing up with it all, undoubtedly the influence of her very intelligent father. Of course I have to admit I knew almost nothing about India to start with! Highly recommended.

Interesting book, but as an Indian I really find myself struggling with the author's bias towards the Raj, however understandable. She is ferocious when talking about the death of the British at the hands of "so called freedom fighters", supremely sarcastic when talking about the rewriting of history by future Indian authors. I do not doubt there is some truth to that. But when she follows a

horrific account of British deaths by an offhand dismissal of the following "reprisal" by the British, trying to paint Dyer (Dyer! Of the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre) in a sympathetic light, it's hard to consider her a serious author. The book will probably be worth reading anyway, but it's hard for me to move past that.

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