

Kartography



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Raheen and her best friend, Karim, share an idyllic childhood in upper-class Karachi. Their parents were even once engaged to each others' partners until they rematched in what they call "the fiancee swap." But as adolescence distances the friends, Karim takes refuge in maps while Raheen searches for the secret behind her parents' exchange. What she uncovers reveals not just a family's but a country's turbulent history-and a grown-up Raheen and Karim are caught between strained friendship and fated love. A love story with a family mystery at its heart, *Kartography* is a dazzling novel by a young writer of astonishing maturity and exhilarating style. Shamsie transports us to a world we have not often seen in fiction-vibrant, dangerous, sensuous Pakistan. But even as she takes us far from the familiar, her story of passion and family secrets rings universally true.

作者介绍:

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评论

作者透過兩代人的情感糾葛，再現了karachi這個城市的地貌與群像，以及1971年的巴基斯坦內戰（雖然內戰部分並不太深刻）。那些太青春的情節以及歹戲拖棚的情感糾葛讓我生膩，砍掉一半大概會更洗鍊。如此一來或許英國殖民印度半島、巴基斯坦內戰留下的國界劃分、族裔政治等暴力遺緒，也不會因為人際關係而顯得僅是背景，或許小說再現殖民知識、國家暴力的力道，也不會因一再重複描寫男主與女主的感情而顯得稀薄。但是再現力道再怎麼薄弱，初讀小說時我就想起一件事：在美國讀書住宿舍時，一位東亞的朋友跟我提起一位南亞去的新樓友，我問他是印度來的嗎，他說不是，好像是巴基斯坦或孟加拉。他不確定，我也沒深究。讀了小說才知道，那個「或」是如何血跡斑斑，而我們又是如何無知。

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书评

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