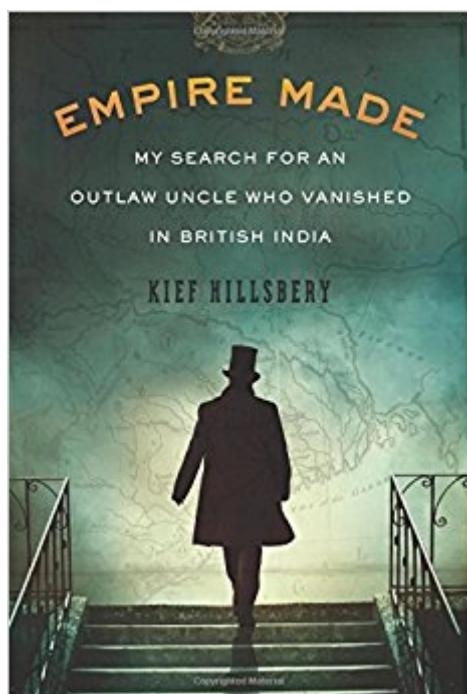


The book was found

Empire Made: My Search For An Outlaw Uncle Who Vanished In British India



Synopsis

Lost in time for generations, the story of a 19th-century English gentleman in British Indiaâ "a family mystery of love found and loyalties abandoned, finally brought to light In 1841, twenty-year-old Nigel Halleck set out for Calcutta as a clerk in the East India Company. He went on to serve in the colonial administration for eight years before abruptly leaving the company under a cloud and disappearing in the mountain kingdom of Nepal, never to be heard from again. While most traces of his life were destroyed in the bombing of his hometown during World War II, Nigel was never quite forgottenâ "the myth of the man who headed East would reverberate through generations of his family. Kief Hillsbery, Nigelâ "s nephew many times removed, embarked on his own expedition, spending decades researching and traveling through India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nepal in the footsteps of his long-lost relation. In uncovering the remarkable story of Nigelâ "s life, Hillsbery beautifully renders a moment in time when the arms of the British Empire extended around the world. Both a powerful history and a personal journey, Empire Made weaves together a clash of civilizations, the quest to discover oneâ "s own identity, and the moving tale of one man against an empire.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (July 25, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547443315

ISBN-13: 978-0547443317

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #285,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > India & South Asia #113 inÂ Books > Travel > Asia > India > General #121 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > History

Customer Reviews

"An honest, pacey portrayal of empire-building at a critical juncture in the Great Game...a fascinating and very surprising read.â •â "Financial Times â œHillsberyâ "s exploration of what happened to his British uncle who went to India in 1841, never to return, makes achingly vivid how difficult it was to escape oneâ "s preordained class and societal expectations in Victorian Englandâ | Great

details aboundâ | Marvelous insights into the British in India, along with a glimpse into gay life. This has a narrative sweep reminiscent of Christopher Hibbertâ ™s social histories.â • â "BOOKLIST **Starred Review** â œThere are travelers who canâ ™t write and writers who canâ ™t travel. Fortunately for his readers, Kief Hillsbery can do both. Part travelogue, part family memoir,Â Empire Made is a fine and moving tale, sensitively explored and beautifully written.â • â "Justin Marozzi, author ofÂ Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood

KIEF HILLSBERY is the author of the critically acclaimed novel War Boy. A former contributing editor and columnist for Outside and a former writer for Rolling Stone.

An interesting insight on individuals in the east India co. I went to school in 1959 at what was still known as haileybury and imperial service college, that dates me ! My house was called Evelyn but another house was called. Lawrence, after Henry Lawrence ?? It's conjecture that Nigel was gay and unnecessary as a conclusion.

Writer Kief Hillsbery new book, "Empire Made: My Search for an Outlaw Uncle Who Vanished in British India", is an excellent read...for the right reader. That reader should be interested in Raj India, as well as a search for an ancestral figure who may have thrown off his British garb and "gone native".Kief Hillsbery - who is British on his mother's side - was interested in the tale of her many-times "great uncle", Nigel Halleck. Halleck went to India in 1841 in the employ of the British East India Company, then in power in most of India. He wrote copious letters home, from which Hillsbery was able discern Halleck's jobs and journeys. Added within the tale of Halleck, Hillsbery intersperses his own fascination with India and his travels, begun when he was a student in the mid-1970's. On that first trip, where Hillsbery traveled through present day Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, he looked for the spots referred to in Halleck's letters. Some he found; others didn't exist anymore. He was trying, too, to find Halleck's grave site, and cause of death. There had been some speculation that Halleck ended up being eaten by a tiger, after having abandoned his British identity in Nepal.Hillsbery book's is a superb look at the Raj, with the politics, economics, and societal factors written from primary sources, like "great-uncle" Nigel's letters. Hillsbery's book is eclectic, with topics ranging from personal identity to the sexual habits of male Pashtuns. Make sure you have access to Wiki as you read the book, as you may have questions about people, places, and events.

I thought this would be a great true-life mystery -- what happened to the author's great-great-great-something uncle who served in India when the British ruled the country in the 1800s. Mysteriously, he just disappeared. Was he killed? Did he go native? The family just never knew. Kief Hillsbery set out to uncover his relative's ancient secret. Sad to say, this story is so convoluted, I just could not follow along. The narrative ping pong between the uncle's story, the author's personal story, historical background of the times, and flat-out flights of fancy. The author would foreshadow something, and I'd be looking for more, and then he'd drop it for hundreds of pages, until I could no longer remember what it was he had been leading up to. In addition, I was really frustrated that although much of the hunt relies on the uncle's letters, the author does not quote them directly. He drops a phrase or two from the letters here and there, but it's almost as though there were a copyright issue and he had to restrict himself to fair use. Lacking the uncle's voice, I got no sense of his personality, so consequently I didn't really care what happened. In the end, I'm not sure there was enough of a story to draw it out to book length. There were too many instances of "would have," "might have," "it would have been" and the like, that I got the feeling that 99 percent of the story was pure conjecture. I really enjoy reading exhilarating stories from the past that have been completely pieced together by research and interviews (like Erik Larsen's *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*), but for me, this is not one of them.

Hillsbery is quite a fantastic writer. The story is also quite good. I enjoyed it immensely. Public library. No purchase. As a retired history teacher topics like colonialism fascinate me. Especially India, Viet Nam, etc. The premise of the story is also intriguing. Looking for an uncle who disappeared scores of years ago basically without a trace. His history of the British East India Company and its operatives is also fascinating. The author's observations of the impact of history, especially British colonialism in India and what is now Pakistan and Afghanistan, is prescient. He explains much of the trouble the West experiences in Pakistan and Afghanistan through the lens of decisions made two centuries and more ago by the British. The author also takes the reader through his explorations and discoveries towards finding out the true story of Uncle Nigel. Here go the thumbs down, and I apologize profusely. I love 95% of the book. The discovery that Uncle Nigel was gay and the author's gay experiences, too, were to me a little hard to take. I guess being a little older and conservative some new sexual mores and realities are still somewhat difficult to understand. I never saw this ending coming, which is probably a testament to Kief's skill as a scribe. This may not be troubling to you. Otherwise book is quite good.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Empire Made: My Search for an Outlaw Uncle Who Vanished in British India History of Empires: Rise and Fall of the Greatest "Empires" in History! Understanding The: Roman Empire, American Empire, British Empire, & Much More. ... Mesopotamia, Byzantine Empire Book 1) The Partition of British India: The History and Legacy of the Division of the British Raj into India and Pakistan British & Empire Campaign Medals - Volume 1: 1793 to 1902 (British & Irish/Empire Campaign Medals) Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Plunges into the Universe (Uncle John Presents) Bedtime Stories for Kids: Short Bedtime Stories for Children: (Bedtime Stories for Babies, Bedtime stories for Kids Ages 4-8, Uncle Nick's Bedtime Stories ... (Uncle Nick's Bedtime Stories for Kids) Uncle John's UNCANNY 29th Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Uncle John's Fully Loaded 25th Anniversary Bathroom Reader (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge: "The Lost Crown Of Genghis Khan" (Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge Comic Compilations) Walt Disney Uncle Scrooge And Donald Duck: The Don Rosa Library Vol. 7: "The Treasure Of The Ten Avatars" (Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge Comic Compilations) Uncle John's How to Fight A Bear and Win: And 72 Other Real Survival Tips We Hope You'll Never Need (Uncle John's Bathroom Reader) Uncle John's Facts to Go Show Biz Blunders (Uncle John's Facts to Go Series Book 18) Uncle John's Bathroom Reader Takes a Swing at Baseball (Uncle John's Bathroom Readers) Uncle Tom's Story of His Life: An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson (Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom") from 1789 to 1876. India: Where To Go, What To See - A India Travel Guide (India, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai Book 1) India: India Travel Guide: The 30 Best Tips For Your Trip To India - The Places You Have To See (New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Jaipur Book 1) India: India Travel Guide: The 30 Best Tips For Your Trip To India - The Places You Have To See (New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Jaipur) (Volume 1) India: India Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Rajasthan, Goa, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kashmir, Rishikesh, Jaipur, Varanasi) India Travel Guide: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Backpacking India, Goa, Rajasthan, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata) 101 Coolest Things to Do in India: 101 Coolest Things to Do in India (Backpacking India, Goa, Rajasthan, New Delhi, Kerala, Mumbai, Kolkata)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)