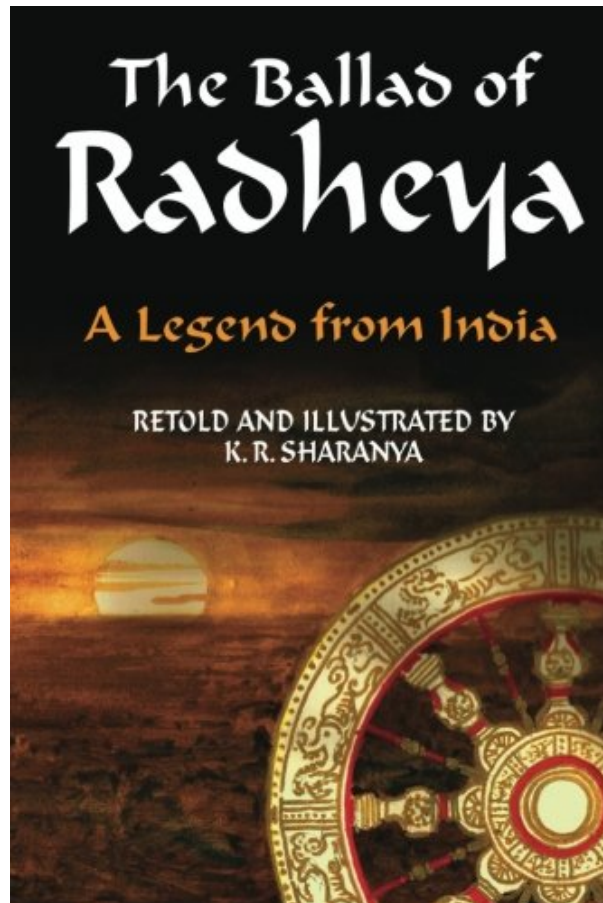
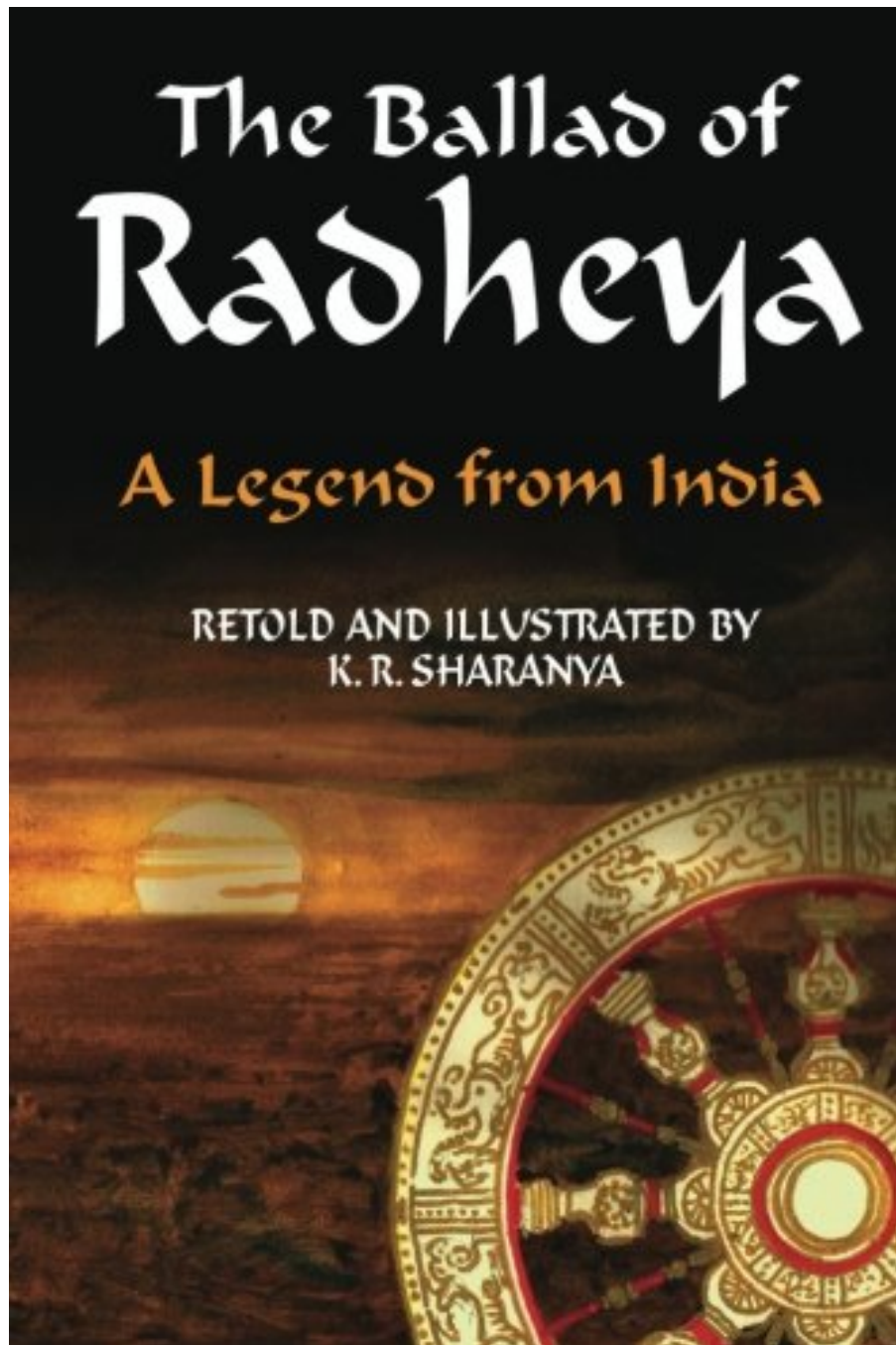


THE BALLAD OF RADHEYA: A LEGEND FROM INDIA BY K R SHARANYA



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When he grew up, Radheya pretended to be a Brahmin and found an apprenticeship with a great guru of warfare. When the teacher learned he had been tricked, he cursed (a Brahmin's curse will always come true) the young man: at a critical moment in battle, Radheya would forget his warrior's training and be killed. His eventual death heralded the end of the great wars chronicled in the Mahabharata. Radheya is often cited in Hindu teaching as an example of extreme generosity and loyalty.

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Born to the sun god and the earthly princess, Kanti, Radheya's birthright is to inherit sovereignty over all the kingdoms of the earth. But a quirk of fate sees the new born baby abandoned on the waves of the River Ganges - not to learn of his true identity until hours before his glorious death some four decades later. Though he is raised in obscurity by humble peasants, Radheya's natural kingly qualities cannot be covered by the poverty and disadvantage of his circumstances. They shine through like sun's rays through dark storm clouds, and, against all odds, Radheya makes his mark on the world. The Ballad of Radheya tells the life story of one of the most poignant figures of the great Indian epic, the Mahabharata.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A fantastic Book for lovers of Indian legends

By Sheila Carlisle

Sharanya had very skillfully crafted the ballad around a tragic hero from the Indian epic; The Mahabharata.

The story is retold in a beautiful verse form with a very evocative tone. From the on set the narration is

carried by the traditional Indian code of conducts and ethics and the characters firmly adhere to act within this frame. For example, the serving of a holy man guest by a pure girl and the gratitude showed to her for her service. The narration takes us through few of the personal challenges of the charterers as they are torn over moral dilemmas who contrast with their cultural ethics. For example, an unmarried mother is giving up her child in order to adhere to social respectability. The story line, although focuses on the character of Radheya, also encompasses the historical events, battles and rich political scenes from which Radheya is gloriously emerged.

Highly recommended book, with educational merit as well as a pleasure to read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Used in teaching Fifth Grade students

By Charlotte Daniels

The poetic style of The Ballad of Radheya is reminiscent of Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," and the language level is comparable. Having just read "The Lady of Shalott," my fifth grade students saw this ballad as a similar sort of beautiful romantic tale from India. The students loved the book, and reading it has fit in really well with our cultural studies of India. Some talented and gifted children have now gone on to explore the exciting Indian epic, the Mahabharata, from which the story of Radheya is taken. I would recommend this book for students in grades 5 through 12, and also for adult readers.

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Great read

By Celine Assouline

Anyone interested in the ancient Hindu scriptures should read this. It is well written and a gripping read. Very tragic. A movie should be made from it."

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