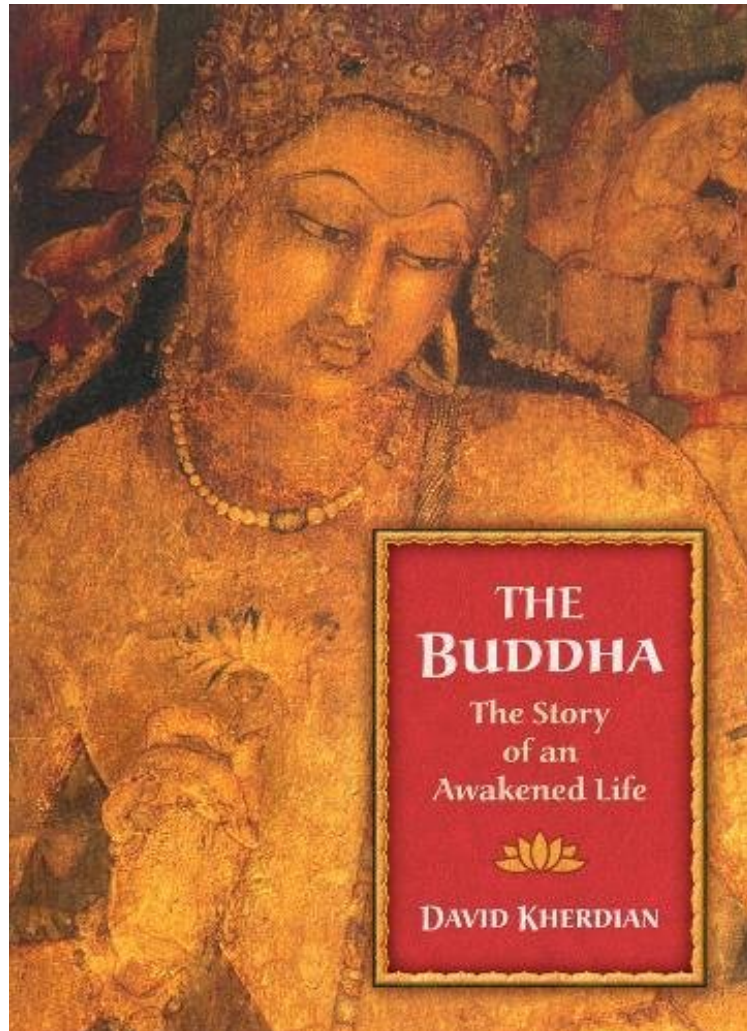


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## The Buddha: The Story of an Awakened Life

*David Kherdian*

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**David Kherdian : The Buddha: The Story of an Awakened Life** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Buddha: The Story of an Awakened Life:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Simple, lyricalBy Souvik MitraIf transforming historicity into an engaging story be the goal, then this book scores highly. Kherdian weaves mythology lore, wafts lyrical prose at us yet stays consistently credible on historical accuracy. Spanning the 80 years of Buddha's life, this book captures his thoughts, muses, indulgences, even follies, as he meanders through his plush seductive life in the palace as a prince, his hardships, growth travels on the way to enlightenment finally the setting up of the Sangha from loose groups of followers that the Buddha gathered since his enlightenment.The book narrates a few parables, touches upon the basic tenets of Buddhism, but wisely, or so I think, steers clear of any pretense of being a book on Buddhist philosophy.

Kherdian achieves this by making the Buddha shut up or walk away, time again, after saying only so much to a particular disciple time again. The book also delves into the lives of his immediate family his relationships with them. For the most part, these were less than remarkably warm. In spite of Kherdian's superlative attempts at humanizing an esoteric historic character, what shines through these stories of his relationships was that being Buddha was rather a full time occupation. Short, summary delightful read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InspiringBy WWMDDavid Kheridan's book, "The Buddha: The Story of an Awakened Life", is a compelling, detailed retelling of the Buddha's journey from self-indulgent nobleman to compassionate teacher of the dharma. I rated this book 4 stars because it is well-written, provides believable motives for Siddharta's life decisions, and provokes thought both at home and at sangha. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Flowed Like A RiverBy storyteller312This classic story flowed like a river. Many biographies cram too much superfluous information that distract from the main story. This biography was a beautiful read, thoughtful and memorable.

A simple, inspiring telling of the life of the Buddha by an award-winning, best-selling author. Here is an opportunity to approach one of the worlds greatest spiritual teachers through the timeless tale of his search for enlightenment and the end of suffering. This is the first account of the Buddhas story that blends the elements of history, legend, and Buddhist teachings into a compelling, page-turning narrative. Experience the Buddhas life, from his extravagant youth and ascetic renunciation to awakening and decades of profound teaching.

From Publishers WeeklyKherdian, who has written for both children and adults, pens a simple, lyrical biography of Buddha suited for all ages. Episodes from the life of the Indian prince born around the fifth century B.C.E. are narrated in chronological order to present an unfolding life history that engages and also teaches some central Buddhist tenets. The Buddha's life is the stuff of legends, and this telling is mythopoeic rather than dully historical or biographical. In a narrative with a well-marked beginning, middle and end, the Buddha finds the middle way at mid-life after pursuing youthful extremes of sensual indulgence and mortifying asceticism. Post-Enlightenment stories then show how the Buddha's spiritual authority and community grew over the course of 40 years of teaching, and the Buddha's resonant and honored final words ("Work out your salvation with diligence") close the narrative. Some well-known Buddhist parables, such as the story of the mustard seed, are included. If the goal is to humanize an eminent spiritual leader from another time and place, the book succeeds. Buddha has a mother and dad, an envious cousin, quarrelsome followers and a son who challenges him. Buddhist students may not want something quite this elementary, but it is an accessible introduction to the life of the Buddha for general readers wanting a taste of a legendary life story. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the AuthorDavid Kherdian is the author of over 60 books of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and children's literature. He has won the Newbery Honor Book, Boston Globe/Horn Book Award, Lewis Carrol Bookshelf Award, Jane Addams Peace Award, and has been nominated for the National Book Award, and Friend of America Writers Award. He lives in Chatham, New York.