



Behind the Beautiful Forevers

David Hare

Download now

Read Online [➔](#)

Behind the Beautiful Foreverers

David Hare

Behind the Beautiful Foreverers David Hare

It's not just that rich people don't know what they've got. They don't even know what they throw away.

India is beginning to prosper. But beyond the luxury hotels surrounding Mumbai airport is an obstacle, a makeshift slum. It's home to foul mouthed Zehrunisa and her garbage sorting son Abdul, entrepreneurs both. Sunil, twelve, picks plastic. Manju, schoolteacher, hopes to be the settlement's first woman to gain a degree. Asha, go-to woman, exploits every scam to become a first-class person. And Fatima, One Leg, is about to make an accusation that will destroy herself and shatter the neighbourhood.

Katherine Boo spent three years under the flight-path, recording the lives of Annawadi's diverse inhabitants. Now from Boo's book, which won the National Book Award for Non-Fiction in 2012, David Hare has fashioned an epic play for the stage which details the ingenious and sometimes violent ways in which the poor and disadvantaged negotiate with corruption to seek a handhold on capitalism's lowest rungs.

David Hare's stage adaptation of **Behind the Beautiful Foreverers** premiered at the National Theatre, London, in November 2014.

Behind the Beautiful Foreverers Details

Date : Published November 20th 2014 by Faber Faber (first published November 18th 2014)

ISBN : 9780571312412

Author : David Hare

Format : Paperback 144 pages

Genre :

 [Download Behind the Beautiful Foreverers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Behind the Beautiful Foreverers ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Behind the Beautiful Foreverers David Hare

From Reader Review Behind the Beautiful Forever for online ebook

Jennifer says

Enlightening but utterly depressing book.

Cara says

[[reread in April]]

Pamela says

Started this book, I liked it. About an hour of reading, I have decided not to continue reading it. Its description of some of the horrors that these people live with have haunted my thoughts at night. I don't want to risk more hauntings of horrible images. Perhaps I am weak in this way, but I have decided not to finish the book.

Bobbi Bullard says

I read more than half of this book before I decided to stop reading it. This is a tale of a horrific way of life. I might choose to work towards alleviating such evil if there is something I can do. But I could not make myself continue to read about the terrible lives these people face everyday.

Sanjay L says

Well Written, emotional, eye opening and a great piece of theatre with such a diverse cast too!

Sharon Mchugh says

I read this for book club. There's really no story other than explaining how awful it is to live in the Mumbai slums.

David Harris says

I saw this play at the National Theatre in London, and I am reading the book now. The staging of the play

was very interesting, and I thought the script got the story across quite well in the limited time frame required in a play or movie. I recommend it.

Ram says

Annawadi:

A slum with about 3000 inhabitants living in 335 huts on the border of a vast sewage lake on land adjacent to and owned by the Mumbai airport.

The slum was originally settled in 1991 by migrant workers who worked on the airport, and it expanded into a shack slum inhabited by migrants from various parts of India and Pakistan. Katherine Boo got to know the people and life of this slum for three years.

The book follows the life of a few of the slum dwellers:

Sunii, an orphan garbage collector

Abdul, a garbage collector with a family business of recycle material collection.

Fatima, Abdul's neighbor, a mentally troubled woman with one leg.

Manju, who wants to be the first female college graduate from the slum.

Asha, Manju's mother, who is aiming to be the "slumlord", a position that will give her power, wealth and social recognition.

Following the daily life of the people of the slum we are introduced to their harsh life of poverty, diseases, corruption, oppression by the authorities and the constant fear that the airport authorities will reclaim the land and bulldozer the shacks down.

Entwined in the story are the many conflicts that mold the life of the slum:

Old vs new

Rich vs poor

Muslims vs Hindus

Corruption vs anything that can contribute to the people

Men vs Women

The "authorities" vs the poor and helpless people.

I was touched by the book, that reads more like a fiction book than nonfiction. It is filled with so many sad moments and so little hope. I do hope that the success of the book will contribute to finding a solution for these people who seem to be the victims of the vast success of the Indian economy.

"As every slumdweller knew, there were three main ways out of poverty: finding an entrepreneurial niche, as the Husains had found in garbage; politics and corruption, in which Asha placed her hopes; and education. Several dozen parents in the slum were getting by on roti and salt in order to pay private school tuition."

Leonie says

Whilst I was reading the play I couldn't stop thinking how this was written by an old white man who is as far removed from the slumdweller's troubles and struggles as he can be. I couldn't stop wondering why he didn't even bother to change their names and how, if this was written about anyone rich enough to attend a staging at the National Theatre, they would sue him for exploiting their lives and not making them unrecognisable to the rest of the world.

I read the play alongside the documentary and would really like to know how Katherine Boo feels about this adaptation of her work.

Monica Lee says

I hated this book. I spent money and time on it only so I could contribute to the conversation about it in book club. I wish I could forget the smell of trash and sewage, the images of death and intractability of the problems exposed in this story.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers is the story of Abdul (and about a hundred other residents -- try keeping all of them straight) and his life in Annawadi, an illegal settlement of trash, sewage and corruption outside the Mumbai airport. Author Katherine Boo, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, writes poetically and politically about the horrors of poverty in India; she thoroughly covers "life" and "death" but I found zero "hope" in the narrative.

It's a true story, I found out at the end in reading the author's note. I wish it would have been placed at the beginning of the book. Though thoroughly documented (she goes to great pains to point out), I found Boo's pitying, judging perspective to be overwhelming.

This is one of those books that gets good reviews because the author suffered so much in getting the story (oh, and she's from New York, at least part of the time; everything that comes out of New York is wonderful). It uses a lot of big words—wow, I'm so impressed with your command of the English language (thank goodness I read it on Kindle with its click-to-define dictionary). This work is not for anyone who prizes a logical plot and compelling distraction.

Behind the Beautiful Forevers is daring, I'll give it that, and dark. Proceed at your own risk.

Kristine says

Tragic story but very interesting and I feel well written.

Kate Sullivan says

This was an interesting book. I found it to be a slow read but it certainly educated me about the darker side of

India.

Elizabeth says

An epic of a play, gorgeous stage adaptation of the book. Wish I could have seen the original production. If you want to learn about real poverty and political corruption, read up on India. As an American having read the book and now the play during an election cycle, I must say this really puts things in perspective for me. We don't have a clue how good we got it. Here is the trailer from the original production:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8aAO...>

Rjchaussee says

BSOLUTELY AMAZING. As I read it, I just assumed it was fiction and was very surprised to discover the author had actually lived there for 3 years while writing the book and that the characters were based on actual people.

I am suspicious about what it means to "live there." Was he in one of the shacks or was he in another neighborhood and commuting to Annawadi during the day when he was doing his research?

Regardless, I found the writing clear (except maybe there were too many characters) and I think it is an important book

Susan Sandall says

Interesting story. Difficult to get in to the Indian psyche.
