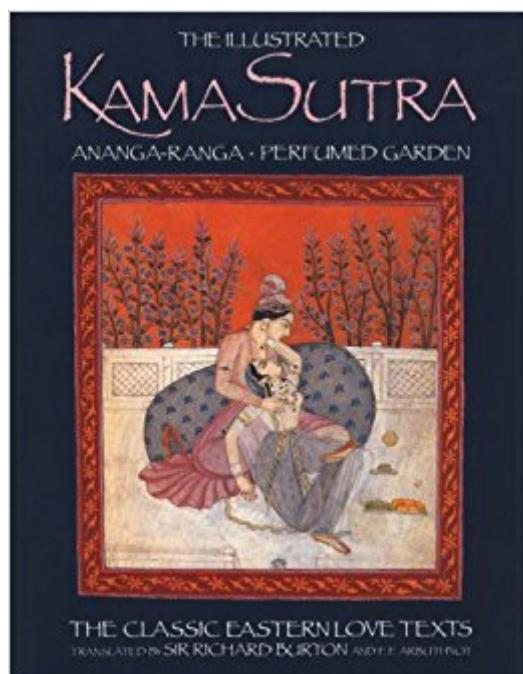


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The Illustrated Kama Sutra : Ananga-Ranga And Perfumed Garden - The Classic Eastern Love Texts



Synopsis

Sexual frankness without a hint of guilt or prurience is the great legacy which the Eastern, and in particular Indian, traditions have given us. As an expression of human culture, and as a pillow book for the modern boudoir, the Kama Sutra of Vatsyayana the most famous work on sex ever written the Ananga-Ranga of Kalyana Malla, and Sheikh Nefzai's Perfumed Garden, set forth the principles of sensual pleasure with poetry, wisdom, and humor, celebrating love as an ecstatic expression of life's beauty. Here, for the first time, Sir Richard Burton's translations of the classic Eastern love texts have been published in one volume. The first Kama Sutra to be illustrated in color with a dazzling and unique collection of Indian painting and sculpture. These erotic treatises are not sex manuals in the modern sense clinical collections of coital postures but a broader and more humane exploration of Eastern sexual customs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Sex is a good way to begin understanding another culture, just as it is a good way to begin understanding another individual," writes Charles Fowkes in his introduction to Sir Richard Burton's classic translation of the Eastern love texts. As many of the devotees of this popular book can attest, reading about the ancient sexual traditions of India is also a good way for contemporary readers to understand sex. Sir Burton, who is well known as the translator of The 1001 Arabian Nights, condensed the three ancient love manuals of India (Kama Sutra, Ananga-Ranga, and Perfumed Garden) into one book. What makes this a favorite of all the Kama Sutra titles are the

unabashedly erotic texts and color illustrations from India, which offer specific suggestions, such as how to "Milita" kiss (the after-fight reconciliation kiss) as well as how to link a former life into current lovemaking. --Gail Hudson

SEXUALITY / ART Sexual frankness--without a hint of guilt or prurience--is the great legacy which the Eastern, and in particular Indian, traditions have given us. Here, for the first time, Sir Richard Burton and F.F. Arbuthnot's translations of three classic Eastern love texts have been published in one volume, illustrated in color with a dazzling and unique collection of Indian painting and sculpture. These erotic treatises are not "sex manuals" in the modern sense--clinical collections of coital postures--but a more encompassing and sensitive exploration of Eastern sexual customs. The idea that something as natural as sexuality could be shameful in any way would have been incomprehensible to the old sage Vatsyayana who wrote Kama Sutra as a religious duty nearly 2,000 years ago. Kalyana Malla wrote his Ananga-Ranga with the worthy intention of preventing "separation of the married pair." And even if Sheikh Nefzawi was a little less pious in intention, he can be forgiven for the poetry and humor in his Perfumed Garden. As an expression of human culture, and as a "pillow book" for the modern boudoir, the Kama Sutra (the most famous work on sex ever written), the Ananga-Ranga, and Perfumed Garden set forth the principles of sexual pleasure with candor and grace, celebrating the science of love as an ecstatic expression of life's beauty. SIR RICHARD F. BURTON (1821-1890) was one of the greatest traveler-explorers of history, whose life has recently been chronicled both in biography (Captain Sir Richard Burton) and film (Mountains of the Moon). Famous as the translator of The 1001 Arabian Nights, Burton also searched for the headwaters of the Nile and was the discoverer of the central lakes of Africa. Orientalist, prolific author, and member of the Royal Geographic Society, he was one of the most remarkable and controversial men of his century.

Be aware that these are NOT the full versions of these texts - they have been abridged (the main reason for my personal choice of star rating). That being said, if you wish to gain knowledge of the texts without having to go through the entire texts, this is a good start. Burton and Arbuthnot are the go-to authors for the translation in English - I recommend their other works as well. Note that the artwork is NOT contemporary to the original texts. As some people noted, if you want to use this as a how-to sex guide for positions only, this will not serve you. I recommend that you read this anyway for reasons elaborated below. Actually, much of the art is not MEANT to be imitated as (according to a professor of visual rhetoric that taught this text), the vertical presentation conveys to concepts

more effectively in solid media (wood, stone, and some paint) than if it were horizontal. Consider how the eye would have to take in horizontal representations on the temples. It is not that it isn't done, but it is more effective vertically, it seems. I also feel that there is a bit of artistic license and fantasy in some of the images which is fun in its own right if that is kept in mind. Aside from this, it is recommended that this be read this anyway as it offers wisdom in incorporating a healthy and balanced sex life in your overall existence - something that we in the West lack awareness of, sadly. It also offers advice for things to be aware of and sensitive to in your partner. The Perfumed Garden is a bit different in that respect as it is from a different culture (Islam) which is not so sensitive to the feminine aspect, but as a historical text, it is interesting as a way of tracing the history of the development of gender perspective. Also be aware that the Ananga-Ranga was written based on the Kama Sutra, so it is a bit repetitive, but of value if you wish to see the changes in perspective over the centuries and the value of what was kept. Again, it is a good start for someone wishing to learn the concepts behind these texts, but not if you wish to know all of the details.

Interesting from a historical perspective and does give a good explanation of the philosophy.

Fun and helpful, worth it for the art!

I expected it to be a lot less history, and more positions, that's what I was planning for, but still a good read

Gave with basket of Honeymoon gifts, oils and such. Everyone loved it and it was the hit of the party

If you are interested in Kama Sutra, Ananga Ranga or The Perfumed Garden or are not sure which you would like to study, this book is a great starting point. Although all the works are very similar, this allows you a synopsis of each text and is helpful in determining which or all that you wish to pursue further. The illustrations are beautifully done. Not for in-depth reading or review, but more an icebreaker.

just read it

This isn't what I thought it would be.

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