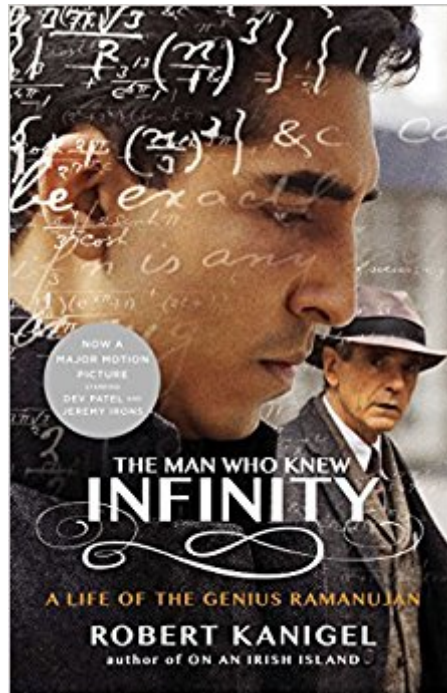


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The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life Of The Genius Ramanujan



Synopsis

NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING JEREMY IRONS AND DEV PATEL! In 1913, a young unschooled Indian clerk wrote a letter to G H Hardy, begging the preeminent English mathematician's opinion on several ideas he had about numbers. Realizing the letter was the work of a genius, Hardy arranged for Srinivasa Ramanujan to come to England. Thus began one of the most improbable and productive collaborations ever chronicled. With a passion for rich and evocative detail, Robert Kanigel takes us from the temples and slums of Madras to the courts and chapels of Cambridge University, where the devout Hindu Ramanujan, "the Prince of Intuition," tested his brilliant theories alongside the sophisticated and eccentric Hardy, "the Apostle of Proof." In time, Ramanujan's creative intensity took its toll: he died at the age of thirty-two and left behind a magical and inspired legacy that is still being plumbed for its secrets today.

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Customer Reviews

This moving and astonishing biography tells the improbable story of India-born Srinavasa Ramanujan Iyengar, self-taught mathematical prodigy. In 1913 Ramanujan, a 25-year-old clerk who had flunked out of two colleges, wrote a letter filled with startlingly original theorems to eminent English mathematician G. H. Hardy. Struck by the Indian's genius, Hardy, member of the Cambridge Apostles and an obsessive cricket aficionado, brought Ramanujan to England. Over the next five years, the vegetarian Brahmin who claimed his discoveries were revealed to him by a Hindu goddess turned out influential mathematical propositions. Cut off from his young Indian wife

left at home and emotionally neglected by fatherly yet aloof Hardy, Ramanujan returned to India in 1919, depressed, sullen and quarrelsome; he died one year later of tuberculosis. Kanigel (*Apprentice to Genius*) gives nontechnical readers the flavor of how Ramanujan arrived at his mathematical ideas, which are used today in cosmology and computer science. BOMC featured alternate; QPB alternate. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This biography traces the life of one of the greatest geniuses of the 20th century, Ramanujan. This incredibly brilliant Indian mathematician, working alone in relative obscurity and lacking the usual academic credentials, could easily have passed unnoticed. However, with the help of a handful of friends and the ultimate support of renowned English mathematician G.H. Hardy, his work was brought to the attention of the world. When he died in 1920 at 32 he had become a folk-hero in his own country. He left a rich lode of original mathematics, which is still being mined today. This extremely well-researched and well-written biography is a "must" addition to any library collection.- Harold D. Shane, Baruch Coll., CUNY Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Well documented. An eye opener into the culture of South India. Full of real detail and input from other mathematicians with regard to Ramanushan's contributions. Read it after seeing the film. Filled in many details which could not ever be included in a 2 hour film.

Excellent history, must read before seeing movie (or after seeing movie). Has incredible details about Ramanujans history, which are not shown in the movie. Explains much of the background events, and boyhood growth, and also the unbelievable genius behind this brain. Not until about the 1990's, was much of his mathematical genius verified via computerized means.

A superb, detailed and insightful treatment of the personalities of three great mathematicians, and of the interesting times in which they lived. The mathematical information can easily be skipped if the reader is not keen on that sort of thing. Also, it points out the many falsehoods contained in the visually beautiful film of the same name.

This is such an interesting book. To think someone with relatively little formal learning could formulate some of the most complex mathematical computations that are still being newly

understood is mind boggling. And thank goodness there was someone there to bring him to the forefront of the mathematical world.

This excellent biopic about a world class self-taught mathematician is well worth seeing. It gives insight into what awesome things some mathematicians can do, and the personal difficulties they can experience. You don't need to know math to understand and appreciate this film, and I can highly recommend it. I saw it first in a movie theater, then decided to purchase it to enjoy sharing it with friends.

An incredible book, with the historical background of Hardy and Ramanujan that makes it all the more interesting, and gives the societal background of Britain and India. Almost made me want to study mathematics again.

This volume depicts a truly beautiful mind for all ages!

Arrived as portrayed, well packed. Wonderful background establishing a gradual relationship between the reader and the main characters involved. It is like one would actually want to have a conversation with the characters as the author makes known their genius, temperament and struggles during the particular years they live in.

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