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The Prince of India

Lew Wallace

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Lew Wallace : The Prince of India before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prince of India:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Teresa F. WardAs described. TY.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A book of masculine romance set in the wonderful near eastBy John WilliamThe Prince of India is a wonderful book, and while it may not be the best source for historical facts on the fall of Constantinople, it offers the reader a journey through the near east. It takes place in a land that was paramount in its historical import for hundreds, even thousands, of years. The book is meant for a reader willing to expand their imagination and flow along the Bosphorus in search of a new world. Of course, "the voice of reason" evaluates the book in a cynical manner, because the book is not intended to be an empirical report, but rather a brief and pleasant look into a distant, and much different, time and place. One must be able to imagine the vivid scenes, and Wallace truly paints the picture to support the rendition. The previous review said it has its romance and action, which is true, but the book takes its time. There is indeed a masculine romance from start to finish, as the book follows the Prince of India, the "wandering Jew," from days of old to his midieval encounter with the chivalrous Sultan Muhammad. The book is a charming display of love, war, religion, and philosophy. The story left me in the way a summer romance leaves a void in one's heart, leaving me wanting more books of such great grandeur. Granted, and I will give the "voice of reason" the benefit of the doubt, one's reflection simply mirrors one's mind within the object. Thankfully, at the time of reading, I was in an untroubled state of mind, free, and full of imaginative clarity. Lastly, on a practical note, I recommend that anyone interested in purchasing the book, find a first edition - It is a beautiful two volume set, the feel and smell

of its crisp pages will carry you along the Bosphorus with the fine words of Wallace. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Just a curiosity piece

By B. Becker

Famous as the author of "Ben-Hur" and a US Civil War general of average abilities, Wallace does not hit the same heights in this book as with "Ben-Hur" which has been filmed on numerous occasions. The name of the book itself is something of a misnomer. The title character, The Prince of India, is actually little more than a footnote character rather than a major protagonist. There is a degree of romance and intrigue, yes, but neither of these is all that compelling. Plus, you will learn next to nothing about the myriad of factors (both internal and external) that led up to the rapidly waning days of Constantinople and what remained of the once mighty Byzantine Empire - the direct heir of Rome. Unless you are a Lew Wallace aficionado or are interested in obscure American novels of the late 19th Century, you would not be that well served in wading through what was originally a voluminous two-volume magnum opus. For those interested in knowing more about the actual fall of Constantinople, they would be better advised to consult Steven Runciman, John Julius Norwich, or George Ostrogorsky and their non-fiction works regarding the rise and fall of the Byzantine state. In General Wallace's favor, however, this much can be said: He spent four years as US Ambassador to the Sublime Porte (the court of the Ottoman Empire). Therefore, he at least had some first-hand knowledge of the area when he went to write this book. Unfortunately, he fell short when it came to combining a coherent storyline with a verigated tapestry of historical events and fusing them into a sensible organic whole.

The Prince of India