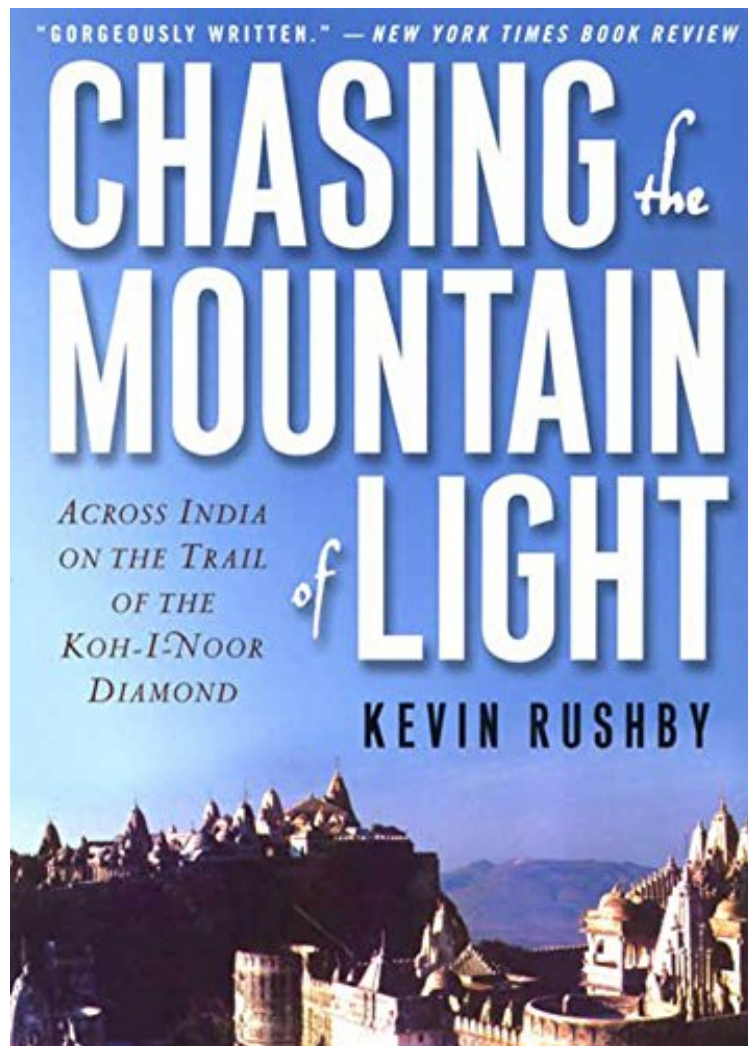


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Chasing the Mountain of Light: Across India on the Trail of the Koh-i-Noor Diamond

Von Kevin Rushby

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Von Kevin Rushby : Chasing the Mountain of Light: Across India on the Trail of the Koh-i-Noor Diamond before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chasing the Mountain of Light: Across India on the Trail of the Koh-i-Noor Diamond:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Travel Writing at its Very BestVon A Lover of Good BooksThis is not a book about diamonds. Instead it is the chronicle of a wonderful offbeat trip through India tracing the path that the Koh-i-noor diamond may have followed.The author is that rarest and most estimable kind of travel writer who acts as the reader's eyes and ears. When Rushby describes a

scene you see it, hear it, smell it and feel it. When he describes a conversation he captures the person's speech patterns, their personal idiosyncrasies, and makes them come alive. Unlike many other current travel writers, Rushby does not waste your time with pages about himself and his personal problems or his reactions to the people and places he visits. Instead, he gives you enough data so that you can make up your own mind about the people and places he describes. And what fascinating places they are! Southern Indian haunts of small time diamond smugglers, the ruined palaces of Mughal emperors, the studies of eccentric professors, the shabby apartments of claimants to the wealth of deposed rajas. All these are there and more, as the author moves through a series of cheap hotels via questionable transport of the sort that the reader loves to hear about but is glad not to have to actually use. This book reminded me a lot of Eric Hansen's *Motoring with Mohammed*, another of my favorite travel books. It's a definite "must read" for any serious armchair traveller!

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Unexpected Dividend
Von Ein Kunde
I bought this book to learn about more about the Koh-i-Noor and I found a much more interesting story in the descriptions of India before partition and the gardens and architecture of the Mughals. At the start it's a bit on the 'ho hum, another traveling around India on the cheap' but once Rushby gets to Gujarat and beyond it's terrific.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Other Koh-I-Noor
Von Ein Kunde
For those who were fascinated by Rushby's very good book, you might want to learn a bit more about how it passed from the Sikhs to the Brits in "Flashman and the Mountain of Light", a relatively recent installment in George MacDonald Fraser's memoirs of the completely (?) fictional Sir Harry Flashman. While working in fiction, Fraser as always weaves his boulder of a hero into a very accurate description of the historical facts

Kurzbeschreibung
The Koh-i-Noor diamond known as the Mountain of Light, the world's largest diamond, was found in India, traveled from Golconda to the Mughal palaces in the north. Fought over, cursed at and occasionally lost, it finally reached the Sikhs in the Punjab, only to be seized by British agents eager to please young Queen Victoria. It now lies in the Tower of London where some say its curse controls the fate of the Windsor family. In *Chasing the Mountain of Light*, Kevin Rushby pursues the dramatic career of the Koh-i-Noor on a journey to the heart of Indian culture meeting dealers, smugglers, and petty crooks along the way. It's another adventure from Rushby whom the *Washington Post* recently compared to William S. Burroughs and Arthur Rimbaud.

deA shiny piece of carbon is what ensnares writer Kevin Rushby, luring him into a strange world of hidden towns with no names, a land of charms, chakras, cardamom, and missing gem mines. But it's not just any chunk of glittering jewel with which Rushby is obsessed: he's pursuing the history of the Koh-I-Noor diamond, a 106-karat piece of crystalline perfection now part of England's Crown Jewels. Research pulls him across India and into a diverse culture that is so exotic--and simultaneously so mystical, esoteric, and often criminal--that he may as well have fallen into Middle-earth. The diamond now sits in the Tower of London, but the magnificent gem's past proves elusive, its light flickering in a maze of mirrors, cloaked in myth, lies, and mystery. The truth about whence it came and which palms it crossed may ultimately never be uncovered. Nevertheless, Rushby artfully uses the pretext to uncover rich stories: of the excesses of wealthy jewelers, of impoverished farmers who discover gleaming wealth in the fields, and of clandestine diamond markets, where cloth-wrapped baubles are sold on the streets like peddled crack. Names of Indian places and people do get confusing--and there are more characters spinning around in this book than a Russian novel--but that doesn't matter. Rushby weaves *Chasing the Mountain of Light* with lush detail, creating a tale as compelling, multifaceted, and breathtaking as the diamond itself. --Melissa Rossi
Pressestimmen
"This is a book about gems that is also a gem of a book" *Sunday Times*