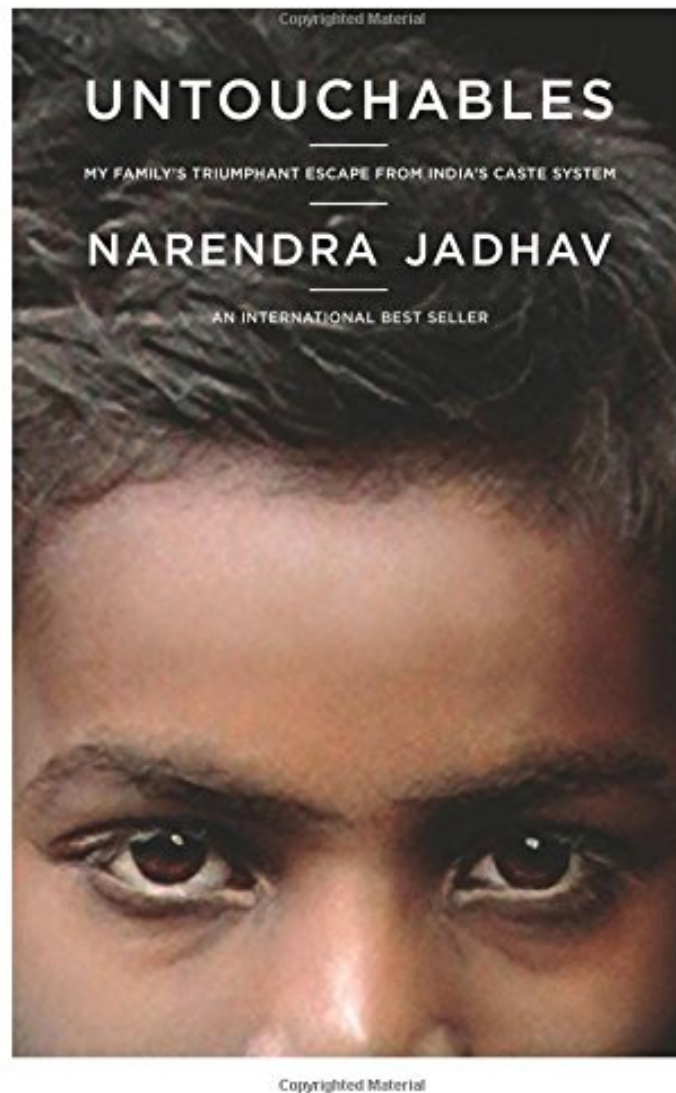


[Free pdf] Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System

Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System

Narendra Jadhav

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#782951 in Books 2007-03-29 2007-03-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.90 x .80 x 5.90l, .97 #File Name: 0520252632316 pages | File size: 47.Mb

Narendra Jadhav : Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Untouchables: My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System:

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Amazing account of journey out of prejudiceBy Wave TossedI just received this book and ended up reading the entire book in one night -- it was that enthralling. This is a true

account of a Dalit ("untouchable") family in India. The author -- Narendra Jadhav -- born into a Dalit sub-caste, has recorded the journals his father had kept of his parents' resistance against ancient prejudice. Inspired by the Dalit leader, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Damu Jadhav (the author's father) finally had reached his limit on all of the indignities that had been thrust upon him by the higher-caste authorities. He refused to perform an unconscionable duty demanded of him by a village official; for this refusal, he was brutally beaten. This was the beginning of the family's quest for freedom. There are stirring accounts of demonstrations, led by Dr. Ambedkar, where Dalits (including Damu Jadhav and his wife) had demanded their human dignity. This account relates the Jadhav family's struggles, set against the Dalit human rights struggle. Finally the reader sees how the Jadhav family emerged in triumph, having escaped their onerous discriminatory conditions, going through all sorts of conditions to make sure that the children would all receive a good education. Dr. Narendra Jadhav grew up to become an esteemed economist and his brothers and sisters also became eminent in their fields of study. In the cities, prejudice against the Dalits has greatly diminished. Unfortunately, in India's vast rural areas, caste-based discrimination and violence continues to exist in far too many instances. This book lays out a foundation for ways to continue the fight for Dalit human rights.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Ye'd Suj
Do read the Dalit literature it has potential to surprise you and to let you think.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good story of about a family challenging the system
By Jorge I. Villanueva
This is a good night time read. The author tells the story about his family confronting the caste system in India. It is not a historical account, but the author lets us know how, thru the years, the "upper" classes in India have treated the "dalits". The author's father deserves all the credit in the world because he was the one who initiated this challenge against the caste system. The dalits still have a long way to go but looks like their situation is improving. The author's account is simple and to the point, although i think that, at times, the author strays a little too much of the subject giving us a lot of information that is not that relevant to the story. But all in all is a good book that helps us understand and appreciate how people in other parts of the world struggle while we have it easy here in the United States.

Every sixth human being in the world today is an Indian, and every sixth Indian is an untouchable. For thousands of years the untouchables, or Dalits, the people at the bottom of the Hindu caste system, have been treated as subhuman. In this remarkable book, at last giving voice to India's voiceless, Narendra Jadhav tells the awe-inspiring story of his family's struggle for equality and justice in India. Based on his father's diaries and family stories, Jadhav has written the triumphant story of his parents' great love, unwavering courage, and eventual victory in the struggle to free themselves and their children from the caste system. He vividly brings his parents' world to light and unflinchingly documents the lives of untouchables: the hunger, the cruel humiliations, the perpetual fear, and the brutal abuse. *Untouchables* is an eye-opening work that gives readers insight into the lives of India's 165 million Dalits, whose struggle for equality continues even today.

From Booklist
Jadhav, head of economic research for the Reserve Bank of India, is a member of India's Dalits--or untouchables--a group that numbers 165 million. His moving memoir is a tribute to his parents, who made it their goal to educate their children, especially his father, Damu, who stood up to the caste system. Jadhav paints a sweeping picture of the twentieth-century human-rights movement led by Babasaheb Ambedkar, leader of the Dalit movement and Damu's lifelong inspiration. Hearing Babasaheb's urging to "educate, organize, agitate," Damu finds the courage to defy his role as the village servant, a tradition dating back 3,500 years. Jadhav embellishes his tale of politics and the rights movement with poignant glimpses into his parents' everyday lives: how their hut leaked during the monsoons, shelling tamarind pods for pennies a day, the devastation of the plague on families packed into tenements. One of his most surprising revelations is that even today he is asked about his caste, which remains "an inseparable part" of his identity. Deborah Donovan
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"A loving paean to courageous parents, and an indicting portrait of prejudice in modern-day India. This Indian bestseller will strike a chord in the U.S."-- "Kirkus s"
"From the Inside Flap
Jadhav marches in the vanguard of a trend that is eviscerating the caste. International Herald Tribune
This moving story of perseverance from a sector of India rarely represented to American readers will be a standard text on Indian and Dalit themes for years to come. Library Journal