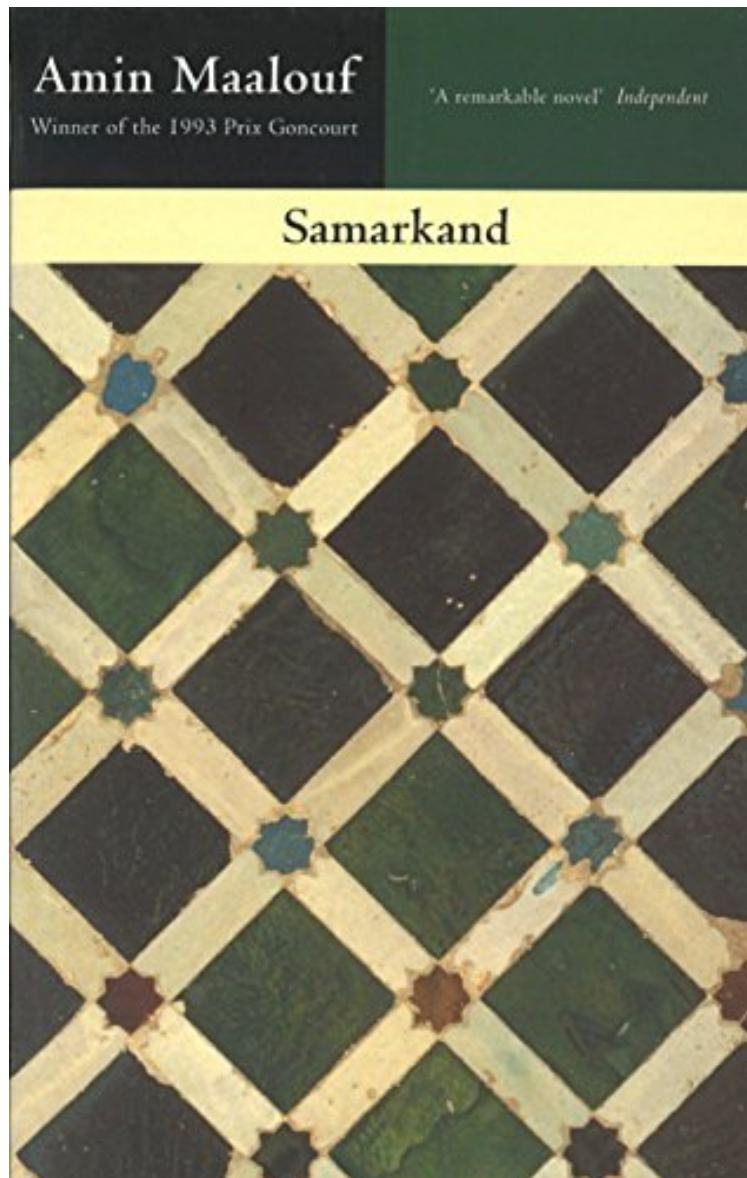


[FREE] Samarkand (English Edition)

## Samarkand (English Edition)

Von Amin Maalouf

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**Von Amin Maalouf : Samarkand (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Samarkand (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "The Red Violin" meets Omar Khayyam on board the Titanic !Von Bob NewmanWell, OK, maybe my title is stretching things a little, but not by much. This is a very original novel which risked getting out of control, but did not. Only a

very skilled writer could pull things together the way Amin Maalouf has done in SAMARKAND. The title refers to the ancient Central Asian city, now in Uzbekistan, where the novel opens with Omar Khayyam, the renowned poet (also mathematician and astrologer), receiving a large blank volume from a high city official. Omar spends his life filling it with verses and with his accumulated wisdom. Others write his biography in the margins. Like the violin the the movie "The Red Violin", the book of Khayyam's work ties together an unlikely collection of characters to be found in Central Asia and Iran during the 11th and 12th centuries, as well as in late 19th and early 20th century Iran and Istanbul. Americans play a prominent role. There is romance, there is suspense and the Titanic is really in there ! I was surprised by the strong feeling of suspense--my desire to know what happened--because the main characters are not that well-developed in a conventional literary sense, yet, as with the protagonists of legends and tales, we identify strongly with them. The details of history of the earlier period are little known, but Maalouf takes the basic facts and turns them into a novel that recalls Persian miniatures. Princes, ladies, assassins, and ministers prance across the pages, colorful, larger than life, always doomed. Love, success, power, faith, and intrigue--all destined to become dust in this magic shadow box of the World. I can't say that Maalouf's writing reminds me of anyone in particular. This book is one of a kind. It's an enjoyable, readable novel that I recommend to anyone who doesn't mind absorbing a lot of foreign names and new cultural concepts. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Samarkand - A Tale of Mystery, Intrigue, and Revelation Von Vicki Shaw Once again Amin Maalouf has applied his prodigious story-telling ability to illuminate a slice of history with details hitherto unknown to this reader. Samarkand is a richly textured novel with all the right elements to capture and hold the reader's attention: Plot, adventure, romance, poetry, sex, cloak and dagger assassination, and international intrigue. But one should not be fooled by the genre, for, barely concealed behind the search for the manuscript of the famous Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, purported to have gone down with the Titanic, is a well-researched chronicle that does justice to its author. It is a scholarly work that thrills like a mystery, tingles like a romance, tickles like a children's story, and educates better than those dry and boring books they handed out in school! Samarkand takes you to 11th and 12th Century Persia where one learns that the word assassin, though Arabic in Origin, became the symbol for the most feared underground terrorist group then known to man. They were the vanguards of today's desperados who willingly suffer martyrdom for a cause. The account of events chronicled by Maalouf opens a window into a world so exotic that we can hardly imagine its influence would reach across space and time to affect our own lives now in the 20th Century. I could hardly put it down and was very sorry to see it end. But I do not despair; three more of Mr. Maalouf's books are stacked on my nightstand! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. History and love: great combination Von Fatih KOCER Amin Maalouf did a very fine job in the formation of this novel, when combining the fiction with the historical realities. This novel tells about a great love of Omar Khayyam, and concludes with the titanic accident. A great historical perspective, huh? It also includes some rubai's of Omar Khayyam, in which he opposes the GOD's nature, and GOD's laws, which I found to be really great... I strongly recommend this book, to learn something about Omar Khayyam, a small and mysterious history of the middle east, and to have a great time... The only bad thing is you will finish reading it not more than one night, not because it is short but you can not stop reading it...

Kurzbeschreibung Accused of mocking the inviolate codes of Islam, the Persian poet and sage Omar Khayyam fortuitously finds sympathy with the very man who is to judge his alleged crimes. Recognising genius, the judge decides to spare him and gives him instead a small, blank book, encouraging him to confine his thoughts to it alone. Thus begins the seamless blend of fact and fiction that is Samarkand. Vividly re-creating the history of the manuscript of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Amin Maalouf spans continents and centuries with breathtaking vision: the dusky exoticism of 11th-century Persia, with its poetesses and assassins; the same country's struggles nine hundred years later, seen through the eyes of an American academic obsessed with finding the original manuscript ; and the fated maiden voyage of the Titanic, whose tragedy led to the Rubaiyat's final resting place - all are brought to life with keen assurance by this gifted and award-winning writer. Pressestimmen Maalouf's descriptions of the courts, the bazaar, the lives of mystics, kings and lovers are woven into an evocative and languid prose... and extraordinary book (INDEPENDENT) An example of the best type of historical fiction (TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT) Maalouf's fiction offers both a model for the future and a caution, a way towards cultural understanding and a appalling measure of the consequences of failure. His is a voice which Europe cannot afford to ignore. (The Guardian) Kurzbeschreibung Accused of mocking the inviolate codes of Islam, the Persian poet and sage Omar Khayyam fortuitously finds sympathy with the very man who is to judge his alleged crimes. Recognising genius, the judge decides to spare him and gives him instead a small, blank book, encouraging him to confine his thoughts to it alone. Thus begins the seamless blend of fact and fiction that is Samarkand. Vividly re-creating the history of the manuscript of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, Amin Maalouf spans continents and centuries with breathtaking vision: the dusky exoticism of 11th-century Persia, with its poetesses and assassins; the same country's struggles nine hundred years later, seen through the eyes of an American academic obsessed with finding the original

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