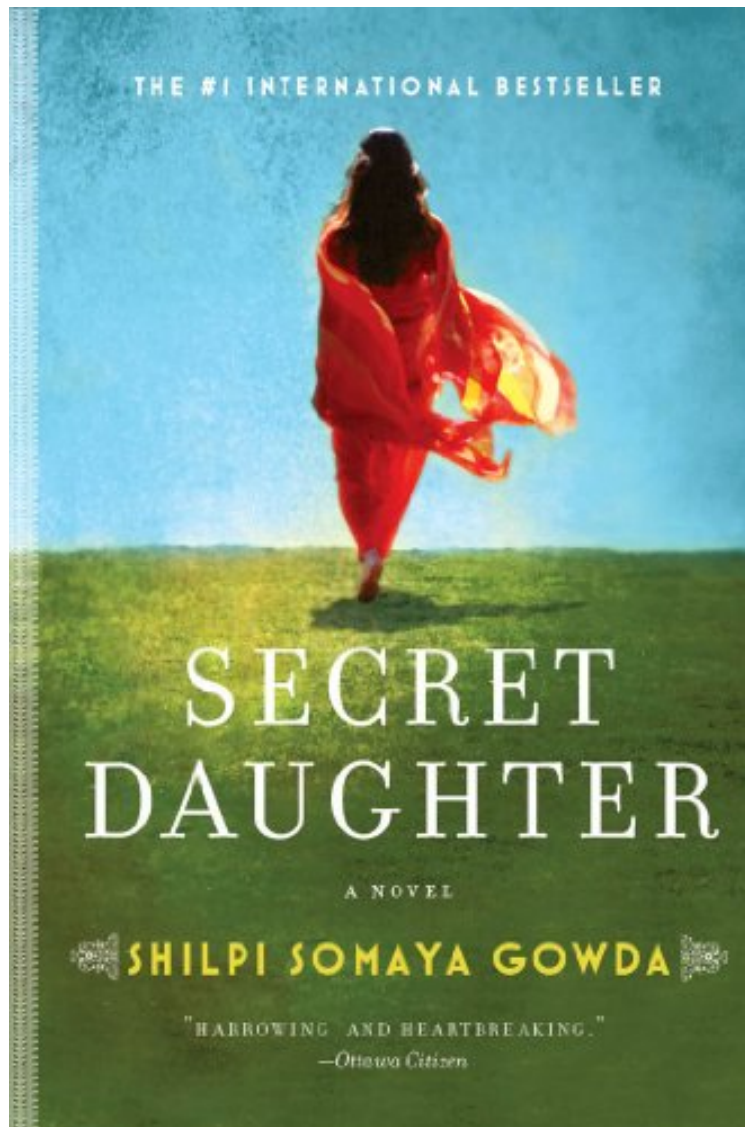


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## Secret Daughter: A Novel

Von Shilpi Somaya Gowda  
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**Von Shilpi Somaya Gowda : Secret Daughter: A Novel** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secret Daughter: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Shining Gem!Von BeatleBangs1964This is a truly outstanding book that will resonate in the memories and hearts of all readers.Kavita, a young mother in India mourns the loss of her first daughter in 1984. The baby was killed by her father's family who wanted only sons. In 1985 when her second daughter is born, Kavita hides her pregnancy and quite resourcefully saves her child's life.Asha, which means Hope was originally named Usha by her natural mother, Kavita.

In 1986, Usha/Asha was adopted from an orphanage in India when she was a year old. A couple from the United States adopts her and is just appalled at female infanticide in India. Asha was found wearing a thin bracelet that Kavita left on her wrist, a silent plea that her daughter be given a chance to live. The Thakkars, both of whom are doctors adopt Asha. Somer is a pediatrician and Krishnan is a neurosurgeon who have not been able to have a child. One's heart really goes out to Somer when she learns that she is not able to conceive. One really feels her pain when she attends a friend's baby shower and an insensitive guest makes rude remarks about Somer being the only one there who does not have a child. You just want to kick Bouncing Becky in the shins for making Somer feel bad about her losses. One really feels for Somer when she ducks out of the shower, understandably no longer able to fake pleasure at another's good fortune. Krishnan immigrated from India to the United States and, like Kavita, hoped for a better life there. He saw medical school as his ticket to a better and safer life. Somer, on the other hand has no personal ties to India. Once they adopt Asha, they rebuild their ties to India and the family they have who still live there. The Thakkars' biggest fear is that Asha might try to find her natural mother and other relatives in India and want to know the circumstances behind her adoption. The story covers the years 1984 to 2009. Somer, Kavita and Asha each lend their voices to the story and each brings her perspective about motherhood. These three women also have vastly different perspectives about India and Indian culture. One very poignant lesson each come away with is that "Mother India does not love all her children equally" and this lesson is reinforced many times in their own lives. This is a brilliant and beautiful story that is like a sunrise. It is full of hope, as Asha is named and promise. It is full of rich colors and the tapestries of people's lives. Each strand is brilliantly interwoven to create a masterpiece. George Harrison's stellar 1969 classic "Here Comes the Sun" is the soundtrack to this book. I highly recommend this book. It is a shining gem. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fantastisch! Von karlovac Im fernen Indien muss eine Mutter ihre Tochter, um ihr das Leben zu retten, in ein Waisenhaus abgeben. Kavita, die Mutter, luft stundenlang zur Stadt, um ihre Tochter in Sicherheit zu bringen. Wegen der Geburt zur frühen Stunde gibt sie ihr den Namen Uscha (Morgendämmerung). Sie und ihr Mann sind Bauern und seiner Meinung nach brauchen sie einen Sohn, der in den Felder mitarbeitet und nicht ein Mädchen, dass sie im Heiratsalter mit der Mitgift ruinieren würde. Es ist eine Entscheidung, die sie ein Leben lang verfolgt. Auf der anderen Seite der Welt hat Somer, eine Ärztin, Probleme mit dem Austragen des Kindes. Die Fehlgeburten zwingen sie, sich untersuchen zu lassen. Die Diagnose: sie kann keine Kinder bekommen. Während sie noch um das verlorene Kind trauert, versucht ihr Mann, sie für die Adoption zu begeistern. Er kommt ursprünglich aus Indien und sie konnten aus dem Heim in Bombay, wo seine Mutter Schirmherrin ist, ein Kind adoptieren. Dies geschieht und sie adoptieren Uscha, die wegen eines Schreibfehlers künftig Ascha (Hoffnung) genannt wird. Ascha wächst in Kalifornien auf, ist ein sehr intelligentes Kind, das sich für die Karriere im Journalismus entscheidet. Als ein Stipendium sie nach Indien bringt, fängt sie an, ihre eigenen Wurzeln zu suchen. Das Buch geht unter die Haut! Ich habe es zweimal gelesen, da ich so begeistert war. Man spricht mit diesen zwei Müttern mit, erlebt ihre Verzweiflung, Hoffnung, nächste, Kulturschock usw. Absolut lesenswert! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Welten treffen aufeinander Von Customer Ein faszinierender Roman, der die Konflikte aus zwei Welten aufzeigt. Für mich als "Adoptivmutter" besonders interessant. Ich habe das Buch verschlungen.

**Kurzbeschreibung** Somer's life is everything she imagined it would be when newly married and has started her career as a physician in San Francisco until she makes the devastating discovery she never will be able to have children. The same year in India, a poor mother makes the heartbreaking choice to save her newborn daughter's life by giving her away. It is a decision that will haunt Kavita for the rest of her life, and cause a ripple effect that travels across the world and back again. Asha, adopted out of a Mumbai orphanage, is the child that binds the destinies of these two women. We follow both families, invisibly connected until Asha's journey of self-discovery leads her back to India. Compulsively readable and deeply touching, *Secret Daughter* is a story of the unforeseen ways in which our choices and families affect our lives, and the indelible power of love in all its many forms. **Pressestimmen** Gowda has masterfully portrayed two families... linked by a powerful, painful tie that complicates their lives... A thought-provoking examination of the challenges of being a woman in America and in India -- and in the psychological spaces in between. (Chitra Divakaruni, author of *The Palace of Illusions*) Set in California and the teeming city of Mumbai, **SECRET DAUGHTER** is a beautifully composed compelling story of love, loss, discovery and the true meaning of family. (Anjali Banerjee, author of *Imaginary Men*) Fiction with a conscience, as two couples worlds apart are linked by an adopted child... A lightweight fable of family division and reconciliation, gaining intensity and depth from the author's sharp social observations (Kirkus) First novelist Gowda offers especially vivid descriptions of the contrasts and contradictions of modern India... Rife with themes that lend themselves to discussion, such as cultural identity, adoption, and women's roles, this will appeal to the book club crowd. (Library Journal) Its moving and thought-provoking and informative and imaginative and beautifully executed. What a wonderful story! (Mary Jane Clark, author of *Dying for Mercy*) *The Secret Daughter* is a deeply moving and timeless story of an adopted daughter's long distance search for cultural identity and acceptance; first with the mother who raised her, and ultimately with the

mother who gave her up. (Kathleen Kent, author of *The Heretic's Daughter*) In her engaging debut, Gowda weaves together two compelling stories. Gowda writes with compassion and uncanny perception from the points of view of Kavita, Somer, and Asha, while portraying the vibrant traditions, sights, and sounds of modern India. (Booklist) This wise debut moves deftly between the child's two mothers and cultures. (Good Housekeeping) A No. 1 bestseller in Canada, *Secret Daughter* tells a nuanced coming-of-age story that is faithful to the economic and emotional realities of two very different cultures. (Washington Post) *Kurzbeschreibung* Somer's life is everything she imagined it would be. She is newly married and has started her career as a physician in San Francisco until she makes the devastating discovery she never will be able to have children. The same year in India, a poor mother makes the heartbreaking choice to save her newborn daughter's life by giving her away. It is a decision that will haunt Kavita for the rest of her life, and cause a ripple effect that travels across the world and back again. Asha, adopted out of a Mumbai orphanage, is the child that binds the destinies of these two women. We follow both families, invisibly connected until Asha's journey of self-discovery leads her back to India. Compulsively readable and deeply touching, *Secret Daughter* is a story of the unforeseen ways in which our choices and families affect our lives, and the indelible power of love in all its many forms.