



The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra

By James McConnachie



The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie

An engaging, enlightening “biography” of the ancient Hindu manuscript that became the world’s most famous sex manual

The *Kamasutra* is one of the world’s best-known yet least-understood texts, its title instantly familiar but its actual contents widely misconstrued. In the popular imagination, it is a work of practical pornography, a how-to guide of absurdly acrobatic sexual techniques. Yet the book began its long life in third-century India as something quite different: a seven-volume vision of an ideal life of urbane sophistication, offering advice on matters from friendship to household decoration. Over the ensuing centuries, the *Kamasutra* was first celebrated, then neglected, and very nearly lost—until an outrageous adventurer introduced it to the West and earned literary immortality.

In lively and lucid prose, James McConnachie provides a rare, intimate look at the exquisite civilization that produced this cultural cornerstone. He details the quest of famed explorer Richard F. Burton, who—along with his clandestine coterie of libertines and iconoclasts—unleashed the *Kamasutra* on English society as a deliberate slap at Victorian prudishness and paternalism. And he describes how the *Kamasutra* was driven underground into the hands of pirate pornographers, until the end of the *Lady Chatterley* obscenity ban thrust it once more into contentious daylight.

The first work to tell the full story of the *Kamasutra*, *The Book of Love* explores how a remarkable way of looking at the world came to be cradled between book covers—and survived.

 [Download The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra ...pdf](#)

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra

By James McConnachie

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie

An engaging, enlightening “biography” of the ancient Hindu manuscript that became the world’s most famous sex manual

The *Kamasutra* is one of the world’s best-known yet least-understood texts, its title instantly familiar but its actual contents widely misconstrued. In the popular imagination, it is a work of practical pornography, a how-to guide of absurdly acrobatic sexual techniques. Yet the book began its long life in third-century India as something quite different: a seven-volume vision of an ideal life of urbane sophistication, offering advice on matters from friendship to household decoration. Over the ensuing centuries, the *Kamasutra* was first celebrated, then neglected, and very nearly lost—until an outrageous adventurer introduced it to the West and earned literary immortality.

In lively and lucid prose, James McConnachie provides a rare, intimate look at the exquisite civilization that produced this cultural cornerstone. He details the quest of famed explorer Richard F. Burton, who—along with his clandestine coterie of libertines and iconoclasts—unleashed the *Kamasutra* on English society as a deliberate slap at Victorian prudishness and paternalism. And he describes how the *Kamasutra* was driven underground into the hands of pirate pornographers, until the end of the *Lady Chatterley* obscenity ban thrust it once more into contentious daylight.

The first work to tell the full story of the *Kamasutra*, *The Book of Love* explores how a remarkable way of looking at the world came to be cradled between book covers—and survived.

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #859060 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Metropolitan Books
- Published on: 2008-05-27
- Released on: 2008-05-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x 1.00" w x 6.78" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

 [Download The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra ...pdf](#)



Download and Read Free Online The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Tracing the celebrated sex manual from its palm-leaf manuscript origins in third-century India to contemporary coffee-table book, travel writer McConnachie adeptly explains that in addition to teaching 64 erotic techniques, the seven-volume *Kamasutra* details every aspect of a rich man's lifestyle, including grooming, home decor and entertainment. The treatise on pleasure also offers a rare ancient depiction of women's social and sexual lives. The author relates the tale of the famed British explorer and Orientalist Richard Burton, who brought the work to the West. An Indian Army officer in the 1840s, Burton devoted himself to the study of Indian languages and sexual culture. Around 1870, as a British consul, Burton became involved in a project to translate obscure erotic classics into English (though contrary to popular belief, he did not translate the *Kamasutra* himself) and masterminded the work's promotion in a repressive Victorian climate. McConnachie also relates the key role of Foster Fitzgerald Arbuthnot as Burton's collaborator. Though less titillating than the topic would imply, this is a solidly researched, absorbing glimpse into the history of erotica publishing. 8 pages of color illus. (May 27)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

Kamasutra connotes sexy, but what is the so-called book of love, anyway? In an impressively researched, charming volume, McConnachie traces the Kamasutra's history from its creation by the third-century sage Vatsyayana as a guide to the good life for urbane dandies. It does, indeed, list acrobatic sexual postures, but most of it concerns manners and the arts, as if Martha Stewart were collaborating with Hugh Hefner. Little being known of Vatsyayana, McConnachie describes the genre to which the Kamasutra belongs and places it in its original cultural context before turning to the man most associated in the Western mind with the Kamasutra, the central figure here, adventurer and author Richard Burton, who brought the Kamasutra to England despite draconian censorship laws. He sponsored the translation and provided notations that were as scandalous as (in some cases, more scandalous than) those of the original. A relatively brief summary of the Kamasutra's continuing popularity, especially during the free-love sixties, concludes McConnachie's work. Since not a single posture is described, consider it G-rated. --Patricia Monaghan

Review

"A delightfully racy and adventurous life story of a book, combining thorough scholarship with fascinating Orientalist gossip. *The Book of Love* illuminates both the luxurious third-century world that gave rise to the *Kamasutra* and the nineteenth-century colonial explorations that brought it to Europe, as well as our own often hilarious response to it."

—Wendy Doniger, Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago, and translator of the first definitive English edition of the *Kamasutra*

"An altogether first-rate work of intellectual history for ordinary readers... Brings the story up-to-date without stinting on the entertaining pen portraits and anecdotes."

—Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post*

"Elegant and stylish... Paints an enticing picture of the society in which the *Kamasutra* was written."

—William Dalrymple, *The New York Review of Books*

“The truth is far more intriguing than the clichés.... A scholarly, stylish, and entertaining study.”

—*The Sunday Times* (London)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Stacy Vincent:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you could have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra, you could enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout folks. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Johanna Bassett:

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra but doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Janice Wilson:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra this guide consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This book was represented how does the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. This is why this book suitable all of you.

Jeffry Yanez:

A lot of reserve has printed but it differs. You can get it by web on social media. You can choose the top book for you, science, comedian, novel, or whatever by simply searching from it. It is referred to as of book The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra. You can add your knowledge by it. Without causing the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make anyone happier to read. It is most significant that, you must aware about reserve. It can bring you from one destination for a other place.

Download and Read Online The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie #UY4Q2ELAI17

Read The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie for online ebook

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie books to read online.

Online The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie ebook PDF download

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie Doc

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie Mobipocket

The Book of Love: The Story of the Kamasutra By James McConnachie EPub