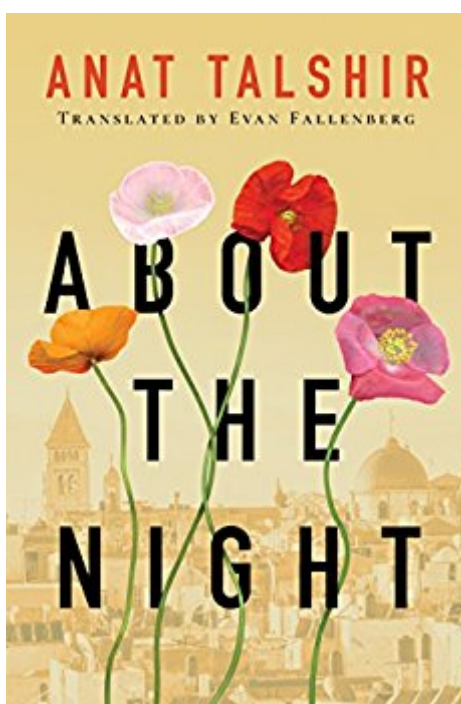


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# About The Night



## Synopsis

On a hot summer day in 1947, on a grandstand overlooking Jerusalem, Elias and Lila fall deeply, irrevocably in love. Tragically, they come from two different worlds. Elias is a Christian Arab living on the eastern side of the newly divided city, and Lila is a Jew living on the western side. A growing conflict between their cultures casts a heavy shadow over the region and their burgeoning relationship. Between them lie not only a wall of stone and barbed wire but also the bitter enmity of two nations at war. Told in the voice of Elias as he looks back upon the long years of his life, *About the Night* is a timely story of how hope can nourish us, loss can devastate us, and love can carry us beyond the boundaries that hold human beings apart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Just reading the description of this book evoked both powerful and personal memories of a long and lasting love for me. There was no need for me to read the other choices for Kindle First this month. And, yes I feel like one of the lucky ones that Elias describes in his story of eternal love. Elias is discussing the finer aspects of drinking tea at a parade and a chance encounter brings the two of them together for an introduction. His family is in the business of purchasing tea from foreign

countries. Immediately he notices her smile and takes his 'leave'. Fate smiles down on them again when they are both have business at the English Clerk's office. The reader feels the excitement of a new love forming between the two characters, Elias and Lila. The furtive glances when one thinks the other is not looking to secretly admire the eyes/hands of the other or the touch of an elbow that sends shivers up and down the spine. One is able to feel the romantic connection between them that can not be ignored. A trip to Istanbul to the tea fields captured my attention, as well. I had no idea of the process in which tea was fermented, dried and cured in order to grace our tables eventually..Elias tells this story starting in the year 2006 and then goes back in time to 1947. In this year, the United Nations divides Palestine into two sections with one for the Arabs and one for the Jews. The reader is clearly captivated at this juncture of the story knowing from the book's introduction that Elias is an Arab Christian and Lila is a Jew.. And so the love story of the two not only captivates but also captures the heart of the reader. To paraphrase Elias, time flows differently when big things happen.

This is an enjoyable read that had a lot of good qualities and a few I didn't follow as well. I've tried to list my thoughts without spoilers as best as I could below. Good qualities: 1. The written language is beautiful and artistic. Descriptions are wonderfully visual and inspire the reader to rise to a higher level of communication. 2. The storyline is a wonderful take on an old classic with a much happier ending for the couple in love. 3. There is no foul language, and although romantic scenes are described in the book they are tasteful and nothing to blush about. If my mother were to read this book as well, I would have no problem discussing it with her comfortably. The same cannot be said about some romantic novels I've purchased. 4. The characters resonate with you. This is the highest praise I can offer an author. I cared about the main characters. You feel their pain, take joy in accomplishments, understand their hesitations. 5. I wanted to read this book. If I had a few spare minutes, I would open up the kindle app on my phone and read. I spent extra time at night reading when I could have been sleeping. It was compelling, you wanted to know where it was going and how certain things were going to happen. Qualities I was not as in love with: 1. This book seemed choppy at points. It was obvious that the author has a clear storyline in mind, but the flow of the book wasn't always smooth. There were introductions of characters that I didn't understand why we cared about at first placed randomly throughout the book. Some of the relationships/character developments appear strained and lacking in depth. These relationships appeared to be there for a convenient purpose and never developed. This was also an issue for me with the lovers.

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