

# **Book Review**

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**Title & Author:** "In Black and White" by Rudyard Kipling

**Introduction:** I picked this book because Kipling is known for his powerful storytelling and deep look into British India. The title sounded interesting, and since it was a collection of short stories, I thought it would be easier to get into than a long novel. I didn't know what to expect, but I hoped it would open my mind and maybe even change how I see the world.

**Summary:** *In Black and White* is a group of short stories set in India during British rule. The stories focus mostly on Indian characters instead of British ones, which was unusual for that time. Each story talks about different parts of Indian life—like family honor, love, revenge, and old beliefs. For example, one story talks about a man who risks everything for his tribe, while another shows how jealousy can lead to betrayal. The stories don't always say what's right or wrong. Instead, they show how complicated life can be. The people in the stories have strong feelings and tough choices to make. Kipling uses simple, clear writing, but the stories still make you think deeply.

**Analysis & Opinion:** What I liked most about the book was how real the characters felt. They weren't perfect, but that made them more interesting. One woman, Janoo, stood out because she was smart and strong. She mentioned that she had to outthink men to survive, and you could see that in her actions. I also remember a man shouting, "I have eaten the salt of my master, but I will not be silent!"—a line that showed both loyalty and bravery. Some stories were a bit confusing at first, especially with unfamiliar words, but I got used to it. One British officer once said that without control, the people would fall into chaos—an idea that shows how colonial leaders viewed their role. The book taught me that things are not always simple—right and wrong often depend on the situation. It also made me curious to learn more about India's history and culture.

**Personal Connection:** This book made me see things in a new light. It showed how people in different parts of the world live and think. I learned not to *judge a book by its cover* and that it's okay to *step out of your comfort zone*. I *came across* many new ideas and *looked back on* my own beliefs. Now I feel more open-minded and interested in other people's stories.

**Conclusion:** I would recommend "In Black and White" to readers who like historical books and colonial literature. However, it should be read with a critical mindset because some parts reflect outdated ideas. If you enjoy deep storytelling and thought-provoking themes, you may find this book interesting. But if you prefer stories with modern values, this book might not be the best choice for you.