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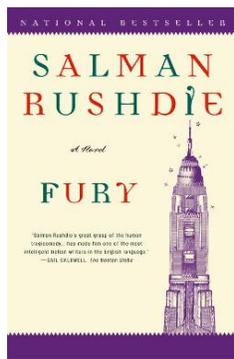
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Fury : a novel (#32408Q3)

by Rushdie, Salman

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Paperback — Modern Library, c2001, p2002

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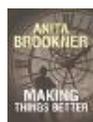
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Overview

From Follett

London historian and dollmaker Malik Solanka flees for America in the hopes of escaping the fury that is building within him before he hurts himself or his family, but he soon learns that he can't run from his life.

From the Publisher

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK

"Salman Rushdie's great grasp of the human tragicomedy—its dimensions, its absurdities and horrors—has made him one of the

most intelligent fiction writers in the English language."

—Gail Caldwell, *The Boston Globe*

"Fury is a profoundly, ecstatically affirmative work of fiction. It reaffirms Rushdie's standing . . . at the very front rank of contemporary literary novelists."

—Baltimore Sun

Malik Solanka, historian of ideas and world-famous dollmaker, steps out of his life one day, abandons his family in London without a word of explanation, and flees for New York. There's a fury within him, and he fears he has become dangerous to those he loves. He arrives in New York at a time of unprecedented plenty, in the highest hour of America's wealth and power, seeking to "erase" himself. But fury is all around him. An astonishing work of explosive energy, *Fury* is by turns a pitiless and pitch-black comedy, a love story of mesmerizing force, and a disturbing inquiry into the darkest side of human nature.

"Rushdie's ideas—about society, about culture, about politics—are embedded in his stories and in the interlocking momentum with which he tells them. . . . All of Rushdie's synthesizing energy, the way he brings together ancient myth and old story, contemporary incident and archetypal emotion, transfigures reason into a waking dream."

—Los Angeles Times Book Review

"Well, here it is, then, his first 3-D, full-volume American novel, finger-snapping, wildly stupefying, often slyly funny, red-blooded and red-toothed. [*Fury*] twinkles brightly in tragicomic passages."

—The Miami Herald

Cover design:

Cover illustration:

Product Details

Publisher: [Modern Library](#)

Interest Level: AD

Publication Date: August 6, 2002

Format: Paperback

Edition: Modern Library pbk. ed.

Dewey: [823](#)

Classifications: Fiction

Description: 259 pages ; 21 cm

ISBN-10: 0-679-78350-4

ISBN-13: 978-0-679-78350-3

LCCN: 2002-284111

Follett Number: 32408Q3

Catalog Number: 0679783504

Reviews & Awards

Booklist starred, 06/01/01

Publishers Weekly starred, 07/16/01

Library Journal, 08/01/01

Full-Text Reviews

Booklist starred (June 1, 2001 (Vol. 97, No. 19))

A new novel by Rushdie makes news. The news about this one is that it is as good as the absolutely marvelous *Moor's Last Sigh* (1996) and even surpasses its immediate predecessor, the staggering *Ground beneath Her Feet* (1999). Fifty-five-year-old professor Malik Solanka has left his wife and young son in England and taken refuge in New York, which glows with the energy of people making and spending money—"mere rats need not bother to enter this high-intensity competition." Solanka is running from his own inexplicable anger: a fury that "shock[s] him whenever it course[s] through his nervous system." The novel, then, is about Solanka's conquest of his fury, and his path toward that goal becomes, for the reader, at once a fantastic, humorous, and gravely serious tale about the torments of love but, even more than that, the abrasions on the soul inflicted by today's cell-phone society. Solanka's situation is a paradigm of contemporary commercial crassness and sexual exhaustion; his life is, in effect, a testament to the need for connection with other people. Rushdie's vision of humanity—his totally unfettered imagination—rests on the twin foundations of his cosmopolitanism and his intelligence. His vibrant, metaphorically soaring language is the fuel that runs this outlandish, poignant novel to its amazing conclusion.

Publishers Weekly (July 16, 2001)

The sea change has invigorated Rushdie. His new novel is very much an American book, a biting satiric, often wildly farcical picture of American society in the first years of the 21st century. The twice transplanted protagonist (Bombay born, Cambridge educated, now Manhattan resident) Prof. Malik Solanka is an unimaginably wealthy man, transformed from a philosophy professor into a BBC-TV star, then into the inventor of a wildly popular doll called Little Brain. Compelled to relinquish control of the doll when it metamorphoses into an industry, the furious Solanka flees London for an apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side. His prose crackling with irony, Rushdie catches roiling undercurrents of incivility and inchoate anger: in cab drivers, moviegoers and sidewalk pedestrians; in ethnic antagonisms; in political confrontations; and in Solly himself, as he tries to surmount his guilt over having abandoned a loving wife and three-year-old son in England, and as he becomes involved with two new women. Rushdie's brilliantly observant portrait of "this money-mad burg" is mercilessly au courant, with references to George Gush and Al Bore, to Elian and Tony Soprano, and to "shawls made from the chin fluff of extinct mountain goats." The action is helter-skelter fast and refreshingly concise; this is a slender book for Rushdie, and his relatively narrow focus results in a crisper narrative; there are fewer puns and a deeper emotional involvement with his characters. Still, his tendency to go over the top leads to some incredulity for the reader; it's a bit much that short, unprepossessing Solly is a magnet for gorgeous, articulate women, who all tend to speak in the same didactic monologues. On the whole, however, readers will nod in acknowledgement of Rushdie's recognition that "the whole world was burning on a shorter fuse." Rushdie remains a master of

satire that rings true with unsettling acuity and dark, comedic brilliance. Agent, Andrew Wylie. 8-city author tour. (Sept. 11)
Forecast: Rushdie has never been so sharply observant of the American psyche and the contemporary scene, and thus so relevant to U.S. readers. His increasing visibility after the isolation of the fatwa years should create a buzz of interest in this novel. Copyright 1999 Cahners Business Information.

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