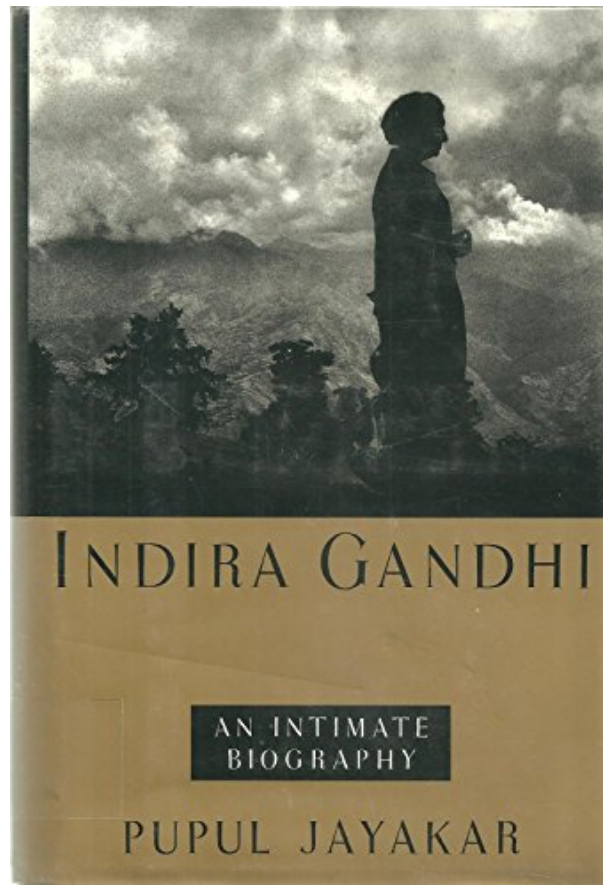
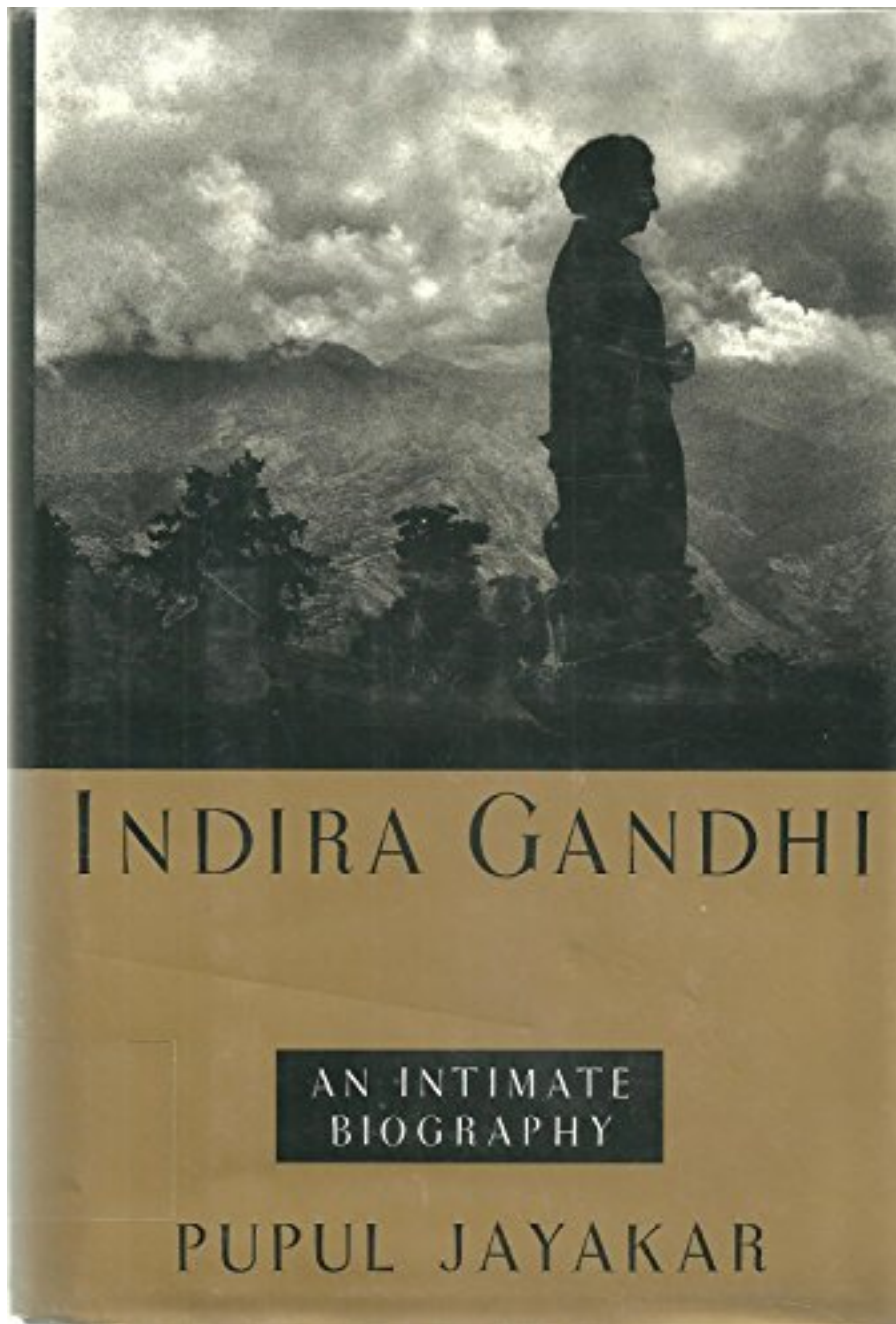


INDIRA GANDHI: AN INTIMATE BIOGRAPHY BY PUPUL JAYAKAR



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From Publishers Weekly

Jayakar, who was Indira Gandhi's friend for 30 years, draws on her notes of meetings and conversations for this empathetic biography of India's prime minister who was assassinated in 1984. Scanting on political analysis, she offers a vivid, unusually insightful look at the emotional and familial factors that transformed a silent, withdrawn girl into an assured, far-seeing leader who was closely attuned to her country if at times obsessive and arrogant. Indulged yet also neglected as a child, Indira Gandhi (1917-1984) was prepared for leadership by her proud, expansive father, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister. Jayakar, biographer of Krishnamurti, is especially revealing on Indira's unhappy marriage to Feroze Gandhi, on her key role in freeing East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) from West Pakistan's bloody rule and on her relationship with her sons Sanjay, killed in a plane crash in 1980, and Rajiv, assassinated in 1991. Photos.

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From Library Journal

Noted Indian intellectual Jayakar knew Gandhi for over 30 years, and his numerous interviews, discussions, and interactions with her help shape this biography. One of the first women to govern a major country, Gandhi belonged to a family that has ruled India for most of its recent history; she herself was the daughter of a prime minister and was succeeded as prime minister by her son after her assassination in 1984. Significantly, Jayakar moves away from the earlier paeans of praise to a more critical assessment of Gandhi's contributions to the Indian polity. The 1975-77 Emergency and subsequent events are not treated with the same depth as the earlier period of Gandhi's career, but this will unquestionably become one of the standard biographies.

- Donald Clay Johnson, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Minneapolis

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for his role in instigating India's struggle for independence. Jayakar's access to Gandhi at crucial turning points in Gandhi's tumultuous life enabled her to recognize and articulate the subtler aspects of Gandhi's complex relationships with her powerful father, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru; her neglected, sickly, and religiously inclined mother; her philandering husband, Feroze Gandhi; and her two sons who, like Gandhi herself, came to violent ends. As Jayakar examines Gandhi's astonishing life, she reveals how adept Gandhi became at internalizing and concealing her fears, wielding meaningful silences as a negotiating tool, and ignoring flattery. This is an almost unbearably dramatic and "doomswept" life story. The personal intersects with the national; spirituality and politics tangle, and the will of one brilliant, resilient, and passionate woman is set against the collective desires of millions. Donna Seaman

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An intimate of Gandhi describes how she grew from the shy daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru to political leader and reveals her thoughts, feelings, prejudices, insights, flaws, strengths, loves, and emotional entanglements.

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Well written

By Pi3142

Maybe slightly biased given that the author and Mrs. Gandhi were close friends. But overall a good read to know the person and the political diaspora in India during the 60s/70s/80s.

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Excellent source on life of Indira Gandhi!

By CSP

She was the first woman prime minister of India, world's largest democracy. The book discusses many inside details about Indira Gandhi's life and her actions that left global impact in world politics. A must read for anyone interested in Indian politics and history of India.

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