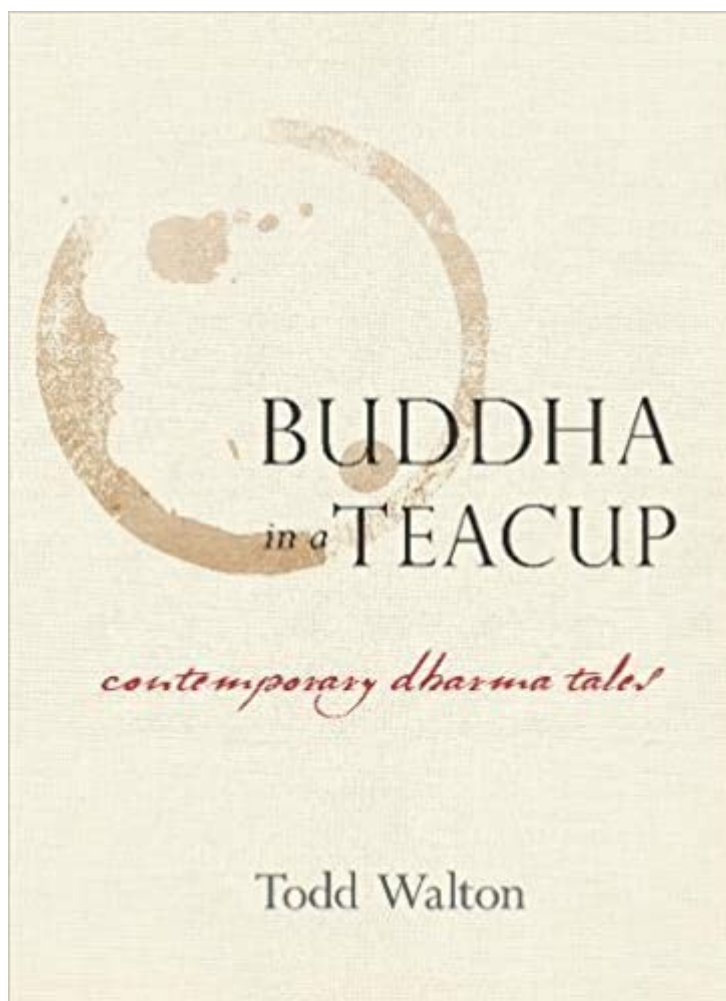


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Buddha In A Teacup: Contemporary Dharma Tales



Synopsis

The forty-two short tales that comprise *Buddha In A Teacup* are set in contemporary America, as opposed to long ago China or India. Each parable springs from the author's meditations on fundamental aspects of Buddhist dharma as those teaching apply to the world today. Some of the tales are humorous, some sad, some erotic, some mysterious—all linked and balanced by themes of mindfulness, compassion, generosity, kindness and love. The reader need not be a Buddhist or know anything about Buddhism to fully appreciate and enjoy these universal tales of the human condition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"I am much taken by the beauty and abundance of these elegant, sharply-etched epiphanies. The Buddha spirit walks through these stories like a grand master passing from board to board in a hall of stalemates, resolving every one." -- William Carpenter, author of *Rain* and *The Hours of Morning*"It is truly wonderful to find stories such as these, with their subtlety, delicacy, and beauty, reminiscent of the best haiku poetry--each one a thought-provoking gem." -- Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, author of *Tribe of Tiger*, *The Animal Wife*, and *The Old Way*"Todd Walton's quietly told tales fill me with joy. How glad I am to share the world with such an amazing spirit and gifted writer!" -- James Norwood Pratt, author of *The New Tea Lover's Treasury* --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

Buddha In A Teacup is a collection of forty-two short stories springing from meditations on Buddhist dharma. Humorous, serious, enigmatic, and poetic, these contemporary tales illuminate the mysteries of life and Buddhist thought by dramatizing turning points in the people's lives. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

Like little snippets of life, Walton's short gems capture the soul of a situation and tell the reader all he or she really needs to know about the characters and the situation. Each two to five page story in Buddha in a Tea Cup is a tiny world unto itself, and each presents characters during a small moment of epiphany. Like sitting in a park, quietly observing the lives that pass you by, reading this book allows one a peek into the human condition as played out in individual daily dramas, and to catch these ordinary people at a time when they look up for a moment, and realize something basic about their lives. With an economy of words, Todd Walton paints these little scenes, without preaching or driving home his point with a hammer. Like a Zen Buddhist meal, these stories leave you satisfied, but not gorged. Meade Fischer

Have read all of Todd Walton's novels. All wonderful reads. BUDDHA IN A TEACUP, comprised of many short stories with a Buddhist bent, is another great read from a talented writer! I am a reader who doesn't usually choose to read short stories but since it is a Walton book, I bought it and was delighted with each story. I'd love to read more about many of these characters. Some of them I recognized from other of his reads which made it even more fun (to think I was 'in' the know somehow). In any case, this would make a great gift for anyone who loves to read....loves real character studies, even in a short story format. Bravo, Mr. Walton. And I would suggest to anyone who reads this that they get hold of (ie: buy) more of his books for many hours of fabulous entertainment!

This book is a wonder. I was lucky enough to listen to it on audio, read by the author himself, and the gentleness of his words into sentences into paragraphs into stories into a book is an amazing, quiet achievement. Here's the highest compliment I can give: I wish I had written this! (Of course, I couldn't have, because Mr. Walton crafts each story as individually and in such a surprising manner as can be the work of only one unique individual. In the mood for some very subtle Buddhist-themed vignettes? Then give yourself the gift of reading Buddha in a Teacup.

These brief tales are realistic in their renderings, but also parables with fanciful premises. The

characters come to life but their stories resonate like poems, and therefore they are best read singly, one a night, before sleep - they fall into the unconscious with a little splash of recognition. Every now and then characters reappear, farther down their roads, and then it's irresistible to go back hunting for their earlier incarnation. In such cases the Aha! experience is not doubled but squared. "Enlightenment" is the effect, but it seems to come from within. These are as far from Zen koans as they are from Poe's detective stories. There is no slap in the face with punchline or revelation. The light that brightens at the end always comes in the form of relenting, as when an impasse dissolves, the expected disappointment fails to materialize, or turns out to be a blessing in disguise. Sometimes the final illumination throws dark shadows, when the moment of grace is refused in advance, and the refuser sees ... too late. Walton is an artist of the possible, not the inevitable. Readers looking for a more commodious imaginary world to inhabit long summer afternoons, might prefer his *Under the Table Books*, a rousing picaresque full of character and event, with a 21st-century edge to it.

The middle path - the path between total indulgence and total denial in order to find peace in life, one of the central themes of Buddhism. "Buddha in a Teacup: Tales of Enlightenment" is a compilation of over forty short stories each focusing on an aspect of the Buddhist dharma, the teachings emphasized by the Buddha. Stories humorous, erotic, mysterious, and sad alike all bound by common themes of mindfulness, love, patience, and other important themes to Buddhists. One doesn't have to be a Buddhist to enjoy "Buddha in a Teacup: Tales of Enlightenment", as it was written in a way to be appreciated by even secular readers. Highly recommended to short story collections and Buddhist studies shelves.

I don't really like short stories for the most part. Most end when I've invested in the characters and want more than the story has delivered. These sketches move past quickly and, like traditional Buddhist stories, are deceptively simple. Then they end at an unexpected moment. The point often has slipped past me until I slow down, reflect on it for a while and use my own life experiences to find what is beneath the surface. The stories have a wonderful way of drawing me in as a partner in finding the meaning of life and love in the depth of simplicity.

I'm a Todd Walton fan, and these stories are soul food. Whoever wrote the 2 star review must not have read this book, because there were no busty babes to be found in these stories. So don't listen to him, and see for yourself!

This is a very cool little collection of stories, all of them with a Buddhist flavor. Each tale is simple, lovely, and thought-provoking. I would definitely recommend it.

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