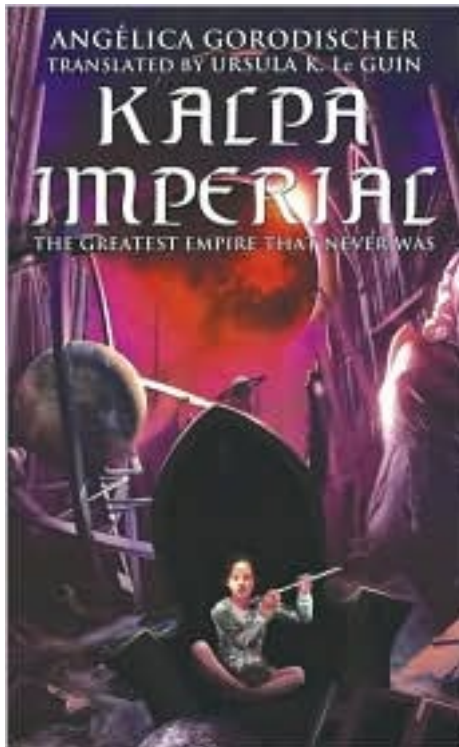

Angélica Gorodischer

Kalpa Imperial: The Greatest Empire That Never Was (Kalpa Imperial #1-2)



Title: Kalpa Imperial: The Greatest Empire That Never Was (Kalpa Imperial #1-2)

Author: Angélica Gorodischer

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Description

In eleven chapters, Kalpa Imperial's multiple storytellers relate the story of a fabled nameless empire which has risen and fallen innumerable times. Fairy tales, oral histories, and political commentaries are all woven tapestry-style into Kalpa Imperial: beggars become emperors, democracies become dictatorships, and history becomes legends and stories. Kalpa Imperial is much more than a simple political allegory or fable. It is also a celebration of the power of storytelling. Gorodischer and Le Guin are a well-matched, sly and delightful team of magician-storytellers. Rarely have author and translator been such an effortless pairing. Kalpa Imperial is a powerful introduction to the writing of Ango?lica Gorodischer, a novel that will enthrall readers already familiar with the worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin.

Insightful reviews

Sondra: Kalpa Imperial is a fascinating and dizzying journey through the vicissitudes of power in an imaginary empire that resembles every prior empire in history and fantasy. Don't waste your time trying to piece together a plot; the interconnected stories are linked thematically, and by a storyteller who constructs history for his listeners from fragments of memory and imagination. This book makes you ask the big questions: Who really wields power, and how, and why? Why remember the past, and what is worth remembering? When you're at the pinnacle of power, or walking through the darkest valley--what really matters? But while your mind is pondering those unanswerables, you will also fall in love with characters like the Ferret Prince, and smile knowingly at the stories' many ironies.

Nikki: If you like Ursula Le Guin's work, it's worth trying Kalpa Imperial, even though Le Guin isn't the author, only the translator. She was obviously the ideal choice of translator for Gorodischer's style; there's no sense of distance from the story, or rather stories, that you often get with translations.

It's a bit of a strange book, a collection of connected stories that don't follow on from each other -- often the only link is in the common setting of the Empire That Never Was. Consequently, there is little character development (though the narrative voices are to some extent characters in themselves), and each story is just a window on a world that doesn't exist, with very little context and very little pausing to explain. If you want to know everything about everything, this will prove more frustrating than anything, I think.

But I think it was well done, anyway, with the mythic tone and the air of half-remembered history. Some of the stories are more fascinating than others, but I enjoyed all of them.

Anna: I loved it. At first I kept trying to tie the stories together better, but if you just accept each one for what it is, they begin to come together on their own. Each a play on govt and human nature and society with a lot unsaid. She trusts her audience to imagine a little.

Sarah: Meh. a part of me is aware that this can be a observation on Empire, and remark on

Stories, and is therefore very important Literature. perhaps i'd have beloved it extra in its unique form, with the 2 books coming a yr apart. however it used to be a slog to finish, and that i would not learn it again, so there it is.

Syco: Seriously, this can be the main underrated paintings within the style of fantasy/speculative fiction, it jogged my memory of Borges (made readable :-P)and if you happen to have not learn this one(its in Spanish yet having Ursula K. Le Guin translate the paintings is an extra), do not name your self a nerd. it is THAT good. please. learn this book. GO. NOW. READ.The End.

Katy: a suite of brief tales by way of Argentinian author Angélica Gorodischer, translated into English by means of Ursula ok LeGuin. The tales are ready within the similar world, written as tales being informed by means of storytellers in regards to the historical past of an enormous and historical empire. it is fantasy-ish in tone, yet there should not many fairly fantastical elements. many of the tales are approximately a number of Emperors and Empresses and their lives, yet my favorite used to be the background of a city, ranging from its founding and overlaying its altering position in the empire (a cease so that it will a port, a spa town, a centre of religion, the capital city) over many generations. I loved this assortment an excellent deal.

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