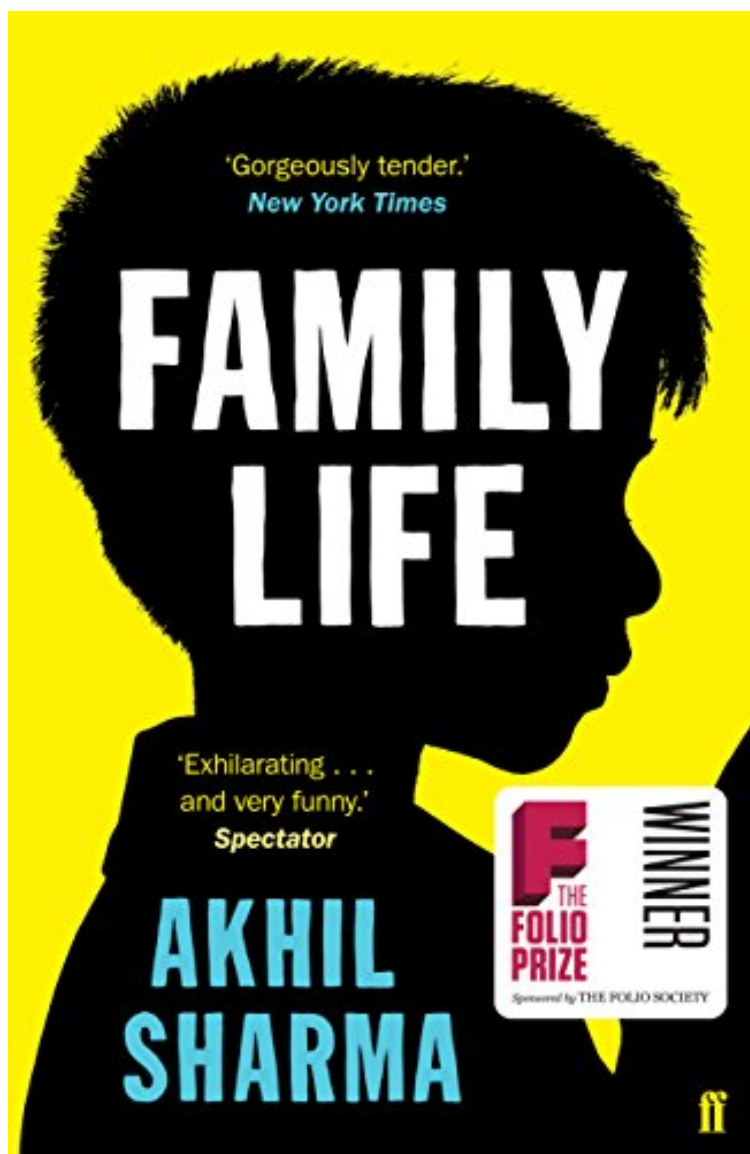


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Family Life (English Edition)



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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurAjay, eight years old, spends his afternoons playing cricket in the streets of Delhi with his brother Birju, four years older. They are about to leave for shiny new life in America. Ajay anticipates, breathlessly, a world of jet-packs and chewing-gum. This promised land of impossible riches and dazzling new technology is also a land that views Ajay with suspicion and hostility; one where he must rely on his big brother to tackle classroom bullies. Birju, confident, popular, is the repository of the family's hopes, and he spends every waking minute studying for the exams that will mean entry to the Bronx High School of Science, and reflected glory for them all. When a terrible accident makes a mockery of that dream, the family splinters. The boys' mother restlessly seeks the help of pundits from the temple, while their father retreats

into silent despair - and the bottle. Now Ajay must find the strength of character to navigate this brave new American world, and the sorrows at home, on his own terms. By turns blackly funny, touching, raw and devastating, *Family Life* is a vivid and wrenching portrait of sibling relationships and the impact of tragedy on one family from a boy's eye view. *Revue de presse* In his outstanding follow up to *An Obedient Father*, Akhil Sharma writes the book on love, duty, family and what it means to become American. Every page is alive and surprising. Proof of his huge, unique talent. (David Sedaris) Deeply unnerving and gorgeously tender at its core. (Sonali Deraniyagala *New York Times Book*) Sharma's plain style, its gaps and fissures and mighty sense of lack, is both proof of the inability of words to render grief and a demonstration that they can do exactly that. *Family Life* breaks all those rules to do with writing fiction: Sharma's simple words tell in order that they might show. (Kirsty Gunn *Guardian*) A huge achievement. (Fiammetta Rocco *The Economist*) To use expressions like 'extraordinarily moving' or 'brilliantly observed' to describe this book is to do it a disservice, because here is a novel that seems to call for its own language of praise. Maybe it's enough to say that Akhil Sharma's *Family Life* is an immigrant story like no other: funny and dark, unrelenting and, above all, true - in the pure way that only the rarest novel can achieve. (Nell Freudenberger) [A] delicate and often moving work of palliative poetics. (Sukhdev Sandhu *The Observer*) *Family Life* will cut your heart to pieces but it will also make you rejoice. The language, the humor, the sophistication, the empathy, the insight - all signal a new kind of literature about families and the bonds with which they hold us tight. Akhil Sharma's place among the best literary novelists of his generation is likewise secure. (Gary Shteyngart) [A] hard-earned and impressive result. (Randy Boyagoda *Financial Times*) *Family Life* is a terse, devastating account of growing up as a brilliant outsider in American culture. It is a nearly perfect novel. (Edmund White) [A] totally candid and unpretentious voice. (*Sunday Times*) -- *Sunday Times* Sharma is a rare master at charting the frailties and failures, the cruelties and rages, the altering moods and contradictions, whims and perversities of a tragic cast of characters. But this most unsentimental writer, with his skull and bones honesty, leaves the reader, finally and surprisingly, moved. (Kiran Desai) --Kiran Desai Worth the wait: a wonderful novel by an excellent writer. (Mohsin Hamid) -- Mohsin Hamid *Présentation de l'auteur* Ajay, eight years old, spends his afternoons playing cricket in the streets of Delhi with his brother Birju, four years older. They are about to leave for shiny new life in America. Ajay anticipates, breathlessly, a world of jet-packs and chewing-gum. This promised land of impossible riches and dazzling new technology is also a land that views Ajay with suspicion and hostility; one where he must rely on his big brother to tackle classroom bullies. Birju, confident, popular, is the repository of the family's hopes, and he spends every waking minute studying for the exams that will mean entry to the Bronx High School of Science, and reflected glory for them all. When a terrible accident makes a mockery of that dream, the family splinters. The boys' mother restlessly seeks the help of pundits from the temple, while their father retreats into silent despair - and the bottle. Now Ajay must find the strength of character to navigate this brave new American world, and the sorrows at home, on his own terms. By turns blackly funny, touching, raw and devastating, *Family Life* is a vivid and wrenching portrait of sibling relationships and the impact of tragedy on one family from a boy's eye view.