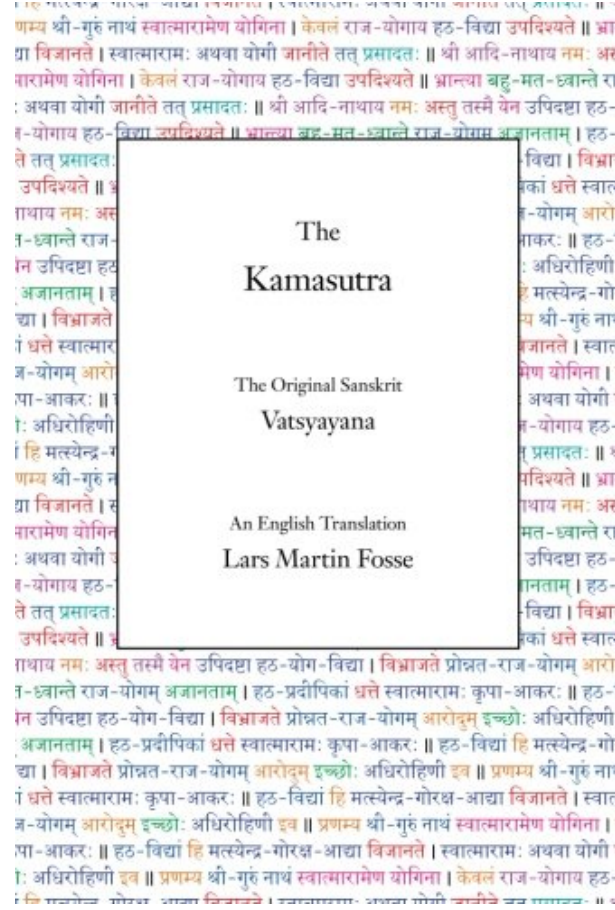


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About the Author

Residing in Oslo, Norway, Lars Martin Fosse holds a master's and doctorate from the University of Oslo, and also studied at the Universities of Heidelberg, Bonn, and Cologne. He has lectured at Oslo University on Sanskrit, Pali, Hinduism, text analysis, and statistics, and was a visiting fellow at Oxford University. He is one of Europe's most experienced translators.

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Summary

The first complete edition of the Kamasutra. It contains a crisp introduction; the original Sanskrit; a new, accurate and readable English translation; fifty full-page illustrations using period clothing, jewelry, and settings; and a thorough index.

Endorsement

“The Kamasutra enjoys a prominent place in the pantheon of pleasure. Too often bowdlerized or bastardized, it has been difficult for English speakers to comprehend the work in all its complexity. This new translation is at once accessible and comprehensive, and should serve as the definitive English version.”

—Leopold Froehlich, Playboy

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About the Author

Residing in Oslo, Norway, Lars Martin Fosse holds a master's and doctorate from the University of Oslo, and also studied at the Universities of Heidelberg, Bonn, and Cologne. He has lectured at Oslo University on Sanskrit, Pali, Hinduism, text analysis, and statistics, and was a visiting fellow at Oxford University. He is one of Europe's most experienced translators.

Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Accessible and universal

By Ms. Jess

One of the first things I noticed about this edition was the inclusion of the original Sanskrit text. The second thing I noticed was that the illustrations matched the clothing and jewellery of the era that the Kamasutra was written. These two details made reading the main text a lot more enjoyable and enriching for me (even though I can't read the original Sanskrit, it makes me feel more "connected" to the original writing from

ancient Indian culture, especially since I've always had an interest in ancient civilisations).

The brief introduction of the book (around a succinct 5 pages) states to the reader very clearly what the book is and isn't:

* * *

"Do not blindly use this book as a how-to manual."

"...it ascribes a deep, positive value to sex: it isn't simply for reproduction--sexual happiness matters, and it's important for one's physical and mental health."

"Perhaps our challenge is to learn what we can without damaging who we are...One could even use this knowledge to find and nurture true love."

* * *

With this clear introduction in place, the reader is then invited to peruse the rest of the book, which covers subjects such as sexual intercourse (ten chapters with seventeen sections--lots of juicy/useful details about ways of biting, unusual sex acts, beginning and conclusion of intercourse, etc.), conduct of a wife, courtesans (a very lovely and exotic section, for me!), and advanced methods (this one covers how to achieve luck in love, etc--albeit set in "the ancient world," still very educational and illuminating).

This book is also published by YogaVidya, which is "dedicated to publishing quality books about Yoga." I like that the company is completely independent of any commercial, governmental, educational or religious institutions, as I trust that this means the product/book is more like to be presented as what it is "in essence" (i.e. uninfluenced by personal and/or some other kind of moral or political agenda).

I am glad to say this was my experience with this textual edition and presentation of The Kamasutra. I'd recommend it to anyone who was interested in what the original text really is all about. The easy reading and nice accompanying illustrations help ensure this ancient (and practical) guide continues to be available to the masses in its original non-gimmicky state, so that we too can continue to explore the psychology and practice of pleasure through sexual behaviour.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

I think that just about anyone would be fascinated by this book

By Alice in Wonderland

The Kamasutra is one of the most famous books around. Everyone has heard of the famous book, but how many have actually read it? Well, if you are interested in reading the Kamasutra, then this is the translation you should pick!

This book at least claims to be the first complete edition of the Kamasutra, and certainly it does seem to have everything. Each section of the book begins with the words in the original Sanskrit, which is followed up by an English-language translation. The book is easy to understand, with none of the sections coming across as obscure or enigmatic. The book also contains fifty quite excellent full-page, pen-and-ink illustrations. These are done in a realistic manner, with the people or place shown depicted realistically for the period.

I really enjoyed this book. The sexual information was quite interesting; it's what made the book famous. But, I also was fascinated by the advice for wives in polygamous relationships. Personally, I think that just

about anyone would be fascinated by this book, which has so much to say about sexuality, and about Indian culture in that era.

(Review of The Kamasutra, translated by Lars Martin Fosse)

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Three Stars

By Linda

It's ok. I bought it out of curiosity. Very interesting to hear and see some of the positions.

See all 3 customer reviews...

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