To attempt to work on a writer like Salman Rushdie and produce a dissertation on his fiction seems to be at once forbidding and challenging. This has been amply demonstrated by the bitterest controversy into which his latest work *The Satanic Verses*, has entered. Nevertheless, a modest attempt on the literary study of his novels has been ventured.

The aim of the present work is to make a study of Rushdie's novels in the light of his social and cultural background. The dissertation is divided into five chapters.

The first chapter gives an introduction to Salman Rushdie placing him in the growth and development of Indian novel in English. The second chapter deals with his first novel *Grimus* which is a fictional fantasy.

The third chapter offers a critical analysis of *Midnight's Children* which records the history of Independent India. The fourth chapter is concerned with Rushdie's third novel *Shame* which deals with the political and social events that occurred in Pakistan. An attempt is made in the last chapter to assess Salman Rushdie as a novelist, pointing out his chief preoccupations.
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