



# Taj Mahal

*By Caroline Arnold, Madeleine Comora*

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Combining history and legend, this book tells the enduring tale of a young prince destined to rule the Mughal empire, the woman he falls in love with, and the ultimate fulfilment of a promise - the wish for a memorable tomb.

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## **Taj Mahal By Caroline Arnold, Madeleine Comora Bibliography**

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- Dimensions: .35" h x 9.52" w x 11.98" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Library Binding
- 32 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

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The sixteenth-century love story behind the Taj Mahal, rather than the monument itself, is the focus of this gorgeous picture book. Cowritten by two seasoned children's-book authors, the heavily fictionalized narrative tells of the passionate first meeting, and ensuing devoted partnership, between Khurram, a Mogul prince, and his bride, Arjumand. Her death in childbirth leads the stricken widower, now emperor, to commission a lavish mausoleum "as perfect . . . as if heaven and earth were joined." Despite the Library of Congress cataloging the book as history, the extended context provided in the book's endnote challenges such cut-and-dried categorization; it turns out that the emperor actually had three wives and that "the love story . . . is based largely on legend." The latter ought to have been stated up front, but little will hinder readers from reveling in the artistic contributions of Bhushan, a Hyderabad native. In the tradition of Mogul miniatures, his ornate, elaborately framed paintings capture the culture of elegant luxury that reached its apogee in the story's celebrated structure. A bibliography "for historical facts in the text" is provided, but there are no specific source notes. Mattson, Jennifer

### **About the Author**

Caroline Arnold always loved books, but as a child she never thought of writing as a career. Born in Pittsburgh, she grew up in Minneapolis and studied art at Grinnell College and the University of Iowa. "It was only after my children were born that I became acquainted with children's books and it occurred to me that I could use my training to become a children's book illustrator. I soon realized that I needed a text to go with the pictures, and the more I wrote, the more I realized that I liked writing as much as or more than drawing. I've always been fascinated by the natural world and love to go to the parks and museums. Perhaps that is why so many of my books are about scientific topics." Arnold is now the award-winning author of more than 100 books for children. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, a neuroscientist, and teaches writing at UCLA Extension.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Janice Perry:**

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