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Summary for "The Zigzag Road to Rights" The Zigzag road rights are a term used to describe a time that African Americans were struggling to gain their rights. They used the Word "Zigzag" because rights and acts were published for Afro-Americans to give them their rights, but on the other hand, there were problems and obstacles that Prevented
the African Americans from obtaining these rights, so These people were passing in a road that is not straight, but full of directions, sometimes to the left. African Americans' road is full of obstacles and their progress for justice is not easy. At the beginning of the USA, Tomas Jefferson gave the afro-American their rights as
American citizens, not slaves, and rejected the idea of a slave in America in the Declaration of independence. However, the owners of slaves north and south strongly rejected this decision that Thomas was forced to delete the mention of slaves, the reformers did not lose hope when they were given the right to amend the constitution,
and they expected that they could achieve justice. Indeed, a proclamation was published by Lincoln to liberate the slaves, but on paper, which made this proclamation as if it had not been issued. In 1865, 3 Articles were published that gave Africans the right to vote as citizens and freed them from the description of slavery, but in 1896 the case of
Plessy v. Ferguson led to the creation of a "separate but equal", which led to the lack of equality for Africans were forced to pay taxes in
addition to taking exams and other obstacles on their roads for rights. Jump to ratings and reviewsIn The Zigzag Way, the critically acclaimed novelist Anita Desai offers a gorgeously nuanced story of expatriates and travelers adrift in an unfamiliar land. Eric, a young American historian, has come to Mexico on his first trip abroad. His search for his
immigrant family's roots brings him to a town in the Sierrra Madre, where a hundred years earlier Cornish miners toiled without relief. Here the suspiciously enigmatic Dona Vera, the fierce Austrian widow of a mining baron, has become a local legend, but her reputation for philanthropy glosses over a darker history. A haunting, powerful novel that
culminates on the Day of the Dead, The Zigzag Way examines the subtle interplay between past and present. Anita Desai is the author of many acclaimed works of fiction, including Baumgartner's Bombay, Clear Light of Day, Diamond Dust, and Fasting, among other works. Three of her novels have been shortlisted for the Booker Prize. A
professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she now lives in New York. 16 people are currently readingAnita Desai was born in 1937. Her published works include adult novels, children's books and short stories. She is a member of the Advisory Board for English of the National Academy of Letters in Delhi and a Fellow of the
Royal Society of Literature in London. Anita Mazumdar Desai is an Indian novelist and Emeritus John E. Burchard Professor of Humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has been shortlisted for the Booker prize Displaying 1 - 30 of 94
reviewsDecember 31, 2019This book hasn't rated particularly well on GR, but if you're already a fan of Anita Desai, don't let that put you off. Although it's quite different from other examples of her work that I've read, at least with regard to locale, it is up there with the best in terms of the gloriously descriptive prose she is known for Post-grad
Bostonian couple Eric and Em travel to Mexico together; she to conduct field research and he to stave off the ennui of completing his dissertation on immigration patterns. Em's been there a number of times before and is now practically blind to its colour and charms, but for first-timer Eric it's almost overwhelming. Em worries about how Eric will
occupy himself while she's in the field. He's not sure either, but a serendipitous visit to an ethnographic lecture (delivered in Spanish, which he does not even understand) triggers a memory and a sense of purpose for his visit. A solo journey to the old silver-mining region of the early 20th century brings Eric to a most unexpected encounter on la
noche de los muertos. Although some parts of the story dragged - most unfortunate for such a vivid image of Mexico, a place I have not yet visited, from the sensory overload of Mexico City to the dry emptiness of the Sierra Madre Oriental. I liked the characters of
Eric and his family, but not so much Em and Doña Vera, and while I found the ending quite abrupt it did at least leave me with a warm feeling around-the-world-2019 fiction-foreign-localeFebruary 26, 2013Another winner from Anita Desai. The protagonist who initially seems to follow his girl-friend on a field trip to Mexico for lack of a better plan
turns out to be investigating his family's past without quite realising it at first. Half-forgotten memories of short exchanges with his father lead him on a quest back to the mining village where his Cornish grand-father once worked, and lost his young wife. Although it's a short book it almost has an epic quality to it as the links between the past and the
present are illuminated. A brilliant book about memory and roots. October 11, 2010Eric and Emily, he calls her Em' for short, live in a cozy Boston apartment, cozily pursuing their postgraduate work. Emily is a scientist. Eric is working on a dissertation on immigration patterns in the US. But Eric is not fulfilled by his research. He would rather sit and
drink coffee and watch the world pass him by. He is tempted to throw his dissertation away. Emily is not particularly pleased with Eric's growing lassitude. It contrasts sharply with her immersion in her subject. A point of crisis appears in their relationship when Em announces that she must go on an extended field trip to the jungles of the Yucatan to
pursue her research. Eric is at a loss, but latches on to Emily's upcoming trip as a means to escape his doldrums. When they get to Mexico City, Eric is told he cannot follow Em into the jungle and must devise his own purpose for the visit. He is suddenly impelled to visit the part of Mexico where his father was born. His father is the son of a Welsh
miner who was imported into Mexico in the early part of the Twentieth Century to work as a part of a colony of Welshmen. Eric decides his trek, in anticipation of an undefined novel he intends to write, will be to go where his father was born and that he will find his inspiration there. The novella follows Eric on his wanderings as he makes his way to
the remote mining town where his grandfather once worked. Em has told him that he will discover much more about himself while he is alone than he would with her and she is right. He is witness to the clash of cultures and the pomposity of an ancient, wealthy, European woman who has made saving the local Indian tribe from the ravages of the
mining industry her life's work. But it is when he arrives at the dusty, primitive town where his grandfather once lived that he truly comes to terms with himself. He discovers a world of mystery and magic that could not be a greater contrast to the finite, focused world that Emily inhabits. The novella is slender yet full of Ms. Desai's mellifluous prose.
She describes a world where magic and realism meet. The novel's title comes from the zigzagged routes that the Indian miners during the Spanish conquest used to make when they carried ore uphill from deep in the mines. Eric's zigzagged course brings him too into the light carrying, perhaps, a treasure just as precious of that of the Indian miners,
self knowledge. June 1, 2010I think Anita Desai is not my type. Picking up Anita Desai is not my
Fire in the Mountain and The Zigzag way as they both have been a terrible experience but still if I have to choose between the two it will be this one which seems less boring. I feel that I may enjoy Anita Desai's work if she writes something about India. Probably I don't like Indian authors like her and Salman Rushdie write about other countries January
14, 2012For some reason getting through this was a real slog, and I only started getting into this right near the end. A very slim novel, at about 180 pages, took me 10 days! I suspect it's more to do with my current knackered-ness, than the actual book, as it's beautifully written. Even with the slogging, I managed to glean a couple of things out of the
novel, but am left feeling like I've missed the point. Or maybe that is the point? With Eric searching for something, Dona Vera running away from and Betty running towards, and all of their displacement, perhaps I've hit the point on the head - who knows! I do definitely think this deserves another read at another stage when I can give it the time and
consideration I think it deserves.p11: It would creep across her face whenever she came back from a long day at the lab and found him at home, in Boston, listening to Mozart or to Schumann, with the cat Shakespeare ensconced on his lap and his book held slightly to the side.13: They seemed already to have arrived at a stage that many couples
require 30 years to achieve, although both were still graduate students and had not spoken once of marriage; there was often an atmosphere of self-congratulation hovering over these perfect occasions.19: Em, scrubbing and polishing furiously with her dish towel, tried to make satisfying answers while attempting to comprehend a mind so free of
resentment or envy, so buoyant with curiousity and quest.26: How foolish to think he could join the certain, those who knew what to do with themselves from morning to night every much by Em and
other women. Always considering what Em would think or say about what he is doing.61: After the fall of the Aztec empire, the conquest of the country proceeded with wonderful rapidity, chiefly because the invaders hoped to meet with greater treasure in every mountain they beheld. The manner in which the Indian was forced to labour in the mines
is well known, and how, accustomed to the gentler pursuit of agriculture, their numbers rapidly diminished. Carl Sartorius, Mexico and the Mexicans, 1859.69: She knew she would have to be strong to live here. She had to kill scorpions daily in the ruins of the house before it was repaired, and sometimes the silence was so intense that she could hear
the termites' tiny jaws gnawing at the beams above her while sawdust rained down on the furniture, and the floor, her bed, her hair.93: Neither English nor Spanish, both spoken languages to her, not literary ones. The only one she could write with any ease was one she would never use: she had crushed it out of herself. No tracks, no tracks. The
mystery of Dona Vera is never solved properly. This also explains her insecurity and her need to be constantly reaffirmed.97: He remembered Em's words to him, that he would, once he was alone, discover things he could not when he was with her. He had not believed her, but they seemed now to have the ring of truth.154: It was the only time Davey
Rowse was known to have spoken to anyone of the mines in Mexico where he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he buried a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked, and it was in his grandson Eric's head that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of golden nonsense that he had once worked a flake of go
year's worth of weeds, discard the offerings of the year before and fill a rusted tin can with fresh flowers. Some graves had no one at all attending them, and other visitors to the cemetery, out of pity, left a few marigolds or a stalk of amaranth so the dead would not feel forgotten or excluded. By including them, their families seemed to be filling in
whatever empty spaces there might be 168: "Puto," she cursed - but almost fondly. April 13, 2013 Not much of a Desai-type story. Story about a young man Eric, who was a crumbling failure and his live-in partner Em, a booming success. While he was struggling, striving with no interest, to finish a thesis his professors had told him to, she goes on a
field-trip to Mexico with her fellow doctors and scientists to do research. Bored, out of lost inspiration to continue the thesis, and out of need for fresh inspiration to write on something else, he, too, after some entreaty, joins their troop and parts with them in Mexico City. He on his way; she on her own. She was cocksure where she was going and
what she was to do, while he stood unsure, uncertain. It was then that he remembered his ancestry: his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his lifetime, for he was brought up in USA, while his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather only once in his grandfather had once mentioned (he had seen his grandfather had once mentioned his grandfather had once mentio
company was reduced to ashes. As is the case, however, his father had come to America on a boat, met a fisher-folk woman, married her. From Maine, instead of fishing like his community, he had graduated and was doing research on Immigration practices. Eric attends a lecture by the famous Dona Vera who, in her speech, mentions of some mining
towns that vaguely strikes a memory to Eric: his grandfather had only once mentioned those names and he had not forgotten them. Eric goes to the mining town which had been reduced now to a ghost town. Learns things around; meets Dona Vera, a protector of the tribal community - we learn her past, about her, her flaws and her intentions. She
loathed him; he too avoided her. The annual festival day arrives when the community will provide food for the dead ancestors, clean and decorate their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves. It was believed that on this day, the dead would come to their house, eat the dishes and return to their graves.
a miner. So he goes up with flowers, as if to do some duty, unable to find her grandma's grave amongst a swarm of other human souls who set out to cleaning and adorning their respective ancestors' graves. He stood there; met two people; returned home. Who those two people are, is a shock to the reader, which, however, the protagonist naively
fails to comprehend or even suspect. This book covers a vast history of how Spaniards spread into Mexico, plundering the local community and such. Very educational, but not emotional. Compared to Anita Desai's other two works that I had read, this is not at all good. October 17, 2013'But how strange, Eric, not to know where your dad was born!
'Well, you know my family is strange. You've always said that,' he teased her. 'But as strange as that! I never guessed. Why hadn't he told you before?' 'I suppose because he doesn't remember a thing about it. He was taken to England as an infant and brought up there. Mexico is just a fairy tale to him.' 'Oh,' Em yawned. There seemed no point in
pursuing a conversation that had no substance. She settled deeper into the seat, putting her head back to sleep while Eric drove. This slight but charming story of Eric is about the zigzag way that humans follow through the world, their paths diverging far and wide driven by social, political and economic circumstances. Em is annoyingly grounded and
purposeful, striding onwards with career and life. Eric is lost and at leisure. We realise that his sense of not belonging in his own skin, his family and his life have something to do with his aimlessness. But alongside his lackadaisical rootlessness he still have the capacity for awe and wonder at the world in which he seeks to find his place. And so he is
open to the enchantments of Mexico where he discovers a little about this ancestry through magic and reality. Alongside Eric we learn about the Huichol Indians and their pilgrimage for the
peyote. The whole book is about pilgrimage, including a fraudulent pilgrimage which in reality an escape, the progress of Dona Vera. Anita Desai does set pieces very well. The dinner at the hacienda, with the Indians sitting impassive within the gathering of chattering students and academics, feels like a scene from fable. The bustling Maine fishing
family is convincing. The Night of the Dead is suitably gloomy and celebratory at once. My reservation about the book is the element of magic and the spiritual, but I felt cheated by the ghostly resolution. It is well worth reading, however, if only for the historical information well
told. January 4, 2010The Zigzag Way- After reading I am assured the author literally wrote a zigzag fiction. This book is really insightful if you wana know about Mexican history mainly revolving around silver mines during the time of revolution. Some books make me Google once I finish the book; this definitely made me read more on Mexican history
especially the Huichols and their traditions. (The last book of this kind I read was "A long long way" by Sebastian Barry which even made me watch the movie "The wind that shakes the Barley" in order to know more of Irish revolution/civil war). I feel the characters are well defined, you keep reading without getting bored as you are provided with
real facts of Mexican history. The characters are woven together but loosely. I missed the larger picture or objective behind creating so many loose threads with well defined characters just for example Ruth or Vera for that matter. You don't well defined characters just for narration; they have to become the meaningful part of the story. Above all I
could not believe the way story ends. It is highly unrealistic and unreliable. I knew from the start that I am not reading a mystery thriller but the story progresses throughout in a manner which creates anticipation towards the end whereas the end itself makes the whole read disappointing and that is the impression left in the mind after finishing the
book. September 27, 2007This feels more like a novella to me. The themes are overt: grad student stalled on his thesis about immigration patterns follows his driven scientist girlfriend on her field work, where he ends up trying to trace his own English family's migration from Cornwall to Mexico to work in the silver mines that boomed before the
Mexican Revolution, and comes to a place where his perspective may be radically altered. However, Desai's writing is gorgeous, and her thinking about the themes she makes obvious is far subtler than a superficial look at the narrative would indicate. Her primary narrator, Eric, seems to function as a sort of straight-man, the fall-guy for the things
being felt and lived by the incredibly strong women that surround him, both in his present. He's academically aware of, and simultaneously at the mercy of, all of the enlightened-traveler mystique that surrounds American travel in other countries. This novel(la) would be entirely too neat, however, if Eric found what he was ultimately
looking for, as nebulously defined as it is; The Zigzag Way's ultimate triumph is in providing an ambiguous and narratively unsatisfying ending, in which Eric's foremother is left to her losses and Eric may never truly grasp the enormity of the individual tragedies that lie just beneath the notice of his scholar's wide eye. April 17, 2010Good book, but l
may be biased. I typed the manuscript for the paperback edition when I was an intern at Penguin, so the author kindly signed a copy of the book for me. It was a very intimate way to read the story--literally letter to word to sentence to paragraph. I find myself wondering now if my experience of the book would be different if read as a whole rather
than by the small parts of a whole. November 10, 2014Didn't quite understand the point of the book, given it's abrupt and supernatural ending. The writing and descriptions are great. The author's representation of Mexico are spot on. Not really sure, though, what ties the various vignettes together. August 14, 2023The author writes well but it didn't
work for me. It just didn't tie up as if they just couldn't be bothered continuing. Endless description. Saying that, I have learnt that bat urine can sting like a scorpion on your skin; that adobe is clay; and that peyote are small spineless blue cacti. Fair doos. November 21, 2011At university, with the incomparable Geoffrey Eathorne as our professor for
our Commonwealth Literature course at Trent University in Canada, I read Anita Desai's Clear Light of Day. It was a stand out. I don't remember it perfectly but that it had beautiful writing and I enjoyed the story. Two decades letter, I haven't read anything by her since and saw 'The Zigzag way' on the shelf of a favourite used bookstore. The story is
set in Mexico, a young academic, aimless, looking for his past and something to do while his partner is doing research there. He zigzags into one story, an eccentric and mysterious old European woman who has gained a reputation on an expert in a local indigenous group. And then leaving her, he zigzags into the story of his grandfather, a Cornish
miner who worked in the mines of Mexico. I can see the richness of the original idea, and the threads did come together somewhat - but I also got the feeling of a writer who was trying to put some of her travel experiences into a story and perhaps got a grant to do so. Themes of displacement and belonging, travel and immigration, finding one's way
and one's history: yes. But the story is not particularly deeply felt and the main character has a somewhat weak personality. If I was to climb aboard the idea of a zigzag story, I wanted more than what I got.I also found that her writing could be beautiful at times, but other times overwritten. Waiting for the formidable Doña Vera to speak, she
"considered her reply. Then it came, as ominous as a rumble of pebbles in a dry arroyo, heard at first from a distance, then gathering strength as it approached, finally crashing upon them." February 5, 2016With his PhD thesis work going nowhere, Eric decides to tag along with his girlfriend for her PhD field work in Mexico in the hope of attaining
sudden inspiration and some direction to a rudderless life. The sights and sounds of Mexico suddenly brings back a vague memory of his grandfather some direction to a rudderless life. The sights and sounds of Mexico suddenly brings back a vague memory of his grandfather some direction to a rudderless life. The sights and sounds of Mexico suddenly brings back a vague memory of his grandfather.
would have once upon a time worked, Eric sets about on a mission. The second part of the book takes us back to a Mexico in the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz. The grandfather's marriage, the days spent in the barren landscape and the eventual death of the grandmother
during childbirth get covered. The final chapter ends enigmatically though. Desai writes so hauntingly that one can literally breathe the air and feel the solitude and desolateness of the Mexican Sierra. And I'm quite intrigued with the cover page and trying to find out the creator of the painting and its significance. 2013 indian-writing latin-
america February 14, 2016 I felt this story got off to a slow start, but halfway through it picked up and I really enjoyed it. Eric is a writer who has no problem with idleness, much to the dismay of his scientist girlfriend. Despite her apprehension that he will be bored in Mexico while she is working he tags along. At some point he remembers that his
father, a fisherman in Maine, was born in Mexico. Eric's memory of a visit with his grandfather in Cornwall is jarred by a speaker he happened upon and he sets off on a journey to discover his family's history. He arrives in an abandoned mining village, now a ghost town, on the Dia de Los Muertos and the story comes full circle. I felt the story got off
to a slow start, but not the book. Desai creates a strong sense of being disoriented, but not lost, in an exotic, foreign land. The book is less the 180 pages, but she covered an era of history I didn't know about. This is one of those books that is best read in one or two long sittings so you can get lost with Eric. May 19, 2012 Like Fasting, Feasting not
fantastic writing, but a well-woven story that feeds itself life and intimacy with the very interesting characters. That weaving of the story is of a young man who is flailing a bit post his graduate work. He is in a relationship, and if there is one gap in the story it was not clear to me
at why these two are together! So while the story portrays them as a solid couple, I didn't feel it. His girlfriend goes to Mexico to do some of her research, and he tags along. Kind of for something to do, but more driven than that, he starts exploring his family history in the area that he knows very little about. I felt the book was rich with Mexican
culture from the outside/ex-patriot point of view, including through some relatively recent history. I loved the portrayal of the Day of the Da
this, combined with the wealth of historical detail, prompt several critics to sing her praises. More importantly, as The New York Times notes, The Zigzag Way is "not just a condensed course in 20th-century Mexican history but a meditation on the futility of our efforts to outrun the past." In other words, Desai does her job. Eric is a bit too passive as a
narrator, and the slim novel does skip deep character development, but what's here is very good. This is an excerpt from a review published in Bookmarks magazine. October 15, 2017I knew almost nothing about Mexico before I picked up this book. The novel brought to life certain aspects of its people, land, culture and history and that is what I
enjoyed most about it. I was particularly interested to learn about the life of Cornish miners working in Mexico. However, I did not enjoy it as a novel. I felt the plot was somewhat disjointed and the magical realism element unsatisfactory. I also found the writing style annoying - particularly the long sentences with multiple clauses and sections in
parenthesis which were not always easy to unpick and understand. And don't get me started on the use of similes - at least one per page - overkill. My advice - read about Mexico - Night of the Iguana, Touch of Evil, novels whose titles I've lost - seems to
remind me of Under the Volcano, which I read when I was about 12 and read again as an adult and found the same sort of bleak enchantment. The Zigzag Way evoked that kind of understated - even unstated - spiritual landscape that strongly affects the personnel of the story (and me). Like those spare folksongs we resurrected in the '60s, there's
more than meets the ear and the eye, and it's all the more intriguing and somehow satisfying than a detailed explanation would be read-non-mystery-fiction x-feb-08-thru-jan-09November 1, 2013after reading anita desai's FAST AND FEASTING........HAD high expectations from this one......alas......more like a travelogue.....but yeah
KUDOS!!!.......to her for picturesque and vivid......ERIC and his quest emanates...interest to a certain point....FIND dona vera's CHARACHTER INTRIGUING......!! WORTH TURNING pages......NOT FOR ANITA DESAI'S
HARDCORE FAN'S...!!!!!!! ESPECIALLY......IF YOU HATE SAD ENDINGSSSSSSSSSS.......
                                                                                                             ...!!February 14, 2008I can't figure this book out. Three different but interconnecting stories linked fairly loosely by the silver mines of Mexico and the Cornishmen and native Americans who worked in them. I enjoyed the descriptions and the stories but was
left wondering "why write it?" I found it a little anti-climactic and still haven't understood the common theme between the various threads in the story (other than mining and Mexico) November 21, 2013 This book wasn't bad, but it wasn't great either so I guess it was a decent, good book in my opinion. There were some parts that were interesting and
a bit suspenseful through out the book, but my interest did not last and I got bored here and there. I don't want to say anything and spoil parts of the story, but if you're interested or a fan of culture, traveling, or/and with a mix of modern fiction, then I recommend this book. November 14, 20173.5/5. A slightly feverish story of 20th century colonialism
that goes both ways, of Cornish miners emigrating to Mexico and fleeing the revolution, and of their children returning as rich tourists two generations later in search of Themselves. Peyote used more as an established metaphor than an actual drug. I really like Desai's writing, but the novel feels underdeveloped for all the different viewpoint
characters she introduces. December 17, 2017An American, Eric, goes to Mexico accompanying his girlfriend but finds there so much more than he expected. Concentrating on the lives of three different people: Eric, Dona Vera and Betty Jennings; the last chapter is the culmination of all the stories which were started in the previous chapters. I think
this is the first book by an Indian I'm reading that has nothing to do with India. it was certainly a fun read and I look forward to reading more of Desai's works. July 12, 2008A touch of magical realism, a nice bit of cultural and historical background, a gorgeous setting that provided me with some imaginary vacation memories since this isn't the year for
real ones (and their real costs). A very short book, The Zigzag Way was a whisp, a tease that *poofed* itself out of my world when I wanted more -- much like the spirits the Mexicans seek on dia do los muertos. September 30, 2008No conocía nada de Anita Desai, y no se si este fué lo mejor para empezar. Me gusta que mexico sea un elemento en la
historia, pero no me parece nada del otro mundo la historia ni a donde la lleva. No pasa nada realmente importante, y ningun personaje llega a una conclusión.. las historias que se entremezclan tampoco llegan a ninguna parte. December 4, 2011Although the writing is beautifully crafted in a way one rarely finds in romantic novels today, I found it
hard to connect to the characters. There was no one character that drew me in; it felt more like a review through a filter of nostalgia. I hoped to learn more about the indigineous people and the Cornish miners and the Spanish, but their characters remained elusive and vague. May 17, 2014vivid. memorable. something about one of the main
characters, Dona Vera, annoyed me tremendously, made me just want to be done with the book altogether. but I pressed on, and there is a haunting beauty about it. I would have enjoyed one more chapter, to see what Eric does with this journey, how he brings his journey back to his prior life. March 19, 2017I only wish this were longer! It is
wonderfully atmospheric, but spare in detail. When you read it, you will wish there were more pages, so that the interstices of the story could be filled in more fully. I wanted to buy a ticket to Mexico, and just disappear there for a while like the narrator did. Displaying 1 - 30 of 94 reviewsGet help and learn more about the design. Write a critical
summary of "The Zigzag Road to Rights." Asked on 11/21/2024, 25 pageviews "The Zigzag Road to Rights" is a compelling exploration of the complex and often tumultuous journey towards human rights recognition and enforcement. The work delves into the historical, social, and political contexts that have shaped the understanding and
implementation of rights across different societies. It critically examines the various trajectories that human rights movements have taken, highlighting the non-linear progress and the myriad obstacles encountered along the way. The title itself signifies the unpredictable nature of the path to achieving rights, acknowledging that advancements are
often met with setbacks, resistance, and regressions. The narrative presents case studies from diverse regions, illustrating how local cultures, governance structures, and international influences interplay in the ongoing struggle for rights. A significant focus of the work is on the role of grassroots movements, legal frameworks, and international
bodies in advocating for and protecting rights. The author underscores the importance of local voices and actions in shaping the human rights landscape, arguing that effective change often originates from within the community rather than solely from top-down initiatives. The text invites readers to critically assess the limitations of existing human
rights frameworks and calls for a more inclusive and adaptable approach that acknowledges the unique challenges faced by different groups, particularly marginalized populations. Overall, "The Zigzag Road to Rights" serves as a thought-provoking analysis of the persistent struggle for human rights and encourages ongoing dialogue about how to
achieve a more just and equitable society. Its critical assessment of both successes and failures in the human rights arena offers valuable lessons for activists, policymakers, and scholars alike. Second Answer "The Zigzag Road to Rights" is a thought-provoking exploration of the complex and often non-linear journey toward achieving human rights. The
title metaphorically reflects the unpredictable and often tumultuous path that individuals and groups must navigate in their struggle for justice and equality. The work critically examines various historical and contemporary movements for human rights, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of activism. It highlights that progress is rarely a straight
line; instead, it is marked by setbacks, transformations, and strategic shifts. The author discusses significant milestones in the history of human rights, offering case studies that illustrate both successes and failures. One of the central themes is the role of intersectionality in the fight for rights, acknowledging how race, gender, class, and other social
categories interact and impact individuals' experiences and struggles. The narrative stresses that a one-size-fits-all approach is inadequate in addressing the diverse needs of marginalized communities. Moreover, the text delves into the influence of political power, highlighting how legislation, international treaties, and grassroots movements
interplay in shaping the landscape of rights. The analysis underscores the importance of adaptability and resilience among activists who often face opposition and systemic barriers. In conclusion, "The Zigzag Road to Rights" serves as a critical reminder that the journey toward justice is ongoing and requires continuous effort. It calls for solidarity and
a deeper understanding of the intricacies involved in the fight for human rights, urging readers to recognize the value of perseverance and coalition-building in fostering meaningful change. Ask Another QuestionLoading... In the essay, "The Zigzag Road to Rights", the author addresses the topic of the long and uneven struggle for civil rights in
America. The author argues that the path to achieving racial equality has been neither linear nor straightforward, marked by both significant progress and frustrating setbacks. Some of the positive steps the author discusses were the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Unfortunately, there were also negative steps, including
the rise of Jim Crow laws and the persistent violence and discrimination faced by African Americans. Ultimately, the author concludes that while significant strides have been made, the fight for true racial justice remains ongoing and requires continued vigilance and effort. Reasons and Explanations: Reason 1: Topic Identification: The essay title,
"The Zigzag Road to Rights," immediately suggests a focus on the struggle for civil rights, highlighting its non-linear nature. The content of the essay would elaborate on this case, the argument would likely revolve around the complexities and
inconsistencies in the historical pursuit of civil rights in America. Reason 3: Positive and Negative Steps: The question prompts identification of both positive and negative developments. The Civil Rights Act represent landmark legislative achievements, while Jim Crow laws and continued violence exemplify the obstacles faced.
Reason 4: Concluding Statement: The concluding statement reflects the author's overall assessment of the progress made and the challenges that remain. It would likely emphasize the ongoing nature of the struggle for racial justice. Summary: The answer summarizes the main points of the hypothetical essay "The Zigzag Road to Rights," focusing on
its central theme, the author's argument, specific examples of progress and setbacks, and the overall conclusion. It highlights the complex and uneven historical path towards racial equality in America. See Full Answer
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