



# Perfect Hostage: A Life of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Prisoner of Conscience

By Justin Wintle



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Burma is a country where, as one senior UN official puts it, "just to turn your head can mean imprisonment or death." Aung San Suu Kyi is considered to be Burma's best hope for freedom, and, because of her unwavering commitment to nonviolent resistance to the country's brutal military junta, she has been under house arrest since 1989. Elected Prime Minister, she was prevented from taking office, but despite failing health, vilification at the hands of the Burmese media, and actual imprisonment in one of the world's most appalling jails, Suu Kyi has persevered in a campaign of nonviolent protest as unflagging as those of Gandhi, King, and Mandela, which earned her the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. In *Perfect Hostage*, the most thorough biography of Suu Kyi to date, Justin Wintle tells both the story of the Burmese people and the story of an ordinary person who became a hero.

*"She's my hero."*—Bono

*"In physical stature she is petite and elegant, but in moral stature she is a giant."*—Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

*"It is time for all respectable members of the international community to put weight behind their words and take active measures to secure the freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi and the Burmese people."*—Senator John McCain

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

*Starred Review.* Nobel Peace laureate Suu Kyi seems both the least likely and the most natural person to become the world's best-known prisoner of conscience, and Wintle's thoroughly engrossing book magnificently illustrates both sides of this elusive yet very public figure. Her education at Oxford and self-effacing demeanor did not prime her for the life of a dissident. Behind her reserve and English veneer, however, was a resolutely stubborn streak and a family life steeped in politics. Wintle's research has been prodigious; he brings encyclopedic knowledge of just about anything that can be linked to Suu Kyi. In rendering his subject, he weaves in Burmese history and folklore, Buddhism, Indian politics and portraits of Suu Kyi's intimates and enemies; that he delivers all this in an absorbing fashion is a marvel. Entertaining and instructive, charming and persuasive, Wintle mingles sober history and gossipy chat. Obscure political in-fighting is made comprehensible; unfamiliar colonial history is made accessible. Still, Wintle (*Romancing Vietnam; Furious Interiors*) can skewer in a sentence (About Sanjay [Gandhi] there was something palpably uncouth, while the vainglorious Rajiv [Gandhi] was lacking in intelligence). Suu Kyi's developing political activism, her house arrests, her honors are delineated in draftsman's detail that Wintle manages to keep vibrant. He is a biographer smitten with his subject, who cares enough to note the smallest detail, such as that Suu Kyi prefers Simenon's Maigret to Christie's Poirot. In making the reader care about the smallest things, Wintle makes the reader really care about the big thing—that the world's best-known prisoner of conscience is not free. (Apr.)

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From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Burma's nightmare of tyranny and genocidal violence grinds on, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi remains under house arrest. In the first full-throttle biography to chronicle Suu Kyi's exemplary life in the context of totalitarian Burma's bloody history, British writer Wintle delineates the legacy of her martyred father, General Aung San, who launched Burma's first democratic movement and was promptly assassinated, and of Suu Kyi's accomplished mother, who served as ambassador to India. His portrait of Suu Kyi reveals just how much this cosmopolitan book lover stood to lose when, after attending Oxford, marrying British Tibetologist Michael Aris, and having two sons, she returned to Burma in 1988 and committed herself to leading the nonviolent fight for democracy. Wintle writes with a snarling wit, firm grasp of Burma's horrors, and penetrating respect for this tenacious and composed prisoner of conscience, detailing her genius for connecting with people, the threats against her life, and her devotion to peace. Suu Kyi holds fast to her convictions in cruel isolation, while her supporters are brutalized and the world goes on about its business. At least Wintle's powerful portrait brings the inspirational Suu Kyi back into the light. -- Donna Seaman

Review

“An admiring biography of one of the most attractive personalities of our time.” ([object Object])

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Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their own reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this Perfect Hostage: A Life of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Prisoner of Conscience.

**Charles McCreery:**

The publication with title Perfect Hostage: A Life of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's Prisoner of Conscience has a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This particular book exist new know-how the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you in new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

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