The Ramayana: A New Retelling Of Valmiki's Ancient Epic--Complete And Comprehensive (Tarcher Cornerstone Editions)
Synopsis
A delightfully straightforward and lyrical retelling of the ancient Indian epic of loyalty, betrayal, redemption, and insight into the true nature of life -- one of history's most sacred ethical works, rendered with completeness and sterling accuracy for the modern reader. Here is one of the world's most hallowed works of sacred literature, the grand, sweeping epic of the divine bowman and warrior Rama and his struggles with evil, power, duplicity, and avarice. The Ramayana is one of the foundations of world literature and one of humanity's most ancient and treasured ethical and spiritual works. Includes an introduction by scholar Michael Sternfeld.

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Customer Reviews
For people in the West, The Ramayana is likely be an unknown--some mysterious story from a far-away land. Nevertheless, it is the basis of all our stories. Often it's in an ancient language, in a foreign style. However, it has so much to say about our daily lives. Egenes brings the compelling events into focus in a way that so much more related to our culture now. Thus, we benefit from it as much as those in the last thousands and thousands of years.

I just finished reading this new version of the Ramayana and I absolutely loved it! I don't have much familiarity with other retellings to compare, but my impression is that the authors did a marvelous job in every way, particularly making it supremely readable to a westerner while staying close to the spirit and purity of its message. From the moment I started Michael Sternfeld's
superb Introduction, which conveys an impressive amount of knowledge succinctly and with crystal clarity in its few pages, I was hooked, and literally had trouble putting it down. Congratulations to the authors (and their team—"I don't recall noticing even one typo!") for doing a job worthy of the subject matter.

This book reads like a novel, but contains the lyrical quality of much longer translations of the Ramayana. The Introduction tells about the universal story of the Ramayana, which is actually the story of our own physiology as well as the story of all nature's functioning. It's worth reading and worth asking your local library to buy for others to read as well!

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