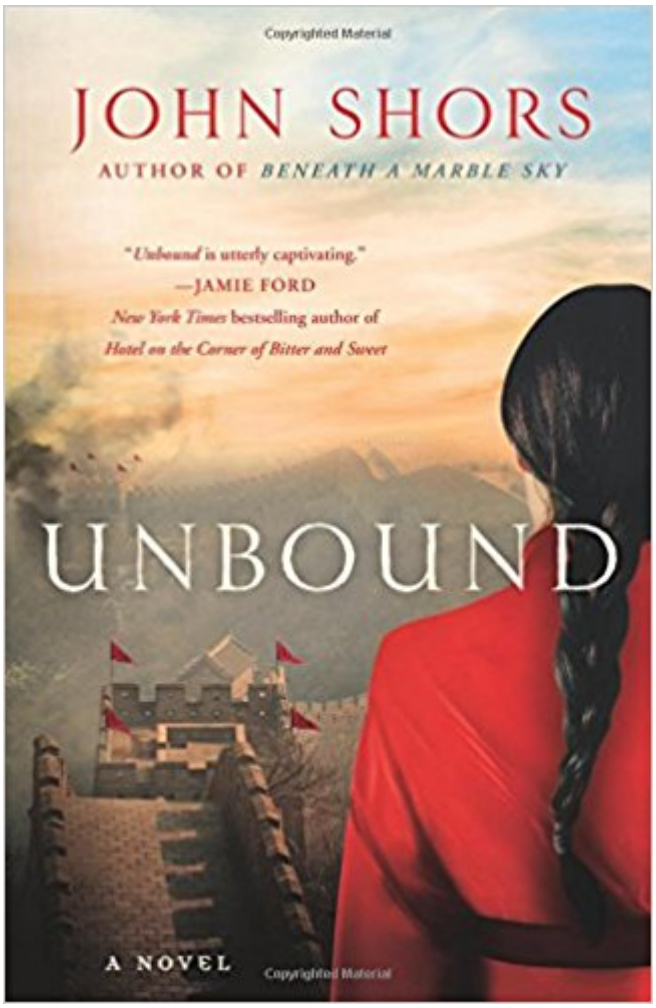
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Unbound



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Synopsis

John Shors reimagined one of the world's greatest love stories--the romance that inspired the Taj Mahal--in his critically acclaimed, international bestseller Beneath a Marble Sky. Now, with Unbound, Shors recreates an ancient and celebrated Chinese legend about a pair of young lovers separated by war and the Great Wall.Ã Â The year is 1548, and the Chinese Empire faces an imminent Mongol invasion. All that prevents the violent end of a dynasty is the Great Wall. Yet even this famed fortification has weaknesses, and against his will, a talented Chinese craftsman is taken from his home and wife, so that he may labor alongside the wall's defenders. Fan has been missing for a year when his wife, Meng, decides to do the impossible--to leave everyone and everything she knows in a daunting effort to find him. At a time when many women fear even stepping outside their homes, Meng disguises herself as a man and begins a perilous journey of deliverance. As two armies gather at the Great Wall, the fates of Fan and Meng collide with a Mongol horseman seeking redemption, a Chinese concubine fighting injustice, and a ruthless general determined to destroy them all.Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Unbound is utterly captivating--an epic, historical page-turner with a beating heart. I loved it." -- Jamie Ford, New York Times bestselling author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and SweetÃ Â "In Unbound, John Shors draws us inside the impassioned history of China's Great Wall, through richly intertwined characters determined to live freely, and for love. A haunting tale of the enduring bonds that anchor and save us when all the other chains--poverty, enslavement, cruelty, degradation--have been broken. A gem of storytelling." -- Paula McLain, New York Times

bestselling author of The Paris Wife"An elegant and compelling epic told with Shors' trademark understanding of human nature and ability to create characters who touch our hearts. The setting - China's Great Wall - is as much a personality in the tale as the husband and wife who live, and love, in its shadow. In Unbound, history comes alive and literally takes your breath away and breaks your heart at the same time." -- M.J. Rose, New York Times bestselling author of The Library of Light and ShadowÃ¢â ¬Å“Unbound is utterly captivatingÃ¢â ¬â •an epic, historical page-turner with a beating heart. I loved it.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Jamie Ford, New York Times bestselling author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and SweetÃ¢â ¬Å“In Unbound, John Shors draws us inside the impassioned history of ChinaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Great Wall, through richly intertwined characters determined to live freely, and for love. A haunting tale of the enduring bonds that anchor and save us when all the other chainsÃ¢â ¬â •poverty, enslavement, cruelty, degradationÃ¢â ¬â •have been broken. A gem of storytelling.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Paula McLain, New York Times bestselling author of The Paris Wife"An elegant and compelling epic told with ShorsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ trademark understanding of human nature and ability to create characters who touch our hearts. The setting Ã¢â ¬â œ China's Great Wall Ã¢â ¬â œ is as much a personality in the tale as the husband and wife who live, and love, in its shadow. In Unbound, history comes alive and literally takes your breath away and breaks your heart at the same time." Ã¢â ¬â • M.J. Rose, New York Times bestselling author of The Library of Light and Shadow

John Shors is the internationally bestselling author of seven novels, which have been translated into more than twenty-five languages. For more information on him, please visit johhshors.com.

Colorado author John Shors has the gift. It is as simple as that. In BENEATH A MARBLE SKY he created a stunning love story woven through the interstices of the 16th century Hindustani building of the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the world, a place on earth where Paradise touches mortals in a magnificent mausoleum for the beloved wife of the Emperor. Not only it this a symphonic novel of surpassing craftsmanship and beauty, it is also a book that informs the reader about the differences between Muslim and Hindu religions, about the Persian Empire, about customs of caste, of worldviews, of architecture, and of the myriad flavors of a land too few of us understand. He continued this quality of writing in BESIDE A BURNING SEA, DRAGON HOUSE, THE WISHING TREES, CROSS CURRENTS, TEMPLE OF A THOUSAND FACES and now with UNBOUND.John has secured his place among popular American novelists of the decade with this his seventh novel that combines a growing respect of the beauties of the globe and the intricacies of

the manner in which characters seemingly misplaced in locales seek to find themselves only to discover that their place in the confusion of the world is close at hand, partially shaded by natureÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s vagaries.With UNBOUND John invites us to China in the year 1548 and while his prose visually creates the Great Wall of China, his story is once again about love and commitment and resolution that will tie husband and wife together despite the separation of the Mongol invasion threat that separates them. An aspect of JohnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s passion for history, romance and communication of his thoughts is evident in his pausing to offer an AuthorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Note at bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s inception: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœThe Great Wall of China is one of the most awe-inspiring creations of humanity. But why was the legendary fortification built? And who built it? Modern scholars tell us that the Great Wall is not actually a single wall, but a collection of ramparts that were raised over a two-thousand-year period. Running from east to west near the northern border of China, the Great Wall was created to protect the Chinese from nomadic tribes, mainly the Mongols and Manchus. Early sections of the Great Wall were little more than barricades of branches, dirt, and rocks. As the centuries passed, the skills of the builders improved, and by the time of the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644), the Great Wall was constructed more as an endless series of small, connected castles than a featureless barrier. Several million Chinese died building the Great Wall. Some of them were criminals. Others were soldiers. Many were pressured into work through laws designed to reward hard labor with tax exemptions. Everyone toiled under dangerous and often besieged conditions, creating an unrivaled fortification that, if its parts were added together, would stretch for more than five thousand miles. Once I chose to write a novel about the Great Wall, I was faced with a variety of options in terms of time and setting. I decided to place my story toward the end of the Ming Dynasty. At this time, China had about 150 million people, yet was vulnerable to Mongol attacks. Fierce, mobile, and unrivaled horsemen, the Mongols had struck fear into the hearts of the Chinese for generations. Rather than send armies north to meet and likely be defeated by their foe, the Ming leaders decided to reinforce and expand the Great WallÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •a strategy that would become arguably the most ambitious building project in history. UNBOUND is loosely fashioned after the famous Chinese legend of a husband and wife who became swept up in the undercurrents of the Great WallÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s creation. At the time that ShakespeareÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Romeo and Juliet was captivating audiences in the West, within China the story of Fan and Meng was being told with equal reverence. The tale of their epic struggle has been since shared from generation to generation, enduring the passage of time with as much resiliency and grace as the stones upon which they are said to have suffered. So it is the setting, not the characters, in this novel that is

based on historical fact.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢There are many reasons to select books to read. Selecting UNBOUND celebrates our intellect, our passion, our need for knowledge of the past, and our luxuriating in brilliant prose. Highly recommended on every level. Grady Harp, August 17

I've read several novels by John Shors, and really enjoy his work. He hasn't come out with a new book in a few years, and I've been eagerly awaiting the release of his Great Wall novel. I'm happy to say that the wait was well worth it. Unbound is a wonderful story that benefits from memorable characters and a fast-moving plot. I haven't been to the Great Wall of China, but it came alive within this novel, and I could visualize each scene. This is a beautiful story, and I wish that I hadn't just finished it!

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