



Bombay Smiles: The Trip that Changed My Life

By Jaume Sanllorente

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"Sanllorente's story, reminiscent of Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea*, is remarkable and uplifting."—*Booklist*

In 2003, Jaume Sanllorente was a young journalist leading an active and exciting life in Barcelona—no more idealistic than any other young professional. Then a travel agent convinced him to spend his vacation in India. Amazed by what he saw in the land of sacred cows and shocking poverty, Jaume was transformed.

That experience lead him to reconsider the world he lived in and caused him to think that he might do something to make it a little better. He devoted himself to helping a small orphanage in Bombay, one that was about to close its doors and send its forty children back to the streets (and the brothels) from which they had been rescued. Jaume seized the moment, determined not to let that happen. As a consequence, he changed his life, and much more as well.

In *Bombay Smiles*, Jaume Sanllorente gives us an insightful and loving vision of a country of great contrasts. He reveals that the secret of his own happiness is in seeking happiness for others.

Bombay Smiles is a story of loneliness, ransoms, dangers, injustices, threats of death, and acts of courage, which give an example to follow in spite of the adversities one might meet. It is a lesson of wise love, surrender, sacrifice, and hope, which invites us to start on the path toward a better world.

Jaume Sanllorente was born in 1976 in Barcelona, Spain. His nonprofit organization, Bombay Smiles, provides schools, homes, and health care to thousands of children in India.

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Editorial Review

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Sanllorente was a journalist living a comfortable life in Barcelona when, at the suggestion of his travel agent, he decided to spend his next vacation in India. After landing in Delhi and feeling overwhelmed by the poverty surrounding him at every turn, he wonders if he's seeing "reality or a nightmare." But over two weeks' time, as he experiences shock at the pain and misery he sees everywhere he goes, he is simultaneously undergoing a personal metamorphosis. Back in Barcelona, Sanllorente devours books on India's religions, philosophers, and political history. Compelled to return, this time to Mumbai, he observes the children of the Dharavi slum and realizes that his destiny has become tied to improving their well-being. Frustrated by the bureaucracy of NGOs, he seeks funding from wealthy individuals he has interviewed over the years. First he rescues an orphanage about to close, then he establishes his first school, believing that education is the key to solving the problems of India's poor. Sanllorente's story, reminiscent of Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea* (2009), is remarkable and uplifting. --Deborah Donovan

Review

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About the Author

Jaume Sanllorente was born in 1976 in Barcelona, Spain. In 2003, he quit his job as a journalist and moved to India to help the underprivileged, the "untouchables," particularly the children. He set up the nonprofit organization, Bombay Smiles, to build schools and provide health care to thousands of children.

Users Review

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Paul Howard:

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Joseph Mitchell:

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