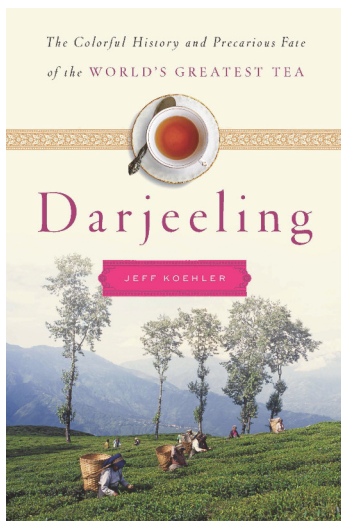


November 2017**Reading Guide:*****Darjeeling: the Colorful History and Precarious Fate of the World's Greatest Tea* by Jeff Koehler**

1. Jeff Koehler describes Darjeeling tea's history as "romantic"; which of the stories included in the book embody the romantic quality of this tea?
2. Describe the tensions that Koehler highlights throughout the book:
 - a. Traditional versus modern values
 - b. Manual versus skilled, educated labor
 - c. Manual versus mechanized labor
3. What did you find surprising about the history of tea cultivation and the role of the British Empire in that history?
4. Who is Robert Fortune, and what is your opinion of him?
5. How did the diverse communities and cultures mentioned in the book leave their marks on Darjeeling the place and Darjeeling the tea?
6. Was there a part of the tea processing that you found surprising? What about the business of selling tea?
7. Describe how generations of British interacted with the Indian people. What was the dynamic between the two communities?
8. How does this book support, or contradict, the popular image of the British Raj and tea estates in India?
9. What challenges does the Darjeeling tea industry face in the 21st century?
10. How are innovative Darjeeling tea business people addressing the challenges and looking toward the future?

Author Biography

Jeff Koehler grew up in Seattle and went to school at Gonzaga University. After traveling through Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, he moved to London to do graduate work at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. There he met his wife, and his family now lives in Barcelona. He is a food and travel writer whose articles have appeared in *Saveur*, *Food and Wine*, and the *Washington Post*. He has written four cookbooks in addition to two nonfiction books, one of which is *Darjeeling*. *Darjeeling* was awarded numerous accolades since its publication in 2015. He has an upcoming book entitled *Where the Wild Coffee Grows*.

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