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2024

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The comprehensive rights catalogue, crafted by Jaipur BookMark (JBM), presents a diverse compilation of literary works in Indian languages including English. It accentuates their potential for rights sales and exchange within the Indian subcontinent and on a global scale, spanning various platforms such as films, OTT, audiobooks, and ebooks. Each title is meticulously detailed, including an elaborate book blurb, author or translator information, pagination, and the current status of rights available for purchase. Twelve prominent publishers showcase fifty titles across languages such as Bangla, Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam and English.

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**B E E**

BEE Books is a Kolkata-based independent publisher that started its journey in 2014 with a primary focus on contemporary fiction, non-fiction, illustrated titles and translations in the English language. Its roots go back to Patra Bharati, the third largest Bengali publishing house in India. Being a part of a regional market, the house realises the magnitude of Indian literature and the importance of bringing it to the fore. BEE is aware of the multiple challenges that come alongside and therefore, painstakingly strives to cover the chasm through translation. BEE also works extensively with international arts councils and independent international publishers to develop a strong line of global literature for exclusive publication in India.

# BANGLADESH

Edited by: Rifat Munim

## ABOUT THE BOOK

This book takes the reader on a fictional journey through Bangladesh, the South Asian nation that celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence in 2022. Like any literature arising out of South Asia, the literature emanating from the deltaic plain, now known as Bangladesh, is tied to politics and history. Through the 50 stories in this collection, the reader witnesses the rise of a language-based nationalism and the subsequent birth of Bangladesh in 1971, and also how the country fell back into the clutches of military dictatorship till democracy was restored in 1990. Written over five decades from the 1950s to the 1990s, this carefully curated collection introduces readers to the richness and sheer

diversity of Bangladeshi short fiction. These stories break all stereotypes about Bangladeshi writing and offer a rare glimpse of how, from a rich realistic tradition in the 1950s, Bangladeshi fiction has evolved into many different strains with the youngest bunch of writers often combining them all in their writing. Though Bangladeshi fiction has a lot in common with fiction from other South Asian nations, this collection is proof that it is unique at the same time.

## ABOUT THE EDITOR

Rifat Munim is a journalist, writer, editor and translator based in Dhaka. He works at *Dhaka Tribune*, a leading English daily in Bangladesh, as the literary editor and was a jury member for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019.



608 Pages | Hardcover  
 Language: English  
 ISBN: 978-93-91618-22-3  
 Date of Publishing: 2023  
 Price: INR 850



# FROM FALTA TO PLASSEY

Author: Santanu Basu

## ABOUT THE BOOK

20th June 1756. To punish the British for unauthorised fortification in Calcutta, Siraj-ud-daulah, Bengal Subah's last independent Nawab attacked the British Base at Fort Williams and razed it. The British prisoners were herded to the 'black hole', a small lock-up inside the fort where they met a pathetic death. The surviving Englishmen were exiled to the shoddy, slimy village of Falta, on the southern banks of the Hooghly. For months they lived in anxiety, without any amenities, and in scarcity of food. Vengeance, however, was quick. Robert Clive and Admiral Charles Watson were deployed to Calcutta from Madras, and in a span of one year, the British not only reclaimed their trading position by defeating Siraj at the Battle of Plassey but also proceeded to become India's colonial rulers.

But how did this dramatic plot change take place? *From Falta to Plassey* traces the journey of this one year — recounting strategies, diplomatic and military ideations, and political tactics that culminated in the watershed moment of India's colonial past. Starting soon after the siege of Calcutta, the novel, through multiple perspectives, of both major and minor characters, presents an unbiased holistic picture of the time.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

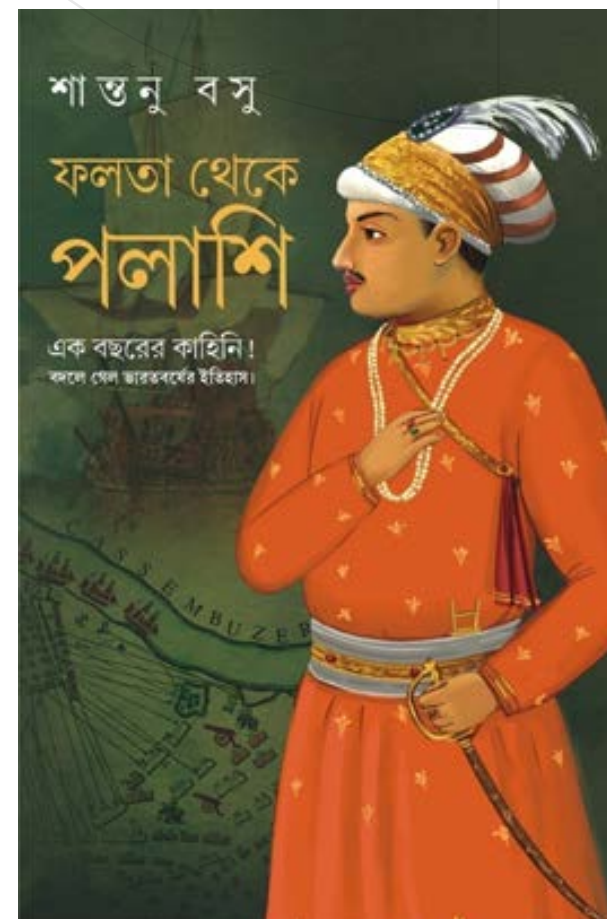
Kolkata-based author Santanu Basu is a senior bureaucrat by profession. Born and brought up in West Bengal, he currently works for the West Bengal state government, beside pursuing his passion for history. He has always been enthusiastic about literature, theatre and movies, and has also taught himself scriptwriting. In 2005 he directed a documentary called *The Next-Door Neighbour* on the Toto tribe of North Bengal. This was followed by his documentary on the primordial tribals of Purulia, *Birhors of Purulia*. He has won several accolades for his contribution to theatre, the first among them was winning the title of Best Dramatist at a national-level competition held in association with the Sangeet Natak Academy.

419 Pages | Hardback

Language: English

ISBN: 978-81-8374-688-5

Price: INR 475



# MOOM

Author: Bani Basu | Translator: Arunava Sinha

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In a Marwari (a mercantile community from the western Indian state of Rajasthan, whose members migrated in large numbers to Bengal in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) business family in Calcutta, the last woman dies. She's the wife of Jagdish, son of the 80-year-old patriarch Hridaynarayan Agarwal, who has already lost his wife and two of his four daughters. But even after her death, Savitri remains in the house, invisible but constantly audible to father and son as well as the two male servants who look after them. Savitri and Jagdish were childless, having lost their only daughter in her infancy.

Gradually, the inmates of the house begin to rely on Savitri's ghost to have their lives managed. While Jagdish continues his detached, drug-induced torpor-laden existence, his father Hridaynarayan is reminded now of his two daughters who died – a suicide and a suspected murder, both victims of dowry. Daughters and women are considered curses in his family, which, nevertheless, keeps giving birth to several daughters in every generation.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bani Basu (born 1939) is a Bengali writer. The broad range of her fiction covers gender and history, to mythology and society. Among her numerous novels is one in the life and times of the Buddha (*Life of Maitreya*), exploring topics such as Indian mythology, history and feminism. Basu lives and writes in Kolkata. She has won a number of literary awards, including the Sahitya Akademi award. and sold in large numbers.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Arunava Sinha translates classic, modern and contemporary Bengali fiction and nonfiction into English. Over 45 of his translations have been published so far. He is a two time winner of the Crossword translation award and has also won the Muse India award. Besides India, his translations have been published in the UK, US and Europe. He is the Books editor of Scroll.in and teaches at Ashoka University.



216 Pages | Hardback

Language: English

ISBN: 978-81-942294-3-8

Date of Publishing: January 2020

Price: INR 399



**DCBOOKS**

everyone has a good book

DC Books, named after Indian publishing icon Dominic Chacko, is a prolific publisher rooted in Kerala. Founded by Chacko, a revered writer, activist, and freedom-fighter, the company champions Malayalam literature. DC Books, along with retail arm Current Books, operates the renowned National Book Stall in Kottayam. Noteworthy titles like *Khasakinte Ithihasam* by O V Vijayan and *Aarachar* by K R Meera remain bestsellers. With 1500 annual publications, 50 South Indian stores, and outlets in the Middle East, DC Books showcases works by Nobel Laureates, Jnanpith Laureates, Pulitzer Prize, and Sahitya Academy winners.

# ADIMAKERALATHINTE ADRUSHYACHARITHRAM

Author: Vinil Paul

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The book is a record of the cultural and evolutionary background of Kerala connecting to the slave and slave trade in Kerala. This leads to its global market. It records the lives of slaves, their sufferings abroad and the slave markets in Kerala. Vinil Paul researches on the missionary organisations and how they influenced the Dalit people and their outlook on life.

248 Pages | Paperback  
All rights available

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vinil Paul is the author of *Adimakeralathinte Adrushyacharithram*. Paul has published numerous articles in popular Malayalam magazines, and his most recent works are *Dalit Charithradamshanam* and *Mrugaya: Keralathinte Nayattucharithram*. His writings are primarily about slavery and its abolition in South West India.





# CHARITHRAM ADRUSYAMAKKIYA MURIVUKAL

Author: Sudha Menon

## ABOUT THE BOOK

This is a work on the unwritten histories of women who were preyed upon. It conveys the idea that even though separated by various walls of caste, creed and social-cultural barriers, everyone undergoes the same pain and trauma caused by the hardships of society. The work reflects the union and communion ship of women and how they should stick together to tackle these hardships. Through these communion ships, they will be able to get back the lives they have always wished for.

232 Pages | Paperback  
All rights available

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sudha Menon is an author and a columnist at various English and Malayalam dailies. She has worked on the financial recouping and rehabilitation of women in war torn areas of South Asia. She is one of the experts in the International Labour Organisation. Currently she is working as the Senior Research and Evaluation Consultant of the Asian zone at a French based company, 'Taro'.





# PONAM

Author: K N Prasanth

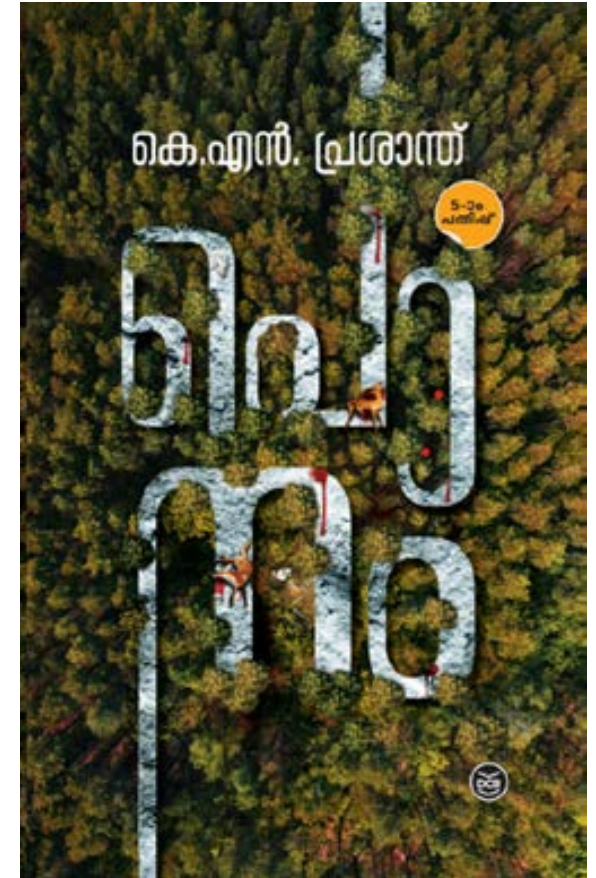
## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Ponam* is a journey in search of languages and people leaving places. It is the story of blood, lust and woodlands in the remnants of a heroic life. K N Prasanth portrays a different story of life that contains the toils of strange lives. The novel travels through the eyes of a young man who comes in search of a plot for a movie. Through him, the readers learn about the stories inside a story and are able to trap the reader inside the 'Ponam' even after they put down the book.

280 Pages | Paperback  
All rights available

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K N Prasanth is a short story writer and novelist. His first short story collection, *Aaran*, won many awards, including the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Geeta Hiranyan Endowment Award in 2020. Ponam is his debut novel.



# KAPALAM: THE SKULL & OTHER STORIES

Author: Dr B Umadathan

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Skull and Other Stories*, by Dr. B Umadathan is a collection of fifteen short stories that deal with crime and detection. The author who was a forensic surgeon has used his expertise in the field while writing these stories. The protagonist Dr. Unnikrishnan is a Police Surgeon and Harikumar is an IPS investigating officer who seeks the doctor's help to solve the mysteries. Dr. Unnikrishnan who is an expert forensic surgeon is able to identify the time, manner, and cause of death and this helps the police to catch the culprit. The stories capture the attention of the reader and the scientific methods used to solve the crime are lucidly explained. The reader is led through the steps of investigating, the evidence gathered is interpreted without the use of jargon and the characterization is sharp.

256 Pages | Paperback  
All rights available

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Dr B Umadathan is a renowned forensic surgeon from Kerala. Born on March 12, 1946, he started his career as a tutor in 1969 after completing his MBBS degree and MD. He was a forensic medicine professor and had served as medical legal expert for Kerala police. He had also worked as a medico-legal consultant with the Libyan government. As a forensic expert, he had helped Kerala police crack dozens of sensational murder cases and other crimes even after his retirement. Dr Umadathan's works include: *Science in the Detection of Crime*, *Investigation of Unnatural Death*; *Practical Forensic Medicine*, *Forensic Medicine for the Police*, *Forensic Medicine for the Medicos*; *Oru Police Surgeonte Ormakkurippukal* and *Principles and Practice of Forensic Medicine*.

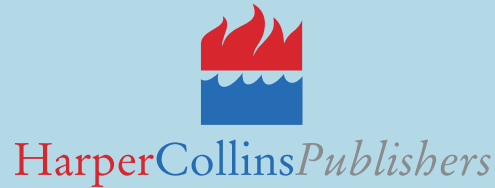




**Teamwork Arts** is a highly versatile production company with roots in the performing arts, social action and the corporate world. For over 30 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India, presenting the finest of Indian performers, writers, change makers and visual artistes in the knowledge and arts space in India and abroad. Every year, we produce over 33 festivals in 42 cities and 17 countries in the fields of performing & visual arts and literature. We produce the world's largest literary gathering: the annual Jaipur Literature Festival; JLF international now travels to the US, UK, Canada, Australia and the Maldives and soon in Europe. Even amidst the upheaval and unsettling times of 2020 and through 2021, Teamwork Arts successfully launched the digital series, 'JLF Brave New World' and 'Words Are Bridges', which were viewed by over 4.8 million people in their first season. Through its digital avatar, the Jaipur Literature Festival reached over 19 million viewers in January 2021.

Our initiative 'Art Matters' empowers artistes across India to collaborate across genres by commissioning them to create new works thereby effecting change & raising awareness. The digital series 'Be Inspired' was launched in 2021 – a series that crystal-gazes into the future with conversations on science, technology, innovation, environment and more.

**[WWW.TEAMWORKARTS.COM](http://WWW.TEAMWORKARTS.COM)**



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# A BOY CALLED DUSTBIN

Author: Arjun Krishnakumar | Illustrator: Yamini Ravichandran

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Ashwin Subramaniam's world is turned upside down when his family is forced to relocate... In the span of a year, the teenage drama queen navigates life in the 90s, forges new friendships in Kalpavriksha Colony, and deals with his louse of a cousin, Chuppu. From comical mishaps to unexpected adventures, Ashwin's journey is a delightful and light-hearted ride as he learns the true meaning of friendship and family. *A Boy Called Dustbin* is a must-read for anyone seeking a nostalgic escape into their own childhood.

### Product Details:

Genre: Fiction/Young Adult

ISBN: 9789356993372

Pages: 192

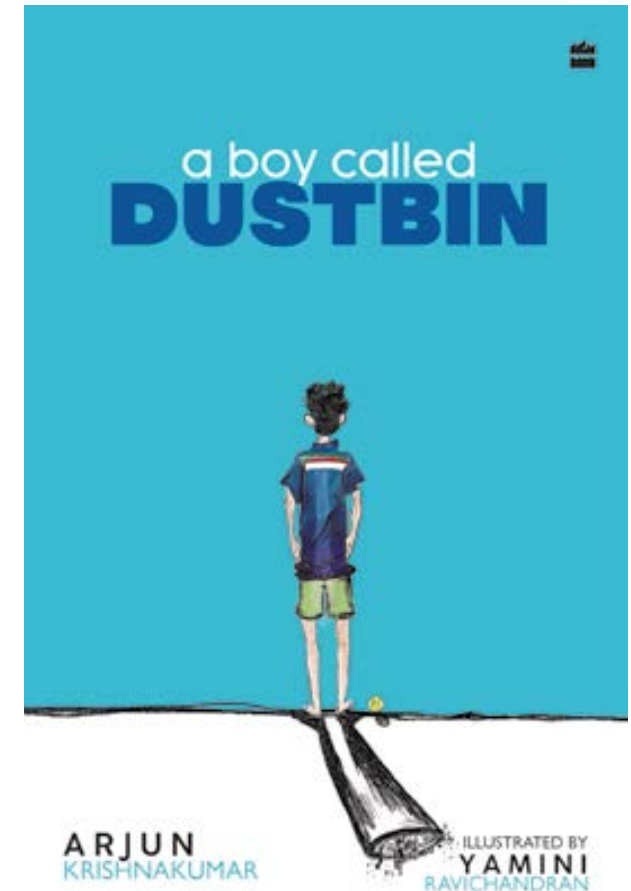
Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books

Rights available: World, all languages

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Arjun Krishnakumar is an accidental author by night and a professional procrastinator by day. He is famous for losing his train of thought in long-winded sentences that are often riddled with typos and devolve into meaninglessness.

Illustrator: Yamini Ravichandran wears many hats: educator, doodler, baker, and Mani Ratnam evangelist. And even though she's super into fashion, she doesn't actually own any hats.





# ASSASSIN

Author: K.R. Meera | Translator: J. Devika

## ABOUT THE BOOK

From the award-winning author of *Hangwoman*.

Late one night in November 2016, Satyapriya, a middle-aged professional living alone in a big city, is attacked by an unidentified assailant. Though she escapes unhurt, a conversation with her paralysed father reveals that this was no random incident but the latest in a series of attempts to kill her. And when he dies unexpectedly soon after, a devastated Satyapriya sets out to unravel the conspiracy coiling around her.

Beginning at the height of India's demonetisation drive and culminating on the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, this is a novel that raises uncomfortable questions of identity and gender in a country where power, patriarchy, caste and money conspire every day to shape the contours of women's lives.

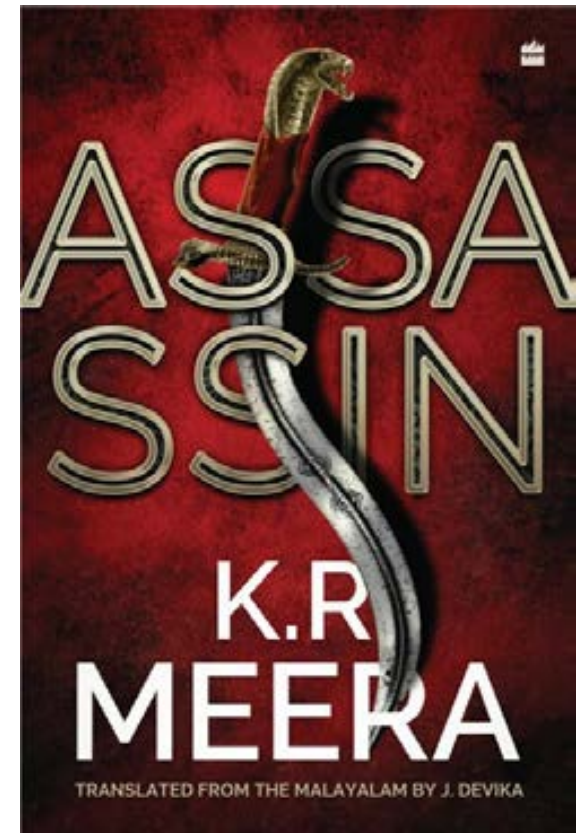
K.R. Meera's *Assassin* – originally published in Malayalam as *Ghathakan*, and brilliantly translated by J. Devika – is a genre-defying magnum opus that every Indian must read.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K.R. Meera is the author of five novels, six novellas, six collections of short fiction, two novels for children, and two collections of essays in Malayalam. She has been the recipient of numerous literary prizes, such as the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (for best novel and best short fiction), the Vayalar Award, and the Odakkuzhal Award. *Hangwoman*, J. Devika's translation of the author's Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novel *Aarachaar*, was shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature in 2016.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

J. Devika is a feminist historian, social researcher, and translator currently with the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. She translates literary writing from Malayalam to English and social science writing from English to Malayalam. Her literary translations include works by (among others) K.R. Meera, Sarah Joseph, Unni R., Ambikasutan Mangad, and Lalithambika Antharjanam.



Pages: 664

Genre: Fiction/Literary

ISBN: 9789356296268

Publisher: Fourth Estate

Rights available: World, English

# MEOW MEOW: THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF BABY PATANKAR

Author: Srinath Rao

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Call her a police informant, a slumlord, a successful businesswoman, a caring grandmother - but do not call Shashikala 'Baby' Patankar a drug dealer. On 9 March 2015, a constable in the Mumbai Police force, Dharmaraj Kalokhe, was arrested by the local police for possession of a white powder believed to be the synthetic drug Mephedrone. His partner, Shashikala 'Baby' Patankar, was the informant. Later she was arrested by the police, too.

In the days that followed, the Maharashtra Police declared her a criminal and the media labelled her 'drug queen', but Baby always considered herself innocent. Unearthing new facts about the case, this book is a blow-by-blow account of Baby's capture and the investigation that followed. It is also the story of Mephedrone - better known as Meow Meow - which, when it entered the schools, colleges and pubs of Mumbai, changed the rules of the game and the enforcement of narcotics laws in the city. Fast and pacy, Meow Meow is the tale of one of Mumbai's most baffling crimes and the intriguing life that Baby Patankar led.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Srinath Rao is a Mumbai-based crime reporter who used to work with *The Indian Express*. At the *Express*, he was part of the reporting team behind award-winning global investigations such as the Swiss Leaks, the Panama Papers, and the Paradise Papers. He is currently an independent journalist based in Mumbai.

'A must read for true-crime fans'  
- *Moneycontrol*

'Absorbing...meticulously reconstructed'  
- *Mint*



Pages: 328

Genre: Nonfiction/Crime

ISBN: 9789356295872

Publisher: HarperCollins India

Rights: World, all languages

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR

## ADVENTURES OF NARIMAN KARKARIA: A MEMOIR

Author: Nariman Karkaria | Translator: Murali Ranganathan

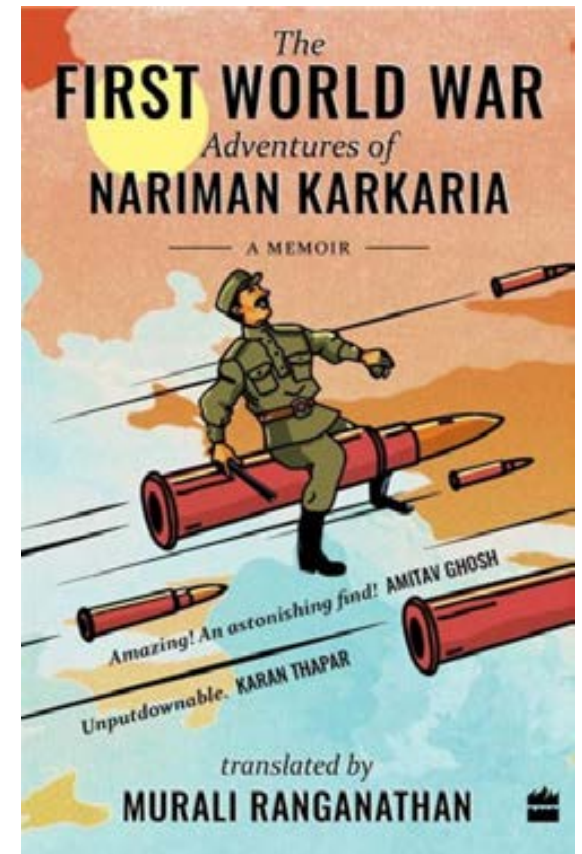
### ABOUT THE BOOK

Nariman Karkaria, a young Parsi from Gujarat, had always wanted to see the world. So he left home as a teenager with fifty rupees in his pocket to do just that. After working in Hong Kong and Peking for a few years, in 1914, when war was in the air, he decided to volunteer for the British Army. Passing through China, Manchuria, Siberia, Russia and Scandinavia, he reached London early in 1915 and managed to register as a private with the 24th Middlesex Regiment. He was now a Tommy. Incredibly, Karkaria saw action on three major fronts in the next three years. In 1916, he was in the trenches at the Battle of the Somme. After convalescing from an injury, he was sent off to the Middle Eastern Front where he fought in the Battle of Jerusalem in 1917. He was then transferred to the Balkan Front in 1918, where he served in Salonika. After being discharged, he returned to India and wrote a book in Gujarati about his years

of travel and adventure, which was published in 1922. Karkaria's war memoir is truly one of a kind. And in Murali Ranganathan's brilliant translation, this astonishing story comes alive with rare immediacy and vigour.

Pages: 260  
Genre: Nonfiction/Memoir  
ISBN: 9789354895166  
Publisher: HarperCollins India  
Rights: World, all languages (except Gujarati)

'Amazing! An astonishing find!  
- *Amitav Ghosh*





# THE GARDEN OF TALES: THE BEST OF VIJAYDAN DETHA

Author: Vijaydan Detha | Translator: Vishes Kothari

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Vijaydan Detha is undoubtedly the most important writer of Rajasthani prose in the twentieth century. He draws the reader into the complex and quirky world of the common folk of Rajasthan, while bringing alive the magic of folklore and fable. Traversing landscapes that are both earthly and cosmic, his tales, while being about the rich and poor, the saint and sinner, are also populated by trees, animals, the wind and the rain, gods and goddesses, and even ghosts. And between them, they explore humanity in all its myriad manifestations: love and desire, innocence and cunning, wisdom and folly, greed and deceit, righteousness, valour and the illusion of power. Translated masterfully by Vishes Kothari, *The Garden of Tales* is a definitive selection of Detha's work that will amuse and absorb you until the very last page.

'Eternal tales of power, greed and grief... a side of Rajasthan that tourists don't see.'

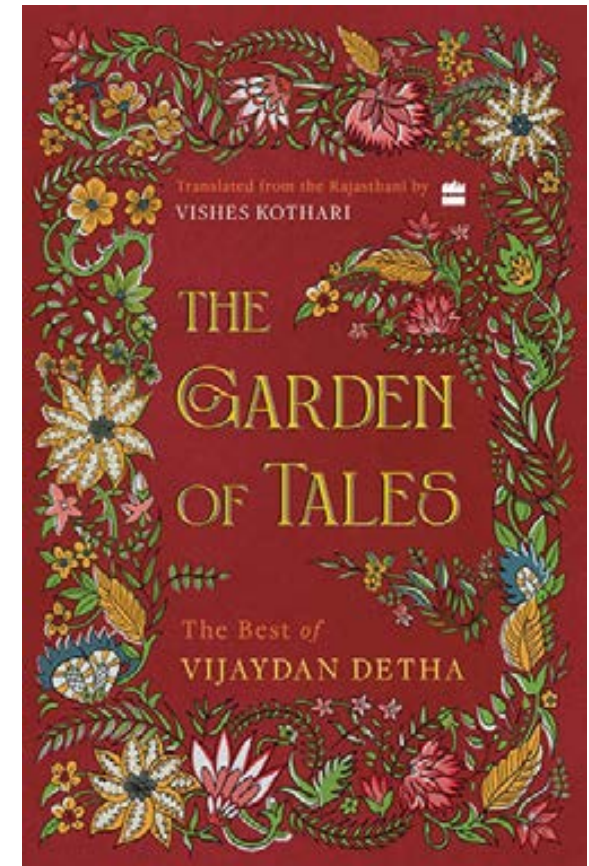
– *Hindustan Times*

'Quirky and vibrant... simple and yet at the same time complex.'

– *Outlook*

Truly wonderful... the icing on the cake is how women play such a strong part in so many of them.

– *Deccan Herald*



Pages: 368 pages

Genre: Fiction/Short stories

ISBN: 9789394407442

Publisher: Harper Perennial

Rights available: World, all languages  
(except Gujarati & Rajasthani)



Kalachuvadu means “time’s imprints”. Since 1995, Kalachuvadu Publications (KP) has not only blazed the trail for the finest in contemporary Tamil writing, but also brought the best of world literature in translation to the doorstep of the Tamil reader. Kalachuvadu is probably the most successful Indian language publishing house in selling rights within India and internationally. With a list of over 1200 titles, KP is a vibrant and vital presence in the landscape of Tamil and Indian publishing. Kalachuvadu Publications was awarded the Best Indian Publisher award in 2018 by PublishingNext.



# PERUVALI

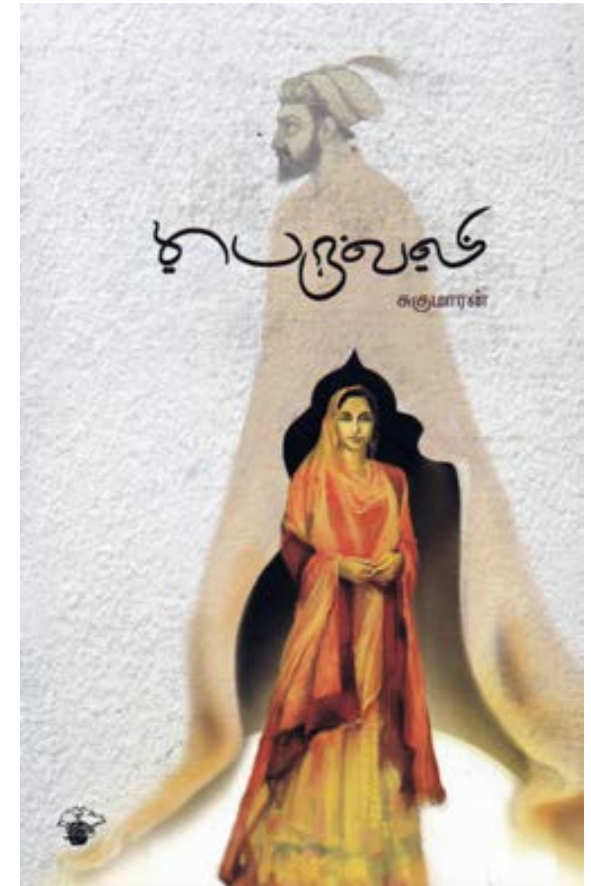
Author: Sukumaran

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Peruvali* is the second novel by acclaimed writer, journalist and translator Sukumaran. It revolves around the life and travails of Jahanara, the daughter of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. As the eldest daughter of the emperor and Mumtaz Mahal, Jahanara wielded significant political influence during her father's reign and became the Padshah Begum after her mother's death. She was well-versed in history, literature, arts and spirituality, and advised her father on political matters from a very young age. During Shah Jahan's later years, when a war of succession was in progress between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh, Jahanara stood on Dara's side until his defeat. After Aurangzeb placed his father under house arrest, she took care of him until his death.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sukumaran is a Tamil poet, writer, translator and editor. He has published 8 volumes of poems, 2 novels, 6 collections of articles on art, literature and social issues, and compiled and edited 4 volumes of pioneers in modern writing. He has been awarded the IYAL AWARD from The Tamil Literary Garden, Canada in 2017 for his overall contribution to the literary field. He lives in Coimbatore.



192 Pages | Paperback

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All languages and territories are open.

# THE ELEPHANT TAMER'S GRANDDAUGHTER

Author: Sharmila Seyyid

## ABOUT THE BOOK

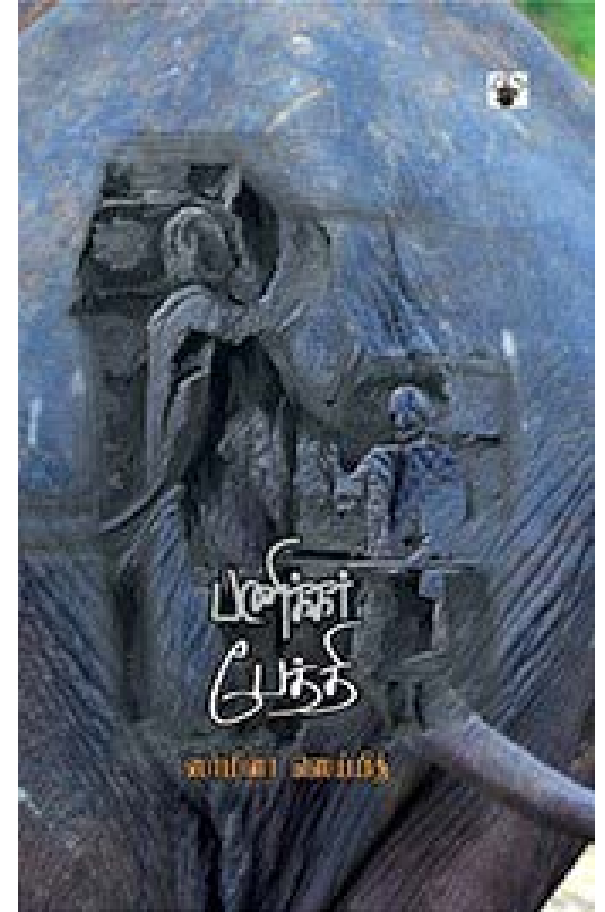
*The Elephant Tamer's Granddaughter* is set in the hometown of the writer - Eravur in Sri Lanka - and unfolds through the life of Zaharwan, the eponymous *Panikkar Pethi*. Sharmila portrays a range of characters and their complex spectrum of emotions in just about hundred pages in the Tamil original.

Offering tantalising glimpses into her family history, grandfather's fame, childhood, marriage, struggles as a single mother and her old age, this novel deftly weaves the story of its protagonist with the experience of Sri Lankan Muslim women. It illustrates how the community is tied to the country's history and culture - something that the state and Sinhala majority have tried to erase. Zaharwan, an orthodox Muslim, Tamil, merchant family in Sri Lanka, shows exemplary courage and will-power when she confronts male chauvinism and the suppression of women overtly as well as through different, insidious social practices like dowry.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sharmila Seyyid (born 1982) is a writer, a social activist, and a fearless social critic. Sharmila is from Eravur, in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province. She has worked as a journalist and a writer since 2001. As an activist, Sharmila interacted closely with the minority Tamil-speaking women in the aftermath of the Sri Lankan Civil War between 1983-2009. As a writer, Sharmila interrogates themes related to women's rights, children's rights, humanitarian conflicts, youth activism, gender, and sexuality, and more. She was a resident at the Art Omi residency in New York and travelled from there to India and then Thailand, and Turkey.

In 2014, Sharmila Seyyid was awarded the "Inspirational Women" Award by Women in Management in Sri Lanka and her literary work has received awards including 'best novel of the year' for *Ummath*, by the Tamil Progressive Writers and Artists Association in 2014.



110 Pages

Complete translation available.

All languages and territories are open.

# WHERE GOD BEGAN

Author: Appadurai Muttulingam

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Tracing the journey of a young man from Colombo to Canada, Kadavul Thodangiya Idam is a brilliant reiteration of a fundamental philosophy told over and over again by the masters – the journey is the destination. Protagonist Nishanth embarks on the journey – with the aim of seeking refugee status in Canada. It takes a little over five years for him to complete the journey.

Weaving together a string of experiences faced by various individuals – men and women, old and young, impassioned and level-headed – Muttulingam tells a compelling story that has remained untold in Tamil literature – that of those journeys Sri Lankan citizens are forced to take to end up as refugees.

Kadavul Thodangiya Idam is a sensitive, riveting retelling of millions of such stories that travel towards the same fate and are yet, remarkably distinguished by the innumerable different paths they are forced to take.

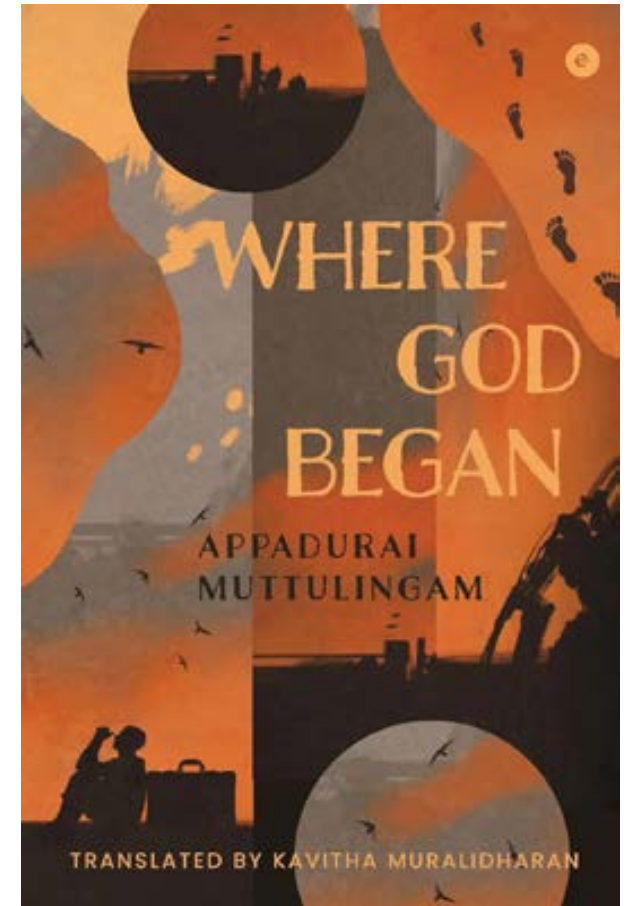
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Appadurai Muttulingam was born in Sri Lanka. He began his literary career at the age of nineteen. After emigrating, he worked in many countries for the World Bank and the United Nations. He has published 11 short story collections, 6 essay collections, two interview collections, two novels and edited an anthology of book reviews. He also won the prestigious S.R.M. University (India) literary award for *Amerikkakari* in 2013 and Markham City Council's, Canada Literary Award 2014. He lives with his wife Ranjini in Markham, Canada.

176 pages, Paperback

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All other languages and territories open.





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Their authors include V. S. Naipaul, Aravind Adiga, Ramachandra Guha, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Zia Haider Rahman, Aatish Taseer, Bilal Tanweer, Pankaj Mishra, Tabish Khair, Rita Chowdhury, Arati Kumar-Rao, Yashaswini Chandra, Sumantra Bose, John Zubrzycki, Karen Jennings, Aruna Chakravarti, Selby Wynn Schwartz and Siân Hughes, among others.



# HEAVY METAL: HOW A GLOBAL CORPORATION POISONED KODAIKANAL

Author: Ameer Shahul

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A terrifying investigative account of a global corporation's role in perpetrating India's greatest mercury poisoning catastrophe.\*\* In 2001, a Hindustan Unilever-owned thermometer factory in Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu, made national headlines when a massive dump of broken mercury thermometers was discovered at a local scrapyard. As the multinational corporation conducted one hasty internal assessment after another to save face, state authorities discovered that the company had violated all acceptable guidelines for toxic waste disposal measures, causing grievous harm to its workers' health and the region's fragile ecosystem. As evidence of mercury poisoning among workers mounted, the local community – aided by environmental watchdog Greenpeace and various public interest organisations – launched a battle against the multibillion-dollar conglomerate that would last fifteen years, culminating in an undisclosed settlement paid to 600 of its ex-employees. And despite the factory's closure, scientific reports would reveal mercury levels to be 1,000 times higher than the safe limit, raising serious concerns about HUL's toxic legacy in the hill station. For years, Ameer Shahul, a former investigative reporter and Greenpeace campaigner, closely tracked the Kodaikanal mercury poisoning case. The result is Heavy Metal,

ablistering account of a colossal industrial tragedy precipitated by corporate negligence and acts of omission and commission at the highest levels.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ameer Shahul is a journalist turned public policy leader. He works in the areas of emerging technology and healthcare with a focus on green policies and intellectual property rights. He has been a journalist with the Press Trust of India (PTI), Agence France-Presse (AFP) and Reuters, reporting widely on challenging issues, analysed policy and driven advocacies for companies such as IBM and Nissan Motors. As a Greenpeace campaigner, he worked with local communities for two years on issues of biodiversity at the grassroots levels. He currently promotes an ecologically sustainable community in the foothills of the Periya forest ranges in Wayanad, Kerala.

416 pages HARDBACK 978-93-90742-66-0

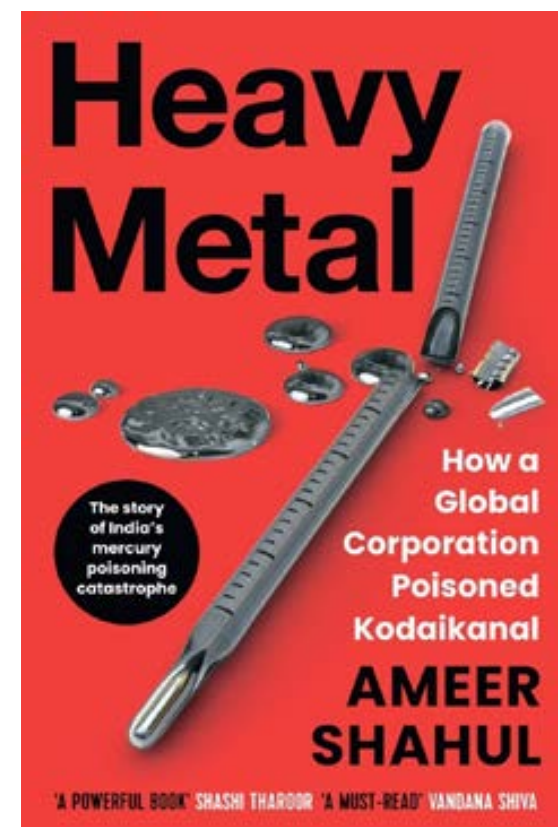
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'A powerful book'

– Shashi Tharoor



# MARGINLANDS: INDIAN LANDSCAPES ON THE BRINK

Author: Arati Kumar-Rao

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In the boundless Thar, deemed a 'wasteland' by the authorities, miners bulldoze sand dunes guarding life-sustaining water. The Gangetic dolphin, once a thriving apex predator, struggles for survival as its riverine habitat is fragmented by dams and roiled by incessant shipping. Deep in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, tigers prey on desperate crab-catchers. Encroachments on the Mumbai coastline unleash cataclysmic floods. Along the eroding beaches of Kerala, fishermen live in fear of the sea swallowing them whole. As the spectre of climate change compounds these natural and human-induced disasters, India's most endangered landscapes are pushed to the precipice of destruction. Arati Kumar-Rao journeys to these marginlands, listening intently to their inhabitants, paying close attention to each fissure, fold and ripple, as she documents the misguided decisions, wilfully ignored warnings and disregarded evidence that have brought us almost to a point of no return. But the land is still rich in ancient wisdom, and its cracks hold lessons that may yet aid us in undoing centuries of slow violence – so long as one is willing to attune their senses. Combining enthralling nature-writing and journalism with immersive art and

photography, Marginlands is an urgent, vital work by a passionate chronicler of our environment.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

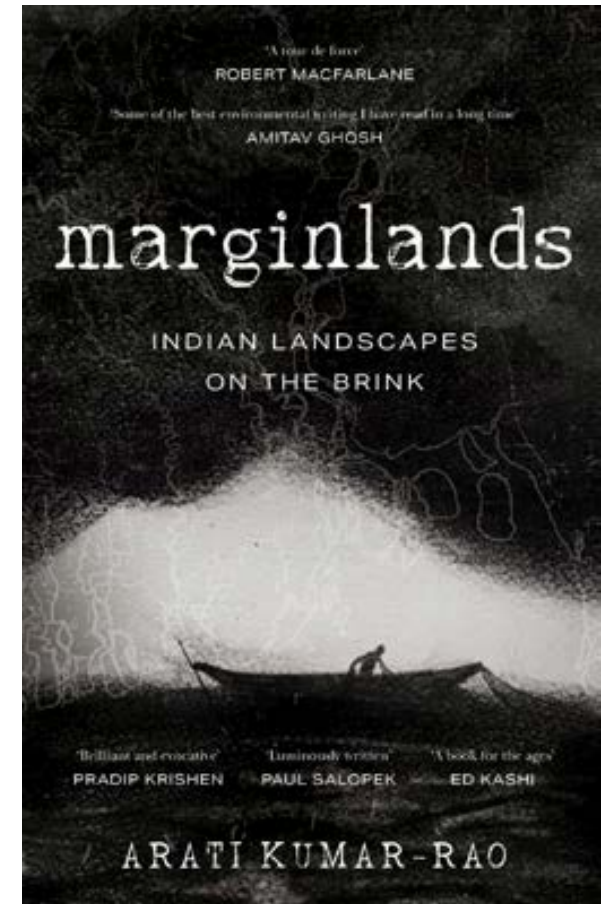
Arati Kumar-Rao is an environmental photographer, writer, artist and National Geographic Explorer documenting the effects of environmental degradation. Working primarily in the Indian subcontinent, she chronicles anthropogenic changes in landscapes and their fallouts on livelihood, culture and biodiversity. She communicates through still and moving images, soundscapes, longform narratives and art. Her work has appeared in *National Geographic Magazine*, *Emergence Magazine*, *The Hindu*, *Guardian*, *Hindustan Times*, *Mint* and *BBC Outside Source*, among other outlets. When not on assignment, she divides her time between the Western Ghats and Bangalore, where she is a happy slave to three rescued indoor cats.

264 pages | Hardback 978-93-956244-3-5

E 978-93-956244-4-2

June 2023

INR 559 (Kindle) INR 699 (Ebook)



'Some of the best environmental writing I have read'

– Amitav Ghosh

# THE HEART ASKS PLEASURE FIRST

Author: Karuna Ezara Parikh

## ABOUT THE BOOK

An extraordinary tale of love in a world being torn asunder. On a sunny day in 2001, Daya, a ballet student, is sitting in a park in Wales far away from her home in India. She is about to meet Aaftab, a young Muslim lawyer from Pakistan, and fall devastatingly in love. Though Aaftab battles his heart, their relationship quickly transcends the divides of religion, nationality and language. But even as they forge profound bonds, the cataclysmic events of the year will have dangerous ramifications and push them to confront the most difficult complexities of their lives. Set in a world of students but breathtaking in its expansiveness, *The Heart Asks Pleasure First* is a spellbinding first novel that speaks urgently to the frailties of our times. Karuna Ezara Parikh humanises the big themes of friendship and family, migration and xenophobia, with the deftness of a poet and the magic of a born storyteller.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karuna Ezara Parikh is a poet and writer, former television anchor and model known widely for her activism. She studied Journalism, Film & Broadcasting at Cardiff University. Her writing has featured in *Vogue*, *Wire*, *Outlook*, *Tehelka*, *Firstpost*, *Open* and *Lonely Planet*. In 2015, she co-founded the sustainable company The Burlap People. She lives in Kolkata with her husband and their dog. *The Heart Asks Pleasure First* is her first book.

HARDBACK 978-93-89109-51-1 | ₹699

324 pages 141 × 220 mm

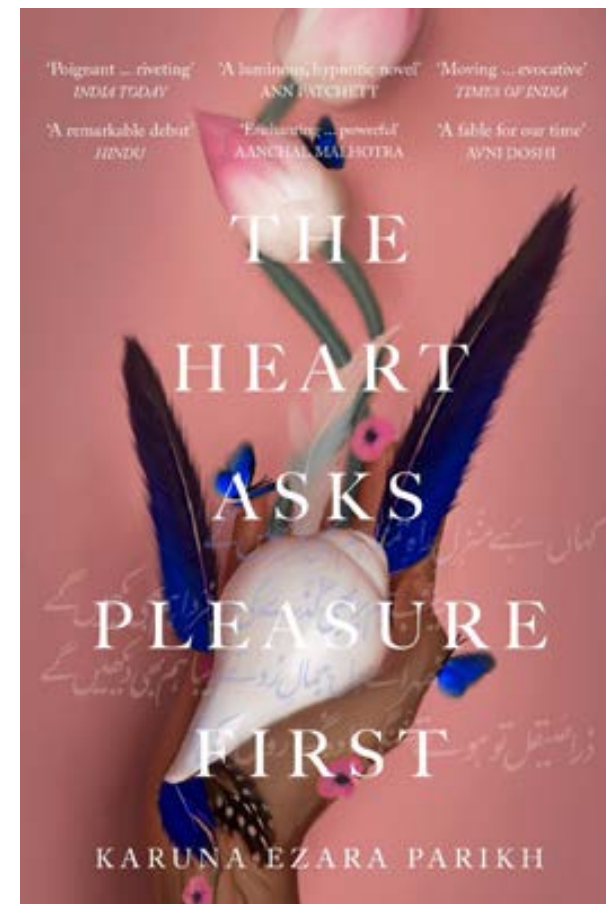
PAPERBACK 978-93-90742-82-0 368 | ₹499

368 pages | 129 × 198 mm | June 2022

EBOOK 978-93-89109-57-3

324 pages Kindle | September 2020 | ₹699

IMPRINT Picador India



‘A luminous, hypnotic novel, as much about the beauty of language as it is about the struggles of life’

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author of *The Dutch House* and *Bel Canto*

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# JAGADISH CHANDRA BOSE

## THE RELUCTANT PHYSICIST

Author: Sudipto Das | Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee

### ABOUT THE BOOK

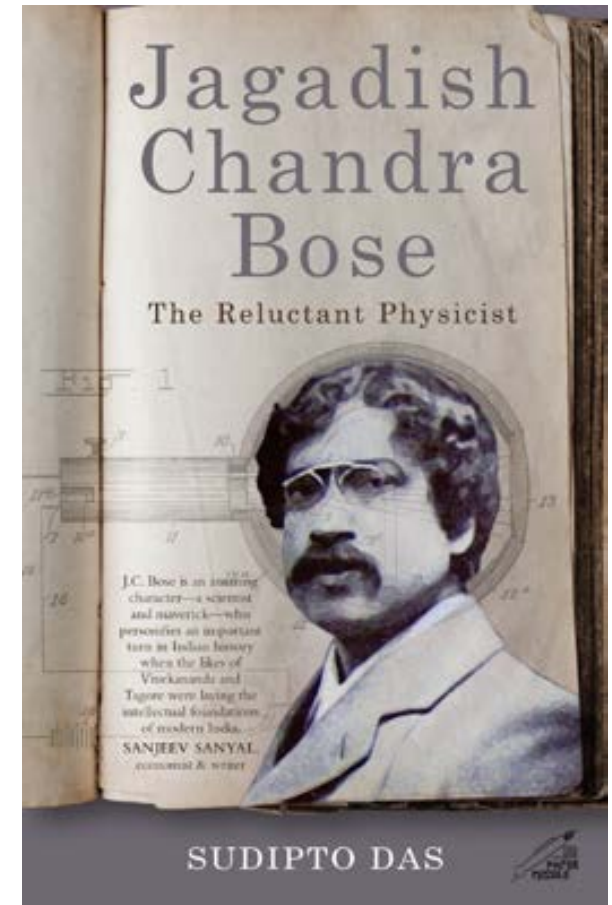
Sir J.C. Bose has been resurrected in many fields recently, more than five decades after his death. In the late 1990s, Bose was acknowledged as one of the inventors of the radio, alongside Marconi. We now know Bose held the first patent for a semiconductor device and he was the first to have created millimetre waves for radio communication, used again in 5G. In plant neurobiology, scientists realised that Bose had claimed plants can feel pain, like animals and humans do, in the early 20th century. Bose lived during a turbulent phase in India's history. Closely connected to Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and two extraordinary European women, Bose's life is a labyrinth of remarkable relationships unexplainable in conventional terms. Both favoured and disfavoured by the English, loved and hated by his acquaintances, mythified and forgotten by his countrymen, Bose was a contronym. This book is an attempt at demystifying the 'Boseian' myth.

### ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee is a teacher, scholar, critic and cultural administrator. A professional wordsmith, he enjoys tossing stories from one language to another and concocting delicious word salads that bring to readers flavours from different lands.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sudipto Das, an alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, is an Indian author, social worker, and musician. He is also a columnist, a speaker at TED events, and the co-founder of two startups. In 2020, he spearheaded a country-wide initiative to deliver daily groceries to people stranded due to lockdowns in the wake of the breakout of COVID-19. Das has previously written three novels: *The Ekkos Clan* (2013), *The Aryabhata Clan* (2018) and *The Broken Amoretti* (2019).



394 Pages | Hardback

Translation rights in all languages (Indian & International).

AV rights

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# MAHANADI: THE TALE OF A RIVER

Author: Anita Agnihotri | Translator: Nivedita Sen

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Anita Agnihotri, winner of the Economist Crossword Award, has written *Mahanadi*, which is as epic as the ceaseless flow of a great river. The author sensitively evokes in graphic detail the reality of the lives of the people living on the riverbanks. The river Mahanadi forms the crux of the narrative, being both the central character and the primary subject. One of the largest rivers of India, Mahanadi originates from the foothills of the Sihaoa mountain of Chandigarh and flows for a thousand kilometres through Chandigarh and Odisha, finally immersing in the Bay of Bengal at Jagatsinghpur. But its journey never ends, as it flows daily from the plateau to the forest to the ravine to the plains. It unites with the sea every day. At every new turn, it leaves behind scores of villages, towns and cities. The din and bustle of a mofussil town, the solitary life in a stand-alone village, people struggling for survival, the episodes of their joys and sorrows, the sighs of the displaced people of Sambalpur during the building of the Hirakud dam mixes with the cries of the endangered people on the banks when the river overflows. Characters like Malati Gond, Neelkantha, Kuber, Bhanu Shitulia, Parvati and others might never meet each other, But the story of their lives will remain strung together by the common thread of the ever-flowing Mahanadi.

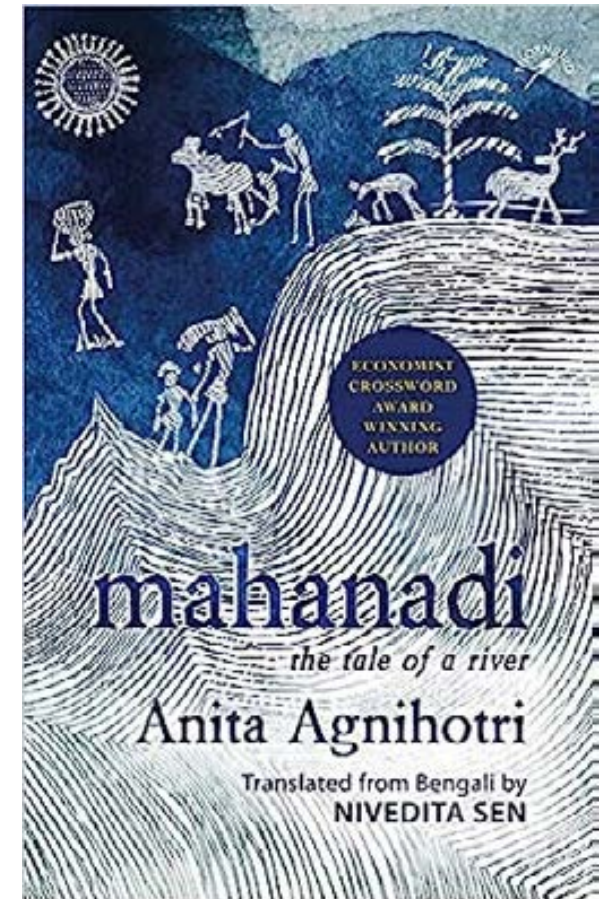
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anita Agnihotri writes in Bengali in a wide variety of genres including poetry, novels, short stories and children's literature. She has received several prestigious awards, such as the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Award and the Bhuban Mohini Dasi Gold Medal conferred by Calcutta University. Her collection of stories, *Seventeen*, received the Economist Crossword Award in 2011.

Anita's writing explores the vast and complex Indian reality, many facets of human relations, and brings out the unheard voices of the marginalised and the underprivileged, and has been translated into several Indian languages, in English, and also in German and Swedish. She joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1980 and served as Secretary to the Government of India in a distinguished career spanning three-and-a-half decades.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nivedita Sen teaches English Literature in Hansraj College, University of Delhi. Her research has focused on Bangla children's literature; she also works on other popular genres, apart from Indian writing in English, post-colonial fiction and translation studies. She has translated Tagore's *Ghare Baire*, and stories by Syed Mustafa Siraj, Leela Majumdar and others.



488 pages | Hardback with Dust jacket

English language co-edition rights

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# MASALA & MURDER

Author: Patrick Lyons

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Times are tough for Samson Ryder, a Melbourne-based, Anglo-Indian private investigator who likes his facts cold and his curries hot. A secret guilt over the death of his sister has left him guarded and closed, costing him his relationship with his girlfriend, his parents and his faith.

When a wealthy Indian industrialist engages him to investigate how his daughter, a rising Bollywood starlet, died on a location shoot in Australia, Samson treats it as easy money. After all, the police had ruled out foul play. He soon comes to realise that this is also his opportunity for redemption, to help a family find the answers to their grief, the answers he couldn't give to his own parents.

To uncover the truth, Samson goes back to the city of his birth, Mumbai and teams up with Mabel, his interpreter, Godmother and second-best cook in the world. Together, they prise off the glittering mask of Bollywood and unveil an industry where friendships are fickle, affairs are currency, black magic and curses are rampant and hidden dangers lurk all around. Will Sam uncover the truth or will he be the next victim?

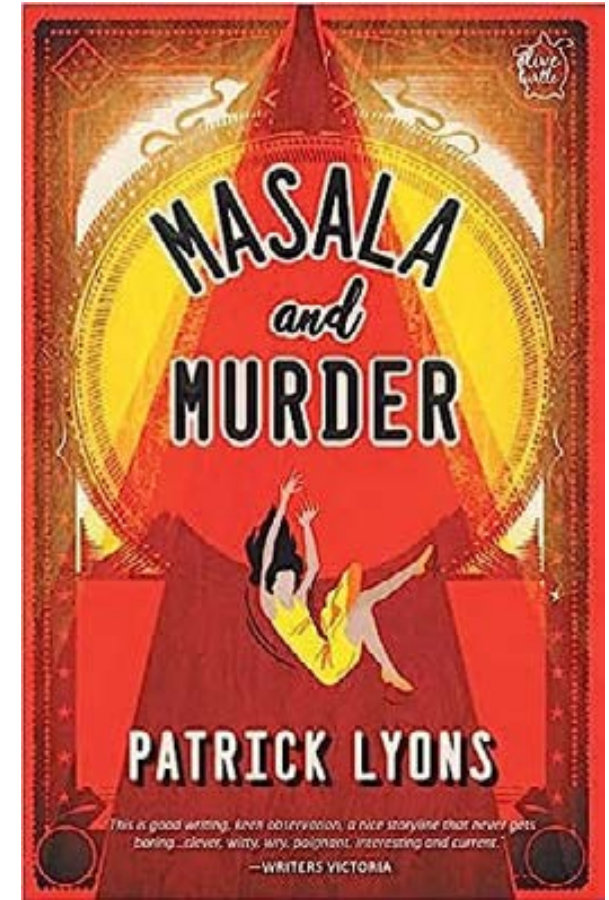
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patrick Lyons grew up in a house full of crime, literally. Almost every room had a crime novel lying around, spread-eagled, facedown, his mother's ways of bookmarking. It was only a matter of time before he picked these books up himself. He's been arrested by crime-writing ever since.

Writing about his experience as an Anglo-Indian growing up in Australia during the 1970s and 1980s was a good way for Patrick to explore broader concepts of exclusiveness, racism, identity and duality. These notions subtly pepper his work, bringing grit to his characters. The often-hilarious cultural clashes he witnessed provide plenty of scope for humour, and an opportunity to reflect on the universal desire to belong. Patrick lives in Melbourne with his family and a pet, bearded dragon, called Rex.

Given Bollywood is of great interest everywhere, we see a huge scope in this book.

– *Niyogi Books*



288 pages | Paperback  
Translation rights in all Indian languages  
except marathi

AV rights have been sold

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subsidiary rights

# THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Author: Rajat Chaudhuri

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A self-obsessed Calcutta detective who goes by his last name 'Kar', an enigmatic internet cafe hostess in Seoul, and a hotshot geneticist labouring away on a top-secret corporate project. These are just a few pieces in the puzzle that need to be put together to explain a world sucked into the whirlpool of the 'butterfly effect'. In the decaying capital city of a near-future Darkland, which covers large swathes of Asia, Captain Old – an off-duty policeman – receives news that might help unravel the roots of a scourge that has ravaged the continent. As stories coalesce into stories – welding past, present and future together – will a macabre death in a small English town or the disappearance of Indian tourists in Korea, help to blow away the dust of time? From utopian communities of Asia to the prison camps of Pyongyang and from the gene labs of Europe to the violent streets of Darkland – riven by civil war, infested by genetically engineered fighters – this time-travelling novel crosses continents, weaving mystery, adventure and romance, gradually fixing its gaze on the sway of the unpredictability over our lives.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

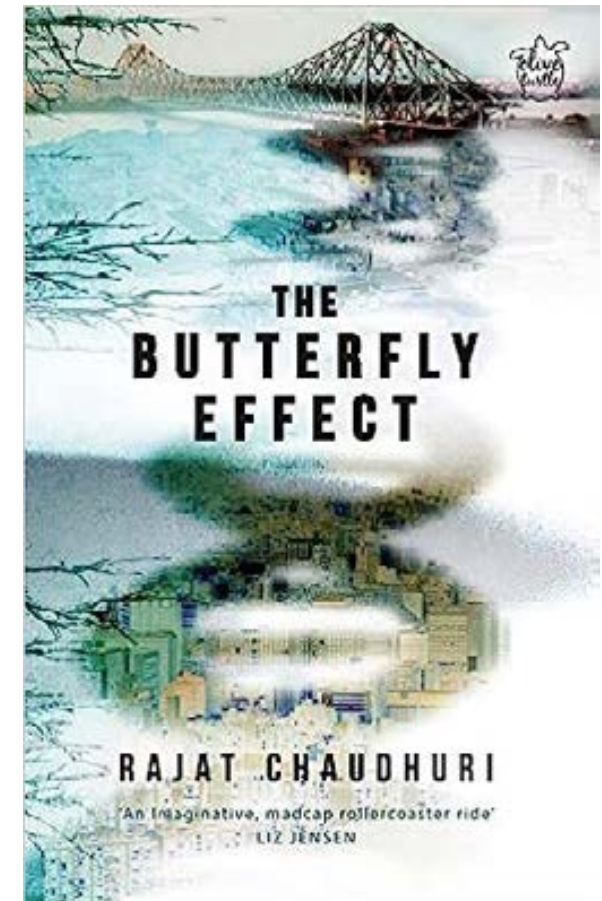
Rajat Chaudhuri is the author of *Hotel Calcutta*, *Amber Dusk* and the Bengali short story collection *Calculus*. His writings have won him a Charles Wallace Creative Writing Fellowship, UK, a Hawthornden Castle Fellowship, Scotland, a Korean Arts Council-InKo Residency in South Korea, and a Sangam House residency. He has written for *Outlook magazine*, *American Book Review*, *Asian Review of Books*, *The Telegraph*, *Eclectica*, among others. Chaudhuri has been a climate change advocate at the United Nations (New York). Trained in Economics, he has worked for international rights advocacy groups and for a Japanese consular mission in his hometown, Kolkata.

376 pages Paperback

Translation rights in all languages  
(Indian & International).

AV rights

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# THE FUGITIVE STORM

Author: Jagdish Chandra Bose | Translator: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A terrible storm loomed over the city of Calcutta. As dark clouds threatened the city, and sleepless people watched with bated breath, a mysterious weather phenomenon occurred—and the city was saved. This mystified many eminent scientists, and they wondered: How did the storm suddenly vanish?

Little did they know that a bottle of magical hair oil, called Kuntal Kesari, played a role in this mystery. Discover a mind-boggling story from classic Bengali science-fiction in a brand-new avatar. From what is said to be the first piece of science-fiction from India.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jagdish Chandra Bose was a Bengali scientist: a biologist, a physicist, a botanist and a writer of science-fiction. He is considered the father of radio science as he was the first person in the world to demonstrate wireless transmission of electromagnetic waves after returning to India in 1885 (although he did not patent this invention, which was brought out by Marconi two years later). Bose then demonstrated how plants responded to various stimuli, demonstrating the electrical nature of this conduction. He is considered a pioneer in the field of biophysics. He was founder and director of the Bose Research Institute, Calcutta which he founded in 1917. He was knighted in 1917, and made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1920.

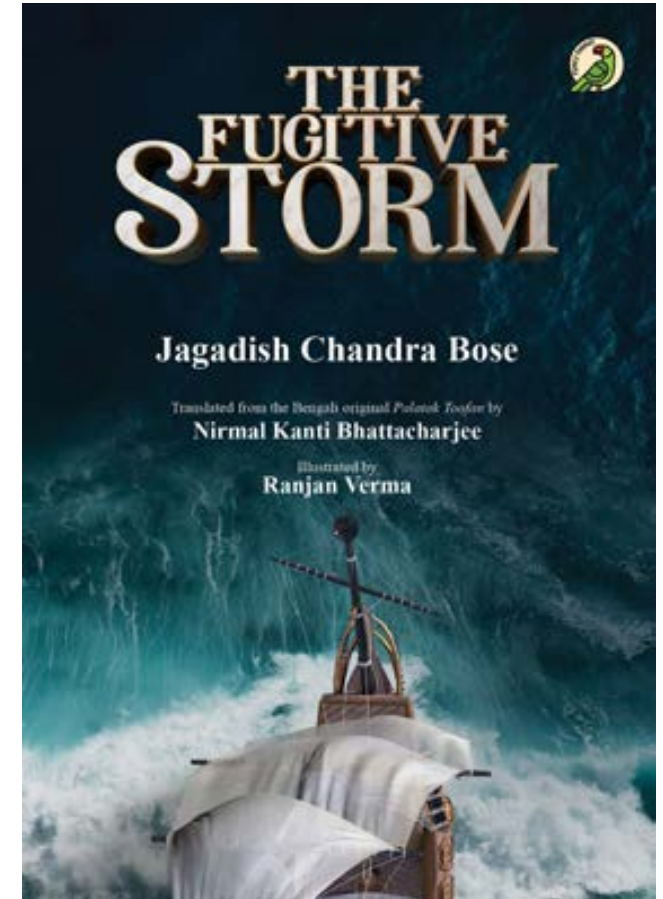
## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee is a teacher, scholar, critic and cultural administrator. A professional wordsmith, he enjoys tossing stories from one language to another and concocting delicious word salads that bring to readers flavours from different lands.

44 pages | Paperback

Translation rights in all international languages

English language co-edition rights





# WORLDS WITHIN WORLDS

Author: Ajay Navaria | Translator: Nita Kumar

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Worlds within Worlds* is a novel true to life, quiet and thoughtful. It is the first-person story of a young man in Delhi and his family. He is a lecturer at a university and has liberal views. His wife is a doctor and his friends are in civil services and private jobs. This would seem to be a familiar middle-class saga—except that they are all Dalit. At the heart of the story, lies the clash between caste and class: can you be middle-class and Dalit? Thus, opening discussions about the meaning of ‘caste’ and ‘untouchability’.

Is education an emancipatory force? The main characters are in conflict as they go through experiences of discrimination because of their names and backgrounds, and of liberation because of their education and qualifications. The story is also about a young man’s sexual and romantic experiences, family relationships and social consciousness, where caste does not play a defining role.

The novel is certain to make readers explore concepts of caste, class and religion, familial and societal dynamics, as well as friendship, love and loyalty to a person or a cause.

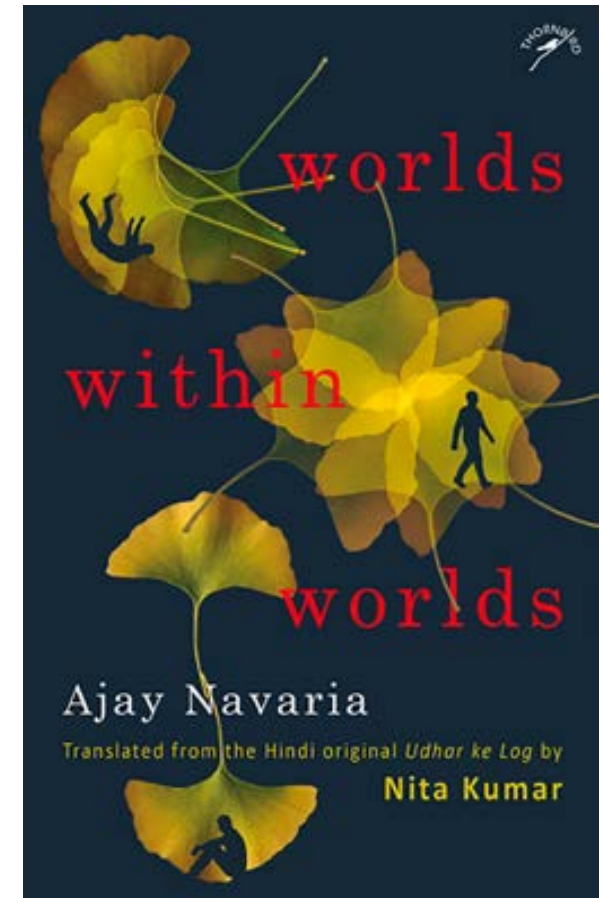
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ajay Navaria did his MPhil and PhD from JNU. His stories have been widely translated. *Unclaimed Terrain*, a story collection, translated by Prof. Laura R. Brueck, was critically acclaimed. He has been invited as a speaker at various universities and literature festivals. His works have been included in the syllabus at Harvard University, Michigan University and University of Delhi. He is a Professor of Hindi at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nita Kumar is the retired Brown Professor of South Asian History at Claremont McKenna College, California. She is the author and editor of several books and has scripted the movie *Shankar’s Fairies*. She runs NIRMAN, which works for children, families, education, and the arts, and the school Vidyashram the Southpoint, in Varanasi.

320 pages | Paperback  
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# ANTHILL

Author: Vinoy Thomas | Translator: Nandakumar K.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

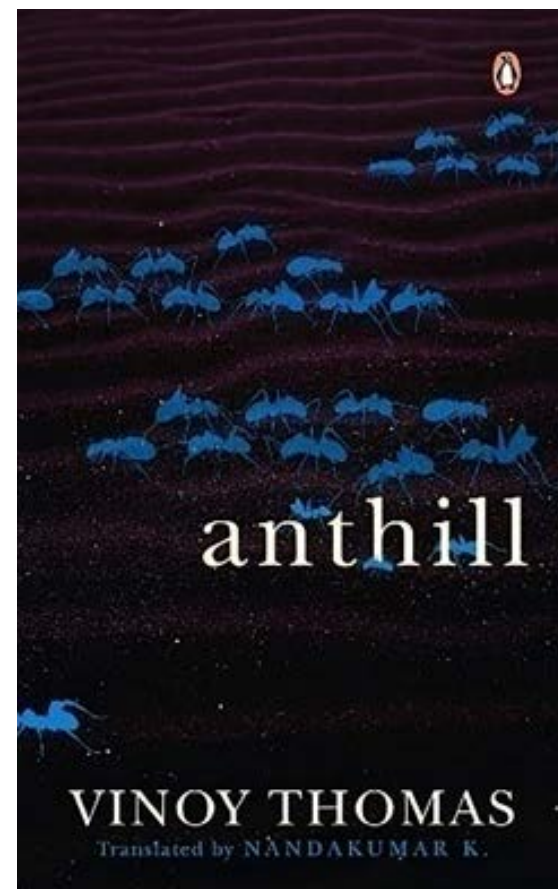
The remote village of Perumpadi, at the border between Kerala and Karnataka, is a unique settlement. Bounded by dense Kodagu forests on the south and west, and raging rivers on the north and east, its very isolation was what drew the first settlers to this unharnessed land. The first to make his way across this rough terrain was Kunjuvarkey, along with a young woman bearing his child. Kunjuvarkey was fleeing the opprobrium of getting his own daughter pregnant. Those who followed had similar shameful secrets. In a land of sinners, where no one pried into the other's past, they were able to live and build a community without being tied down by society's interdictions. Fifty years later, as the community moves into modernity, they start showing signs of reforming from their beginnings—of a hillbilly and promiscuous existence. *Anthill*, a robust translation of the award-winning novel *Puttu* and with a cast of over 200 characters, tells the story of a people who have tried to shed the shackles of family, religion and other restraining institutions, but eventually also struggle to conform to the needs of a cultured society.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vinoy Thomas hails from Nellikkampoyil, Iritty, in north Kerala. A schoolteacher by profession, he is one of the most promising young writers in Malayalam. His short-story collections include *Ramachi*, *Mullaranjanam* and *Adiyormisiha Enna Novel*. His debut novel, *Karikkottakkary* was selected as one of the five best novels in the DC Books competition. His second novel, *Puttu (Anthill)*, won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for the best Malayalam novel of 2021. Thomas has also authored a children's book, *Anatham Piriyaatham*. His short stories have been made into movies. He is also a gifted scriptwriter and has to his credit a few acclaimed movies.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nandakumar K. is a Dubai-based translator. His co-translation of M. Mukundan's *Delhi Gadhaka (Delhi: A Soliloquy)* won the 2021 JCB Prize for Literature. His other translations include *A Thousand Cuts*, the autobiography of Professor T.J. Joseph, which won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award; *The Lesbian Cow and Other Stories* by Indu Menon; and *In the Name of the Lord*, the autobiography of Sr Lucy Kalapura. Nandakumar is the grandson of Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon.



352 pages | Hardback

Imprint: Vintage

Territory: World

Language rights: English



# FEELING KERALA

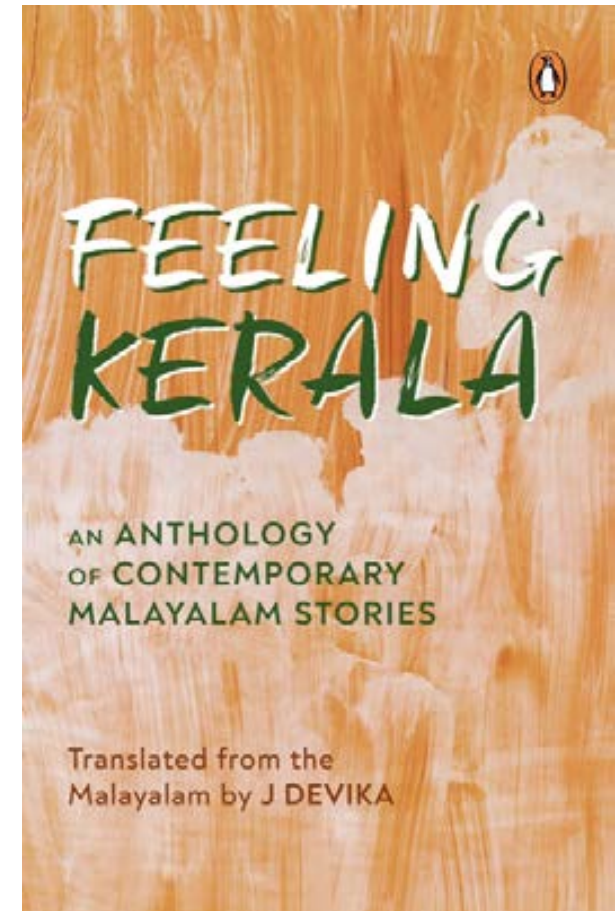
Translator: J. Devika

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The living, pulsating and ever-changing entity that is Kerala is best represented by its astute, critical and deeply insightful writers of the Malayalam short story, and in *Feeling Kerala*, a selection of some of the best and sharpest narratives from the region is now translated and curated for English readers to love and cherish. While staying true to its literary form, these stories provide a tour into the heart and soul of contemporary Kerala and aim at getting past the twentieth-century characterisations of the state, say, as defined by communist egalitarian spirit or matrilineal families. This collection succinctly encapsulates the varied landscapes of Kerala: the highlands, the coastal areas and the growing urban centres. They move in and out of homes and take the readers into older spaces—convents and panchayats—and the new spaces of capital—airports and tourist resorts—as well as the world of criminals.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

J. Devika is a feminist historian, social researcher and translator, currently with the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. She translates literary writing from Malayalam to English and social science writing from English to Malayalam. She has translated the literary writings of K.R. Meera, Sarah Joseph, Unni R., Ambikasuthan Mangad and Lalithambika Antharjanam, among others.



304 pages | Hardback

Penguin Viking

Territory: World

Language rights: English



# NIREESWARAN

Author: V.J. James | Translator: Ministhy S.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Is it possible for society to exist without religion? *Nireeswaran*, the most celebrated of Malayalam novelist V.J. James' works, uses incisive humour and satire to question blind faith and give an insight into what true spirituality is.

Three atheists, Antony, Sahir, and Bhaskaran, embark on an elaborate prank to establish that God is nothing but a superstition. They install a mutilated idol of Nireeswaran, literally anti-god, to show people how hollow their religion is. Their plan starts turning awry when miracles start being attributed to Nireeswaran—a man waking up from coma after twenty-four years, a jobless man ineligible for government employment getting a contract, a prostitute turning into a saint—leading hordes to turn up to worship the fake deity. The trio is put in a quandary. Will they fight their own creation? Are their intractable minds an indication that atheism is a religion in itself? Belief and disbelief, it is possible, are two sides of the same coin.

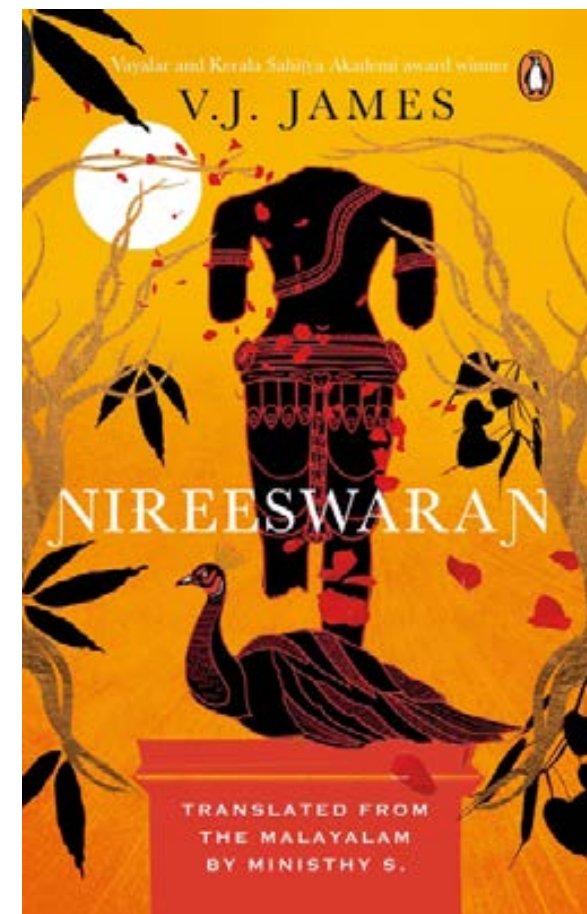
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

V.J. James writes in Malayalam. An engineer by profession, he worked at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. His debut novel *Purappadinte Pusthakam* (The Book of Exodus) was awarded the DC Silver Jubilee Award, Malayattoor Prize and Rotary Literary Award. Other awards include the

O.V Vijayan Award and Thikkurissi Award for the novel *Anti-Clock*, and the Thoppil Ravi Award, Kerala Bhasha Institute Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, Basheer Puraskaram and Vayalar Award for Nireeswaran. The English translation of *Chorashasthram* was shortlisted for the Atta Galatta Bangalore Literature Festival Book Prize. The English translation of *Anti-Clock*, published by Penguin Random House, was shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature 2021.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Ministhy S. is an IAS officer working in the Uttar Pradesh cadre. She translates between three languages: English, Malayalam and Hindi. Her translation of *The Poison of Love* by Malayalam novelist K.R. Meera was longlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2017 and *The Unseeing Idol of Light* by the same author shortlisted for the Crossword Book Jury Awards in 2018. Her translation of *Anti-Clock* was shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature 2021. She has further translated *Sundar Kanda*, *Kishkindha Kanda* and *Aranya Kanda* from Awadhi to English, and the poetry collections *My Home*, *After Me* by Agneya from the Hindi and *The Heaviness of the Rain* by Veerankutty from the Malayalam.



320 pages | Hardback

Territory: World, English only

Language rights: English

# THE ART & SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS

Author: Swami Mukundananda

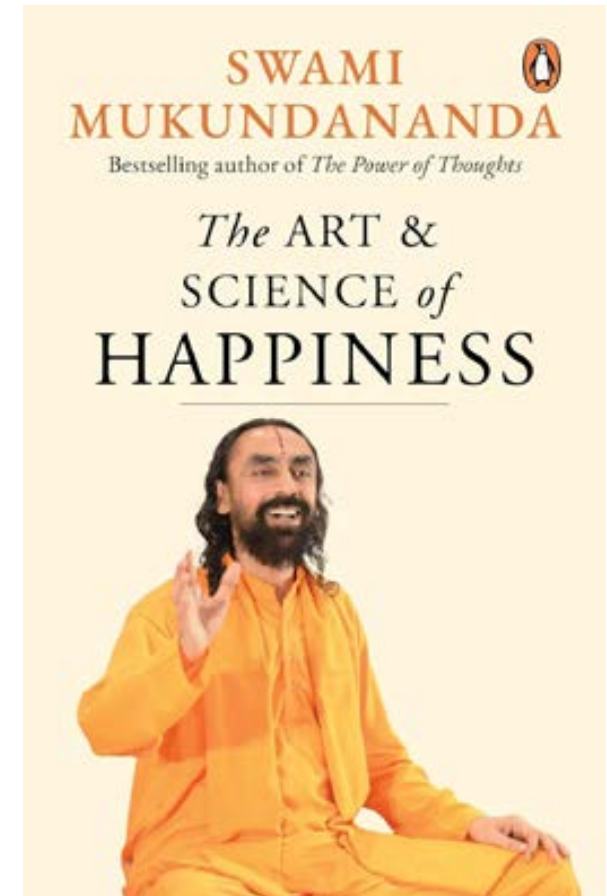
## ABOUT THE BOOK

Learn the art and science of being happy from spiritual leader and bestselling author Swami Mukundananda.

What if you could learn to create happiness? Yes, that's right. Just as we have learnt to produce thoughts and behaviours which make us miserable, we can also learn the art and science of being happy. Imagine joy that does not depend on externals; joy that is not fleeting; and joy that grows forever. While this may sound impossible or a fairy-tale, this is the true happiness as explained in all the scriptures. It can withstand the harshest conditions and make you feel on top of the world—always.

The aim of this book is to equip you with insights and wisdom that will ensure you choose wisely and set yourself on the path to master the art and science of

happiness. You will learn the wisdom to cultivate happiness in your everyday life and identify best practices and principles that will enable you to be cheerful and in high spirits, no matter what.



288 pages | Paperback

Penguin Ananda

Territory: World

# THE BLIND MATRIARCH

Author: Namita Gokhale

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The blind matriarch, Matangi-Ma, lives on the topmost floor of an old house with many stories. From her eyrie, she hovers unseeingly over the lives of her family. Her long-time companion Lali is her emissary to the world. Her three children are by turn overprotective and dismissive of her. Her grandchildren are coming to terms with old secrets and growing pains. Life goes on this way until one day the world comes to a standstill-and they all begin to look inward. This assured novel records the different registers in the complex inner life of an extended family. Like the nation itself, the strict hierarchy of the joint-family home can be dysfunctional, and yet it is this home that often provides unexpected relief and succour to the vulnerable within its walls.

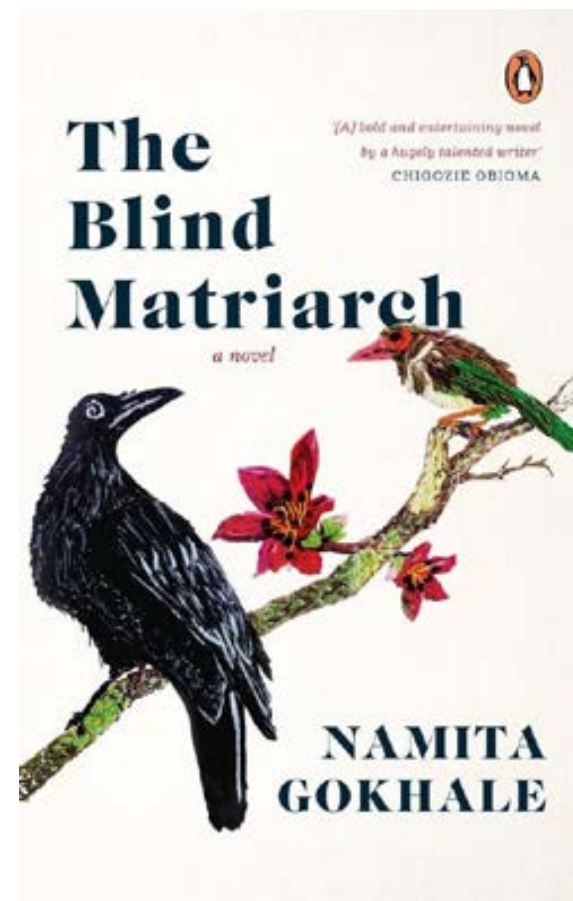
As certainties dissolve, endings lead to new beginnings. Structured with the warp of memory and the weft of conjoined lives, the narrative follows middle India, even as it records the struggles for individual growth, with successive generations trying to break out of the stranglehold of the all-encompassing Indian family.

Ebbing and flowing like the waves of a pandemic, the novel is a clear-eyed chronicle of the tragedies of India's encounter with the Coronavirus, the cynicism and despair that accompanied it, and the resilience and strength of the human spirit.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Namita Gokhale is the author of twenty-one books including eleven works of fiction, and editor of numerous anthologies. Her acclaimed debut novel, *Paro: Dreams of Passion*, was published in 1984. Her recent works of fiction include *The Blind Matriarch* and the play-script *Betrayed By Hope*. The edited anthology *Mystics and Sceptics - Searching Himalayan Masters* was published in 2023. Gokhale is Co-founder and Co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival. She has been recognised both for her writing and her commitment to multilingual Indian literature and cross-cultural literary dialogue.

She received the prestigious First Centenary National Award for Literature in 2017, and was a Sahitya Akademi awardee for 2021. She has recently been honoured with the Nilimarani Sahitya Samman 2023.



224 pages | Paperback

218 pages | Hardback

Territory: World

Imprint: Viking (hardback, 2021),  
Penguin (paperback, 2022)



# THE PRINCESS AND THE POLITICAL AGENT

Author: Binodini | Translator: L Somy Roy

## ABOUT THE BOOK

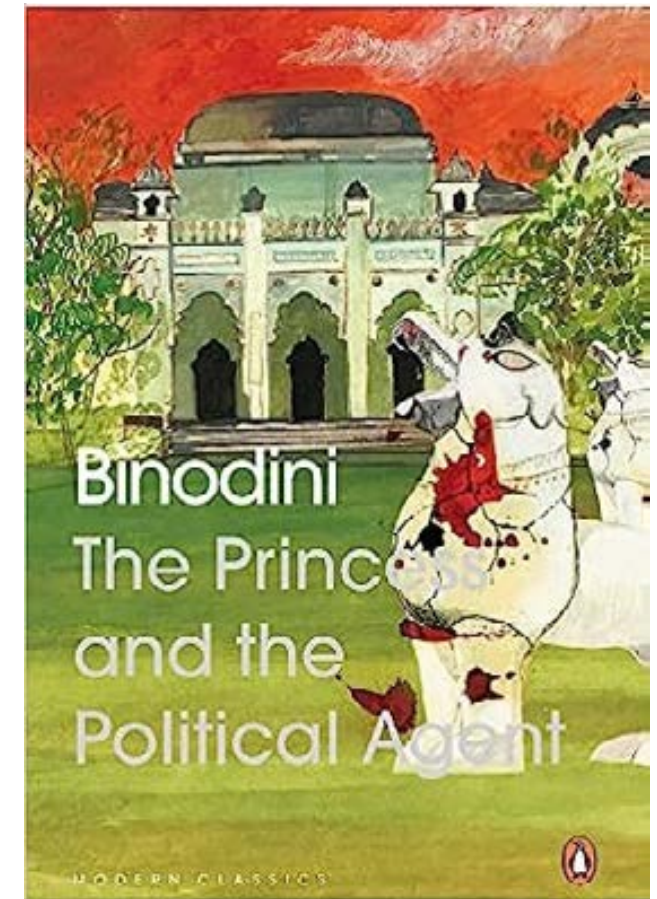
In this historical novel, Sahitya Akademi award-winning author Binodini tells the love story of her aunt Princess Sanatombi and the British representative in the erstwhile subjugated kingdom of Manipur. Their poignant story is set in the midst of the imperialist British Raj, warring princes, clever queens and loyal retainers. Its sorrows and empathy sparkle with wit and beauty, as it deftly dissects the build-up and aftermath of the perfidy of the Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Binodini is the supreme stylist of contemporary Manipuri literature and an icon of Manipuri modernism, and her tale of a forbidden love, fealty, valour, treachery and ostracism vividly brings to life a little-known Asian kingdom. In doing so, she recovers its history and a forgotten chapter of the British.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Somi Roy is a cultural conservationist and curator who writes on film, culture and polo for publications in India and the United States. He promotes international polo and Manipuri pony preservation in India, and is a film curator who has organised exhibitions for the Asia Society, Museum of Modern Art, Film at Lincoln Center and Whitney Museum of American Art. He has also translated the original Manipuri works of his mother, the Manipuri writer M.K. Binodini Devi. His published translations of Binodini include her historical novel, *The Princess and the Political Agent*, a Penguin Modern Classic published by Penguin Random House India; memoir of essays *The Maharaja's Household: A Daughter's Memories of Her Father*; her play *Crimson Rainclouds*; and screenplay *My Son, My Precious Raj*.



344 pages Paperback  
Penguin Modern Classics  
Territory: World, English only



## ROLI BOOKS

Since its inception in 1978, Roli Books has been synonymous with path-breaking and quality publishing. Our decision to focus on art books was led by the fact that there was a vacuum in scholarly books with cutting-edge visuals and design in India. Over four decades later we stay true to our origins, continuing to be market leaders in art and illustrated books in India. We continue to be inspired by our country's incredibly rich past and our catalogue boasts the greatest talents in various fields as our collaborators. Successfully straddling tradition and modernity, our books are based on scholarship yet accessible to a wide, non-specialist readership.

# 1946 ROYAL INDIAN NAVY MUTINY

## LAST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Author: Pramod Kapoor

### ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1946, 20,000 non-commissioned sailors of the Royal Indian Navy mutinied. They were inspired by the heroism of the Azad Hind Fauj. But their anger was sparked by terrible service conditions, racism, and broken recruitment promises. In less than 48 hours, 20,000 men took over 78 ships and 21 shore establishments, and replaced British flags with the entwined flags of the Congress, the Muslim League and the communists. The British panicked and announced a Cabinet Mission to discuss modalities of transfer of power. By this time, Indian troops had refused to fire on the ratings, and the mutiny sparked revolts in other branches of the armed forces.

But this seminal event, which inspired songs, art and theatre has been edited out of the popular narratives of the Freedom Movement. Pramod Kapoor transforms a footnote in history into a remarkably detailed account of the rebellion that historians say accelerated the transfer of power.

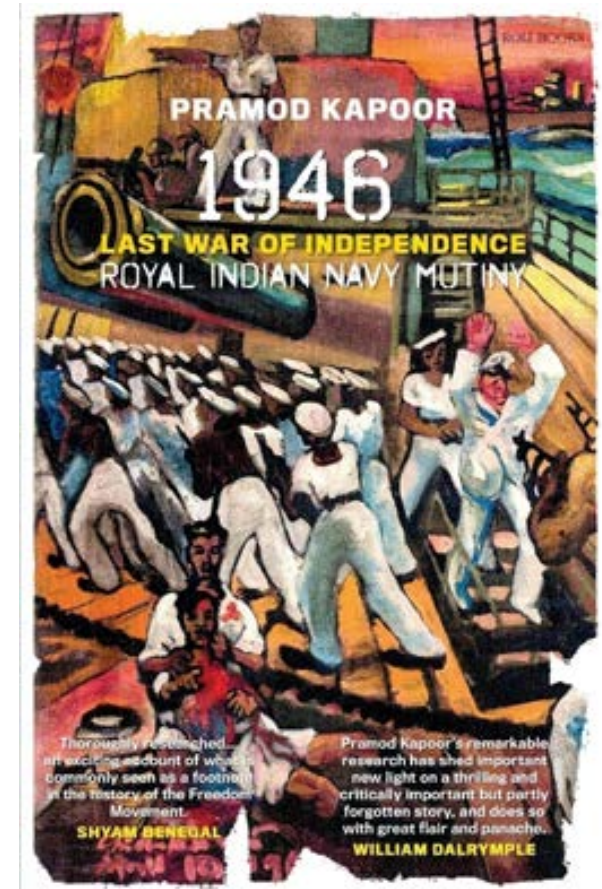
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pramod Kapoor, the founder and publisher of Roli Books, has over the course of his illustrious career, conceived and produced award-winning books that have proven to be game-changers in the world of publishing. Be it the *Then and Now* series and the seminal *Made for Maharajas*, or even the internationally acclaimed *Gandhi: An Illustrated Biography*, which is published in eleven editions in most major languages worldwide. In 2016, he was conferred with the prestigious Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civil and military award in France, for his contribution towards producing books that have changed the landscape of Indian publishing. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Mahatma Award 2021 (an Aditya Birla Group initiative) for Lifetime Achievement for his contribution to publishing and literature in India.

376 pages | Hardback

Year of publication: 2022

Rights: All rights are available except Tamil, Marathi and Pakistani English editions.



# INSPIRED BY INDIA: HOW INDIA TRANSFORMED GLOBAL DESIGN

Author: Phyllida Jay

## ABOUT THE BOOK

With a wealth of visual imagery from the archives of museums and galleries and the world's leading luxury brands, craft ateliers and fashion designers, *Inspired by India* is a panoramic exploration of over six centuries of trade, cultural exchange and inspiration between India and the rest of the world. Through the lens of various material and visual categories, including textiles such as chintz and muslin, fashion history and imagery, jewellery and global luxury fashion brands, intriguing stories unfold surrounding the histories of objects and the complex ideas of India that inform their inspiration.

The book explores how some of the most legendary design houses have looked to Indian culture, decorative arts and artisanal crafts for inspiration. It delves into how these inspirations are filtered and adapted according to preconceived ideas or strategic objectives concerning India.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Phyllida Jay has a doctorate in anthropology from University College London. Her work looks at society and culture in contemporary India through fashion, craft and design. She is especially interested in the cultural history of Indian craftwork and the role of Indian artisans in international luxury. She is the author of two books, *Fashion India* and *Indian Khadi Cloth: from National Fabric to Luxury Fashion*. She also works as a journalist and regularly writes for several publications including, the *Business of Fashion*, the *New York Times*, *BBC Culture* and *Vogue India*.

256 pages | Hardback

Year of publication: 2022 (2nd Edition)

All rights available





# THE LOST FRAGRANCE OF INFINITY: A NOVEL GLOWING WITH THE ESSENCE OF SUFISM

Author: Moin Mir

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1739, Qaraar Ali, a young craftsman from Delhi witnesses the destruction of his world as he has known it. His wondrous city where he found love, spirituality and the friendship of poets and philosophers becomes a desolate, scorching hell. From the embers of his past, a journey begins; one which takes him into the depths of Sufi philosophy. Traversing spectacular landscapes of a fading Mughal Empire, a turbulent Central Asia and Persia, a culturally retreating Ottoman Empire and declining Spanish influence, Qaraar Ali finds hope in the sacred geometry of the Sufis through which he attempts at rebuilding his life and rediscovering love. A deeply passionate love story imbued with spirituality, acceptance, compassion and redemption, *The Lost Fragrance of Infinity* gives a much-deserved voice to Sufism and its contributions to humanity, art, mathematics, mysticism and science.

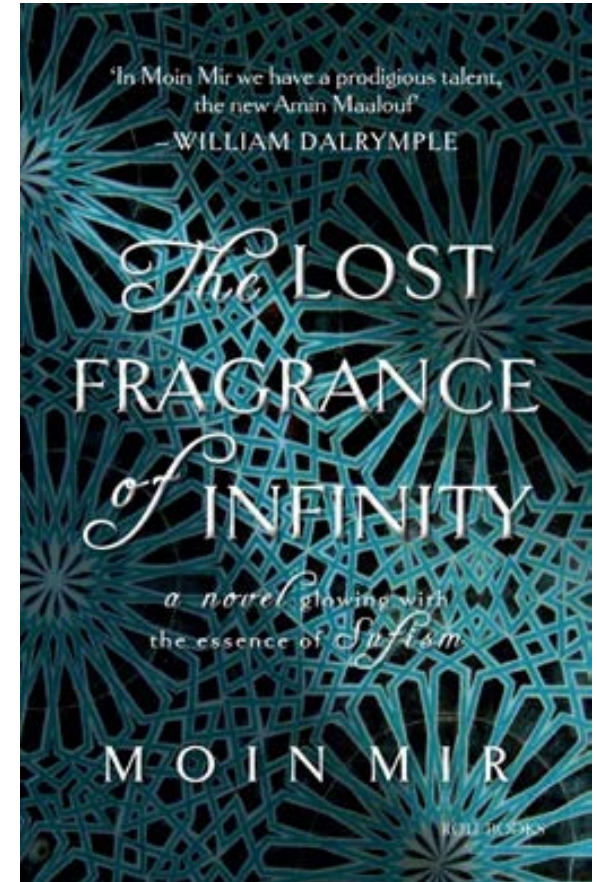
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Moin Mir is a London-based writer of Indian origin. He began writing under the influence of his grandfather, a scholar of Sufism, Omar Khayyam and Mirza Ghalib. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book *Surat: Fall of a Port, Rise of a Prince*. *The Lost Fragrance of Infinity* is his second book. Mir speaks frequently at leading international literature festivals on topics ranging from Sufism, history and travel writing.

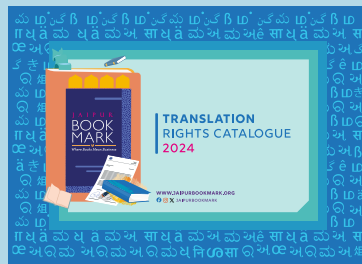
332 pages | Paperback

Year of publication: 2021

All rights available except  
the Pakistani English edition.







Seagull Books (estd 1982) has been crafting books with an eye on both exceptional content and radical design. What began as a highly risky business of publishing books on alternative cinema, philosophy, and culture, continues to be a passionately felt need of the hour: manuscripts that need to see the light of day, to reach a readership, stimulating minds and changing outlooks.

# GENERAL FIREBRAND AND HIS RED ATLAS

Author: Tathagata Bhattacharya

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A surreal dystopian tour-de-force from an upcoming Indian English writer.

In a world on the brink of totalitarian rule, one man rises from the shadows to ignite a revolution that will shake the very foundations of power—General Firebrand, an unsocial and recovered alcoholic, considered a pariah by society. When the fascist regime of Madame President Nida Dodi and the world-dominating President Adam Bum threaten to transform the province of Sands without the people's consent, Firebrand becomes the unlikely leader of a war of resistance.

In this guerrilla war, Firebrand garners support from the unlikeliest of allies, as the World Island, the global economic and military powerhouse, comes to the aid of Dodi's Republic, beasts and birds of the jungle join the struggle. Spirits of historical figures from past wars and fictional characters with supernatural abilities lend their strength to the cause. Amidst the chaos, a spy from the World Island is captured, revealing a devastating secret.

In this explosive debut novel, the personal and political collide in the face of dystopia. With zany, irreverent prose and a breakneck pace, *General Firebrand and His Red Atlas* challenges conventional wisdom and explores the complexities of courage, doubt, and the pursuit of justice in a world dominated by fear.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tathagata Bhattacharya is an Indian journalist and sustainability expert who divides his time between the plains of Delhi and the mountains of Uttarakhand. He has over two decades of experience in writing and reporting as well as editorial management of diverse teams and media verticals. His current obsession is the mainstreaming of climate change-friendly habitats. He is the only child of cult Bengali writer Nabarun Bhattacharya and the only grandchild of noted playwright-director Bijon Bhattacharya and writer-activist Mahasweta Devi. General Firebrand and His Red Atlas is his first novel.

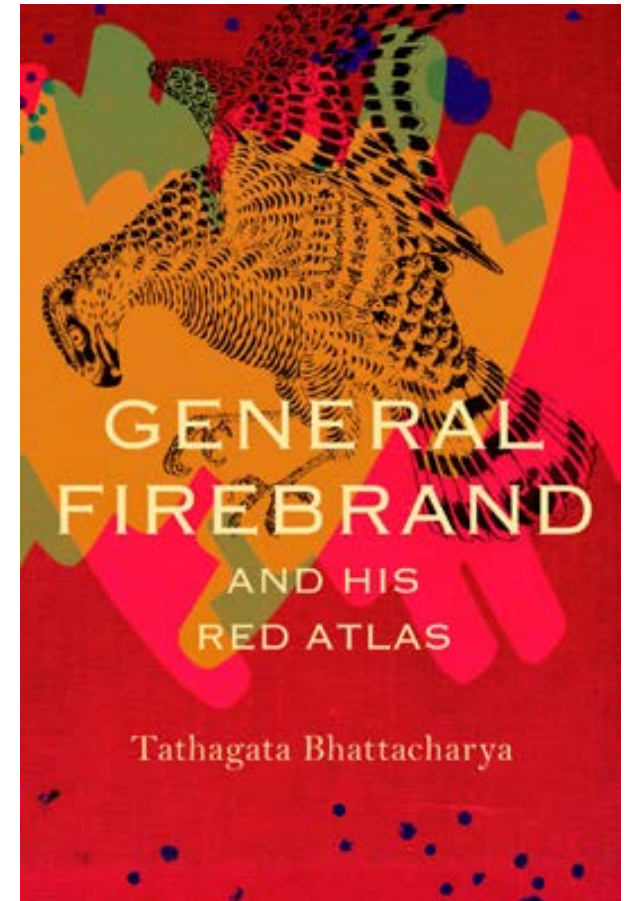
52,000 Words | Fiction

Forthcoming 2024

The India List

All rights available

Galley PDF available on request



'An acute, idiosyncratic reading experience'

—*Publishers Weekly*

# HERBERT

Author: Nabarun Bhattacharya | Translator: Sunandini Banerjee

## ABOUT THE BOOK

May 1992. In Russia, Boris Yeltsin is showing millions of communists the spectre of capitalism. Yugoslavia is disintegrating. United Germany is uncertain about their next move, and communism is collapsing all around. And in a corner of old Calcutta, Herbert Sarkar, sole proprietor of a company that delivers messages from the dead, decides to give up the ghost. Decides to give up his aunt and uncle, his friends and foes, his fondness for kites, his aching heart that broke for Buki, his top terrace from where he stared up at the sky, his Ulster overcoat with buttons like big black medals, his notebook full of poems, his Park Street every evening when the sun goes down, his memory of a Russian girl running across the great black Earth as the soldiers lift their guns and get ready to fire, his fairy who beat her wings against his window and filled his room with blue light...

Now in a new translation, *Herbert*, the beloved cult favourite by Nabarun Bhattacharya, and winner of the 1997 Sahitya Akademi Award, is a 'scathingly satiric, wildly energetic, and yet, deeply tender' portrayal of a doomed young man and a city struggling to resist forces that, alas, prove to be entirely beyond their control.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nabarun Bhattacharya (1948–2014) was born into a family of writers, filmmakers, artists and academics. A journalist from 1973 to 1991 at a foreign news agency, he gave up that career in order to become a full-time writer. Herbert was published in 1992 and won the Bankim and Sahitya Akademi awards. Some of his best-known works are *Kangal Malshat* (2003), *Ei Mrityu Upotyoka Aamaar Desh Na* (2004) and *Phyataroor Bombachak* (2004). A novelist and short-story writer, he was also a prolific poet and, from 2003 until his death, editor of the *Bhashabandhan* journal.

166 Pages | Fiction

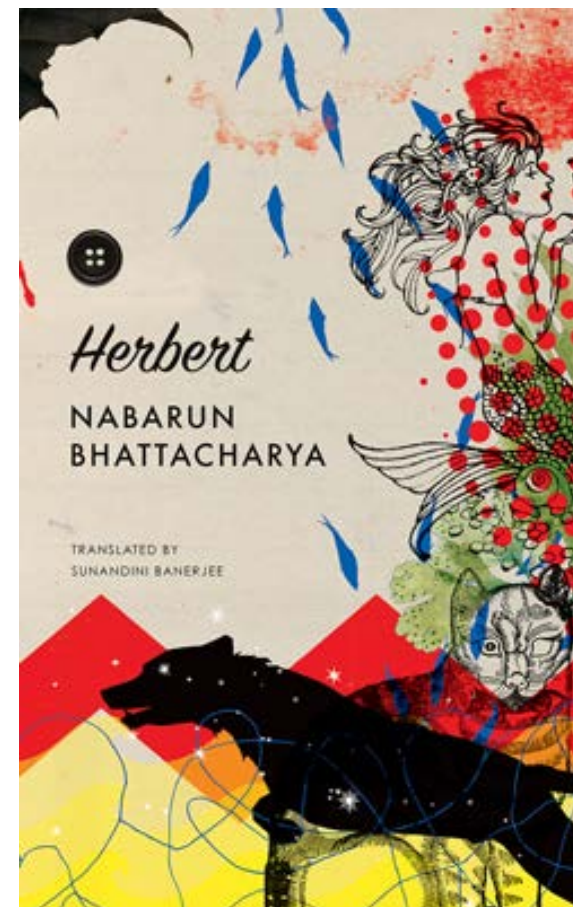
29,000 Words

Published 2019

All language rights available

Territory rights sold:  
North America (New Directions)

PDF of English translation  
available on request





# STRANGERS IN LIGHT COATS: SELECTED POEMS, 2014–2020

Author: Ghassan Zaqtan | Translator: Robin Moger

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A highly anticipated edition of Zaqtan's work from 2014 to 2020, all in English for the first time.

Ghassan Zaqtan is not only one of the most significant Palestinian poets at work today, but one of the most important poets writing in Arabic. Since the publication of his first collection in 1980, Zaqtan's presence as a poet has evolved with the same branching and cumulative complexity as his poems—an invisible system of roots insistently pushing through the impacted soil of political and national narratives.

*Strangers in Light Coats* is the third collection of Zaqtan's poetry to appear in English. It brings together poems written between 2014 and 2020 drawn from six volumes of poetry. Catching and holding the smallest particles of observation and experience in their gravity, the poems sprout and grow as though compelled, a process in which fable, myth, and elegy take form only to fall apart and reconfigure, each line picked apart by the next and brought into the new body.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ghassan Zaqtan is a Palestinian poet, novelist and editor, who was born near Bethlehem and has lived in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Tunisia. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, several novels and a play, *The Narrow Sea*, which was honoured at the 1994 Cairo Festival. His verse collection *Like a Straw Bird It Follows Me*, translated by Fady Joudah, was awarded the Griffin Poetry Prize for 2013. Zaqtan was nominated for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature in both 2014 and 2016. His name appeared for the first time in 2013 among the favourites to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

96 pages | 12,000 words

Published 2023

The Arab List

Rights: All language rights available

PDF of English translation  
available on request



‘Zaqtan is certainly a master of his art, one who is able to be a mythmaker and a witness at the same time, which is rare among poets... A word-artist of the first order.’

—Ilya Kaminsky





# TRUTH/UNTRUTH

Author: Mahasweta Devi | Translator: Anjum Katyal

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A trechant, darkly humorous, and unsentimental look at Calcutta society.

Set in Calcutta in the mid-1980s, *Truth / Untruth* is a fast-paced thriller built around the death of the pregnant Jamuna—a maid in a newly affluent residential apartment complex—and Arjun, the upwardly mobile businessman who seduced her. Packed with a cast of colourful characters, this novel is a trenchant, darkly humorous, and unsentimental look at the different segments of Calcutta society: from the middle-class culture vultures to the unscrupulous 'promoter' class and the domestic helpers and slum goons who form an intrinsic part of the city's life. All are implicated in a complex web of guilt and bizarre twists and turns. Sex, lies, death—the great modernist themes—run like a thread through this book, exposing societal greed, lust, corruption, and moral hypocrisy with a sardonic tone that spares none. An unusual novel by an author who is otherwise known for her hard-hitting activist-feminist stories, *Truth / Untruth* underlines the exploitative vicious cycle that defines urban relations between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mahasweta Devi (1926–2016) was one of India's foremost literary figures from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries—a writer and social activist in equal rights. Author of numerous novels, essays and short stories, she received the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, in 1996. She was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1997 for her 'compassionate crusade through art and activism to claim for tribal peoples a just and honourable place in India's national life'.

151 Pages | 32,500 words | 6" x 9"

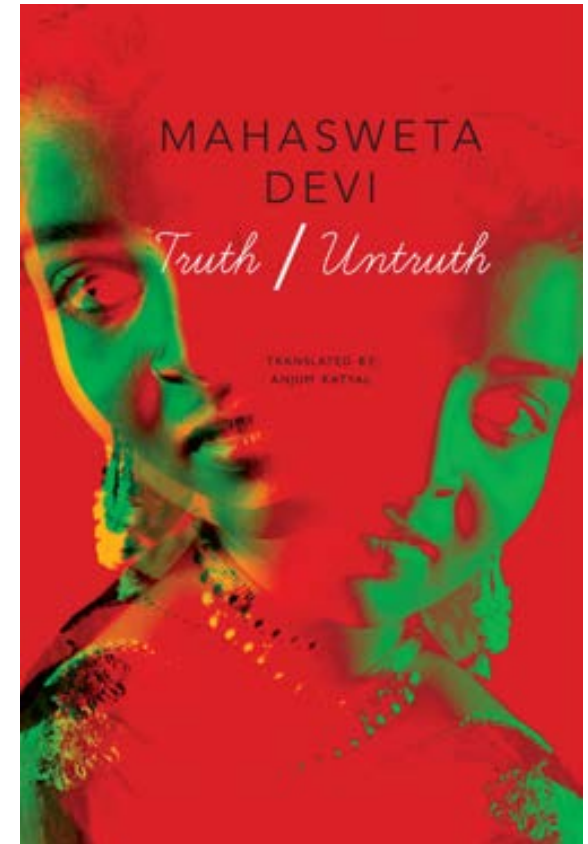
Published: 2023

Fiction

The India List

All language rights available

PDF of English translation available on request



The linear narration, as it moves ahead, gets murkier as one realises the extent of maliciousness that the so-called genteel class is capable of to safeguard their reputation and social standing. Devi's exposé is as scintillating as it is morbid.'

—*Sayari Debnath*,  
[Scroll.in](https://scroll.in)

# UNLOVE STORY

Author: Sudipto Pal | Translator: Arunava Sinha

## ABOUT THE BOOK

One of the first openly gay novels written in Bengali, now available in English translation.

Mallar, a shy and introspective 16-year-old, finds himself drawn to Srijan, his classmate's enigmatic elder cousin, during a fateful summer on a family farm. At first, Mallar's fantasies take shape in secret sketches of Srijan. But soon, their connection becomes a complex play of mutual desire and dominance, which leads to the forging of a unique pact—a promise never to fall in love with each other.

As their lives take them from the serene landscapes of Bengal to the vibrant beaches of Chennai, the mysterious alleys of Paris, and the buzzing energy of Bangalore, the two men's unconventional companionship deepens. With each meeting comes a new revelation, a fresh twist to their agreement, and a surprising facet of their identities. Mallar, reviving his childhood passion, finds himself on a journey of self-discovery as he becomes an artist. Collaborating on a prestigious art project, Mallar transforms Srijan's body into a living canvas. But what begins as a creative endeavour quickly becomes a voyage into uncharted depths, as the canvas asks questions, challenges their resolve, and unravels hidden truths, culminating in new beginnings in both men's lives.

Delving into the intricate layers of Mallar and Srijan's lives, their fears, insecurities, hopes and the mosaic of experiences that shape them, this novel is a testament to the complexities of human connection. One of the first openly gay novels written in Bengali, and the first

to be translated into English, Sudipto Pal's *Unlove Story* is a valuable addition to the wealth of LGBTQ+ literature from around the world.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sudipto Pal is a writer, statistician, and data scientist. He regularly writes on LGBT topics as well as cultural and art history in major Bengali publications, including *Anandabazar Patrika*. Pal is a post graduate in statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and works in a leadership role in data science and behavioural economics. He has built and led employee resource groups for the LGBT community at his workplace, and has spearheaded policies, hiring plans and sensitisation programmes for the same. His non-fiction book *Samakamita O Bibartan* helped demystify homosexuality and its evolutionary aspects for common readers in Bengali. Pal lives in Bangalore, India, with his partner.

FORTHCOMING

## SUDIPTO PAL Unlove Story

TRANSLATED BY  
ARUNAVA SINHA

45,000 words

Forthcoming in English translation 2024

Fiction / LGBTQ+

The Pride List

All language rights available

PDF Galley of English translation  
available on request



वाणी प्रकाशन

Vani Prakashan Group, a leading publisher of Hindi literature for 60 years, has published over 7,000 books across 38 genres in print, electronic, and audio formats. Vani Prakashan is the largest Hindi publishing conglomerate, having acquired Bharatiya Jnanpith, India's oldest publishing house. They received the Distinguished Publisher Award and established the Vani Foundation for translation work. They've also won the National Award Swarn Kamal for Best Book on Cinema and the Excellence Award from the Oxford Business College. Their Hindi translation of Persepolis, won the Best Printed Book of the Year Award from Publishing Next in 2022.

# DAUR

Author: Mamta Kalia

## ABOUT THE BOOK

'The message of my novel, if any, would be that the human condition is far from being perfect', says Mamta Kalia about her book, *Daur*, that registers the tough realities of the hyper-commercial Indian society. Vani Prakashan Group celebrates the book as its twenty-seventh edition in paperback gets published in 2023.

The characters portrayed in *Daur* are drawn from real life. In the last decade of the 20th century, students realised that better career options were available for them in the emerging global economy. In the novel, Pawan, the protagonist, learns his lessons in the frantic realm of peer pressure and the rat race. His brother Saghan also goes abroad in the challenging world of software. The parents notice the void not only in their home but in most neighbouring homes too. In the present scenario, the concept of success seems more important than happiness. The hero of the novel, Pawan, portrays the significant outflow of MBA students who undergo the acid test of placement and sales targets in a competitive world. The parents have to face the empty nest syndrome, and the younger generation is left with no other option than to swim to the shore of success.

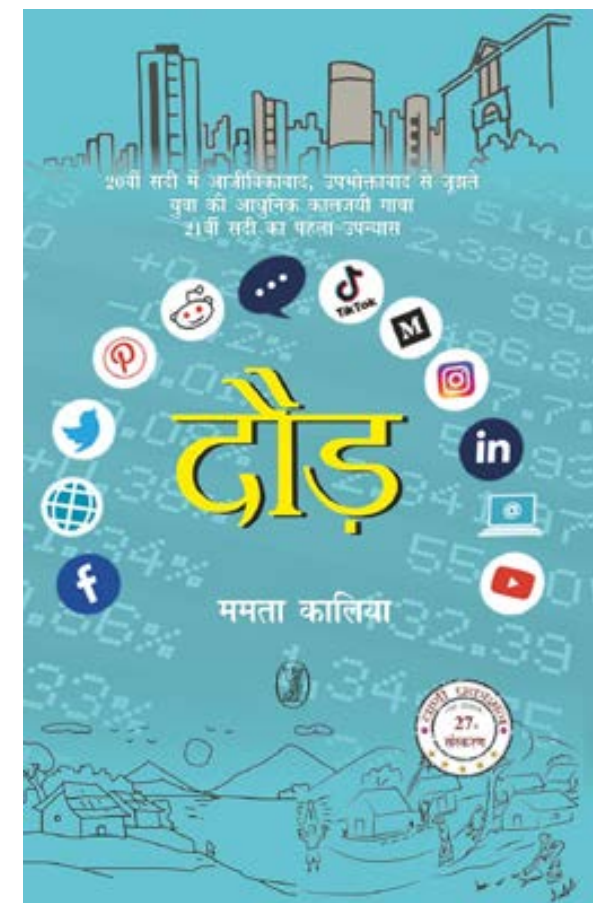
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mamta Kalia was born in 1940. She has published two poetry books in English and has written novels, plays, and short story collections in Hindi. She taught at universities in Delhi, Bombay, and SNDT, and served as the principal of a degree college in Allahabad until 2001. She has more than 30 published books, many of which have received awards. Kalia's short stories and poems have been translated into English, Marathi, Bengali, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam. Her novel *Daur* has gone through 26 editions and continues to be in demand, it has been translated and published in Marathi and Bengali and will soon be available in Malayalam.

118 pages

ISBN : 9789352298808

Publishing year: 2023 (27th Edition)





# HALALA

Author: Bhagwandass Morwal

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Halala* signifies that which is legitimate or lawful, whereas *halālā* refers to the process of transforming something currently deemed unlawful into a state of legality. In Islam, 'Nikah Halālā' is a form of marriage solemnised to make the divorced wife, who had been rendered unlawful following 'Triple-Talaq,' lawful to her former husband. 'Triple-Talaq' is a form of instant divorce in which the husband has the right to pronounce the word *talaq* three times, and the dissolution of the marriage takes place instantly. If the husband thereafter desires to take the woman back as his wife, she will have to undergo the process of *halālā*, in which she must compulsorily marry another man and live with him as his wife, with an essential condition being the consummation of the marriage. After she has been divorced by the second husband as well, it becomes lawful for her to return to her previous husband, provided he is willing to take her back as his wife. In the northern Indian state of Haryana, about 50 kilometres from Delhi, lies Mewat, home to the Meo Tribe, who converted to Islam centuries ago while retaining Hindu customs. The Islamization of the Meos, initiated in the 1920s and accelerated after the 1992 Babri Mosque Ram Temple dispute, has led them to study Islamic laws, including *halālā*, which is the central theme of the novel *Halālā*.

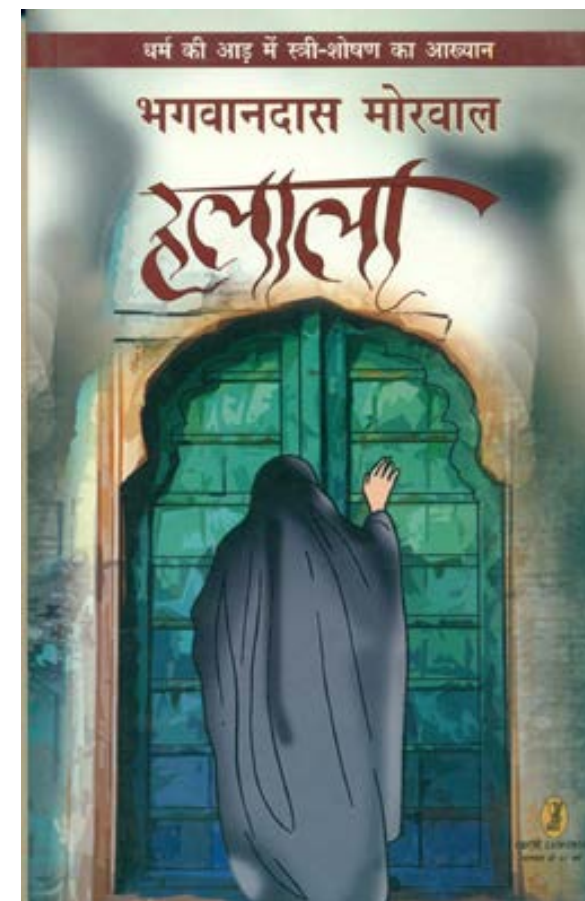
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bhagwandass Morwal was born in 1960 in Nagina, Mewat district, Haryana, in a family of landless labourers. A truly gifted writer, his writings reflect a deep insight into the rural problems of India. His three fictional works, *Kala Pahar* (The Black Mountain, 1999) and *Babul Tera Des Mein* (O Father, In Thy Land, 2004) are located in Mewat, while his third novel *Ret* (Sand) has an erstwhile criminal tribe of India at the centre.

188 pages | Hardcover

ISBN: 9789352293261

Publishing year: 2018 (2nd Edition)



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# KULBHUSHAN KA NAAM DARJ KIIYE

Author: Alka Saraogi

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Kulbhushan Ka Naam Darj Kiiye* is based upon the kind of stories that the author heard in Bengal, from individuals who had not gotten over the trauma of the Partition. 'I think the sense of displacement never ends', Saraogi wistfully mentions when asked to talk about this novel. Keenly observing such characters is where the spark for creating this novel lies. The central conflict in this novel lies in the situation, wherein, its titular protagonist has to take on a Bengali identity to survive the severance with his family ties. Everything about this character is suspect, and it takes time to believe him and empathise with his predicament.

The protagonist of the novel, *Kulbhushan Ka Naam Darj Kiiye*, represents a character on the margins. The marginalisation is not just communal or societal. He is marginalised by history itself, by the skin of his colour, the ugliness of his appearance and by the fact that he comes from a rich community while not being rich himself. In this character, a sensitive portrayal of many individuals from many communities can be seen.

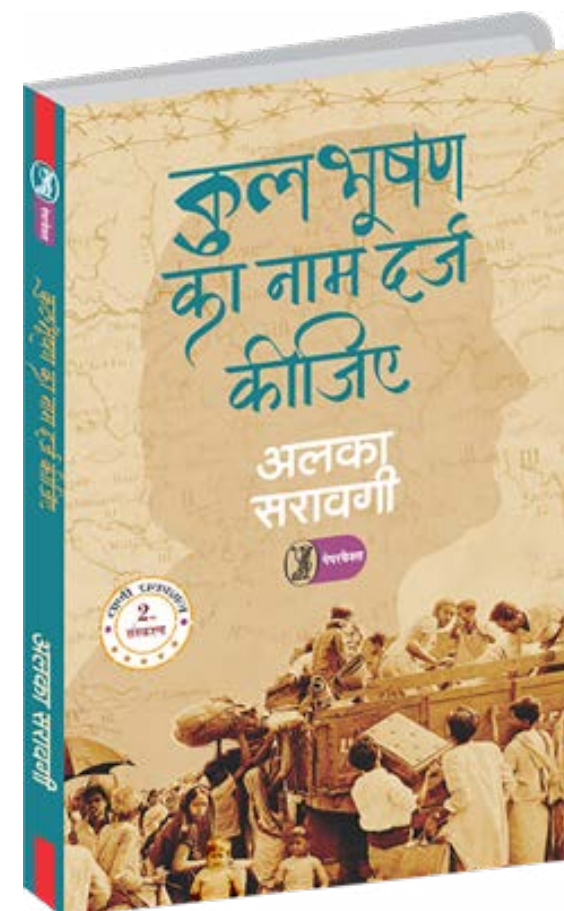
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alka Saraogi is a known name in the Hindi literary firmament. She comes from Kolkata. While primarily being a fiction writer in Hindi, she has also translated her first novel into English herself. A recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, she writes with a depth and flourish which have made her works subjects of academic study as well. She was raised in a Marwari conservative household, but because of living in Kolkata, received organic exposure to the liberal Bengali mindset. This cultural dichotomy has also informed her writing at several levels. Her Marwari background forced her to experience the dilemma associated with challenging asphyxiating traditions and preserving the will to rise above them. Her life in Bengal also manifests in her narratives.

212 pages | Paperback

ISBN : 9789389915938

Publishing year: 2020 (2nd Edition)





Westland Books has been a traditional trade publisher in business since 1965. Context, Eka, Tranquebar, Westland Non-fiction, Westland Sport, Red Panda, and the eponymous Westland are our imprints. Under these we publish literary and popular fiction, narrative non-fiction, children's literature, as well as serious political non-fiction. We publish in English and nine Indian languages. Our parent company Pratilipi is a storytelling platform that is the largest online publisher of texts in 12 Indian languages in the text, audio, comic and motion comics format, with over 2.5 crore readers and over 100,000 books on it that are broken up into episodes.



# DELHI: A SOLILOQUY

Author: M. Mukundan | Translator: Fathima E.V. and Nandakumar K.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

It is the 1960s. Delhi is a city of refugees and dire poverty. The Malayali community is just beginning to lay down roots, and the government offices at Central Secretariat, as well as hospitals across the city, are infused with 'Malayali-ness'. This is the Delhi in which young Sahadevan makes his home, with the help of Shreedharanunni, committed trade union leader and lover of all things Chinese. His wife Devi and their children Vidya and Sathyanathan adopt Sahadevan as their own, and he soon falls into a comfortable rhythm: work, home and long walks across the city, in constant conversation with himself. One day, these meanderings will find their way into a novel, or so he dreams. Then, unexpectedly, China declares war on India. In a moment, all is split asunder, including Shreedharanunni's family. Their battle to survive is mirrored in the lives of many others: firebrand journalist Kunhikrishnan and his wife Lalitha; maverick artist Vasu; call girl and inveterate romantic Rosily; JNU student and activist Janakikutty. As India tumbles from one crisis to another—the Indo-Pak War, the refugee influx of the 1970s, the Emergency and its excesses, the riots of 1984—Sahadevan is everywhere, walking, soliloquising and aching to capture it all, the heartbreaks and the happiness. Hailed as a contemporary classic in Malayalam, this is a masterful novel about ordinary people whose lives and stories have leached into the very soil and memories of Delhi.

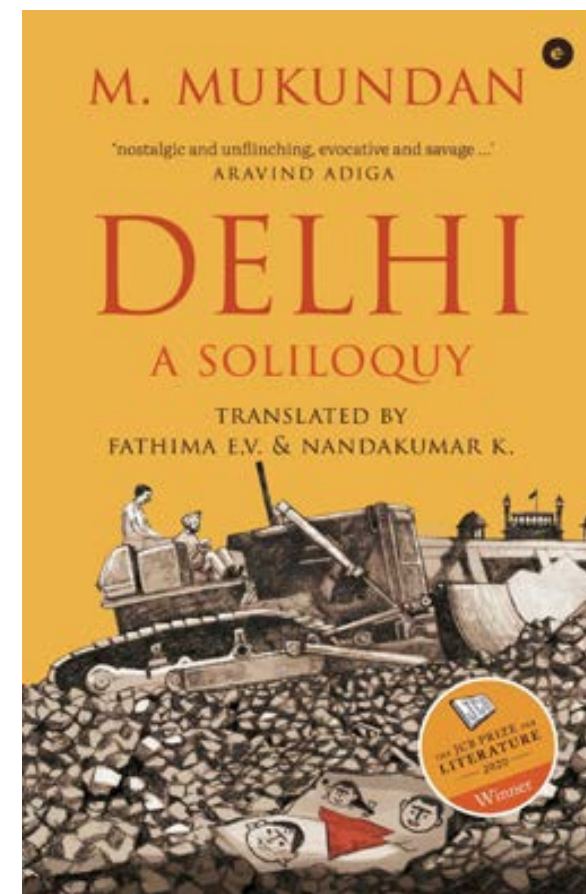
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

M. Mukundan was born and brought up in Mahe. His stories and novels have been widely translated into various Indian languages, English and French. He has been awarded Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, the highest literary honour given by the Government of Kerala, the Crossword Book Award twice, first in 1999 for *On the Banks of the Mayyazhi* and again in 2006 for *Kesavan's Lamentations*, and the Sahitya Akademi award and N.V. Puraskaram for *Daivathinte Vikrithikal* (God's Mischief). Four of his books have been adapted into award-winning films.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Fathima E.V. is an award-winning writer and translator. Her translation of Subhash Chandran's *Manushyanu Oru Amukham*, translated as *A Preface to Man*, was awarded the Crossword Book Award (2017) and the V. Abdulla Translation Award (2017).

Nandakumar K. started his career as a sub-editor at *Financial Express*, after completing a master's degree in Economics, followed by stints in international marketing and general management in India and abroad. He lives and works in Dubai.



Pages: 544 | Paperback

Language: English

Territory: World

Publishing year: 2023 (2nd Edition)



# DO NOT GO TO THE JUNGLE

Author: Shihabuddin Poithumkadavu | Translator: J. Devika

## ABOUT THE BOOK

A night watchman at a sawmill on the edge of a forest tries to forge a bond with a lone fox; a mysterious woman arrives on a night train in the town of Madampi, leaving in her wake lovers withering and paralysed; the great communist leader 'AKG' mistakenly boards the general compartment of the Malabar Express and is horrified by the scene that meets his eye; a lonely station master at a derelict railway station erects on the platform a stuffed doll in his own image; a migrant labourer reads out his PhD thesis to the camels he's herding in the Gulf; Isa is declared dead from Covid in Dubai and deported to India, where ghosts are unwelcome. Shihabuddin Poithumkadavu's 'socio-horror' writings, as he calls them, dissect the hair-raising manipulations of power. Moving seamlessly between the real and the surreal, these finely crafted stories shine a light on the anxieties of the disenfranchised, the would-be prey. Macabre as they are, Poithumkadavu's prose is also replete with tender, heart-warming beauty—as in life, so in these tales, the light is never quite far from the dark and the unsavoury.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shihabuddin Poithumkadavu was born in 1963 in Kannur, north Kerala. He is one of Malayalam's leading fiction writers. He has been awarded the most prestigious prizes for literature in Malayalam: the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, the P. Padmarajan prize, the V.T. Bhattathiripad prize and the Abu Dhabi Malayali Samajam Award, among others.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

J. Devika is a researcher and teacher at the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. She has translated the works of many literary authors including K.R. Meera, Sara Joseph, Unni R. and several others from Malayalam to English.

Pages: 184 | Paperback

Language: English

Territory: World

Publishing year: 2021 (2nd Edition)



# FOLLOWING A PRAYER

Author: Sundar Sarukkai

## ABOUT THE BOOK

**A beautiful story about reclaiming voice, agency and faith.**

Kalpana, a twelve-year-old girl living in a village nestled in the dense hills of the Western Ghats, goes missing one morning. When she returns, she has gone silent. Nothing can get her to speak. What happened in those three days that she went missing? What prevents her from communicating with her parents and sister except through notes and scribbles? And why does her grandmother's presence provoke such a strong reaction from her? As the village gets ready to celebrate the annual Deepavali festival, a rumour spreads that Kalpana will speak the day after the festival. What will she say, and what will be the impact of her words? Here is a novel that defies expectations to sweep to a stunning end.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

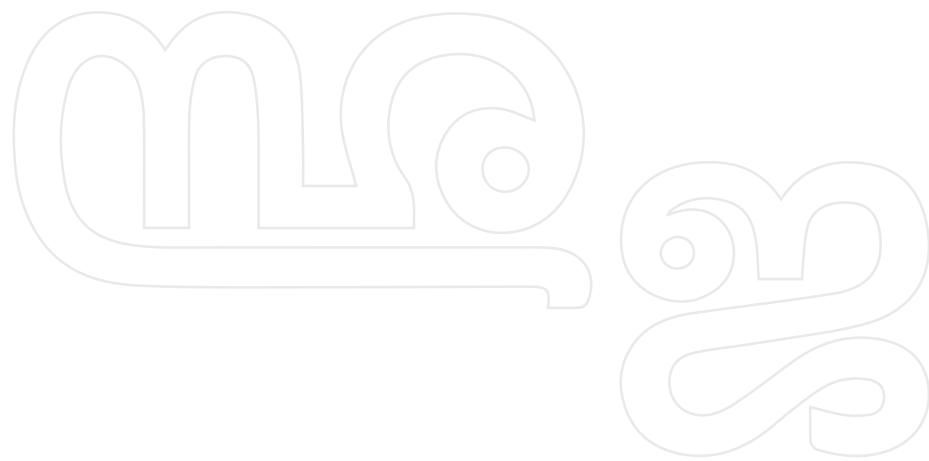
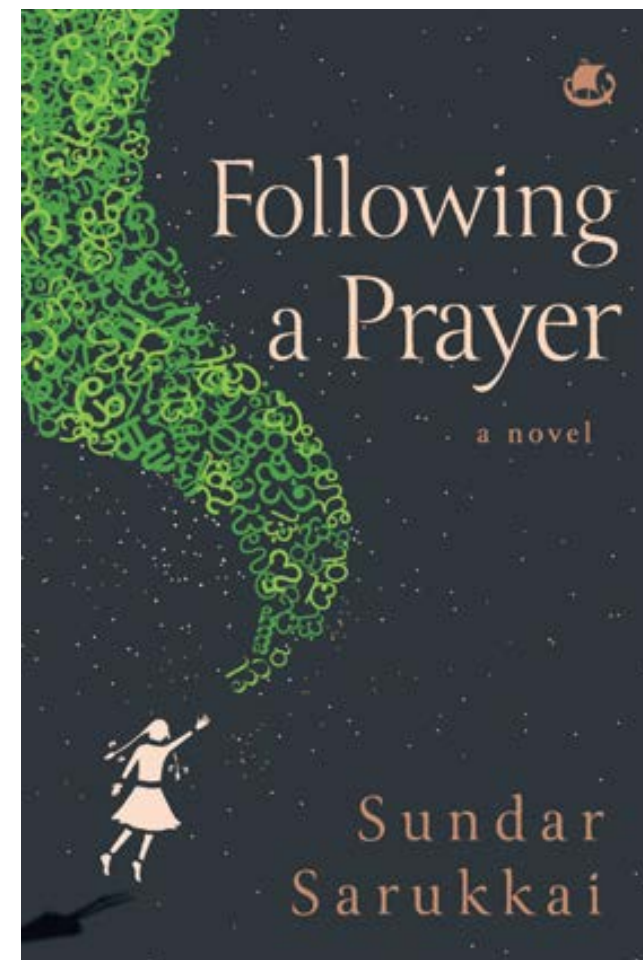
Sundar Sarukkai is the founder of Barefoot Philosophers, an initiative to take philosophy to young people and the general public. He has authored many books in philosophy, including, most recently, *Philosophy for Children* and *The Social Life of Democracy*.

224 pages | Hardback

Territory: World

Languages: English and all Indian languages except Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam

Publishing year: 2023 (1st Edition)



# THE LESBIAN COW AND OTHER STORIES

Author: Indu Menon | Translator: Nandakumar K.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

The goons of a mining giant kidnap a tribal activist and force him to shoot a porn film with a prostitute who turns out to be his childhood sweetheart; a cobbler skins his daughter's hanging corpse to make the special pair of 'Cinderella shoes' he had once promised her; a lesbian nurse with bovine features becomes enamoured of a patient and begins to stalk her. Indu Menon's stories are not for the fainthearted. At the centre of all their blood, gore and broken bones lies the inveterate spirit of women who will not go down without a fight. And yet, the unvarnished truths of her fiction also blend in unexpected ways with her poetic imagination as well as her inventive prose. Many have observed that Menon'schutzpah and visceral storytelling make her a worthy successor to Kamala Das. Appearing in English for the first time, *The Lesbian Cow and Other Stories* will make you marvel at the grit and raw fierceness of one of contemporary Malayalam literature's most electric writers.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Indu Menon, hailed as one of the Best Young Writers by India Today in 2015, works as a Lecturer in Anthropology /Sociology in Kozhikode. She has published six short story collections, a memoir, a book of poems and two novels in Malayalam, all bestsellers. She has won over ten awards for her writing, including the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award for young writers.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Nandakumar K. has co-translated from the Malayalam M. Mukundan's novel *Delhi: A Soliloquy*; the autobiography of Prof T.J. Joseph (*A Thousand Cuts*, to be published in late 2021); and has retold a selection of stories from *Kathasaritsagara* in English (due in 2021). He is the grandson of Mahakavi Vallathol Narayana Menon.

Pages: 300 | Paperback

Language: English

Territory: World

Publishing year: 2021 (2nd Edition)





# THE TALIBAN AND I

Author: Sushmita Bandyopadhyay | Translator: Arunava Sinha

## ABOUT THE BOOK

In September 2013, the body of a woman was found in the Paktika province of Afghanistan, riddled with twenty bullets. She was identified as Sushmita Bandyopadhyay from Kolkata. The story in the area was that she was killed by Taliban militants, although the organisation formally denied being involved. Subsequently, the police arrested two men suspected of killing her, both of them members of the Haqqani militant network. The murder marked the tragic and violent end of a story that began in the second half of the 1980s in the city of Kolkata, when she met, fell in love with, and finally married, in 1988, a man named Jaanbaz Khan. Jaanbaz was an itinerant door-to-door salesman from Afghanistan, one of many from that country who, over the twentieth century, were known as Kabuliwallahs in India. Sushmita and Jaanbaz married in secret and escaped to Jaanbaz's home in Afghanistan. And this was where her encounters with the horrors described in this book began.

*The Taliban and I* is Sushmita's extraordinary first-person account of her life in Afghanistan in the time of the Taliban. The author links her personal history from the time before she met Jaanbaz Khan to the oppression she found herself facing from her husband's family as well as other men in Afghanistan, besides the Taliban militants who ruthlessly clamped down on the freedom of women in particular.

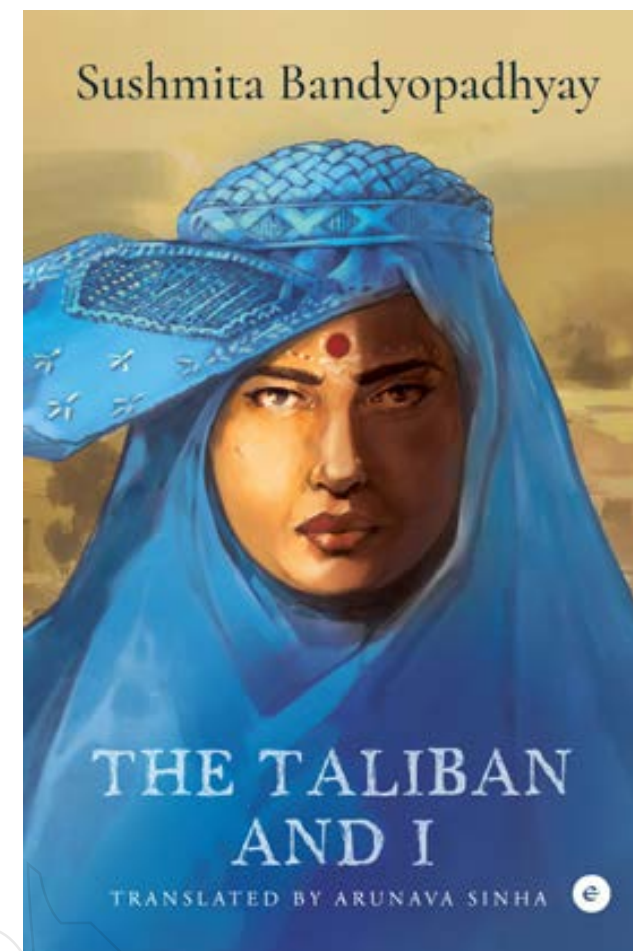
## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Arunava Sinha translates classic, modern, and contemporary Bengali fiction and non-fiction from Bangladesh and India into English. He also translates fiction from English into Bengali. Over seventy of his translations have been published so far in India, the UK, and the USA. He has won India's top translation prize, the Crossword Award for translated books, twice. He teaches at Ashoka University, where he is also the co-director of the Ashoka Centre for Translation, and is the Books Editor at Scroll.in.

Territory: World

Languages: All languages except Bengali

Publishing year: To be published







Zubaan is an independent feminist publishing house based in New Delhi, established in 2003. Zubaan publishes a diverse range of books, including academic works, fiction, memoirs, nonfiction, and children's literature under its Young Zubaan imprint. They have a not-for-profit trust focused on research and outreach projects related to gender, feminism, and the women's movement. The name "Zubaan" signifies "tongue," "voice," or "language" in Hindustani, often used pejoratively to denote "women's talk" or "gossip". Zubaan proudly reclaims this term to represent marginalised voices and ensure they are heard, regardless of societal biases.

# A SMALL STEP IN A LONG JOURNEY

Author: Akkai Padmashali

## ABOUT THE BOOK

More than just an autobiography or memoir, this is a powerful and passionate account of one woman's battle to claim her identity and place in society. In *A Small Step in a Long Journey*, Akkai Padmashali, a trans rights activist and campaigner, thinker, writer, poet, and actor, throws out a challenge to society, demanding not sympathy or pity but acceptance, recognition, and respect. Brutally honest and self-critical, Padmashali's writing is a political act in which she lays bare the hurt, humiliation, confusion, insult, love, solidarity, and joy that went into making

her who she is today. Time and again Padmashali asserts that her story is not just her story. What we call gender and sexuality, she says, 'is a journey we all travel', one that connects our personal and political lives, and one that helps us to face difficult, disturbing questions about prejudice and privilege.

244 pages | Paperback

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# ANDHAR BIL

Author: Kalyani Thakur Charal | Translator: Asit Biswas

## ABOUT THE BOOK

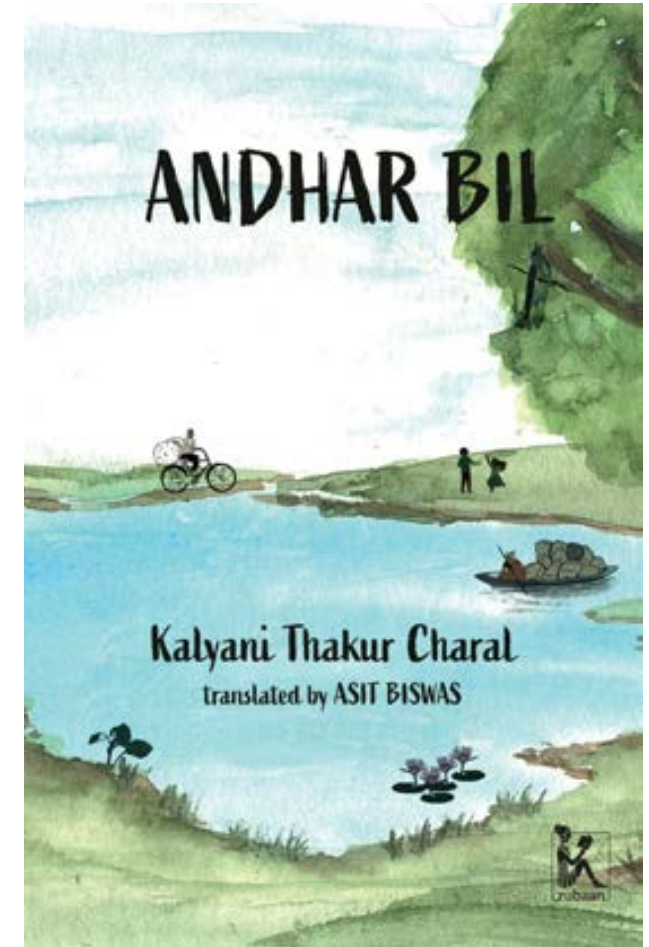
In 1947, and then in 1971, in the South Asian subcontinent, entire communities of people crossed newly-created borders to find new homes as partitions divided and reshaped countries. Kalyani Thakur's beautiful and evocative novel, tells the story of her people, Dalits belonging to the Matua sect, who settled around a local water body – Andhar Bil – in the new nation. Reminiscent of the beloved bil they left behind at home, the refugees begin, slowly and painfully, to rebuild their lives. Through this episodic, almost plotless novel is woven the story of Kamalini, a young girl who will, one day, journey to the city, leaving her beloved Andhar Bil behind, just as her parents' generation left their villages and their beloved bil in what became another country.

## ABOUT THE TRANSLATOR

Asit Biswas is an associate professor of English in West Bengal Education Service, and is currently posted at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Government College, New Town, Kolkata. He completed his PhD on adaptation of western texts in Bengali films, from the University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal. He has published fourteen research papers, six short stories, two plays and some poems in Bengali. He is the co-editor of the book, *Shotoborsher Bangla Dalit Sahitya; Dalit Poems, Songs and Dialogues from Bengal in English Translation* (a translation of Manohar Mouli Biswas's book, *Dalit Sahityer Digboloy*) and *Dalit Literary Horizon*. He also published *Pardon Not: Marichjhampi Massacre*, a translation of the novel, *Kshama Nei* by Nakul Mallik.

Pages: 144 | Paperback

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# A RESPECTABLE WOMAN

Author: Easterine Kire

## ABOUT THE BOOK

'It took my mother, Khonuo, exactly forty-five years before she could bring herself to talk about the war.'

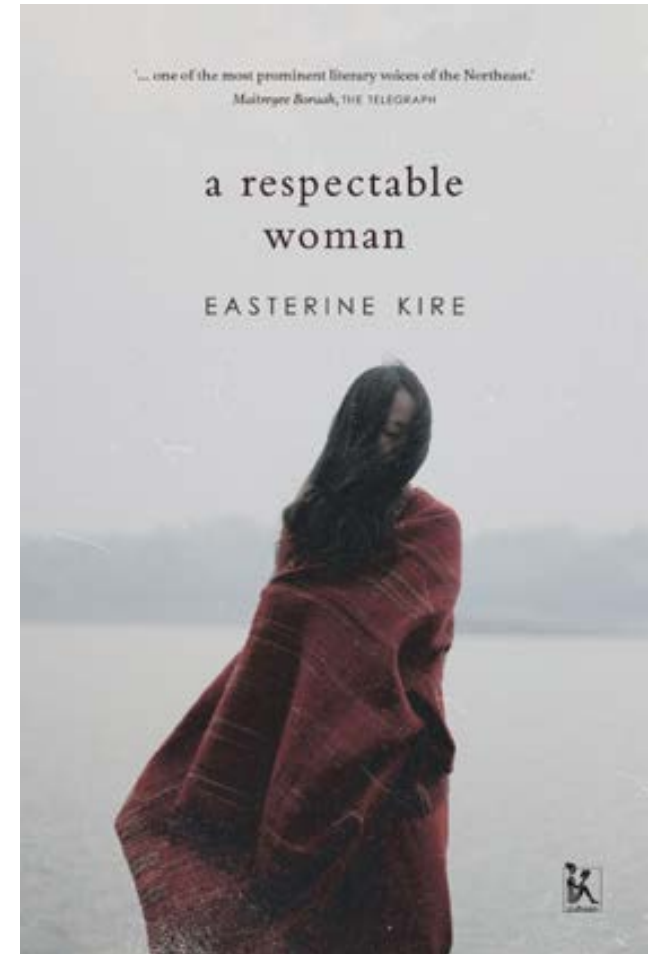
These powerful words introduce the reader to Easterine Kire's stunning new novel, *A Respectable Woman*. In Nagaland, the decisive Battle of Kohima has been fought and won by the Allies, and people in and around Kohima are trying hard to come to terms with the devastation, the loss of home and property, and the deaths of their loved ones. Forty years after the event, Khonuo recreates this moment, stitching together her memories, bit by bit, for her young daughter. As memory passes from mother to daughter, the narrative glides seamlessly into the present, a moment in which Nagaland, much transformed, confronts different realities and challenges. Using storytelling traditions so typical of her region, Kire leads the reader gently into a world where history and memory meld — where, through this blurring, a young woman comes to understand the legacy of her parents and her land.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Easterine Kire is a writer, poet and translator. She is Nagaland's first novelist in the English language. Her book, *When the River Sleeps*, won the 2015 Hindu Prize for Fiction. She is also the author of *A Naga Village Remembered*, *A Terrible Matriarchy*, *Mari*, *Life on Hold*, *Bitter Wormwood*, the Sahitya Akademi-honoured *Son of the Thundercloud*, *Don't Run, My Love*, and *The Rain-Maiden and the Bear-Man*. She lives in Norway.

Pages: 192 | Paperback

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# THE STOMACH THAT CHEWED HUNGER AND OTHER STORIES

Edited by: Bama | Translated by: Ahana Lakshmi

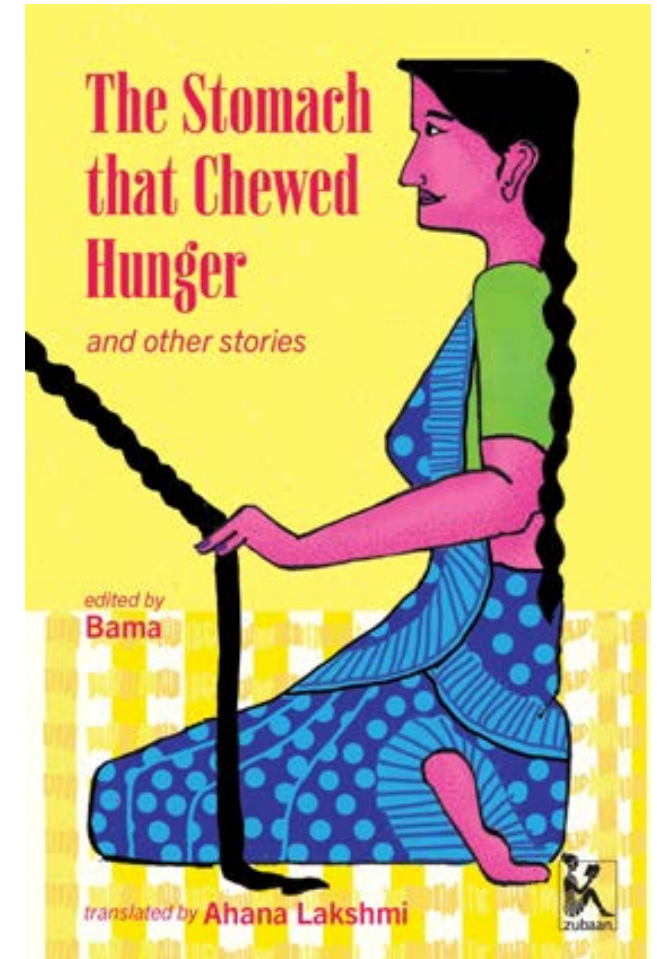
## ABOUT THE BOOK

Jealous of the 'successes' of his hardworking farmhands, the rich farmer cuts off access to their land. A free gift, won by a working-class family, is appropriated by their wealthy employer who feels his status entitles him to such benefits. A teacher finds herself rendered speechless by the subtle, insidious ways in which caste operates around her. A pregnant woman dreams of clean toilets for her child. Hard-hitting and often unrelenting, the twelve powerful stories in this slim volume have been selected by Bama, a Dalit writer who broke new ground by speaking out publicly against caste discrimination, particularly in the church.

Written in everyday Tamil and in regional dialects, and skillfully translated by Ahana Lakshmi, the stories are firmly rooted in the twin experiences of caste and gender, upending much of the received wisdom about what counts as 'good' literature

152 pages | Paperback

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