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Rights List
LONDON BOOK FAIR 2014

NEW WRITINGS FROM INDIA & PAKISTAN

COMMERCIAL FICTION

Fantasy/Myth/Historical Fiction
Crime/Mystery / Thriller
Romance/ Chic Lit
YA/ Crossover

LIT COMMERICAL

LITERARY FICTION

GENERAL TRADE AND NARRATIVE NON-FICTION

MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

TRANSLATION

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BIGGEST INDIAN BOOK DEAL EVER !!

WESTLAND PUBLISHERS LTD SIGNS THE BIGGEST PRE-EMPT DEAL WITH AMISH TRIPATHI FOR HIS NEXT BOOK SERIES WITH A MILLION DOLLARS ADVANCE.



A MILLION DOLLAR SMILE

[Amish seen with his agent Anuj Bahri, Gautam CEO Westland after signing the new deal].

Westland Publishers Ltd, is the South-Asia region publisher for author Westland Publishers Ltd, is the South-Asia region publisher for author Amish's bestselling **Shiva Trilogy** (*The Immortals of Meluha*, *The Secret of the Nagas* & *The Oath of the Vayuputras*). The concluding book of the Shiva trilogy, *The Oath of the Vayuputras*, was released on the 27th February 2013. The Shiva Trilogy, with 2.2 million copies is now grossed at its retail sale of over Rs 60 crores (Approx \$12 Million), is the fastest selling book series in the history of Indian publishing and has retained its position at # 1, # 2 and # 3 - at the top of the HT-Nielsen bestseller list of 250 titles since its release.

In an attempt to maintain their winning relationship, Westland Publishers Ltd and Amish Tripathi have recently signed the memorandum for Amish's subsequent second series of books. This is an innovative deal based on the four different proposals from Amish who has still to decide on the final one that he is going to write, and hence a 'pre-emptive' contract. Westland Publishers Ltd once again have chosen to opt for the complete **Book, Audio and ePub rights** for their strongest South Asian territories - backed with an advance payment of **Rs. 5 crores** (just shy of \$ One Million).

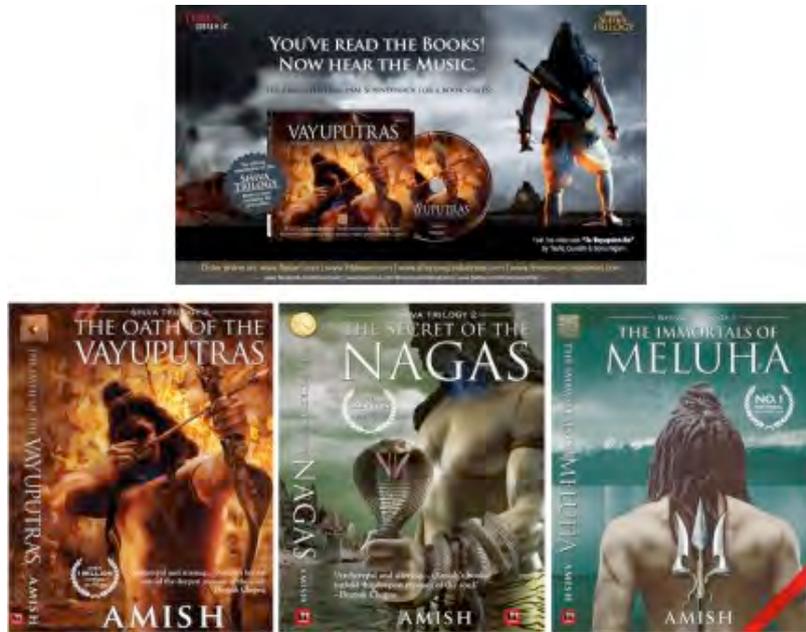
Westland Publishers Ltd are proud to announce that this is the biggest book deal ever signed in the Indian publishing history, reiterating the meteoric rise of Amish as the most loved and popular author in the Indian subcontinent.

The deal has been negotiated by Amish's agent (*Anuj Bahri* at the **Red Ink Literary Agency**). The international book rights and the film/ancillary rights for Amish's subsequent book series are still open and under discussion.

INDIA'S SINGLE BIGGEST 'BOOK' FRANCHISE

Now at 2.2 MILLION copies

THE SHIVA TRILOGY *by Amish Tripathi*



THE OATH OF THE VAYUPUTRA - BOOK 3 OF THE SHIVA TRILOGY

SECRET OF THE NAGAS - BOOK 2 OF THE SHIVA TRILOGY

THE IMMORTALS OF MELUHA - BOOK 1 OF THE SHIVA TRILOGY

'Shiva' is a fast paced story, a definite page-turner... – from sweeping action sequences to heart-tugging love stories. A realistic take on Shiva in particular and Hindu gods in general.

Anil Dharker Media personality, author and journalist:

A grand adventure: engrossing and exciting, yet much more.... The deep knowledge of Indian mythology that is the foundation of 'Shiva' is impressive, ...the quirky way the author has played with our myths--especially the modernity of language that is imposed on our mythical gods and demi-gods--is endearing, ...and sometimes very funny. I will be waiting for the next two volumes

Sandipan Deb Author, editor-in-chief RPG Publications:

SHIVA TRILOGY – FACT SHEET

The Shiva Trilogy, written by Amish, is a compelling, fictional tale of a Tibetan tribal called Shiva, whose adventures nearly 4000 years ago, morphed into the mythical legends of the Hindu God Shiva. The first 2 books of the Shiva Trilogy (*The Immortals of Meluha* & *The Secret of the Nagas*) have sold more than a **million copies** within a short period of two-and-a-half years. The soon to be launched *The Oath of the Vayuputras*, last book in the trilogy, is releasing with an unprecedented print run of 5,00,000 copies; 3,50,000 of which have already sold out even before release.

The Shiva Trilogy has crossed 1.8 million copies (Aug 2013) in print with gross retail sales of approx. over Rs 60 crores.

Published by Westland Ltd the books have been released across the Indian subcontinent in various languages, including English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telugu, Assamese.... NINE Indian languages and **other European translations**. Additionally, QUERCUS Books [Jo Fletcher imprint] have bought the English language rights outside of the Indian sub-continent and has published the first book, *The Immortals of Meluba*, in the UK in 2013 and volume 2 releasing in the fall 2013. The book will also be released in the US in Summer 2014. The book is also due for release in Indonesia, Greece, Spain, Poland, Vietnam etc soon.

The Shiva Trilogy is the **fastest selling book series in the history of Indian publishing** and has attracted a wide and devoted audience since its publication, with publishing gurus calling it a genre-creating book series. It has also received positive reviews from various eminent personalities. Spiritual guru, **Deepak Chopra**, complimented the books saying, "*Amish's mythical imagination mines the past and taps into the possibilities of the future. His book series, archetypal and stirring, unfold the deepest recesses of the soul as well as our collective consciousness.*"

Many marketing innovations have also been attempted for the Shiva Trilogy. For the 1st book, *The Immortals of Meluba*, the first chapter had been printed and distributed, free of cost, as a sampler. A trailer film had also been made and uploaded on YouTube, probably for the first time in the history of Indian publishing. For the 2nd book, *The Secret of the Nagas*, a professional film-quality trailer film had been made and showcased in cinemas, once again for the first time in Indian publishing history. The string of innovations has continued in the marketing of the 3rd book of the trilogy, *The Oath of the Vayuputras*. **For the first time in Indian publishing, an original soundtrack has been created for a book series called 'Vayuputras: the soundtrack of the Shiva Trilogy books'.**

Giving the life of music to the soul of the words, all the songs in the album have been originally created out of various sections of the 3 books of the Shiva Trilogy. Top-notch musical artistes like Taufiq Qureshi, Sonu Nigam, Palash Sen & Bickram Ghosh have contributed their talent to this album. A professional, world-class music video has also been produced which is being telecast in various music channels.

Amish Tripathi is an 1974-born, IIM (Kolkata)-educated, boring banker turned happy author. The success of his debut book, *The Immortals of Meluba* (Book 1 of the Shiva Trilogy), encouraged him to give up a fourteen-year-old career in financial services to focus on his writing career. He is passionate about history, mythology and philosophy, finding beauty and deeper meaning in all of world's religions. Amish lives in Mumbai with his wife Preeti and son Neel.

Rights Sold in 27 languages and territories:

UK English: Quercus (Jo Fletcher Imprint) UK	Hindi :	}
USA English Quercus (Jo Fletcher Imprint)	Gujarati :	}
South Asia (English): Westland/Tranquebar Press	Malayalam:	}
	Marathi :	}
	Telegu :	}
Spanish:	Tamil :	} various
Indonesian:	Orriya :	}
Vietnamese:	Assamese :	}
Portugese (BRAZIL):	Bengali:	}
Estonia	Kannada:	}
Greek:		
Polish: final stage	Orriya: final stage	
Turkish: final stage	Nepali: final stage	
French: final stage	Urdu: final stage	
Italian: final stage	Punjabi: final stage	
Russian: final stage		



FILM Rights Sold:

BOLLYWOOD : Dharma Productions, Mumbai (Bollywood),

HOLLYWOOD : 108 Productions, New York (Hollywood)

Rights Available: All other Languages + Translation Languages

COMMERCIAL / TRADE- FICTION

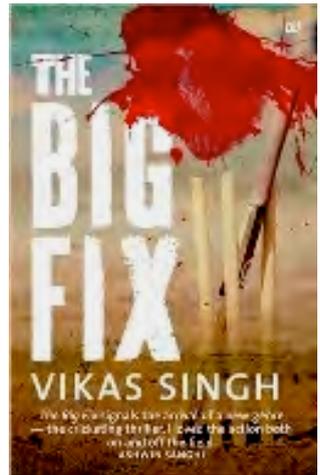
CRIME . MYSTERY . THRILLER
FANTASY . MYTH . HISTORICAL
ROMANCE . CHIC LIT
WOMEN'S WRITING
YA . CROSSOVER

* THE BIG FIX by *Vikas Singh*

It's that time of the year again! The annual ICT T-20 carnival has come to town. On the agenda this year is more than just cricket as Shaurya Chauhan, the skipper of Capital Cavaliers soon discovers.

Shaurya is going through a rough patch. His batting isn't clicking and his captaincy is being questioned, what with the team close to being knocked out. Plus, Manu Dayal, the team's dare-devil batsman, is breathing down Shaurya's neck, waiting in the wings to take over the captaincy. As Shaurya contends with these challenges on the professional front, and the end of a love affair on the personal, he becomes embroiled in something deeper and even more sinister. The coach of the Cavaliers, Howard Jensen, is found with his head knocked in—and Shaurya is the prime suspect. Then the police start sniffing around on account of match-fixing allegations. And questions as to whether the two are connected all seem to point to Shaurya's complicity again.

Mitakshara, an intrepid crime reporter, is at first convinced of Shaurya's guilt and is out to get him. But soon, she begins to suspect that things are not as they seem on the surface. And Shaurya is just one link in a chain that involves bookies, businessmen, the police and, of course, more than a handful of cricketers.



Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Westland Tranquebar**

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia Translation and all Languages

PRAISE FOR THE BIG FIX:

The Big Fix marks the arrival of a new genre – the cricketing thriller. I loved the action both on and off the field – **Ashwin Sanghi**, bestselling author of *Chanakya's Chant* and *The Krishna Key*

An interesting mix of cricket, an attack on a coach, an IPL-like event and the betting mafia. Worth checking out – **Amish Tripathi**, bestselling author of *The Shiva trilogy*

A hard-hitting depiction of the seamy underbelly of cricket -- **Piyush Jha**, author of *Mumbaistan* and *The Compass Box Killer*

As someone who has played the game at the highest level and continues to be passionately involved with it, what I liked best about The Big Fix was the detailed description of the matches. The ball-by-ball coverage brilliantly captures the thoughts and emotions that go through the minds of players in tense games.

-- **K Srikanth**, Former India captain

Has more twists and turns than a T20 cliffhanger – **Boria Majumdar**, cricket historian and analyst

Taut, racy thriller which combines fine, nuanced understanding of cricket with a great flair for suspense. Unputdownable – **Ayaz Memon**, senior cricket journalist

The worlds of cricket, the underworld, media and the police combine to keep the reader riveted. This is perhaps one of the better-written, quick-read novels on any subject from India. -*The Tribune*

The twists and turns keep the reader engaged. An interesting description with vivid descriptions of characters and events – *Hindustan Times*

The Big Fix could well have had a tagline saying 'based on true events' – almost all of it sounds plausible. Even the impossible! - *Wisden India*

MAN IN THE SHADOWS by *Vikas Singh*

She is the regal beauty. A woman who knows her charms and her worth. She can turn the minds of men to mush and trample on a million hearts with a mere frown. Then she spies a handsome, lithe charmer who steals her heart. She knows she wants to be his wife, but ends up being married to not one but five men, even though she only longs for her Arjun.

He is the slob. A man of base appetites, driven by rage and a berserker. Yet, his heart was untouched and ripe for the taking till the day he saw a dusky beauty after whom he lusted with a passion. A woman, who he knew he would never be able to claim as his, and yet the only one who could make his heart sing with a few words of kindness. He knows it is incest and morally wrong, but he can't help himself. And soon it is his life mission to keep Draupadi's world at rights no matter what the personal cost. For that one smile, he will move heaven and earth for her.

The only man willing to condemn his soul to hell to help Draupadi fulfill her wish to bathe in Dusshasana's blood and tie her hair with his intestines, *Man in the Shadows* is the story of Bhima, a bumpkin of a man who finds his groove, discovers he is not the son of a god but sired by an Alien species and a brilliant cook who found that when truly in love, it is easy to be selfless, but very hard to rationalise the jealousy that eats you inside when always held up against the mirror of the ideal love object.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

FORTHCOMING 2014 FROM VIKAS

LOVE AND OTHER TERRORS

Arjun is an average middle-aged man with a failed marriage and what to him seems like an increasingly redundant job as a senior journalist. He's disillusioned with life and he's disillusioned with love. Till two completely different people turn Arjun's life upside down. The enchanting and exasperating Mitakshara is the spunky new girl in office, while Yogi Mehra is an enigmatic arms dealer with a mysterious past and suspicious links to corrupt politicians. Arjun's growing proximity to Mitakshara plunges him into a bewildering new world where dating is synonymous with mating while his investigation on Yogi Mehra leads him even closer to a terrifying plot. Will Arjun be able to put the pieces together? Will he live to experience true love or will it all just prove to be a case of dopamine overdose?

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Vikas Singh is a self-confessed word addict, who obsessively reads anything that comes his way, be it a newspaper or the label on a cough syrup bottle. An Army kid, he spent most of his early life moving from one place to another with books being his only constant companion. A love-affair that is on even today, with the repertoire varying from military history to Larry Gonnick's cartoon histories and non-fiction to pulp fiction. Never one to tread a definite path, on a whim, he decided to pursue his history degree from St. Stephen's College, but went on to do a post-graduate diploma in Marketing Management soon after. But plots and stories continued to fire his imagination. Starting his career as an economic journalist with The Economic Times, today Vikas Singh is the Resident Editor of The Times of India, Delhi. He lives in the capital his wife and daughter, who are equally enthralled by literature, in a house which seems to have more books than furniture. He has co-authored a brief, breezy history of knowledge, 'The Know of Things', with Derek O'Brien, Jug Suraiya and Bunny Suraiya.



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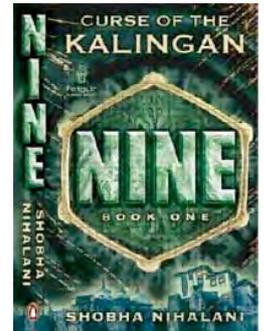
NINE by *Shobha Nihalani*

'Paranormal / Action Thriller'

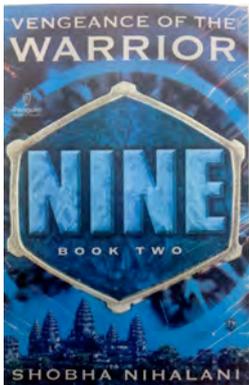
Book 1: THE CURSE OF THE KALINGAN

Do super-humans exist? Do they possess secret knowledge of ancient powers? What if they could change the destiny of the world? The myth of The Nine Unknown Men has been around since 273 BCE, when a secret society was founded by the Indian Emperor Ashoka. The original Nine were scholars (navratnas) of the court of King Ashoka, the Indian Emperor of the Mauryan dynasty. During his reign, King Ashoka fought a bloody war with the neighbouring kingdom of Kalinga. He killed over 150,000 Kalingans, and after that, according to the edicts, he was so overcome with remorse that he converted to Buddhism.

As part of his program towards peace, King Ashoka entrusted nine navratnas with the responsibility of protecting ancient texts. He wanted to conceal the data, as well as the identities of those who had the knowledge, to ensure it would not fall into evil hands. Thus the Nine Unknown Men were formed. For the next 2,000 years, all possible human knowledge in subjects ranging from science to psychology, was hidden behind the mask of a mysterious group of people. At the same time, the Nine manipulated the culture of India to present to the outside world an image of Indians as a backward and mystically-oriented people, in order to conceal the advanced scientific knowledge that was accumulating within. Till the Kalingan came back to expose the NINE...!!!



Book 2: VENGEANCE OF THE WARRIOR



After burying the vicious Kalingan warrior, Akash, Tara and Zubin are continuing their lives as is, hiding the fact that they are a part of King Ashoka's exalted NINE; hiding even that each of them have powers that are to be used for the benefit of mankind, when needed. Except things are not as quiet as they seem to be!

The Kalingan warrior has risen once again—Angrier and more vengeful. And this time he knows each one of them. If they don't destroy him now, they will be hunted down and the world will be battling its worst, most terrifying chemical warfare yet.

This second book in the NINE trilogy, will change the way you look at time and space.

FORTHCOMING Book 3: SPIRIT OF THE CLAN

Series Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Penguin India**

Series Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia & Translation and All Languages.

UNRESOLVED

'Psychological Thriller'

Maya is married to a police officer, or so she thinks. Gradually she realises that he is involved in something deeper and sinister. She feels her husband is part of a covert organisation, a guerilla group financed by the heads of some business and political organisations. The police and judicial system are involved and the dons and extremists are aggressively violent in the cities. In her mind she calls it the *Cell* - specialised in information gathering, counter-intelligence, surveillances and assassination. Deadly missions are carefully planned to avoid police or interference of ordinary citizens. Maya suspects something is seriously wrong when her sister's boyfriend is targeted and as she uncovers the truth she faces a shocking reality. In the course of her life, during her teenage years Maya was once admitted to an institution for obsessive-compulsive behavior, putting doubts in her mind. Mixed with her husband's suspicious behavior Maya's memories have come back to haunt her...!!!

Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Hachette India**

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia Translation and all Languages.

THE SILENT MONUMENT

'Conspiracy Thriller'

In a sealed chamber of Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, a five-hundred-year old secret is discovered and Manzil Saxena's life is about to change dramatically. Her husband, a journalist, is found dead and his legacy: an ancient scroll, a piece of history that will turn Manzil into a fugitive as she races against time to solve its mystery.



Rights Sold: English South Asia. Tara Press (HB)/Jaico Publishers (PB)
Danish- EC Editions

Rights Available: WORLD outside of South Asia & Translation and all Languages.

FORTHCOMING 2014-2015

THE TRIKON PROJECT

'Sci-Fi Thriller'

TriKon exposes the dark and dangerous side of pharma companies, as they ruthlessly go about meeting their goals... a theme for most conspiracy theorists who believe they will finally be living in a clone driven world where drug companies will call the shots or shoot those who do not conform... like Kimaaya, who believes she is a changeling thrust into an extended soap opera.

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia Translation and all Languages.

KARMIC BLUES

'Paranormal Thriller'

Anishk realizes that he wants to give up his law practice to become a sadhu. He returns to Hong Kong and tells Neelam about his decision. She is devastated and tries to change his mind. Anishk speaks of loving and letting go, but Neelam cannot forget him. He travels to India to follow the path of spirituality. Neelam's recurrent dreams become intensely emotional and vivid. Her parents arrange her marriage with Rajat. Her parents insist that she must move on in life. Hoping that marriage would help her get over Anishk, she reluctantly agrees. Neelam soon realises that her heart still belongs to Anishk. Seeing that her love is much deeper, from a past life, a priest tells Neelam of her past life, tells her of *Mirabai*, a sixteenth century Rajput princess who fell in love with lord Krishna, a Hindu God. The old priest tells Neelam that in her he has seen *Mirabai* returned to experience the path of true love and ultimately merge into the form of her beloved. She secretly reaches the abode of her love, Anishk who now lives the simple and devotional life of a sadhu in Vrindavan!

DANISHCOVER



Rights sold: Danish- EC Editions

Rights Available : World English and Translation



Shobha Nihalani is a Hong Kong-based freelance journalist, author, columnist, vice-president and events co-ordinator of a publishing society, life member of the Hong Kong Writers' Circle. Shobha is also a bookkeeper, working part-time in her family-owned watch manufacturing company! With over two decades of experience in writing, Shobha has written for a number of notable publications. Her feature-length articles cover topics from health, accountancy to technology and many more but her favourite genre is **writing thrillers and crime fiction.**

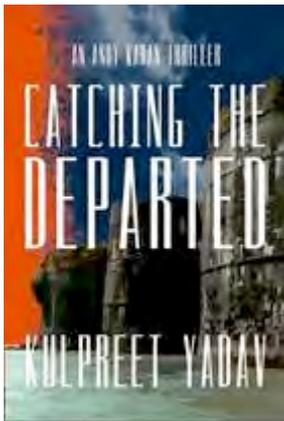
More at www.shobhanihalani.com ; www.wordbeads.wordpress.com ; www.facebook.com/shobha.nihalani ; www.twitter.com/szobha

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* **The ANDY KARAN Series** by *Kulpreet Yadav*

Andy Karan is 30, single, bold yet vulnerable, focused yet fallible, resourceful yet edgy. And, trouble invariably finds him. With five years of experience in the Indian Army, his journalistic senses are just as honed to not just survive, but also to destroy the forces wanting to harm India. Quite contrary to the world he is caught in, to an average person, Andy Karan comes across as a simple, next door neighbour who loves eating bananas, samples rum or vodka to while away his evenings, and loves pursuing beautiful girls.

Book 1: CATCHING THE DEPARTED



At a sleepy village, ten kilometers from Rewari, a lawyer is found dead. There are no tears at his funeral. The family is quiet – an alcoholic would have only increased their misery. Everyone forgets him. Even the police.

One year later, on a covert mission, a young investigative journalist named Andy Karan arrives in Rewari. As he begins to unravel the past, within days, he discovers a shadowy parallel life in the village. Instances don't add up and he is quick to realize that there are many loose ends around the drunkard's death. And connections reach far and wide – to Mumbai, Murud Janjira island and even the high seas off the western seaboard. But he is kidnapped, drugged and released in Delhi, hurt but alive, and the magazine withdraws him from the case.

Andy, who has worked 5 years in the Army, is approached by an old man high up in government who wants the web torn apart. It's a challenge that can cost even his life. Andy accepts it and is sucked into a sea of lies, deceit and violence. But to

make matters worse the old man vanishes without a trace. With him Andy's sole link with the government breaks. Monica, his editor, hunts him down and he is forced to drop the investigation.

But as a dutiful investigator and an ex Army man, he knows turning his back would cost thousands of lives. He knows too much and faces seem to emerge. If he left the case he wouldn't survive a day – killed by a truck. Stand Modus Operandi for those who knew too much. And at that tragic moment, for the first time in his life, Andy falls in love.

'Catching the Departed' is a story of a honest investigative journalist who is caught between 'state sponsored retribution of two warring nations' and 'politicians who wouldn't stop at anything, not even the end of the world'. And he is all of 30 – patriotic, vulnerable and expendable. Attributes that can't guarantee his survival.

A peek into Book 2: DROWNING THE PIRATE is the story of a former soldier who is caught between 'a turncoat with misplaced loyalty' and 'invisible forces that are committed to help him'. The unfamiliarity of the sea terrain and the weather makes this chase Andy Karan's worst nightmare.

A peek into Book 3: EATING THE DRAGON is the story of a patriot who is caught between 'historians who are bent upon doctoring today's evidences for a future of their choice' and 'those who want the ghosts of the past to remain buried'.

More on Book 4, 5, 6, 7 upon request.

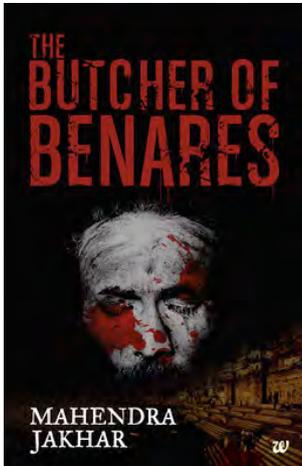
Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

Kulpreet Yadav is the founder-editor of *Open Road Review*, a literary journal with a global footprint, Kulpreet's writings have appeared in various magazines and newspapers in India and elsewhere. He is also the founder member of the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association and when not writing, he loves to travel, experiment with food and do photography. Kulpreet lives in New Delhi with his wife and two daughters. More at www.kulpreetyadav.in

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From the script-writer of 'The Killer' (a Mahesh Bhatt film) and television crime thrillers like CID, Mano Ya Na Mano, Seeta aur Geeta, Mahendra Jakhar, come the new chilling international thrillers

***THE BUTCHER OF BENARES** by *Mahendra Jakhar*



In the chilling winter month of January, Hawa Singh, a Senior Inspector from Delhi Crime branch comes to Benares accompanying his 89-year-old terminally ill father, Fauja Singh, whose last wish is to die in the holy city. They take a room in Mukti Bhavan, the Salvation House, one of the many death houses in Benares. During one of his early morning visits, Hawa Singh discovers the body of a young female floating in the Ganges near the Ghats.

The female turns out to be Eva Marie Cassidy, a US citizen, working as a researcher with the Vatican Observatory, one of the oldest astronomical research institutions in the world. The autopsy reports confirm that Eva was alive when her heart was wrenched out that resulted in her death. As the local police starts to investigate, Hawa Singh too gets embroiled in the investigation. With constant bickering with his ailing father and a bullet lodged near his brain, a result from one of the shoot-outs, Hawa Singh fights through the dense fog and chill to track the killer.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. Westland Tranquebar

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia Translation and all Languages.

THE SWASTIKA KILLER by *Mahendra Jakhar*

The Soccer World Cup 2006, Germany. The chopped-off head of Gotthard Lerch, owner of a billion dollar porn-empire is found inside a bag at a bar. The German security gets all active and Michael Andler, a detective with Berlin Police gets on the case. He finds the man's torso inside his office with a large swastika painted in blood on the wall.

The Germans manage well to hide the murder, but Michael Andler shares the details of the murder with the many international intelligence officials present there to provide assistance to the Germans. Seeing the swastika everyone points at the neo-Nazi groups. Only one man Maruththur Gopalmenon Ramachandran Balaswamy, a 52-year-old IB Officer from India known as Bala, points out that it was not a Nazi swastika but a Hindu swastika. Bala along with his protégé, Maksud Ali, and Michael Andler starts to investigate the case. They discover Gotthard's medallion with a Nazi swastika at the navagrahas in a small Hindu temple in an Asian neighborhood of Berlin. It becomes more confusing as they also find a Hindu swastika where a German is murdered and a Nazi swastika inside a Hindu temple. It soon turns into a race against time, moving from the soccer finale and a terror threat to blow up the stadium, to Amsterdam and then Mumbai's train blasts and 26/11, the inhospitable Afghanistan and finally Pakistan: Each country marked by the indelible *Swastika in blood*.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. Westland Tranquebar

Rights available: WORLD English outside of South Asia Translation and all Languages.

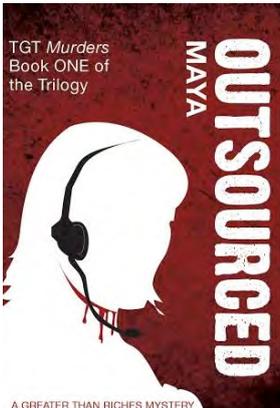
Mahendra Jakhar is an ex-journalist currently working as a script-writer for feature films and television shows. He started working as a freelance photo-journalist for The Times of India, then full-time as a crime reporter. A voracious reader, crime thrillers and murder-mysteries have always been his favorites.

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* The TGT murders by *Maya Kavita*

A murder mystery in three parts

Book 1: **OUTSOURCED**



Ella Laraway, an HR executive with Trans-Geo Tech, leads a massive outsourcing of jobs in Toronto. Ella's US mentor, Odette Dodeur, is later found dead, her body shipped from Toronto to China in a barrel along with the message, "Outsource this". TGT's CEO Tapan Rao accuses Ella of incompetence in handling the security around the outsourcings, and makes her the scapegoat in Odette's death.

Adding to Ella's professional difficulties, he assigns her as TGT's liaison with the detective investigating the murder. But worst of all, Ella is the murderer's next target. After several close calls, she'll end up alone with a killer, at the edge of Niagara Falls, where she'll have to be willing to kill in order to save herself.

Book 2: **MAKE BELIEVE**

Your company violates your privacy. Your manager betrays you with lies and platitudes. You take your revenge. But you don't realize that you're being manipulated - that your playful act of vengeance is part of someone else's game, played by someone else's rules. In Book 2, Maya goes back to Ella Laraway's world - a world where she is asked to help TGT out, even as the companies head honcho goes missing. A killer is on the move, and she is the target. Can she save herself in time or will the guilt of triggering the series of deaths that nearly destroyed TGT do her in?

Book 3: **THE SHORTLIST**

Trans-Geo Tech's new CEO will soon be chosen from the Board of Director's shortlist. But TGT isn't the company it once was, and the path to the corner office is a treacherous one. What the CEO candidates don't know about the risks of being on the shortlist will hurt them...or worse. In her 3rd Book, Maya examines the path to career success at TGT and the obstacles faced by the women vying for the top job. One of those obstacles will test every skill they have. Although the list of candidates may be short, there's someone close by with plans to make it a lot shorter.

Series Rights sold: English South Asia. Tara Press / Hindi: Tara Press

Series Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.

Maya Kavita (J I Kendall aka - Joan Weston) has worked for many years in the IT industry. She has combined her experience as a professional writer and human resources manager, to write The Greater-Than-Riches mystery series. She and her husband live in Toronto.

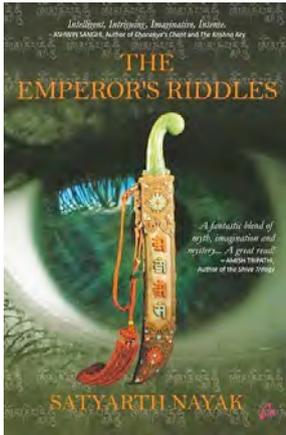
What Maya says: "I spent many years in an HR job, helping our company downsize. My work was harder than George Clooney's in the movie Up in The Air because I had to fire a lot of people that I'd hired and trained, whose families I'd met. I even had to choose who would be fired. I had to help them carry their personal belongings to the door, and I searched their boxes while they watched because I was instructed to make sure they hadn't stolen anything from us. I write from my experiences."

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*THE EMPEROR'S RIDDLES

by *Satyarth Nayak*

A supernatural Crime thriller



When Om Patnaik talks numbers, they come alive and the conspiracies he hints at give his listeners goosebumps. But when his dearest friend dies on the ghats of Varanasi and his favourite conspiracy number jumps out at him, he is a man possessed. What begins as a need to know why his friend died and what the number 9 may have to do with it, ends in a journey across time and space where he constantly encounters hidden enemies and mentions of a source of immense power that has been around since ages, but never been tapped. In another time and space, a son is born to a king. A son born who will rule, though he isn't the first-born. A son, who as emperor, finally realised the capacity of humans to destroy. An emperor who decided that knowledge (read supreme power) must be hidden. He too discovered 9.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. Amaryllis

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of Subcontinent/ Translation and all Languages.

Satyarth Nayak is a writer and media person based in Delhi. Holding a Masters Degree in English Literature from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, writing has always been a passion for him. His short story titled 'Eve', won the **British Council Writers Circle Prize in 2006**. In the year 2011, two of his stories, 'Music and Lyrics' and 'The Opportunity' were selected for the Chicken Soup for the Soul edition of the Indian College Students. As a journalist, he has worked with premier news channels like NDTV and CNN-IBN. Working for CNN-IBN as a Health Correspondent, he won the **SAARC Heal Honour for Excellence in Health Writing and Broadcasting in 2008**. The inspiration for this book came from his fascination with mythology and the esoteric. This is his debut novel and many more to come.

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THE EXILED PRINCE by *Ravi*

Book 1 in *The Crystal Guardian series*



Legends say that there exists a supreme Crystal of Creation, with part of the souls of Lord Shiva and Narayana suspended within it. This single most powerful weapon- with the power to construct the universe, annihilate it, and recreate it again- has remained hidden somewhere deep within the Himalayan ranges... Except now, it has gone missing. Rama must embark upon a perilous journey to find the Crystal of Creation before someone else, someone with an insatiable lust for power, discovers it and the reigns of the entire cosmos fall into the wrong hands. And thus begins an epic adventure which will take Rama, beyond the kingdom of Ayodhya into lands where he will have to battle the most fiercest of demons that have colonized Earth and in the course, change the destiny of man forever. This tale will also seek to answer a question that has never been asked: Who was Rama really? What was his real purpose? Is he the real immortal?

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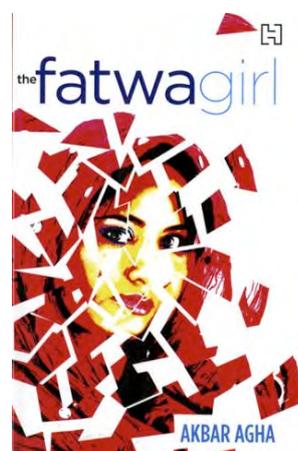
Rights Available: WORLD English outside India/ Translation and all Languages.

Ravi V is an entrepreneur and innovator in the IT sector in the US, where he has been living since the late 1990s. Though a trained engineer, Ravi has a keen interest in ancient Indian history and mythology. His first literary venture, The Crystal Guardian Series, is a testimony to this deep abiding passion. Apart from his academic and literary pursuits, Ravi also loves exploring such varied topics as futuristic science, human evolution, and cosmology. A globetrotter in the truest sense, he enjoys hiking and snorkelling in different corners of the world and uses these experiences to connect better with the natural world. Of the firm belief that our myths are linked to our evolution as a species, Ravi took about three years to do extensive research on the legends and myths that surround Rama in order to write this book. He takes inspiration from J K Rowling, Sidney Sheldon, and Dan Brown. Ravi is also a fan of Stephen Hawking, Michio Kaku and Carl Sagan.

THE FATWA GIRL by *Akbar Agha*

The Fatwa Girl is an unusual story set in modern day Pakistan. Honest, courageous, relevant and written by a Pakistani author with humanity and gentleness. It begins with a young man's lament that he was not permitted to offer prayers for the girl he once loved. She has blown herself to bits. No Muslim is allowed to pray for the soul of one who has committed suicide. The young man then traces the past that paints a poignant picture of a society mired in its hypocrisy, trapped in its feudalism, caught in a time warp that brings a beautiful and open girl to such a violent end. The two were meant to live and love together, but the sectarian divide plunged them into a world of power and politics, intrigue and corruption in a country that has been called the most dangerous nation in the world.

The Fatwa Girl is a story of love and adventure, humour and poetry, sex, suspense and salvation, and gives insight into Pakistan from the birth of a nation to the death of Benazir Bhutto, the Taliban and suicide bombers determined in their horrific mission of death and destruction.



Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Hachette India**

Rights Available: Rest of the world English/ Translation and all Languages.

JUGGERNAUT by *Akbar Agha*

"Jagernath". The last word of a dying man is the only clue foreign minister Sadia Sharif's ex-ADC Captain Gul Khan has when he foils an assassination bid on a top military general closely linked to Pakistan's nuclear programme. CIA's dirty blonde agent Eve, who had volunteered to assist Gul Khan while asking for his help in catching an American-turned-native terrorist, ends up dead in her hotel room in Peshawar. Sadia Sharif struggles with the tricky diplomatic situation with the United States.

Gul Khan is further confounded when Col. Amjad - the psychiatrist in-charge of ensuring the well-being of the men with their finger on Pakistan's N-bomb trigger - turns up dead, the words A2 MC Badmas written in blood next to his body.

The pieces on the chessboard refuse to fall in place. Time is of the essence, with India and Pakistan both stockpiling a surfeit of nuclear weapons. The only hope lies in the captain cracking the algebraic equation on the wall. Can Gul tie up all loose ends and save the day even as Sadia Sharif puts in her papers in protest against attacks by American drones on Pakistani soil? Or will the events spiral out of control resulting in a nuclear holocaust?

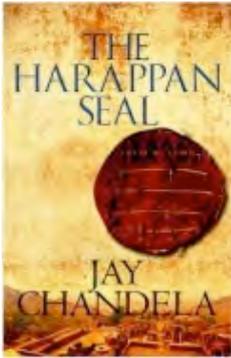
Rights sold: English South Asia. **Tara Press / Hindi: Tara Press**

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.

Akbar Agha is an Pakistani ex-diplomat who served inter alia as Charge D'affairés to Romania and acting High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Tanzania. He lives in Pakistan and devotes his time to writing.

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THE HARAPPAN SEAL by *Jay Chandella*



A race to reclaim an ancient Indian artifact set against the Afghan wars between India, Pakistan and the West. Three Americans meet at Tara Pandey's party in Delhi and can't see the tsunami coming. Already Soviet troops are being deployed in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Don Kolchek arrives in Delhi to announce that he's the first to decipher the Indus Valley script on an ancient Harappan seal. When Jody Curran leaves Delhi on her travels, she is wearing it around her neck, assuming it to be a cheap copy. Mike finds out that Jody's seal is the missing treasure and follows her to Pakistan. But Captain Avinash of Indian Military Intelligence wants Mike's Pakistani uncle, Spinda – a mujahideen commander -- to provide intelligence on the war in Afghanistan. Mike, meanwhile, is wanted in the US, Nepal and now in India as well. On the run, Mike and Jody's destinies seem to be taking them straight into Afghanistan – into the heart of the turmoil of the Soviet occupation. And what of the missing Harappan seal?

Rights sold: English South Asia. Tara Press / Hindi: Tara Press

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.

Ruth Laila Schmidt and Lars Martin Fosse are **JAY CHANDELLA**, co-authors of *The Harappan Seal*.

Schmidt is emeritus professor of Urdu at the University of Oslo. She has lived and worked for almost two decades in India, Pakistan and Nepal, and has visited Afghanistan twice. She was awarded two Fulbright grants to India and spent four years in Pakistan as Field Director, Berkeley Urdu Program. *The Harappan Seal* is her first work of fiction since leaving university (where she won second prize in the University of California Short Story Contest).

Fosse has a Ph.D. in Sanskrit. He works as an independent translator in Norway, specializing in military subjects. He also translates from Sanskrit. He has lectured on the Soviet War in Afghanistan and is published on the subject in the Norwegian Military Journal (2008). His translation of the *Bhagavad Gita* was published by Yogya Vidya in 2007 and he is currently working on a translation of the *Kama Sutra* for them. His translations of military works are published by Spektrum Forlag in Oslo. II.

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OCEAN OF COBRAS by *Murad Ali Baig*

An epic battle for the soul of India between Dara Shikoh and Aurangzeb

In 1658 the magnificent Mughal Empire was on the brink of a precipice. Though it was at the peak of its opulence, the escalating rivalry between Shah Jahan's eldest son Dara Shikoh and his third son Aurangzeb over the past two decades had split the family. Dara the pampered prince was a poet and philosopher who had to turn a soldier to combat his bitter but battle-hardened brother. The conflict between Dara's love of all religions and Aurangzeb's narrow Islamic beliefs was to make the battle much more than simply one for the throne. It became a series of battles for the very soul of India. The novel recounted by a eunuch intimate with all the princes, princesses and personages of the court takes the reader through the magnificent royal palace into the harem, to royal hunts and to the kingdoms of rival and vassal rulers. Mubarak Ali, the narrator, fights in the armies of the rival princes and describes six exciting battles. His adventures take the reader from the limpid lakes of Kashmir to the deserts of Sind and the lush forests of every part of India. He tells a tale of high adventure, reckless courage, ruthless cunning, tender romance, treacherous betrayal and heart wrenching tragedy in a world of incredible luxury and decadence in what was once the richest empire of the world.

Murad Ali Baig A product of the elite Doon School, did his Masters in History from St Stephen College, New Delhi, and spent a year at the Sorbonne, Paris. He has a deep interest in history and religion and his *80 Questions to Understand India, History Mythology and Religion* (Tara Press, New Delhi) has sold over 20,000 copies so far. He has a career in public relations and writing and is published prolifically on widely different subjects including rural development, power, marketing and humour but is best known for his articles on automobiles (he was editor of Auto Magazine) and travel.

Rights Available: World English & all Languages + Translation Languages

SIX ROMANTIC NOVELS FROM INDIA

Shobhan Bantwal calls her writing "*Bollywood in a Book*," romantic, colorful, action-packed tales, rich with elements of Indian culture -- stories that entertain and educate. Her writing career is a "menopausal epiphany," because she took up creative writing at the age of 50. By day Shobhan works for the government. In the evenings and on weekends she slips on her writer's cape and flies off to Authorland. She loves writing stories about her native India and Hindu culture. To date, Shobhan has Six published novels and a collection of short stories by Kensington Publishing. She is also a contributing author to a romantic anthology and freelances for a number of publications.

Shobhan was born and raised in a large, conservative Hindu family in a small town called Belgaum in Southwestern India. She was the tomboy and hellion in a family of five girls. Her books can be found in bookshop around the world.

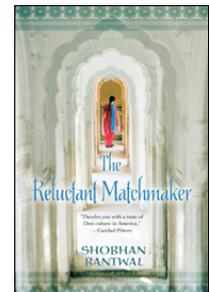


THE RELUCTANT MATCHMAKER

In her thought-provoking, uplifting new novel, Shobhan Bantwal vividly blends the nuances of contemporary Indian-American culture with an unconventional romance. At thirty-one, Meena Shenoy has a fulfilling career at a New Jersey high-tech firm. Not that it impresses her mother and aunts, who make dire predictions about her ticking biological clock. Men are drawn to Meena's dainty looks and she dates regularly, but hasn't met someone who really intrigues her. Someone professional, ambitious, confident, caring. Someone like her new boss, Prajay Nayak.

Just as Meena's thoughts turn to romance, Prajay makes an astonishing request. He wants her to craft a personal ad that will help him find a suitable wife: a statuesque, sophisticated Indian-American woman who will complement his striking height.

Despite her attraction to Prajay and the complications of balancing work and her "marriage consultant" role, Meena can't refuse the generous fee. And as her family is thrown into turmoil by her brother's relationship with a Muslim woman, Meena comes to surprising realizations about love, tradition, and the sacrifices she will--and won't--make for the sake of both.



PRAISE FOR SHOBHAN BANTWAL'S WORKS -

"Bantwal pairs romance with her trademark taste of how Indian expatriates live in New Jersey, complete with family dynamics and tensions between different ethnic groups." - **Publisher's Weekly** on *The Reluctant Matchmaker*

"The Reluctant Matchmaker is a very entertaining and easy read. A real page turner." - **Book Pleasures** on *The Reluctant Matchmaker*

"This was a thoroughly enjoyable novel... in this story, family, culture and tradition are intertwined with individual aspirations, goals, and dreams... a perfectly absorbing and engaging read."
- **Coffee Time Romance** on *The Reluctant Matchmaker*

"One of the best [novels] I've read this year. I couldn't put it down. . .this book is a gem!" -**Mary Monroe**, *New York Times* bestselling author on *The Unexpected Son*

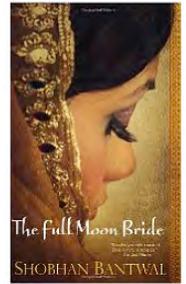
"Compelling and memorable." -**Mary Jo Putney**, *New York Times* bestselling author on *The Forbidden Daughter*

"Vivid, rich. . .expertly portrays a young woman caught between love and duty, hope and despair." --**Anjali Banerjee** on *The Dowry Bride*

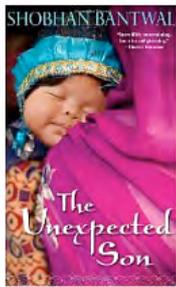
"Dazzles you with a taste of Desi culture in America." --**Caridad Piñe**

THE FULL MOON BRIDE

To Soorya Giri, arranged marriages have always seemed absurd. But while her career as an environmental lawyer has flourished, Soorya is still a virgin, living with her parents in suburban New Jersey. And she is finally ready to do the unthinkable... Soorya's first bridal viewings are awkward. But then she's introduced to Roger Vadepalli, who is clearly interested in marriage. Attracted to him in spite of her mistrust, Soorya is also drawn into a flirtation with Lou, a widowed colleague who is far from her family's idea of an acceptable husband. In choosing between two very different men, Soorya must reconcile her burgeoning independence and her conservative background. And she must decide what matters most to her - not just in a husband, but in a family, a culture, and a life...



THE UNEXPECTED SON

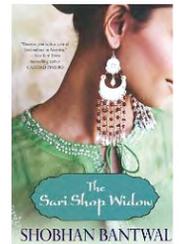


A shocking letter from India sends middle-aged Vinita Patil reeling. Living in New Jersey, contentedly married for almost 25 years to Girish, a mechanical engineer with whom she has a daughter, Vinita learns that the illegitimate child she believed was stillborn in India, is alive and desperately in need of a bone marrow transplant. Vinita's brother, Vishal, who'd orchestrated the deception and arranged for the baby's adoption, fesses up that Vinita's son, Rohit Barve, is a chemistry professor at Shivraj College, the college where Vinita met Rohit's playboy father, Som Kori, who'd refused to marry her. Vinita and Som's coming from different linguistic groups vying for control of the border town of Palagum, made their union impossible. After Vinita finally meets her grown son, she's disturbed to learn that

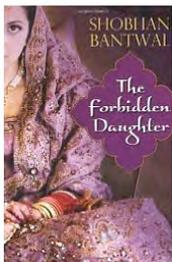
Som and Rohit's adoptive father are still embroiled in the violent territorial conflict, a situation that adds suspense to the story.

THE SARI SHOP WIDOW

Young, headstrong widow Anjali Kapadia runs her parent's chic boutique in New Jersey's Little India, but she's the last to find out that their store is financially insolvent. When her parents bring in her wealthy, controlling Uncle Jeevan to rescue the business, Anjali is initially resistant to his changes, but soon has to admit that they're working—and that she's falling for her uncle's mysterious business partner, Rishi Shah.



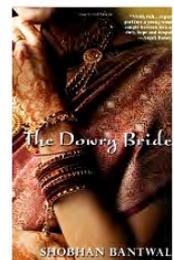
THE FORBIDDEN DAUGHTER



Isha Tilak and her husband, Nikhil, are counting on their second child to be a son. But when an ultrasound reveals she's carrying a girl, an illegal abortion is proposed, both by Nikhil's wealthy parents and by Isha's physician, Dr. Karnik. Nikhil staunchly refuses and soon turns up dead, and Isha can't help wondering if he may have been killed for not going along with the abortion. Set in the sensual richness of India, Shobhan Bantwal's gripping new novel asks: Where can a woman turn when her life's greatest blessing is seen as a curse?

THE DOWRY BRIDE

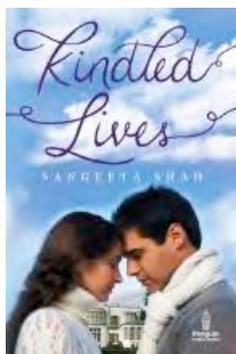
A young Indian bride flees her marriage after overhearing her husband and mother-in-law plot her murder. Angry that, a year after the arranged marriage, Megha's father has not paid the dowry and Megha has not yet become pregnant, Amma, her husband's mother, wants her dead. Megha bolts and turns to Kiran, her husband's cousin, whom she remembers as being kind. While Amma searches for Megha, Megha and Kiran feel a forbidden spark.



Rights Sold: USA : Kensington Publishers USA. South Asia.: Fingerprint, PRAKASH India (English)
Rights Available: All Translations & Languages.

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KINDLED LIVES by *Sangeeta Shah*



'Kindled Lives' is a tender love story that you always wanted to read. It is set in present-day India's vibrant cosmopolitan culture, the character-driven story highlights the essence of family, values, the dynamics of a relationship, and love. The book moves from the mansions of playboys to humble middle class families, to colleges, to business houses with effortless ease. The two principal characters, the tension, the girls coming of age, the man's comeuppance have been drawn out beautifully by the writer.

Folklore claims that when a soul descends on earth it splits into two, each half of the soul inhabiting a separate body. The two mortals will never be complete until they find one another. *Sometimes they need help in their search.* Aristocratic billionaire *Vijayendra Maurya* laments that his brilliant but arrogant son, *Aditya*, has missed out on a few home truths in life. He knows that there is none better to teach him these other than *Rhea*, the girl who has grown up under his care. In his heart he knows that *Aditya* and *Rhea* are meant for each other.

Returning to his roots after more than a decade in the US, *Aditya* is baffled that his father's choice of bride for him is still *Rhea* - a waif of dubious parentage whom he considers to be nothing more than a conniving Cinderella. Socially more at ease with people of his own class and sophistication, for a wife, he wants someone with similar upbringing. *Rhea*, now a self-confident young girl, well over her teenage infatuation of the handsome *Jr. Maurya*, is still smarting from his treatment of her five years back. Having lived on surrogated love all her life, *Rhea* seeks real love, and will give her heart and soul to the man she marries, expecting the same in return. Forced by an ultimatum, *Aditya* steps into *Rhea's* world. He discovers the essence of who *Rhea* is. He is humbled by her intelligence, integrity, passion and courage; realizing emotions that he did not know he was capable of. Love kindles, though will it prevail when the truth about *Rhea's* birth is revealed?

What is it that defines a person - Birth or Character? Young, spirited *Rhea* paired opposite a worldly, cynical *Aditya* makes for interesting chemistry, which will appeal universally to most female readers, irrespective of their age and cultural background.

Sangeeta Shah says that writing, at present, is done on time borrowed from her husband and daughter. Born and raised in India, she spent a few years in the Middle East before moving to Canada where she works as an Insurance Underwriter. *Sangeeta* loves to experience the richness of various cultures – understanding the diversity and appreciating the similarities in them. An avid reader all her life, she developed a passion for writing when she penned her debut novel 'Kindled Lives' – creating a love story that she has always wanted to read.

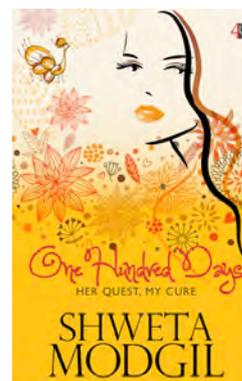
Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Penguin India**

Rights Available: WORLD English outside India/ Translation and all Languages.

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100 DAYS by *Shweta Modgil*

Can one afford to just step off the ladder of success? Probably not. It is not the rat race for nothing. Up in the morning, breakfast on the run, back-to-back meetings, chasing clients - working hard, partying harder. Earning those big bucks to pay the EMIs and yet, feel like there is a gaping hole, that there is something missing, there has to be more to life than that high-flying job or the fat paycheck. Neel does just that. She falls off the grid, says bye-bye to her success story and decides to find out what is eating her inside, making her discontent. What follows is a 100-day rollercoaster ride, where her bewildered mama decides that if she is not working, she should be married and her brother that she should be studying or taking the *pheras*. Or else, she has a hundred days to get her act together. But Neel has other ideas and the doggedness of a pitbull, so she decides to chase a butterfly - "Find herself". But can she find her calling or what is it that makes her tick before the money runs out and she turns into a social pariah? As her brother's deadline runs out, Neel knows this is her last shot at freedom and a life on her terms. Will she find her wings, or limp back home broken? Read on and find out.



Shweta Modgil is an eternal dreamer. An engineer and a business graduate by education, a Research Analyst in the Automobile sector by profession, she discovered writing was her one solid penchant when her parents gifted her with her first fountain pen. Since then she has been avidly writing for school magazines, college magazines and of late on her blog. While reading, writing, and travelling she discovered her love for poetry and started writing a poetry blog – www.witnessofthemeltingpot.blogspot.com. The name comes from her belief that she's one of the witnesses to the great melting pot of life where always something of interest is brewing.

"*One Hundred Days*" is her debut novel. She's currently working on her next book, which chronicles the clash of a real reality versus reel reality.

Rights sold: English South Asia. Tara Press/ Hindi: Tara Press

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.

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WHO ME? by *Tina Sharma Tiwari*

Plain Jane Tara has been dumped at the altar in favour of stunning rich heiress Ayesha. And she is willing to do whatever it takes to win Arun back. Problem is, none of her extreme measures seem to be working.

Just when a hopeless Tara is ready to throw in the towel, divine intervention arrives in the form of an invitation to a 10-year reunion of her school batch. Arun will be in attendance minus the rich bitch and Tara knows it will be the perfect setting to steal him right back. With her best friends Rekha and Shweta egging her on, a transformed Tara arrives at the reunion, beautiful, elegant and confident and manages to do what she never could in school – become the belle of the ball. The plan seems to be working. But the situation gets complicated when high school heartthrob Karan Singh Rathore starts falling for the invented persona while eternal jerk Aditya Kaul discovers her farce.

Just as the fateful weekend is tantalisingly close to a fairytale ending, things take a turn for the sinister and Tara finds herself battling dangers she never imagined, stumbling onto secrets she never expected and rushing headlong into a direction she had never planned.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. Penguin India

Rights Available: WORLD English outside India/ Translation and all Languages.

Tina Sharma Tiwari is a self-proclaimed sports fanatic who got lucky big time and ended up doing what "I love for a living". Since then, after turning freelancer (everybody wants a little freedom!), she has have anchored international cricket on Zee Sports, hosted the Guangzhou Asian Games for Doordarshan and done live commentary for the BBC during the Delhi Commonwealth Games 2010. It's been ten years, but the excitement has never died down.

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LIFE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES by *Aarti Chandna*

Devika chose her life mate and yet, she feels something is missing, like she and her husband, Sameer are now just like any other couple. More often than not, she feels as though she is walking on eggshells around him and desperately needs to feel wanted, desired and appreciated. She feels slighted all the time by him as she juggles between her career and the demands of being an ideal wife and daughter-in-law.

Then Karan walks into her life. He is everything her husband isn't -- attentive and kind and makes Devika feel as though the world hangs on her every breath. What's more, he is sinfully rich, successful and madly in love with her. Even as Devika steals beautiful moments with the new love of her life, she is ridden with guilt over the fact that she has crossed social and moral boundaries. She knows she has to choose between her husband and her lover, being a wife or following her heart's calling. She wants to break free, but can she break the trappings of loyalty, society and social values. Can she live a "Life without Boundaries". Will she choose it?

Aarti Chandna is an HR professional with a graduate degree in science and law and has been working for over two decades with various corporate firms. In her spare time, she loves reading and finds books can be therapeutic for one's gloomy days, and lift one's spirits.

One day, on a whim, Aarti picked up a pen and wrote down the plot for her debut novel "Life without Boundaries" and was hooked. That raw beginning ended up inspiring her to write more and also convinced her that life can take unexpected turns. Aarti finds that writing liberates and empowers her when she weaves a story which she believes can not only entertain readers, but also make them think that "Yes, such things do happen".

Aarti is married to Anil and has an adorable daughter Disha, who is her biggest critic. Her next book "*My Grass is Hay*" is a story on relationships and a validation of the fact that most of us want more than what life offers us.

Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

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IN LUST WITH LOVE by *Shefali Thapliyal*

Vikas, Mani, Aakash, Arjun... these are just some of the stepping stones in the protagonist's life. She is in love with the idea of being in love. But she also has a condition... one that makes her completely inarticulate when faced with an attractive and possible mate. Her face flushes an unattractive shade of red and she can only squeak... that too the most inane of comments, or the most inappropriate ones. What she wants is that one knight in shining armor, what she finds is many men who distract her. She loves the sight of them, she wants to embrace each one... so what she ends up doing is falling in love and falling out of it just as fast...

When 16, she gets the girls in her school to flash their bodies at the boys of the neighbouring school just for a sexual kick; at 17, she is propositioned by an Army officer even while she thinks she has found her soul mate; at 19, she cheats on her boyfriend with another man. She hungers for love, hates her family but loves her father. She knows that she needs a man, but can she commit to a man, when she is a cheating, self-confessed metro-sexual slut on the prowl for the ultimate high? Can any man satisfy her enough to keep her libido and her sexual cravings in line long enough to find ever-lasting love?

While the focus is the search for Mr Perfect, and the almost-always 'not-so-perfect' experiences, it is an out and out fun read with the heroine's take on life's little lessons. Read on to find out how this confused, sex-starved, love crazy girl turns into a woman, explores her latent sexuality even as she copes with self-imposed social mores and tries to find her groove in life.

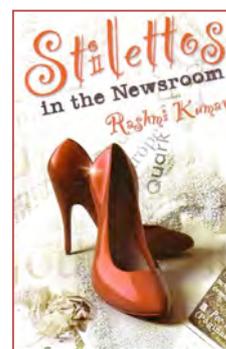
Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Shefali Thapliyal is a journalist-turned-writer, a move made out of prioritizing motherhood over a career. An English Honors graduate from St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, Shefali has worked for several newspapers and media houses after dabbling in advertising during her college days. With an Army officer for a father, she grew up moving from various army cantonment to cantonment and believes that's how the travel bug bit her. A strong believer in women rights and liberation, she writes women-centric novels, having finished her first one In and Out of Love. She's currently working on a verse-novel. She's married to a mariner and has two daughters.

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STILETTOS IN THE NEWSROOM by *Rashmi Kumar*

A racy and lively account of a bubbly 28-year-old journalist Stiletto in the Newsroom unravels itself through the eyes of Radhika Kanetkar right from the time she took her first step into the newsroom, got her first story, made bloopers and handled pressures to meet deadlines. In the midst of all this, Radhika experiences a journey of triumph, anguish, jealousy and of course finds her true love Sameer.



Rights Sold: English South Asia. RUPA India

Rights Available: WORLD English outside India/ Translation and all Languages.

STILETTOS IN THE MEN'S ROOM by *Rashmi Kumar*

Marriage is not necessarily a cakewalk for everyone, as Alafia Singh realizes that in India, it's no good if you are single, even if you may have been married once and then utterly incapable of finding a partner again since. Alafia is willing to try everything including hopping on to the online matrimonial bandwagon to pick her suitor. She finds herself going on rapid-fire dating rounds among a generation that enjoys bar-hopping to beg-hopping and meeting men whose demands vary anywhere from getting her hair straightened to speaking slow English! Alafia hits the rock bottom when her younger sister Anushka gets married and the only question the aunties ask her at the wedding is, "Why aren't you married? What are your intentions?" Guests and relatives have actually given up on Alafia and see her as a woman who'd ruined her youth by being too choosy and strong-headed. Alafia even goes through a psychotherapy session, past-life regression therapy and a short holiday in Jim Corbett National Park that change her life and help her gather the courage to move on leaving behind a trail of bitter memories. It is a journey of triumph, anguish, jealousy and of course finding true love.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. Srishti Publishers

Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

Rashmi Kumar was born in Pune in a Maharashtrian family, attended Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University and graduated in English Literature and then a degree in journalism. Her first book *Stilettoes in the Newsroom* demystifies the happenings inside in newsroom and presents a candid account of the seven years, she has spent in journalism, working with various newspapers. Before becoming a writer, Rashmi also has worked with an NGO for the mentally distressed and suicidal as well as hosted a weekly show on India's national radio station 102.6 FM Rainbow. Rashmi, who currently lives in Edmonton, Canada, with her husband and son, is busy working on her second book and spends her spare time pursuing her other passion -- cooking -- on which she hopes to write a book someday

=====

GOAN TANGO by *Sharon Gupta*

He's the dishy dreamboat. She's the classic damsel distress. They meet in sun-kissed Goa, where he literally sweeps her off her feet. Meet Mike - an ex-Marine bartender - and Lisa - a poor, little rich girl who runs away from home. Sharon Gupta's Goan Tango is a fast-paced romance with terror lurking in the background. The classic boy-meets-girl-plot is given a twist when the boy in question is a hardened Iraq war veteran who has runaway from his past and made a successful life in Goa. With new year round the corner, love is in the air as Mike saves Lisa from a date rape, and they are carried away by their insatiable lust which soon turns into love. The writing is crisp and the story will leave you excited and rooting for love.

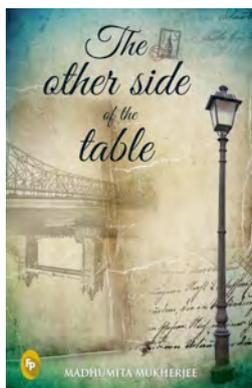
Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

Sharon Gupta was born in New Delhi and brought up all over the country. She graduated with English Honours from St. Stephen's College, New Delhi and went on to acquire a Master's Degree in English Literature from Delhi University. She has almost twenty years' experience as a Civil Servant in the Government of India and is presently posted in Chandigarh

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OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE by Madhumita Mukherji

Other Side Of The Table has been written in the form of letters spanning approximately eight years.



A lovely romantic book, simple and evocative, it takes you through the life of a young girl just stepping into med school, her growth as a person, forays into love and lust, marriage, and choosing to become a surgeon despite societal pressure and opposition from colleagues. Running parallel is the story of a man, who has just started specializing in surgery and turns into a hotshot surgeon only to end up on the operating table with brain tumor. The book ends with the man's voice and excitement that the girl is finally coming to live with him despite the fact that her divorce is not through -- unheard of in India. But undeniable in the letters is the affection, anger, pain and trust they have for each other. It tugs at the heart as one shares their deepest pain and the other tries to talk of mundane things to take the focus away from the tragedy.

Something about the main characters in the book:

Uma is the much younger girl next door. On finishing school, Uma also enters medical college and begins to share her experiences there with Abhi in her letters. She writes about the wonders, the horrors, the highs and the lows of the five years of medical school and early training to become a doctor.

Abhi writes about his friends, his travels, his work, his ambitions and latest doomed relationship. He writes about his experience as a foreign doctor, his love and loathing for the country he is trying to adapt to. It is an insider's view, not the aspirational, picture perfect England of movies and postcards.

Uma having found life with her husband and at her in-laws unbearable, decides to file for divorce and leave for England to pursue further surgical training and to be with Abhi, until the end, however near or far that maybe. This bridge-burning decision is an affirmation of what both friends had known for a while, that they meant more to each other than they have ever confessed. They can now look forward to love, honour and to cherish... without the vows, like the very best friendships in the world.

Madhumita Mukherjee was born in Kolkata and grew up in Delhi. A student of Medicine, she went to England for higher education and stayed back in Manchester where she currently lives. Working at Wigan in the North West of England as Consultant Pediatrician. She describes herself as a doctor, avid reader, movie buff, compulsive shopper, sporadic traveller and full time dreamer (as in her twitter profile). She looks after sick children for a living. She wants to learn to read Mandarin, play the ukulele and travel to Antarctica to see Emperor Penguins.

Rights Sold: South Asia: FINGERPRINT (Prakash) (English)

Rights Available: Rest of the world English & all Languages

PRAISE FOR MADHUMITA'S WORK:

"This book weaves your emotions into the plot, as it takes you on a journey where you discover a different kind of friendship" - *The Indian Express*

"Talk about a deviant or unusual narrative and this book stands out from the rest of the crowd like an apple in a box of mangoes- and a fresh one at that!!"- *Hindustan Times*

"The Other Side of the Table' is an easy and heart-warming read that is sure to leave you feeling positive" - *The Times of India*

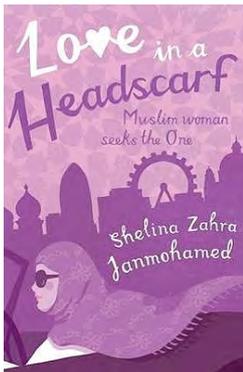
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LOVE IN A HEADSCARF by *Shelina Janmohamed*

'Irreverent and feminine' - *The Guardian*

'Hilarious' - *The Daily Mail*

“What a fun glimpse into the courting rituals of a traditional South Asian British Muslim community! Janmohamed’s colorful and often humorous memoir shows us how those of another culture and religion might navigate the search for love, that most universal of themes. Perfect for the bedside table, but enlightening, as well.”— **Sumbul Ali-Karamali**, Author of *The Muslim Next Door: the Qur’an, the Media, and that Veil Thing*



**COMING SOON ON THE BIG SCREEN !!
THE MOVIE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN OPTIONED!**

Love in a Headscarf is a light-hearted yet sensitive look at growing up in Britain as an educated hijab-wearing Muslim woman trying to find both herself and Mr Right. Shelina Janmohamed grapples with the challenges of finding Love through traditional Asian and Muslim means, and her dreams of a Prince Charming created from Hollywood dramas and romantic comedies. But this is not a clichéd book about arranged marriage – far from it. The search for a partner is the backdrop to creating Shelina's own and her reader’s understanding of love and life through her faith and identity as a British Muslim woman

Rights Sold:

UK & Commonwealth rights: **Aurum Press**

US rights: **Beacon Press**

Film option: **Parallax East**

Dutch rights: **The House of Books**

German rights: **Luebbe**

Indonesian rights: **Mizan Publishing House**

Turkish rights: **Pegasus**

South Asia.: **Amaryllis Publishing (English)**

Manjul Publishing (Hindi)

Shelina Janmohamed was recently named as one of the **UK's Muslim Women Power 100** list by The Times newspaper and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. She writes for The Guardian, The National and EMEL magazine and appears regularly on TV, radio and in print to comment on Islam, Muslim and Muslim women's issues.

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AN UNTAMED HEART

by *Mona Dash*

This is the story of Mohini, a young woman married in a joint family, who suddenly wakes up to the realization that over the years she has managed to get herself trapped within family, duty and routine. Somewhere along the way she has lost love and passion for life itself. She embarks on a journey to rediscover her former self and sets upon a glamorous and fast-track path to professional success. As she meets different men who promise to put the pieces back together, Mohini moves from married to pursued to pursuer. In giving up everything she had known, will she find something to sustain her? Will the men be able to offer the answers she is searching for? Set in India and UK this book is about a martyr, betrayer, explorer and a willing immigrant in a pursuit to transcend limitations at any cost.

Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

Mona Dash was born in the eastern coastal state of Orissa in India and comes from a family of artistically inclined professionals. Mona grew up in an environment defined by books and debates, as her mother is a poet and writer and their house was usually filled with writers discussing literature, art, music and anything 'different.' Mona's sojourn into writing started with dabbling in poetry while in school and went on to produce a collection of poems Dawn Drops. An engineer and an MBA, she currently works in an international Telecom company, but spends every free waking moment writing and plotting stories. Most of Mona's work explores themes of love, displacement and belonging. Relationships, subsequent betrayal, and a quest for something fulfilling also emerge as strong themes in her work. Mona currently lives in London with her husband and young son. She is also pursuing a MA in Creative Writing in the London Met University. She doesn't believe that not having time is an excuse to not read and write; and hence is a stranger to television and reads/writes on trains, in cars, waiting in a queue, late in the night – like anyone who has been afflicted by the written word.

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THE TEXTURE OF BLANK by *Rohit Arora*

'The Texture of Blank' traces a young man's journey from living in the shadows of the forgotten fragments of his past, to one who learns to walk in the light of the future.

Blank....that is what *Dev* wakes up in his new reality and *Dev Sareen* has no idea how to fill it, understand it or even know how he came to be in it. His only connect with the real world is a stranger, Neeti, who takes him home with her and claims that she is a friend. Every attempt to understand his life, who he is and how he came to be with no memories is met with the same fate - a blank. Unable to take the corrosiveness of the void that is eating into him, *Dev* decides that he has to figure out who he is, if he has a family, a past and most importantly, what Neeti is hiding from him. Little does he know that as he begins to dig out this information, it will change his life forever - again. Will *Dev* fill all the empty space, find the answers about his life, his past or will he be sucked into a mire that he can never come out of? Will he unwittingly replay the mistakes of his forgotten life or make more of the clean slate he has been given? *Can a man actually do things differently a second time around?*

Rights Available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

NOVELS IN PROGRESS BY ROHIT:

AT THE END

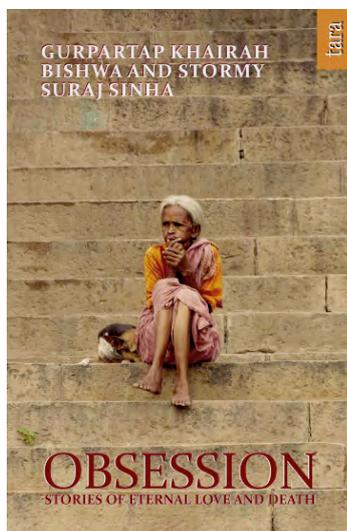
In the forests of Orissa, the local patrol finds an unidentified man lying helpless in the middle of the road. Events take a turn when Aniruddh's family finds he is walking in the corridors after midnight and talking to the picture of his dead father.

Rohit Arora is a 25-year-old MBA turned writer. A thinker by nature, he believes that words need to impact lives. He is a fan of writing that is gripping, entertaining and can leave a message in the reader's minds. Rohit works as a consultant and lives in Bangalore. Though he is already halfway through his next work, *The Texture of Blank* is his debut novel.

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OBSESSION: STORIES OF ETERNAL LIFE AND DEATH

A collection by *Gurpartap Khairah, Bishwa and Stormy and Suraj Sinha*



Each one of us, in one way or another, is obsessed- whether by the intricacies of life or the finality of death. We are plagued by our thirst for control, driven by our hunger for love and addicted to the demons that ultimately consume us. A sensitive portrayal of one's deepest emotions, this collection of stories explores the psyche of an individual...their most vivid desires, most profound fears and the ultimate revelation of their darkest secrets.

OBSESSION brings together love and lust, betrayal and hurt, grief, life and longing. They are stories that strip the human spirit of all pretence, exposing shame and sorrow, desire and desperation. Woven around characters that could well be you and I, these are modern day chronicles of everyday heroes, fallen or exalted. Stories that thrust us towards introspection and self-realisation, these are narratives that force us to explore the hidden us, and the truths that we often refuse to see.

OBSESSION is one man's quest to create the perfect wife, a widow's desperate attempts to remove the shackles of greed or another's man's perspective of love. OBSESSION runs the gamut of human experience and

endeavour and expression, creating a tempestuous display of heat and ice and launching the reader into a familiar yet sombre world.

Right sold: English South Asia- Tara Press

Rights available: Rest of the world English, Translation & all Languages

OBSESSION- Stories of Eternal Love and Death is a collection of short stories by four authors:

Gurpartap Khairah believes a writer should be politically incorrect and while writing, makes every effort to say the worst in the best possible manner. Gurpartap teaches English literature in Hindu college, Amritsar. He loves his job because it keeps him in constant touch with the youth and the current 'modern' lingo.

Bishwa Sigdel grew up in the dusty lanes of Banepa, in Nepal. An early passion for the Classics finally led him to writing. An ardent fan of Marquez and Neruda, Bishwa likes nothing better than hunting for books in dusty libraries or old city bookstalls.

Stormy Hazarika grew up in the lush tea estates of Assam. An aspiring poet, Hazarika's passions are writing, reading and more reading! She feels her head is constantly buzzing with plots, characters and loose ends and MS Word is the only release for this pressure.

Suraj Sinha is an aeronautical engineer turned banker. Born in Bihar, he grew up listening to folk stories. An avid reader of Magic Realism, fantasy, history and satire, he spends quality time reading the likes of Marquez, Rushdie, Faulkner, Tolkien and Joseph Heller. Inspired by everyday life and his little son, he loves the process of writing more than anything else.

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I SEE YOU by *Karishma Attari*

Book 1: Seventeen-year-old Alia is back from boarding school and wants nothing more than to keep it simple. Her new friends and almost-boyfriend have no idea about her true identity or her troubled past. In fact her life at St Xavier's College is the closest she's ever got to a 'normal' life. All that stands between her and happiness is Bobby, a malevolent child-ghost who has put a sick chill on life at the villa for as long as she can remember.

Alia's return to the family home is met by the all-too-familiar symptoms of a haunting. Crayon marks on the wall, otherworldly whispers, and cryptic post-its that lead like a trail of breadcrumbs to a disturbing childhood memory. Things are getting complicated. How can her stepfather, who is downright ugly, (not to mention also stinks like a corpse) be a Bollywood superstar and a heartthrob of millions? What is her brittle mother – the epic love-hate of Alia's life – trying to tell her? And what does Bobby want from her? Alia has to find answers and quickly for Bobby is picking off the people she loves. Simple is no longer an option, but can Alia live with the dark pact she must make?

Book 2: Synopsis available upon request

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Karishma Attari reviews books for most mainstream Indian newspapers and magazines. She has traveled widely, been a books anchor for CNBC TV 18 on prime time TV and co-edited the theatre journal PT Notes. A gold medalist at the University of Mumbai's Master's in English, Karishma turned her love for literature to use by founding The Super Readers Club, which kindles the love for reading among children born in the iPad age.

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THE MUG OF MELANCHOLY by *Rohit Chakravorty*

On his 15th birthday, Bhuvan finds his Auntie Neera asking his father to get him trained before he kills himself. During the resultant argument, she hands him a mug full of strange liquid that makes his father so happy that he forgets everything that has transpired. Meanwhile, dark dreams of a beautiful woman haunt him... a woman who is dead and yet so alive. A woman who says she can bring his mother back, but for that he must embrace his roots. Roots that he is clueless about until Neera, hires Amaterasu, a Japanese Andrunain who can control fireflies.

Bhuvan then visits the Andrunain city of Umpling, a place in a parallel time and space in Shillong, India, to which he treelevates. He befriends Andrudian teens - Orville, who can control ice, Samudra, who controls the oceans, Jwala, who controls volcanoes, and Kalki, a music hypnotist. And finally finds out his own Andrunianity... Light, by producing the Borelai Effect in the sky, where he sees wraiths (souls) of the five kings of Panchaprakritpur. But all that does is adds to the danger... His new people start fearing him... And in his hands lies the key...

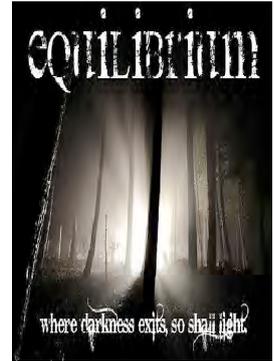
Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Rohit Chakraborty, aged 17, has been writing ever since he was eight. His first story was about the friendship between a baby eagle and a mouse. In Grade 11 now - and a foodie, one of his favourite films is Julie and Julia as it merges the love of food with the art of making it. The terrace of his house, the corner seat of the school library and the last bench in the History class are some of his favourite writing places. After an arduous five-day school week, the idea of weekends fills him with joy as he escapes into the fantastical yet familiar world of Andrunains. Another passion is travelling. What started as a keen interest in reading with The Magic Tree House series as a child, and was given sustenance by other favourites like Pigeon English, A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Catcher in the Rye, Wuthering Heights and To Sir, With Love, has turned into a grand passion with his ambitious first project, a young adult five-part fantasy the first of which is titled The Mug of Melancholy.

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THE EQUILIBRIUM SAGA: *the 'aavaasya' trilogy* by *Paras Joshi*

WHERE DARKNESS EXISTS SO SHALL LIGHT



“... a great crusade shall ensue, mankind fight its greatest war,
At that time shall light shine through; Past, Present and Future Converge”
-*The Convergence Cycle*, 354 c.

An ancient prophecy, The largest metropolis in the world...
A petite small-time robber...

Book 1: NASCENCE

Meet Arya, a 17-year-old, with the uncanny ability to open almost every locking mechanism ever known to mankind. Paid to break in to a high-profile government vault, he unknowingly sets in motion events with apocalyptic consequences. The Tamisra are rising, Mercenaries and shadow spirits have joined hands with humans to destroy the Equilibrium. Rumours abound of a Maayukh that links the ring, known as Avaasya, to the fate of the world. Racing against time to undo what he has done, Arya finds Time is his biggest enemy and that he can trust no one in this race to return balance to the world.

Book 2: EMERGENCE

The Warlord has taken over Havelon. The light is fading. An unwilling participant, Arya's *gurus* have only 2-3 months to instruct him in all he needs to know to combat Tamisra. Arya, to the people around him, is clearly the catalyst that will lead to the destruction of Equilibrium. Also suspect are his origins. His strange ability to unlock any man-made mechanism. Does he even have a role to play, given that only a Saatvikaa can wield the ring? Help comes in the form of Avni. But is she enough to help Arya overcome the mistrust surrounding him? As the Warlord gathers his troops, Arya finds the lines between dark and light blurring faster than he can separate their strands. All he knows is that Time will reset if he does not find a way to emerge from the shadows and get the right answers, fast.

Book 2 of the Equilibrium saga is the story of a boy forced to become a man; to come out of his cocoon to bring the balance needed to hold the worlds together as he stands on the edge...

Book 3: CONVERGENCE

In Book 3 of the Equilibrium Saga, Arya has to face the true face of Tamisra. But is defeating Tamisra enough? Can Arya truly defeat Tamisra without disturbing the Equilibrium forever? Why were Amish and Prot so insistent that Arya steal the ring? In itself, Avaasya is a pretty harmless band with an ugly black rock. So why are the Tamisra and Saatvikaa so anxious to get their hands on it? The clues for redemption lie in an old prophecy that talks of the same CAUSE that brought the world to an end in the last cycle. Will Arya find the right answers, take the right clues? And what of the missing Nistakari, who will set right all wrongs. What is the Maayukh's role in all this? And which one is Arya?

Arya has to now confront himself, even as he faces the uglier side of light and the redeeming side of dark in a battle to restore the Equilibrium.

Rights Sold: South Asia.: Fingerprint Publishers / PRAKASH BOOKS (English)

Rights Available: World English & all Languages

Paras Joshi also called '*Paolini of the east*' by his friends has just turned 17. Soft spoken but intense and always immersed in his writings, he will soon be appearing for his grade 12 examination and he hopes to bring the *new dreams of eastern fantasy* to the young readers of the world.

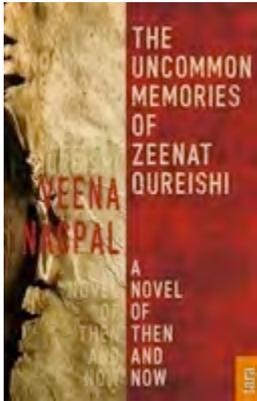
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LITT COMMERCIAL -

THE UNCOMMON MEMORIES OF ZEENAT QUREISHI

by *Veena Nagpal*

Two young cousins hell-bent on restoring Muslim glory, even if it means importing terror. An incendiary Hindu religious leader with one mantra, 'Break-mosques, build-temples.'



Zeenat Qureishi has one question, “What’s my name? Why can’t you tell me my name?” Traumatized in the aftermath of the London Tube bombing, the phobic 20-year-old comes to India. Long before Zeenat was born, the eldest Qureishi brother, his wife, and six-year-old daughter Zainab were murdered. Zeenat’s family believed the Mehra, their Hindu family friends, responsible and the friendship turned sour. Wild and impetuous Zeenat promptly falls in love with Ajay Mehra. Faced with proof that he was involved in the demolition of a mosque, she scorns him. Disturbed, Zeenat undergoes regression therapy in an atmosphere of paranoia and uncovers memories so powerful that she can project them. Communal bitterness that has simmered for centuries threatens to explode around her and Zeenat tries to find answers in the past that will help her understand and heal the present.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. **Tara Press** / Hindi: **Tara Press**

Rights Available: WORLD English outside of South Asia / Translation and all Languages.

Veena Nagpal is a graduate of Lucknow University who majored in English literature. She has written two previous novels, *Karmayogi* (Jaico) and *Compulsion* (Sterling) as well as four children’s books- *Time Travellers*, *Smuggler’s Isle*, *Tenderella* and *the FoFs* and *Garbie Garbyhog – The Worm That Wanted To Fly*. Her short stories and articles on diverse topics have been published in leading Indian magazines. She lives with her family in Delhi and devotes most of her time to writing on environmental issues.

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BUBBLE WRAP by *Kalyani Rao*

When twelve-year-old Krishna marries Shyam Singh of Rokhagadh, her grandmother gives her a box filled with jewellery, telling her to sell it in times of trouble, but otherwise to hide it from her parents and in-laws. Krishna's marital home is very different from the house she grew up in. She soon learns that her father-in-law, a drunkard and a lecher, who is not above carrying on with a maidservant, is deeply in debt and expects her father to help him out. Krishna's fifteen-year-old widowed cousin, Gudiya, accompanies her to Rokhagadh, but is ill-treated by Krishna's in-laws, culminating in her rape by Krishna's father-in-law, on Diwali night. When Krishna's father learns of this, he wants to take both girls away immediately, but dies soon after, in a mysterious "accident" and Gudiya finds herself pregnant. The Singhs are willing to help her, provided it is a male child. If she is carrying a female child, she will have to abort. Krishna's and Gudiya's responses to the death of the former's father; their refusal to knuckle under to the Singhs; their decision to fight for their survival against impossible odds and to stand by each other forms the crux of 'Bubble Wrap'. It is a moving story of two minor teenage girls and their struggle against a society that sees them merely as objects of sexual gratification. Set in Rajasthan, it vividly depicts the life of a family that upholds feudal traditions that transgress against human dignity, as it brings to life a small town, where modernity remains a façade and has little bearing on day to day life.

Rights sold: English South Asia. **Harlequin India**

Rights Available:

Kalyani Rao is a 28-year-old writer is an IT professional who has mostly lived in Mumbai and Pune. Apart from writing, she also likes to paint and travel. In her words, “Traveling is my passion. I have traveled bag packing to some countries.” A big fan of Haruki Murakami, she also blogs and some of her writing can be found at twinklingpebbles.wordpress.com. An amateur writer since she was 15, she enjoys writing poetry the most.

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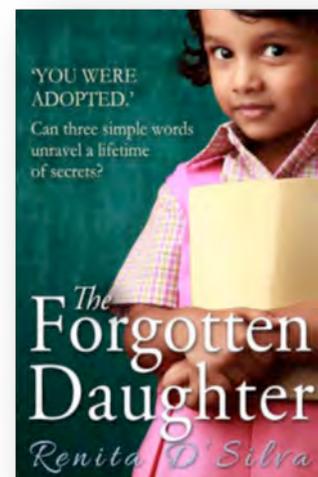
RENITA D'SILVA

Renita D'Silva grew up in a picturesque coastal village in the South of India and her father bought her first story books when she was six - beautiful hardback fairy tale books, a rarity in those days. She fell in love with storytelling then and is still just as much of a bookworm today. Both *Forgotten Daughter* and *Monsoon Memories* are set in the India, a country that Renita loves.

* THE FORGOTTEN DAUGHTER

'You were adopted'..... three simple words, in a letter accompanying her parent's will, tear Nisha's carefully ordered world apart. Raised in England, by her caring but emotionally reserved parents, Nisha has never been one to take risks. Now, with the scrawled address of an Indian convent begins a search for the mother and family she never knew and the awakening of childhood memories long forgotten.

The secrets, culture and people that Nisha discover will change her life forever. And, as her eyes are opened to a side of herself she didn't know existed, Nisha realizes that she must also seek answers to the hardest question of all - why?



Weaving together the stories of Nisha, Shilpa and Devi, *The Forgotten Daughter* explores powerfully and poignantly the emotional themes of motherhood, loss and identity – ultimately asking the question of what you would do out of love for your children? Renita D'Silva combines rich, lyrical descriptions of India with the emotionally charged drama of Jodi Picoult, Diane Chamberlain and Liane Moriarty.

PRAISE FOR RENITA D'SILVA

'Renita D'Silva is a genius at evoking the sounds, sights and aromas of India. A major new talent.' *Linda Kavanagh*

'D'Silva weaves a tale so rich and complex in detail and history that I found it quite impossible to put the book down. The characters really came to life for me and I grew attached and invested in them and what was going to happen. The details are rich, vivid and so well described that I truly felt at times that I was there or at least was hearing the story first hand from the main character... from start to finish I loved this book and couldn't recommend it more.' *NovelEscapes.com*

'It mesmerized me with its poignant narration and heart-warming story and kept me hooked until the last page.' *ChickLitClub.com*

'A wonderfully dramatic and poignant debut novel from Renita D'Silva. I was captivated by the characters and their plight.' *Momssmallvictories.com*

'a really moving and poignant story.' *Novelicious.com*

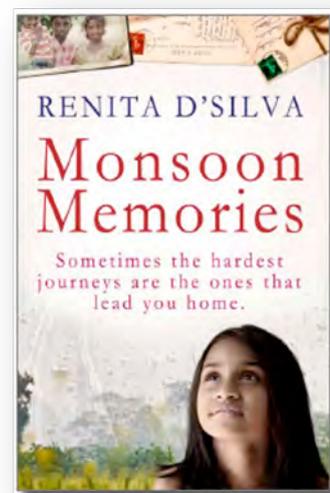
'Full of gorgeously crafted settings and descriptions, you'll be pulled into this lush novel. Renita paints the most beautiful images with a few, perfectly chosen words. *Monsoon Memories* is a book to fall in love with.' *KimTalksBooks.com*

MONSOON MEMORIES by *Renita D'Silva*

“English rain smelt and tasted of nothing at all. It had none of the fury, the passion of the monsoons. Instead, it was weak; half-hearted.”

Exiled from her family in India for more than a decade, Shirin and her husband lead a comfortable but empty life in London. Memories of her childhood – exotic fragrances, colours, stifling heat and tropical storms – fill Shirin with a familiar and growing ache for the land and the people that she loves.

With the recollections though, come dark clouds of scandal and secrets. Secrets that forced her to flee her old life and keep her from ever returning. Thousands of miles away, in Bangalore, the daughter of Shirin's brother discovers a lost, forgotten photograph. One that has escaped the flames. Determined to solve the mystery of an aunt she never knew, Reena's efforts will set in place a chain of events that expose the painful trauma of the past and irrevocably change the path of the future.



AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY THROUGH A MESMERIZING, PASSIONATE LAND OF CONTRASTS – AND A FAMILY WHOSE STORY WILL TOUCH YOUR HEART.

The book has being submitted for the following prizes:

- Costa Book Prize
- Women's Fiction Prize (formerly Orange Prize)
- Desmond Elliot Prize
- James Tait Black Prize
- Geoffrey Faber Prize
- Commonwealth Writers Prize
- Dolman Prize

Monsoon Memories by Renita D'Silva is an honest, captivating peek at the human heart, the haunting power of memories and the fierce power of truth. Beautifully written, Monsoon Memories is an engaging, thought-provoking story that will remain with you long after the final page.

Heather Gudenkauf, *US and UK bestselling author*

'A delightful story, with riveting characters and a mystery guaranteed to tease and tantalise the reader right till the end. And what a feast for the senses - Renita D'Silva is a genius at evoking the sounds, sights and aromas of India. I could almost feel the spicy scented breeze and taste the dosa! A major new talent - I can't wait for her next novel.'

Linda Kavanagh, *no.1 Irish bestselling author*

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* **THE PERFUME WOMAN'S DIARIES** by *Pran Joshi*

'*The Perfume Woman's Diaries*' is a story about the unlikely scenarios created by love. It is a story that envelops within it a love between a man and a woman; a love between two sisters; a love between the closest of friends; a love that brings a family together and one that has the ability to tear it apart; a love buried in the past and a love that finds itself again through the dusty pages of time.

At the heart of the novel is Somi, a woman who has over the years become a shadow of her former self. The narrative follows the lives of those around her through the pages of a secret journal discovered by her two daughters that reveals a love affair from their father's past. Though conflicted over the guilt of invading their father's privacy, the two sisters embark on a journey to unearth the mystery of this long lost love, learning over the course that their mother, aunt and grandfather played covert and adversarial roles in denying the lovers a blissful married life. Mirroring this is a romance between the eldest daughter and a young man whose life is intricately connected to the all the major players of the story. His relationship with the family is essential in reconciling the present with the past and testing the fragile bonds of love.

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A master in English, *Pran Joshi* pursued his love of literature, psychology and philosophy at the universities of Toronto and Queen's in Kingston. Toronto-based Pran devoted forty years of his life to teaching literature throughout the world and finally began his writing career after putting up his shoes. His own worst critic, Pran doesn't rest until the characters he creates are treated with respect and love even when they are villains and rogues. He doesn't mind the heart of darkness; he insists on probing it until finding in its core an element of illumination. He wants his readers to see the gradual peeling of layers...of assumptions, biases, hunches, suppositions and stabs in the dark. He believes that writing offers him places and people that he missed meeting in his life, and plots allow him to experience their problems and tragedies and thus be a human vicariously. *The Perfume Woman's Diaries* is Pran's debut novel. Pran is working on three more books. Another novel "Maniac's Revenge," a collection of short stories and a book on attributes that make a teacher shine like a master teacher.

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THE LAST ACT by *Neha Singh*

When an unexpected puncture promises to turn fifty years of rarified existence on its head, an interminable cycle of panic and regret begins. And so it is with Manmohini, the exalted star of Indian Cinema, whose life of fame unravels when her guilty secret buried away from the tabloids begins taking over her life. In between come a series of letters that connect her to two very different characters--a high-tech genius from Utrecht, Sam, and a single mother from San Jose, Nandini. When Sam receives letters that are unmarked but familiar, a grudge he has simmered over for decades begins taking over his life. The same letters arrive at Nandini's door and she fears they will destroy the only person she has ever found support in - her father. "The Last Act" brings together three divergent lives as it takes readers through a story of guilt and disdain, of fame and artistry, of music and dancing, and of love that endures.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

A software engineer and MBA, *Neha Singh* has been an enthusiastic reader and writer since she learned to read her first sentence. Brought up in a home filled with books, she indulged in her love of words by writing through her school years and opting for several writing assignments for magazines, blogs and web portals through her career. She has worked on content strategy for Yahoo! and currently consults as a user experience professional. A passionate lover of vintage Hindi music and movies, she can be heard humming an old classic number in most of her free moments. She currently lives in California's bay area with her husband and son.

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A PATCH OF SKY by *Stormy Hazarika*

According to Vidula Reed, man can happily live as an island in himself. Wary of relationships after an unhappy childhood, she avoids anything that will make her vulnerable. A small town lecturer, Vidula is transferred to Baathshala to avert a full-blown scandal when her unusual friendship with the young Kayaan Sharma gives rise to suspicion and gossip. It is then that the suave Vir Pratap Sinha, manager of a charming bookstore, storms into her dull, neat life and forces her to question and redefine her boundaries. She now confronts her deepest fears and battles against cynicism, only to be thrown back into darkness all over again. A Patch of Sky explores the vulnerabilities of older women and the attitudes that still exist in the small towns of a modern India that has legalized same-gender relationships, but continues to look down with suspicion on platonic friendship. It is a story of love and lust, of betrayals and enduring loyalties, of discovery, triumph and final answers.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

A RIVER ON THE WALL by *Stormy Hazarika*

Ryeed Lahan is happily married and well-settled until the suicide of his wife forces him to examine his world and reflect on her last words: "Find your river on the wall, Ryeed. That's what will keep you alive."

Battling against the complexities of relationships, be it with his son or the attractive Nikita, Lahan is thrown into the turmoil of choices and events that will forever impact his life. His search for the impossible, his hunger for that elusive dream and his belief in destiny is what sustains him as he journeys through life with his growing daughter, a legacy of the past.

A River on the Wall is the story of Ryeed Lahan. It is the extraordinary tale of ordinary people, their lost chances, their desperate gambles and their unfulfilled dreams. Set against an urban landscape, it is an account of a not so passive acceptance of societal norms and the demands that existence makes of us.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Born into an Anglo-Indian family, *Stormy Hazarika* grew up in the lush tea estates of Assam. The writing bug bit her in school, temporarily died and resurfaced after marriage. An aspiring poet in her typical Libran moodiness, Hazarika's passions are writing, reading and more reading! When she isn't marking truckloads of answer scripts, she loves talking long walks in the unpredictable weather of the Himalayan foothills or simply gazing out of the window. She enjoys instrumental music and catches up with the modern world on Facebook. The HOD of English at a reputed college in Mussoorie, Stormy Hazarika has co-authored a collection of short stories, which is shortly to be published. She feels her head is constantly buzzing with plots, characters and loose ends and MS Word is the only release for this pressure. Her writing, she maintains, is a tribute to her father who introduced her to the world of fiction, and her mother, who stood by with encouragement and support. Her daughter is a staunch critic but a loyal fan of her work.

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* **RUNAWAY** by *Umair Naeem*

'Runaway' tells the story of four people brought together in a cauldron of hate, each looking for redemption and trying to emerge victorious.

While Sarmad looks to the notorious Falak Sher to finally deliver him peace, Falak Sher has plans of his own. Plans that he hopes will lead him to power and glory. In the meanwhile, Kashan fights his demons and looks to faith for answers just as Nilofer struggles to let the past go. Can revenge lead to redemption?

Can hate ever give way to love? Nothing in life is black and white. Sometimes the answer is an eye for an eye. While love can give us pure ecstasy, it can also leave us shattered and lost. 'The Runaway' is a beautiful story of courage, betrayal and love. A story that will touch you while leaving you at the edge of your seat.

Rights available: WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

Umair Naeem did his A'Levels from Karachi Grammar School where he was part of the Writers' Forum. He is an MBA and BS in Computer Science. He works as brand manager for multinational FMCG in Pakistan and is a freelance writer. He has edited Asnia Asim's poetry collection, "Politically Incorrect" and is editor of CIO Pakistan. His greatest interest is in creative writing, and his novella "Synchronicity" was published at Chowk.com. He is working on his third novel. Drowning Shadows is his first novel.

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FROM THE DARKNESS by *Abhishek Ray*

A paranormal thriller

An old woman's murder has taken place in Shera Bagan, Kolkata. There is something horrible about the way she had been murdered. A tribal has run away from prison, back to the jungles of Sunderbans, back to his tribe and back to resurrect what was broken. A troubled teenager thinks getting high on marijuana is the way for him to cut out the world. Little does he know that getting high will come at a price. A middle-aged woman has a secret. Something that she wanted forgotten has surfaced again and this time, her son is the one who makes her remember it. Something dark and terrible connects these four. Rohan's mother finds out that her son has the same affliction as her mother, i.e. - he can speak or see the dead and their brutal ends - all he needs is the right intoxicant... The bodha tribal is determined to kill this mysterious killer woman who is stalking the neighbourhood, as he believes she is the Bon Bibi, a tribal mother goddess, who is vicious and loves to hunt and kill - and blood and gore follows her everywhere.

With Rohan acting stranger with every passing day, his mother is haunted by visions of her own past, of what she had once seen. Is it happening again? Would her life be turned upset down once again... only this time by her son? Will it lead to her death? Is that the price Rohan will pay for messing with the paranormal? Can Rohan's marijuana dreams save the day? Even the death count rises, Rohan has to find a way to work with both the police and this strange tribal to save the day. But can he? Will the Bon Bibi come back?

Rights Available: WORLD English / Translation and all Languages.

Abhishek Ray knows how to tell a great story full of murder, mayhem and gore, preying and using intelligently the Indian fear of superstition. Born and brought up in Kolkata, he is not a true-blue Bengali. He comes from a culturally and creatively rich and mixed background. While his father is Bengali and is actively interested in theater, his mother is a Kannadiga, with training in Classical Carnatic Music. An Electrical Engineer from NIT Allahabad and an MBA from IMT Ghaziabad, Abhishek's upbringing has been deeply influenced by music, theater and literature from regions across India. He is also a Sangeet Prabhakar (Vocal) in Hindustani Classical Music, has a Diploma in Drawing and is avidly interested in trekking and traveling. He has a passion for writing, theater and listening to death & doom metal and Coldplay. Mystery, thriller and horror genres fascinate him and are reflected in his first foray into writing: his young adult crossover novel *From the Darkness*.

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Milwaukee, WI.

Shauna Singh Baldwin's luminous prose has garnered critical acclaim in major newspapers and magazines in Canada, the United States, the UK, and India. She is the author of four works of fiction, *English Lessons and Other Stories*, *What the Body Remembers*, *We are not in Pakistan*, and *The Tiger Claw*. Her work has received numerous awards, including India's Shastri Award (silver medal) for short prose, the Writer's Union of Canada Prize for short prose, the Friends of American Writers Award, the CBC Literary Award, and the Commonwealth Prize for Best Book (Canada and the Caribbean). She is the recipient of a Nehru Award (gold medal) for public speaking. She and her Irish-American husband live in

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WE ARE NOT IN PAKISTAN

Book of the Year 2007. Quill and Quire

"If you are a writer; study these stories. If you are a reader; relax and enjoy them. If you are both; count your lucky stars, you're in for an wonderful ride."

— **Judy Bridges**, *Milwaukee Home* magazine.

Ten years after her stunning debut, Shauna Singh Baldwin returns with an outstanding new collection of ten stories. Migrating from Central America to the American South, from Metro Toronto to the Ukraine, this book features an unforgettable cast of characters.

In "Only a Button" Olena learns she has to move to the Ukraine and live closer to her hated mother-in-law. In the title story, 16-year-old Kathleen thinks she would be much better off without her Pakistani grandmother. In the enchanting magical realism of "Naina," an Indo-Canadian woman is pregnant with a baby girl who refuses to be born. "The View from the Mountain" Wilson Gonzales in Costa Rica makes friends with his new American boss, Ted Grand. But following 9/11, Ted's suspicions cloud his judgment and threaten his friendship with Wilson.

A chain of tales that has not a single weak link . . . Shauna Singh Baldwin's writing is, quite simply, brilliant. She finds the unique voice of each character and lets him or her speak, as vivid personalities are discovered rather than created. The stories are collaborations between author and character. This collection is a dazzling achievement by a gifted storyteller."

— **Ralph Higgins**, *Atlantic Books Today*



ENGLISH LESSONS AND OTHER STORIES

Winner — Friends of American Writers prize

Fantastic collection of short stories about Sikh women throughout the century and living around the world. Some of the best stories I've read about women and their need to follow honour, but also the anger and confusion this causes in a rapidly changing world. Very moving fiction. All the stories are told with excellent subtlety.

"*Excellent short stories about Sikh women in transition.*"— **Alan Scheer** (Toronto, Canada)

Shauna Singh Baldwin's passionate stories dramatize the lives of Indian women from 1919 to today, from India to Canada to the U.S. Through the eyes of these women adjusting to change, we see a world whose familiar rhythms mask dissonance and discordance. More overt is the ongoing struggle for the Sikh women in these stories to keep their identity and assert it. More subtle is the cost of integration into the new world, how colonialism survives in the minds of the colonized, and how these women confront the twin fear of freedom and fear of "the other."

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LITERARY WORKS -

* THE LAST QUEEN OF KASHMIR by *Rakesh Kaul*

From being an innocent woman of royal birth at the threshold of womanhood, Kota is thrust into the murky world of Kashmir's court from the moment of her presentation ball. King Suhdev believes she will cure him of his impotence and provide him with the much elusive heir, but her father, his commander-in-chief, turns him down. Thus begins a tale of treachery and betrayal, where Kota loses her family to the invading Ladakhi usurper Rinchina and her lover to the drug-frenzied esoteric, sex-driven jogis.

With the people of Kashmir on the brink of starvation and the administration collapsing around her, Kota is forced to marry Rinchina, the man who murdered her father. By sheer force of will and using all the wiles at her hand, Kota becomes a formidable ruler, not only bringing the ruling class into order but also forcing traders to fall in line. Her people love her, but her administration is riddled with a new threat - Muslim invaders and settlers who are changing the very fabric of Kashmiri society.

Forced to choose between a husband who converts and favours the invaders and upholding the law, Kotarani must make the ultimate sacrifice. But will her people see her choices - of spouse, of strategic and personal alliances with Muslim settlers like Shah Mir and the former king's brother Udyandev, of dealing with invaders like Achala - as coups or turn against her is the big question. Kota must find a way to balance the winds of change blowing through the Kashmir Valley. Can she, a woman, stem the flow before it's too late or will she bow down to the inevitable?

MORE INFORMATION:

The Last Queen of Kashmir is the thrilling tale of a young woman who is thrust on the throne of Kashmir and becomes one of the greatest leaders of her time.

During her reign she transforms from a young girl looking for love to a great leader equipped with deep intuition and steely determination. An extraordinary woman, she deftly manages the cross currents of medieval jihad right up to her grand end.

The Last Queen of Kashmir brings to life, for the very first time, the remarkable story of the greatest Queen of Kashmir and arguably one who ranks among the greatest Queens in India and the world. Against a backdrop of war, passion and intrigue, *The Last Queen of Kashmir* is the brilliantly researched tale of perhaps the most influential leader Kashmir has ever known and in the process provides insights into her lasting legacy.

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Co-agency Representation AYESHA PANDE LITERARY AGENCY, NY/ Ayesha Pande

Rakesh Kaul, whose family hails from Kashmir, migrated to the US in 1972 after becoming a gold medalist at IIT Delhi. During that year he won a national writing competition organized by a leading American newspaper. In addition to a distinguished business career he has written extensively for leading newspapers and magazines and been a keynote speaker on the history, politics and culture of Kashmir. He has served as the Co-Chairman of The Arts of Kashmir Exhibition at the Asia Society in New York. He was a founding contributor to the first Chair of India Studies at Berkeley and to the Center for the Advanced Study of India at University of Pennsylvania as also the Mattoo Center for India Studies at State University of New York. He has an MBA from the University of Chicago and an MS from Brown University.

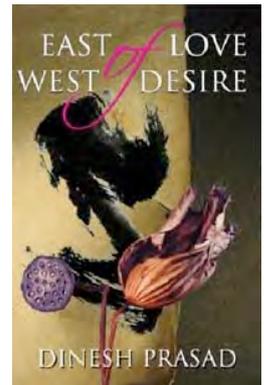
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* **EAST OF LOVE WEST OF DESIRE** by *Dinesh Prasad*

A collection of stories that make you cry and they make you laugh but above all they make you hope and want to believe that all will be well!

Love blooms in the wreckage of violence. It blooms even as hearts turn strangers and brothers enemies. It blooms even as rivers of blood flow, passions are inflamed, and hatred stalks the land. Love knows no boundaries. No caste. No religion. Love can strike the heart of the village belle or the doughty lad with the look from under dark kolh lined eyes, the accidental touch of a hand adorned in simple glass bangles. And... Darvish, Beeran, Meiral and Chaitanya are helpless as its arrow pierces their hearts. All they understand is love. All the world around them understands is hate.

Set against the backdrop of a time when death trains pulled into stations between Lahore and Delhi, '*East of Love West of Desire*' is a collection of short stories about love that sears and consumes, elevates and devastates. They are stories of fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, men and women who come together, and yet are symbols of possibilities unexplored because the world around them is exploding, stripping them of their dignity and humanity. These stories are about the darkest chapter of modern Indian history, as the sun set on the British Raj. But they are also timeless tales about growing up, love, longing, faith, differences..



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Dinesh Prasad, a management professional working in the area of Analytical Consulting, is shy and defensive about his pedigree. An engineer by basic education and an MBA by last pedagogical education, Dinesh is married to Deepti Rebecca and has two lovely children Abira Nayesa and Amaarya. He currently lives in Gurgaon, a fast growing suburb of New Delhi.

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* **ASHES, WINE AND DUST** by *Kanza Javed*

Shortlisted for the Tibor Jones South Asia Prize 2013

Embroiled in the set imperative of middle class lifestyle in contemporary Pakistan, Mariam Ameen decides to challenge the tradition of being female. The novel begins in Lahore, entering its first phase with Miriam struggling to retain all the memories of her dead grandfather so engrained within her. With her willful and determined self-assurance, Mariam leaves for America in search of better days, carrying these memories with her. But encounters with foreign characters in a strange land leave Mariam confused and vulnerable, forcing her to build an impenetrable wall around herself. In the midst of forging new paths Mariam learns of the disappearance of her younger brother, Abdullah, in America. A reverse journeying begins as she moves backwards to her roots to confront what she has left behind in order to find the answers she is looking for. Against the backdrop of unyielding social institutions threatened by change and independent individuals, Mariam vows that she would not stop looking for her brother.

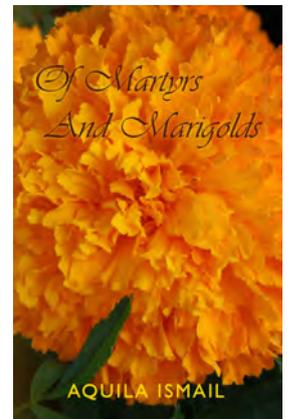
"Ashes, Wine and Dust" describes the journey Mariam undertakes which becomes an exploration of human themes of self-identity, invisible ropes of social customs, stereotypes and love. As love in all forms is tested in the most strenuous ways possible, the case of disappearance becomes the less chosen road towards a self discovery.

Rights available: WORLD English / Translation and all Languages.

Kanza Javed lives and writes in Lahore. Her manuscript, "Ashes, Wine and Dust" was shortlisted for Tibor Jones South Asia Prize 2013, making her at the age of twenty-one, the youngest and the only Pakistani writer nominated for the prize that year. She was a keynote speaker in the 'Aspiring Writers' panel at the Lahore Literary Festival 2013. Her narrative, 'Passing Morning' has won third prize in British Council's 'Charles Dickens Writing Competition.' Her short story, 'The Intruders' is to be published in Earthen Lamp Journal (January 2014 issue). She is currently pursuing an Mphil in English Language and Literature and working on her second manuscript, 'Children of the Dark.'

OF MARTYRS AND MARIGOLDS by *Aquila Ismail*

"*Of Martyrs and Marigolds* is an elegantly written, powerful story of a young Pakistani woman, caught in the throes of revenge in the after birth of Bangladesh. Suri is born in the eastern part of Pakistan to parents who chose to migrate to it from India in 1947, when the British Empire dissolved its colony in the Indian subcontinent. She leads an idyllic life informed deeply by the Bengali culture, British colonial past and the social character of a country created for Muslims. However, in the rapidly unfolding violence that accompanies the liberation struggle of the Bengalis, Suri is considered to be a 'Bihari', a migrant from India, who speaks Urdu and therefore has no place in Bangladesh.



At its center is the defiant love between Suri and Rumi, which blossoms in Dacca University. The campus is the focal point of the resistance to the atrocities committed by the Pakistan Army as it was of the 1952 Bengali Language Movement. When Suri becomes a victim of a division based on the mother tongue, the intensity of their love tries to transcend the political facts of Bangladesh. Placed in an internment camp, she has to choose between her family and her love for a man who belongs to the side that massacres and dispossesses her people.

Ismail writes affectionately of life in East Pakistan. Her narrative makes the cities where the story is set become real. Her evocation of the brutal manner in which the Pakistan army put down the demands of Bengalis for autonomy, the horror inflicted by the Bengalis on the Biharis, and India's war with Pakistan culminating in the creation of Bangladesh, is devastatingly real. Adapting real history into page-turning fiction, Ismail captures an important era in South Asian history with intelligence and grace. Part historical drama and part romance, *Of Martyrs and Marigolds* is testament to fiction's unique power in documenting the complexities of human conflicts."

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

Aquila Ismail has worked as an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering in NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. She has written extensively on literature, women and development issues for newspapers and magazines. She has translated a number of Urdu works of fiction including *Harvest of Anger* and other Stories, *Godavari*, and *Zindabahr Lane*. Her non-fiction works include documentation of the work of Orange Pilot Project (OPP) a development NGO of Karachi.

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* **THE PIMP** by ***Shashank Gupta***

The Pimp is a story of a man who graduates from lesser pleasures to higher planes. A spiritual journey of a fearsome lunatic's successes and excesses

At sixty, when most men retire into emptiness, Uncle, our wrinkled protagonist, comes back with a flourishing brothel at his dead father's mansion and there begins a search for the ultimate pleasure. He dives into the darkness exploring the sin of the flesh, dictated by the devil from a distant past: a stepmother he loved to destruction. She is the only emotion, the only trace of warmth and love in Uncle's otherwise cold heart: it is she who taught him the value, as she saw it, of mortal life and human sacrifice.

His mind is complex yet simple in its desires, resting on dark sarcasm and unpredictability that compels one to relish every word, every move and every absurdity with a curious hunger. All the while, Uncle wraps himself deeper and darker into tighter coils, ultimately becoming an island within his own suffocating thoughts. Unable to remain lucid, he floats dangerously in and out of reality and dreams, not knowing where one ends and the other begins. As the story progresses, a convenient wall grows around him that can be torn down and put back up at his leisure, Nina being the only one to penetrate it.

The god of sex, wealth, power and religion has everything yet nothing- he has still not experienced the ultimate euphoria, which is derived from the ultimate pain and sacrifice.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

THE COWARD AND THE CLICHÉ by ***Shashank Gupta***

Precocious, observant and straightforward, Rustam is just one of many adolescents branching out into the big, bad world, stepping out of the comforts of his home to search for purpose, for life, for himself. As he delves into the streets of Old Delhi's notorious Flower Market, he encounters contradictory characters, including a hotel owner who fantasizes nostalgia and an aging prostitute waiting for someone to sell her tears to. With misanthropy worth smiling at and fearlessness worth being wary of, *The Coward and the Cliché* embarks from a coming-of-age style and brings a new perspective to the depths of a young and misguided mind.

Rights available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

Shashank Gupta means 'Moon Secret'. His mother thought naming her very dark third-born so would mysteriously lighten his complexion. This has not happened in 49 years. Instead, his career has waxed and waned like the moon. After attending an elite boarding school in a beautiful hill-town, he learnt to look at the workers on his father's farm with utter disdain, but want of good grades punished him to pursue higher education in horticulture. Two months into his PhD, he revolted and bolted, choosing to work on the blessed farm. And then six years of growing-cutting-growing crops and the bleak prospects of gentlemen farmers in India, made him run away to Mumbai at 29. He went on to become a copywriter in advertising at the very bottom of the ladder and took seven years and several horrible campaigns to be called a Creative Director.

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CHILDREN OF WAR by *Suraj Sinha*

The governor was the offspring of the perversities of the First World War, born out of the frustration of his mother and the failure of his father. Their fierce love-making shook the village. The incident was so crude that the governor's father never returned to the woman, he joined the war to escape his fate.

The governor was born near the sea. At his birth, dogs licked the amniotic fluid off the infant and the roosters fluttered their wings to keep the flies away – portents of the struggle in his life. The governor grew up in the middle of a chaotic world. He witnessed dark pangs of death all around. He lost count of the number of cripples, corpses arriving in the village every day. The innocent mind of the governor was hurt and he tried to kill himself one night but could not. There was a naked man on the shore who mocked at the governor's inability and waited to see if he would actually commit suicide. Nothing happened. The governor returned home. Next day, the naked man was found dead.

The governor fled the village the very next day. He served in the army with the least dedication, whored around like his father and rose to the post of governor when every member of his regiment was killed by the yellow fever. He fell in love with Andréa, a solitary figure, who used to sew clothes and sell guavas for her living. Their marital life was not ideal, but they got along quite well before the governor fell head over heels in love with Gabriella, a mullatto woman who narrated ancient stories in Kiswahili. The governor gave in to Gabriella's mysticism and started predicting his death. The episode ended with the governor sure of his death... he would die on a Tuesday, but...

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

An engineer-turned-banker, *Suraj Sinha* started his professional career as an aeronautical engineer in 2006. After a short span of fixing aircraft, he started teaching the same to interns. Things took a drastic change and he chose to quit aviation and joined a bank and also completed his degree in History honours. Born in 1986 in the then undivided state of Bihar, he grew up listening to folk stories. An avid reader of Magic Realism, fantasy, history and satire, he spends quality time reading the likes of Marquez, Rushdie, Faulkner, Tolkien, Joseph Heller and the list goes on.

When he is not banking, or reading, or spending time with his son, he loves watching classics. Inspired by the everyday life and his little son, he loves the process of writing more than anything else and now devotes his time writing books.

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Shome Dasgupta lives in Lafayette, LA and teaches at South Louisiana Community College. He hosts the On Reading Series at his blog, The Laughing Yeti. He is the author of *i am here And You Are Gone* (Winner of the 2010 Outsider Writers Press Fiction Chapbook Contest) and *Tentacles, Numbing*. His works in parts have appeared in Redivider, NANO Fiction, Mud Luscious, Drunken Boat, Café Irreal, Everyday Genius, and elsewhere. His fiction has been included in the story South Million Writers Award Notable Stories of 2008, and was also nominated for The Best Of The Net.

THE SEAGULL AND THE URN by *Shome Dasgupta*

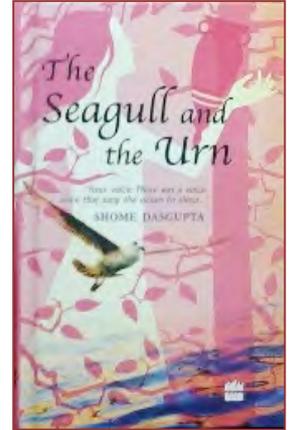
(Bridges literary fiction, commercial fiction and crossover YA)

The Seagull And The Urn is a blend of magical realism, fantasy, and science fiction. *March* is born in April, just as the sun is setting. A singing baby who can't sleep, she sets Kolkaper on edge. The Town Council orders scientists to take her away and study her to the Cave Forest, a place for freaks like her. Acting quickly, *March's* parents send her away to the distant town of Koofay. But *March's* destiny is tied to that of Kolkaper's. She must return to save the city from itself.

An enchanting fable about love and faith and accepting the odd ones among us.

Rights Sold: English South Asia. HarperCollins India/ Hindi: Tara Press

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages



FORTHCOMING WRITINGS FROM SHOME DASGUPTA: TENTACLES, NUMBING

Tentacles, Numbing is the story exploring the internal discourse of two brothers as they search for themselves within their environment and each other, lost in a world of nostalgia, pain and buried memories. Dealing with the murder of their parents, Ravi and Vavi seek to forget all they can. While Ravi spends his days constantly dreams of his death, Vavi gives up worldly luxuries to live on the streets within his own drunken world. Each brother lives solely to see the other rise above his pain.

In a world full of strangers, Ravi's only companion is Brandi - a drug addict looking to find her way - while Vavi's is his beloved manuscript about a giant jellyfish that takes over the world.

Juxtaposed with their respective ways of life are the scattered bits of childhood memories that speak to notions of culture, home, family and love. As the narrative progresses, we learn of an alternative diaspora ingrained within the two brothers that simultaneously romances and despises the feelings of trust, dependency, brotherhood and faith.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

PRETEND I AM SOMEONE YOU LIKE

Set in present-day rural Louisiana, Mutty takes care of his younger cousin, Barn, who has not spoken a word since the day his father was arrested. Pepper, Mutty's love interest, is haunted by a violent and sexual past, and is trying to get away from it all and start a new life. Her relationship for Mutty grows throughout the story as they learn more about each other, spiritually and sexually. Barn becomes a constant symbol of love for the two, who are trying to find a spark in their respective lives. Pepper's past catches up with her, and Mutty, Barn, Ma, and Pepper are trying to deal with a Mysterious Man and his attempts at thievery and kidnapping in their little world full of mud, sex, and crawfish.

Some sections from this manuscript have been published: "Went The Bite" will appear in *Puerto Del Sol*; "Truck" appeared in *New Orleans Review*; "The Wandering Goat" appeared in *Redivider*; "Pepper And The Sun" appeared in *NANO Fiction*; "Tongue, Tongue, Tongue," "The Good Dead Dog," and "Rodeo" appeared in *Rougarou*; "Mud" and "Gone Went The Rabbit" will appear in *Uncanny Valley*; "We Were Together," "We Were Bowling Each Other," "We (Aluminum Tongues)," and "Magic" appeared in *Peripheral Surveys*; "Pecan" appeared in *Used Furniture Review*. *Nominated for Best Of The Net and Long-listed for the Wigleaf Top 50.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

THE BOATMAN'S HOME AND OTHER STORIES

Inspired by Rabindranath Tagore, Haruki Murakami, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the collection is set in India with the main characters finding themselves in surreal experiences such as being a boatman and never being able to leave the Ganges, or a stray dog who is mistaken for being a homeless man, or a game of badminton being played with a dead crow instead of a birdie.

Some sections from this manuscript have been published: "1-0" appeared in *Verdad Magazine*; "Empty Chair" appeared in *Gertrude Press*; "The Boatman's Home" appeared in *Café Irréal*; "Tagore's Kiss" appeared in *Two Hawks Quarterly*; "Anklet" appeared in *The Kartika Review*; "This Is My Head" appeared in *The Coachella Review*; "Samosa" appeared in *The Ranfurly Review*, storySouth Million Writers Award Notable Story of 2008.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

MUTE

Mute is a collection of experimental pieces, literary fiction, and magical realism. The collection centers around the idea of isolationism and loneliness. Some pieces strive to break barriers within the realm of grammar and syntax. Some are experimental in the way they are displayed--a map, a fill in the blank/word search, a set of drawn out basketball plays are some of the pieces that play around with this concept. Overall the collection deals with relationships or the lack of relationships with friends, parents, children, the world. Several of the stories are under the influence of magical realism--jumping on a trampoline and landing on the moon, a turtle with a Van Gogh painting on its shell, and a man whose head is about to fall off are some of the stories striving for this concept.

Some sections from this manuscript have been published: "The Possible Events Of Yestermorrow, It May Have Happened, I Might Promise" appeared in *Shelf Life Magazine*; "A Map Of The House" appeared in *Abjective*; "The Egg Famine And The Man In Love" appeared in *The Medulla Review*; "The Music Of Psychology And The Schizophrenic" appeared in *Splintered Generation*; "Where Are You" appeared in *Bartleby Snopes*; "Eight Hours Later" appeared in *The Dead Mule*; "Thieves" appeared in *Muscadine Lines*; "Francis And The Seagull And The Urn" and "Me And The Pelican" appeared in *Meta4 Magazine*; "Don't Go To Sleep" appeared in *DiddleDog*; "In The Mornings" appeared in *Sein Und Werden*; "Our Skin" appeared in *Willows Wept Review*; "Backyard" appeared in *Meadow* and *Quiet Feather*; "The Palate Of Argento Magenta The Painter" appeared in *Everyday Genius*; "Star And Quack" appeared in *Scrambler Magazine*; "The Passing Of Anna Louise" appeared in *Drunken Boat*; "Quiche" appeared in *Lies/Isle*; "The Bee Flee And The Ant Rant" appeared in an alternate form as "The Book Of Plays" in *Mad Hatters' Review*; "Gavin's Proposal" appeared in *Stymie Magazine*; "" appeared in *Deep South Magazine*. *Nominated for Best Of The Net.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

THE MUU-ANTIQUES

Set in Atlanta, Percy Winks works for his elderly neighbor, Macy Thorpewaite. Whether it's working in the garden or fixing a light bulb, she always has something for Percy to do. He lives a mundane life, but as his friendship with Macy grows, Percy finds himself in a world full of muumuus, murder, antiques, and deception. Three Men from Macy's past seek a vase they had retrieved during their tour during WWII- the vase was stolen by Macy, and the Three Men want it back. Percy breaks out of his routine driven life and is set on solving the death of his neighbor by sneaking into an underground muumuu club.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

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* PRAJWAL PARAJULY

India's only short-listee for the £30,000 Dylan Thomas Prize

Prajwal Parajuly is the son of an Indian father and a Nepalese mother. He divides his time between New York and Oxford, England, but disappears to Gangtok, his hometown in the Indian Himalayas, at every opportunity.



He is the writer-in-residence at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies. He has been called "the harbinger of the resurgence of the short story" and has been listed among Blackwell's literary rising stars and among Time Out Beijing's "Five Asian Authors to Watch."

Parajuly's bestselling collection of short stories, *The Gurkha's Daughter*, is shortlisted for the **Dylan Thomas Prize 2013**. The Dylan Thomas Prize is awarded to the best-published literary work in English by a young writer and is the world's largest literary prize of its kind with a prize of £30,000 to the winner.

Parajuly was the youngest writer signed by Quercus, and also the youngest Indian to achieve a multi-national book deal. The media, notably, *the BBC*, *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Atlantic* and *The Times of India* have lauded Parajuly's work often referring to him as the "next big thing in South Asian fiction."

THE GURKHA'S DAUGHTER

Shortlisted for the 2013 Dylan Thomas Prize

A disfigured servant girl plans to flee Nepal; a Kalimpong shopkeeper faces an impossible dilemma; a Hindu religious festival in Darjeeling brings with it a sacrifice; a Nepali Bhutanese refugee pins her hopes on the West; a Gurkha's daughter tries to comprehend her father's complaints; two young Nepali speaking immigrants meet in Manhattan.

These are just some of the stories describing and dramatizing the experiences of the Nepalese people and the Nepalese diaspora the people whose culture and language is Nepalese but who are dispersed to India, Bhutan and beyond. From every perspective and on every page, Prajwal Parajuly blends rich colour and vernacular to paint an eyeopening picture of a unique world and its people.

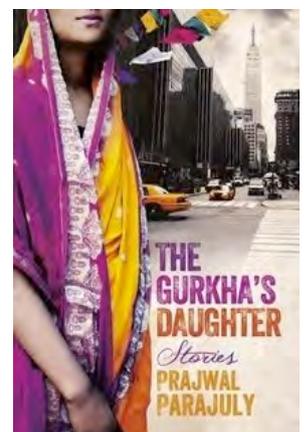
Prajwal Parajuly's bestselling collection of short stories, *The Gurkha's Daughter*, is shortlisted for the **Dylan Thomas Prize 2013**. The Dylan Thomas Prize is awarded to the best published literary work in English by a young writer and is the world's largest literary prize of its kind with a prize of £30,000 to the winner. *The Gurkha's Daughter* has also been a number one bestseller in India and South Africa.

Rights sold: WORLD English: Quercus

Nepali Language: Nap-alya

Rights available: Translation and all Languages

Co-agency representation: Susan Yearwood Literary Agency, UK (SYLA) & Red Ink Literary Agency, India (RILA)



PRAISE FOR ‘THE GURKHA’S DAUGHTER

‘The wry narratives, spun from microscopic and idiosyncratic detail, manage to be both unsparingly observed, yet compassionately rendered—a dual prism that achieves an intensity and depth of feeling that hold the mind ... the humanity of these stories will as powerfully captivate readers unfamiliar with the remote setting as they have moved me.’ - **Hope Cooke** – author of *Time Change* (former Gyalmo of Sikkim)

‘Crisp, inventive and insightful’ - Marvellous’ *Guardian*

‘[An] accomplished debut collection . . . a distinctive talent’ - *Financial Times*

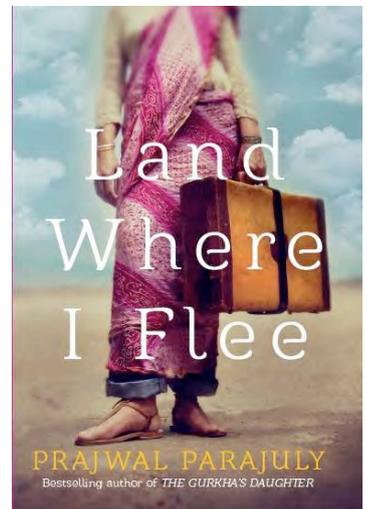
‘Equally moving stories, the author takes us effortlessly inside the lives of the families in this remote ancient kingdom and its diaspora’ - *Daily Mail*

THE LAND WHERE I FLEE

Three Westernized siblings return to their Himalayan hometown – but a game of happy families is far from on the cards

To commemorate Chitrlekha Nepauney’s Chaurasi – her landmark 84th birthday – Chitrlekha’s grandchildren are travelling to Gangtok to pay their respects. Agastaya is flying in from New York. Although a successful oncologist at only thirty-three, he is dreading his family’s inquisition into why he is not married, and terrified that the reason for his bachelordom will be discovered.

Joining him are Manasa and Bhagwati, coming from London and Colorado respectively. One the Oxford-educated achiever; the other the disgraced eloper – one moneyed but miserable; the other ostracized but optimistic. All three harbour the same dual objective: to emerge from the celebrations with their grandmother’s blessing and their nerves intact – a goal that will become increasingly impossible thanks to a mischievous maid and a fourth, uninvited guest.



Rights sold: WORLD English: **Quercus**

Rights available: Translation and all Languages

Co-agency representation: Susan Yearwood Literary Agency, UK (SYLA) & Red Ink Literary Agency, India (RILA)

PRAISE FOR ‘LAND WHERE I FLEE’

This is definitely one of the best novels of the year- *Hindustan Times*

‘A a marvellous novel that indeed could match the energetic play of perspectives displayed in ‘*The Gurkha’s Daughter*’- *The Guardian*

‘Land Where I Flee tells the story of a disgruntled family whose members are scattered around the world. At home in Gangtok, Sikkim, is Chitrlekha Neupaney, an illiterate, beedi-puffing grandmother. The domineering matriarch, she knows how to whip politicians of all stripes into submission and has turned a clothing factory into a very successful enterprise through scheming’ – *The Kathmandu Post*

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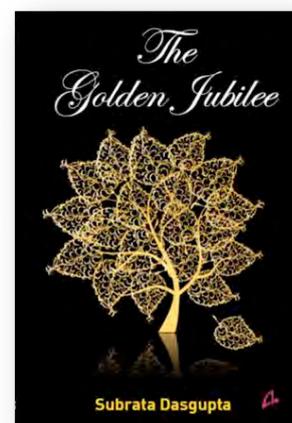
Subrata Dasgupta, an author of 12 books, including most recently, a narrative history, *Awakening: The Story of the Bengal Renaissance* (2010) published by Random House India, and an English childhood memoir, *Salaam Stanley Matthews* (2006), published by Granta in the UK. Both books have been widely and very well reviewed and received. His biography of Jagadis Chandra Bose, *Jagadis Chandra Bose and the Indian Response to Western Science* was published by OUP India in 1999 and has been republished in paperback in 2010 by Permanent Black. This work is considered widely as 'essential reading' for anyone working in the history of Indian science. In addition, a novel, *Three Times a Minority* was published in limited edition in 2003. His other books, mostly of scholarly/academic nature have been published by Cambridge University Press (UK & USA), Oxford University Press (USA), Permanent Black (India), and John Wiley (USA).

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE by **Subrata Dasgupta**

A family and its significant others gather one summer weekend in a northern California home. They have come together to celebrate the 50th marriage anniversary of the masters of the house: a Bengali-American couple Deb, in his 70s, and his wife Ruma, in her late 60s.

Assembled in Deb and Ruma's American-upper class, hillside home overlooking the Pacific. Visiting America for the first time is Deb's sister Nanda, a fiercely independent widow with a quizzical outlook on life, a writer for a women's magazine in Kolkata; from Oxford, elder daughter Anji, an academic with her documentary filmmaker lover Asha, a Gujarati woman; from the Bay area, younger daughter Diya, a writer for a film magazine accompanied by her American televangelist-preacher lover Douglas and one-time rock singer; from elsewhere in California, son Ranju, a taciturn confirmed bachelor; Alan, Anji's son from a failed marriage; Tom, Diya's ex-husband still on affable terms with the rest of the family; and Diya's and Tom's twin teenage offspring. A full house! Yet all is far from well for Anji and Diya, once the closest of sisters, are now not even on speaking terms...

The Golden Jubilee weekend was to be a time of celebration through conversation and music. But it also becomes a time of for relationships lost and found, of remembrances of willfully-forgotten things past, of confessions, of self-discoveries, of acceptances and rejections, of new decisions and of resolutions of old personal conundrums. In a succession of first person accounts told by the main protagonists, Deb, Ruma, Anji, Diya and, through the always quizzical gaze of the visitor from India, Nanda, unfolds a story of love and betrayal, of facts and fictions, of hypocrisy and honesty, of a life lived and one that never was.



Rights Sold: South Asia. English : Amaryllis

Rights Available: Rest of the world English & all Languages

FORTHCOMING WRITINGS FROM SUBRATA: VOICE OF THE RAIN SEASON

Rummaging through their dead parents' letters from relatives in India, Manjula, a second-generation Indian-American and her sister Nilima make a startling discovery. Their mother had had a twin sister who had lived in India with whom she has been estranged for over a quarter of a century. A woman, whose very existence, Manjula and Nilima had never known of.

The mystery of this family secret remains unexplained for over three decades until, one Thanksgiving weekend in her Houston home, Manjula meets her grandson's girl friend Joya, a literature graduate student from Calcutta. A friendship quickly forms between the two. And thus begins their quest to resolve the mystery of Manjula's mother and the unknown aunt. The quest becomes a voyage of discovery reaching back to a past that seems almost a foreign country, spanning three continents and four generations. A story is unveiled, of love and

betrayal, of lies and secrets, of loss and recovery, of family bonds broken and restored. A story filled with music. And it reveals, above all, the truth about the twin sisters, a truth so unimagined, so explosive, that it changes the very fabric of Manjula's sense of identity.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

KARUNA RAI

Karuna Rai is a woman of post-Independence India, caught between two kinds of modernity. A mother, wife and daughter-in-law in an enlightened *bhadralok* Calcutta household; and a physicist, who leaves her family for a few years to pursue research in London. Her London experience changes her in more ways than one: as a scientist, certainly, but also as a spirited, defiant woman admitted into the nuanced sanctorum of an upper-class English milieu. She is caught between two loves, her sensible, understanding geologist husband who cares for their children in her absence, and an urbane, irreverent, iconoclastic English architect in London.

She is three times a minority: an Indian pursuing Western science; an Indian woman in a patriarchal Indian society; and a woman in the community of male-dominated science.

How does a woman in Nehruvian India respond to this web of cultural, social and psychological tensions? How does a woman cope with her 'three times a minority' status? How does a woman resolve the conflict of two genres of modernity? Karuna Rai tells the story of such a woman.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

NEW LITERARY WORKS IN PROGRESS:

MACAULAY'S GHOST: a 'sequel' to *Awakening*, which examines how the 'Indo-Western mind' took shape in the 20th century, after the Indian awakening.

Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

BORN AGAIN INDIAN begins with the sea voyage back to India and is really a memoir in Kolkata. It ends with his departure from India thirteen years later. This is a 'sequel' to *Salaam Stanley Matthews* (published by Granta) which ended with his return from England to India at age fourteen.

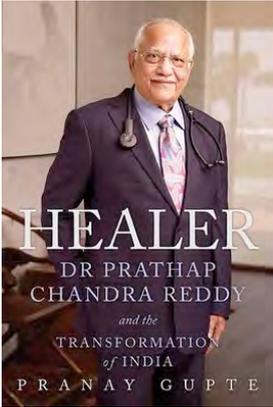
Rights Available: WORLD English Translation and all Languages

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**GENERAL TRADE AND
NARRATIVE NON
FICTION -**

PRANAY GUPTÉ

Author, biographer, columnist



THE HEALER

Dr. Prathap Chandra Reddy and the Transformation of India

At the age of fifty, when most people start planning for retirement, Dr Prathap Chandra Reddy decided that he was going to revolutionize healthcare in India. In 1983, the renowned cardiologist launched the country's first professionally run private sector hospital system. Thirty years later, Apollo Hospitals has become one of the world's largest providers of high-technology healthcare. In the areas of heart, liver and bone marrow transplants, as also in knee and hip replacement surgery and robotic surgery, Apollo is an industry pioneer and a world leader. More than 32 million men and women have been treated at Apollo's fifty hospitals, which are staffed by over 70,000 professionals.

How did Prathap Chandra Reddy, who grew up in the small village of Aragonda in Andhra Pradesh, actualize his dream? How did he overcome the seemingly insurmountable odds and transform the sustainable development space? How did he become one of India's enduring icons? Full of delightful anecdotes and dramatic twists and turns, *The Healer* tells Dr Reddy's inspirational story like it has never been told before.

Rights sold: English South Asian: Penguin Portfolio

Rights available: WORLD English, Translation and All Languages

Pranay Gupte is a well-known international best-selling author, editor, foreign correspondent, teacher, and senior strategist for conventional and new media. An elected life member of the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations in New York, he also speaks widely on the lecture circuit, and has been a panelist or moderator at events organized by renowned organizations such as the World Economic Forum, the World Bank, and the United Nations. Pranay Gupte has written, co-written or edited 14 books.

BOOKS BY PRANAY GUPTÉ:

DUBAI: The Making of A Megapolis (Penguin Viking)

MOTHER INDIA: A Political Biography of Indira Gandhi (Penguin Viking)

GLOBAL EMIRATES: An Anthology of Tolerance and Enterprise (Motivate Publishing)

POWER AND INFLUENCE (with Robert L. Dilenschneider) (McGraw-Hill)

THE SANDS OF THOUGHT (edited by John Strassburger) (Ursinus College Press)

'20': An Anthology Celebrating the UAE Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT Press)

ALL OF US: An Anthology Of Sustainable Development (Earth Times Books)

THE SILENT CRISIS: Despair, Development And Hope In A World Without Borders (Vikas Publishing)

INDIRA GANDHI: A Political Biography (Charles Scribner's)

INDIA: The Challenge of Change (Methuen)

VENGEANCE: India After The Assassination of Indira Gandhi (W. W. Norton & Company)

THE CROWDED EARTH: People and the Politics of Population (W. W. Norton & Company)

FORTHCOMING WRITINGS FROM PRANAY:

THE DYNASTY: Two Hundred Years of The Nehrus and The Gandhis (Aleph Book Company, New Delhi; Public Affairs, New York)

THE CAPTAIN: C. P. Krishnan Nair and the Globalization of India (Bloomsbury)

LOOKING FOR ABE: A Procession of People and Places (Bloomsbury)

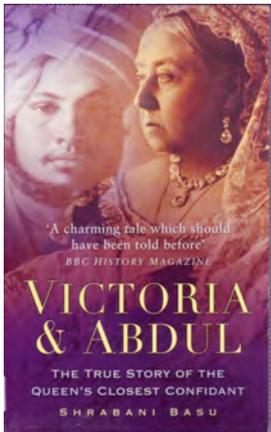
UNTITLED BIOGRAPHY of Mohsina Kidwai (Bloomsbury)

UNTITLED BIOGRAPHY of Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri (Bloomsbury)

SHRABANI BASU

Shrabani Basu was born in Kolkata and grew up in Dhaka, Kathmandu and Delhi. She moved to London in 1987, and since then has been the correspondent of the Kolkata-based newspapers *Anand Bazar Patrika* and *The Telegraph*.

BOOKS BY SHRABANI:



VICTORIA & ABDUL

The True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidante

In her compelling new book *Victoria & Abdul: The True Story of The Queen's Closest Confidante*, the author uncovers the secrets and intrigue behind the mysterious, exotic and neglected relationship between Queen Victoria and her Indian servant Abdul Karim, offering a unique insight into the elderly Queen's daily life, court, and the changing Empire over which she ruled.

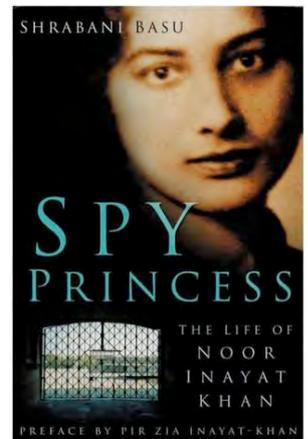
Rights Sold: UK: History Press / USA - Omega Publishing/ South Asia: RUPA (English & Hindi)/ Marathi: Rajhans

Rights Available: All other rights available

Co-agency Representation with Mulcahy and Conway Associates

SPY PRINCESS : *British Secret Agent in World War II*

The inspiring Noor Inayat Khan ought to be as popular a heroine in British schools as Florence Nightingale once was. Basu's moving and scrupulous biography might help that to happen. Descended from Tipu Sultan, that great thorn in the imperial side in India, Noor grew up in Paris in a family of musicians and Sufi mystics. Already a published children's author, she joined SOE as a British secret agent in 1943, and returned to Paris as a radio operator liaising with local Resistance cells. After the Gestapo broke the networks, almost the entire system of clandestine contact rested on her slim shoulders. Despite daring escapes, the Germans caught her. Utterly unbowed by Nazi cruelty, she was killed in Dachau in 1944 – with "Liberté" on her lips. Posthumous holder of the George Cross and the Croix de Guerre, a Muslim princess and Indian nationalist who gave everything in the struggle for freedom.



Reviewed by: **Boyd Tonkin**, Literary Editor, *The Independent*

Rights Sold: UK: History Press / USA: Omega Publishing / South Asia: ROLI (English)

Rights Available: All other rights available

Co-agency Representation with Mulcahy and Conway Associates

CURRY: *The story of the nation's favourite dish*

Rights Sold: South Asia. RUPA (English)

Rights Available: All other rights available

* SAHIB'S WAR

Indian Soldiers on the Western Front 1914-18

(Alternative titles: *Sepoys on the Western Front – Indian soldiers in the First World War*
Sahib's War – Indian soldiers on the Western Front 1914-18)

The book looks at the forgotten story of the contribution of Indian soldiers in World War One. One and a half million Indian soldiers volunteered for the war, the largest army from the colonies. They came from remote areas in India and were sent straight into the trenches in the harshest of winters, fighting a war that was not of their making, and which they barely understood. Yet they won several Victoria Crosses and gallantry awards. The book looks at the individual stories of the sepoys and their journey to the killing fields of Flanders.

The book is timed for the centenary of the Great War (which begins from next year) and particularly the hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Neuve Chapelle (March 2015), which the Indians fought as a single unit.

SOURCES

British Library records including the letters from the trenches and hospitals written by the Indian soldiers, details of the comfort fund set up for Indian soldiers and the hospitals for their care, regimental histories from the National Archives, Army Museum and Imperial war Museum and interviews with families of descendants of Victoria Cross holders.

CHAPTERS

Introduction

1. **Monsoon** War breaks out in Europe and Indian troops are mobilised. Individual stories.
2. **Arrival** Structure of the Indian army, arrival in Europe and preparations for war
3. **Comforts** The Indian soldiers Fund and efforts in UK to make them comfortable. Tension among committee members, setting up of the Censor Board to clear letters written by Indians.
4. **Bandobast Sahib** Sir Walter Lawrence and his ideas for comfort of troops and hospitals for Indian soldiers. Letters to Lord Kitchener.
5. **Winter** First battle of Ypres, trench warfare (description from letters of the soldiers)
6. **Neuve Chapelle** Description of battle and Indians' role in it
7. **Brighton** Indian soldiers convalescing in Brighton, the arrangements in hospitals and the tension. Letters from soldiers.
8. **Sukha** The story of the untouchable cleaner who dies in Brockenhurst hospital and his burial
9. **The Maharaja and the War Cabinet** The maharajah of Bikaner and his role in the war cabinet
10. **The Peace** The Indians at the peace conference

Epilogue

Appendix 1 – The Honours

Appendix II -- The memorials

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VIKRAM SAMPATH

“There is a deep connection between literature and music”

Bangalore based *Vikram Sampath* is the author of three acclaimed narrative non-fiction books. He is one of the few Indian writers who excels at biographies, bringing to life the stories of royals, singers & maestro musicians.

He is the writer of a much-appreciated essay on legendary singer K L Saigal in Penguin’s anthology titled ‘**Bollywood Top 20**’ (2012). He has been a Fellow at the **Institute for Advanced Study (Wissenschaftskolleg)** in Berlin, Germany (for 2010-11) where he studied the early gramophone recordings of Indian music. He is a visiting speaker at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, which has also offered him an opportunity to pursue a PhD in Indian music history. The Society Magazine listed Vikram among **50 Top Young Achievers of the country** in its annual edition in 2012. He was also a Brand Ambassador of Titan’s “**Be More**” Campaign in 2009 and nominated as one of ‘**Bangalore’s Heroes**’ by the Times Group.

Vikram has established an ‘**Archive of Indian Music**’ (AIM) –the country’s first Digital Sound Archive that digitizes and preserves old gramophone recordings of India and makes them readily available to people through an online portal. Vikram is also one of the Founder Directors of the **Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF)**, which has had two very successful editions bringing several literary minds coming over to the Garden City. Vikram has been appointed to several prominent Committees- those of the **Central Government’s I&B Ministry** and **Prasar Bharati** on establishing AIR & DD Archives, **Dr Sam Pitroda Commission**, **Prasar Bharati Marketing Group** and the **Karnataka Government’s Vision Group** for Tourism Development & formulation of new Tourism Policy.

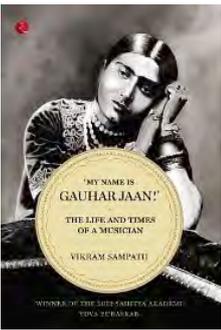
Vikram publishes regularly in leading Indian dailies and magazines on a wide array of topics. In addition, he is also a serious student of Carnatic Classical Vocal music and has been training under various eminent practitioners of the art form like Vidwan D.V. Nagaraj, Dr. Bombay Jayashri Ramnath and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh. Subjects related to history, music, art and culture are close to his heart.

Website: www.vikramsampath.com



BOOKS BY VIKRAM SAMPATH

MY NAME IS GAUHARJAAN! – *the life and times of a musician*



His book ‘*My name is Gauhar Jaan!*- the life and times of a musician’ (Rupa& Co) is the biography of Gauhar Jaan, India’s first classical musician to record on the gramophone. The book has won great appreciation across India and abroad by eminent personalities including Vice President of India Mr. Hamid Ansari, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Mr. Shyam Benegal, Pt. Jasraj, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and other musicians, musicologists and aficionados of music. It has also been translated into Bengali and Marathi. In 2011 the book won the prestigious **ARSC International Award for Excellence in Historical Research in Music**, 2011 by the **Association of Recorded Sound Companies (ARSC)**, Los Angeles as the first Indian book to make it. In February 2012, the highest literary body of the country and the National Academy of Letters, the **Sahitya Akademi**, awarded its first **Yuva Puraskar** to Vikram for ‘*My name is Gauhar Jaan!*’

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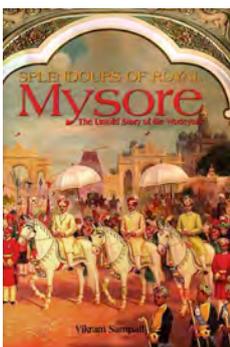
PRAISE FOR ‘MYNAME IS GAUHARJAAN!’

‘In the sensitive hands of Sampath, the subject of fallen woman and the world of the courtesans, singers and twaifs becomes a study of social history of our recent past.’ – **The Tribune, India**

‘The big strength of *My Name is Gauhar Jaan* is that it narrates the dramatic life of a woman artiste with all her idiosyncrasies, even as it tells the tale of the world that shaped her life.’ – **The Hindu**

‘In his compelling and admirably well-researched narrative, Vikram Sampath recreates the glory, the musical magic, the mercurial life and the painful last days of Gauhar Jaan.’- **The Times of India**

SPELNDORS OF ROYAL MYSORE: *The untold story of the Wodeyars*



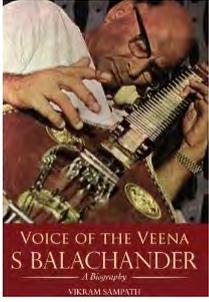
His first book, ‘*Splendours of Royal Mysore: the untold story of the Wodeyars*’ (Rupa & Co) has been widely acclaimed across India. The book traces the 600 year-long history of Mysore, its royal family and culture. It has been termed as one of the most definitive accounts on the Mysore royal family in recent times.

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PRAISE FOR ‘SPELNDORS OF ROYAL MYSORE: ‘*Splendours of Royal Mysore: The Untold Story of the Wodeyar* is an appealing read to the common book lover and historian alike.’ – **Madras Press**

VOICE OF THE VEENA: S.BALACHANDER, *a biography*



His third book *'Voice of the Veena: S. Balachander, a biography'* traces the life of the Veena maestro and Carnatic musician Dr. S. Balachander. This book has been translated into Tamil.

Rights sold: English South Asia: Rupa & Co, Tamil:

Rights available: WORLD English, Translation and All languages

PRAISE FOR 'VOICE OF THE VEENA'

Of all the stars in the Carnatic music firmament from the 1930s through the 1980s, there was one star that glimmered a bit more, that outshone the brilliance of the rest. The irrepressible genius, S Balachander, stormed into the prim Madras music scene with a panache, eccentricity, charisma and verve that no contemporary of his could match.' In *'Voice Of The Veena'* Vikram Sampath takes us through the life of the controversial and eccentric veena maestro, S. Balachander. As the maestro himself would say, "Veena is Balachander, Balachander is Veena." - **The Hindu**

FORTHCOMING WORK BY VIKRAM SAMPATH

* POISON IN HER BREAST

the banished girls of nautch

'Hell is in her eyes; in her breast is a vast ocean of poison. Round her comely waist dwells the furies of hell, her hands are brandishing unseen daggers ever ready to strike unwary or willful victims. Her blandishments are India's ruin. Alas! Her smile is India's death' (Keshab Chandra Sen, Social reformer, Bengal).

This was the popular narrative that dominated the social reform movement in the early decades of 20th Century India—a narrative that sought to demonize all performing women as immoral entities and prostitutes. This culminated in the 'Anti-Nautch' campaign that banished these women forever from the world of art and threw them, literally, into the bins of history. Performing arts were 'resurrected', sanitized and made safe for the middle classes. Bharatanatyam and Kathak sprung from the ashes of the Devadasis' Sadir and the Tawaif's Nautch, while Hindustani and Carnatic music were cleansed of their 'erotic' and immoral content.

In this shrill narrative, an important milestone in the history of Indian classical music has gone unnoticed and obliterated from national consciousness. When recording technology came calling in 1902, it was women largely belonging to this courtesan community that embraced it readily. The catalogues of the Gramophone Company, which came to India to record 'native' voices, clearly indicate close to 400-500 women from across the country who undoubtedly became the pioneers in recording. Their male counterparts shied away citing superstitious beliefs. Some were wary of sharing the secrets of their art by selling it cheap. The manner in which these women negotiated their engagement with the foreign companies and got their act together showed their shrewd business skills in addition to their proficiency in the medium of music to be able to compress it all in a 3 minute gramophone disc. Indian music would not have taken a giant leap forward towards modernism and broken out of the shackles of closeted patronage to global mass media, but for the brave attempts of some of these women. Yet, sadly, their names bring in no recall today in the world of musicians—both Hindustani and Carnatic.

This book seeks to bring these women back into public reckoning by piecing together fragments of their lives and situating it in a socio-cultural context of 20th Century India. Beginning with tracing the tradition of the courtesan in India right from the ancient period to the time they made their first brush with technology, it would take the reader through the kaleidoscopic world of the Tawaif/Devadasi. The lives of about 20 women would be dealt with in detail, set against the places of their origin and the aristocratic/ urban/ royal patronage that existed there. Gauhar Jaan of Calcutta, Janki Bai of Allahabad, Malka Jaan of Agra, Mumtaz Jaan of Delhi, Vidhyadhari Bai of Banaras, Husna Jaan of Banaras, Binodini Dasi of Calcutta, Giribala Dasi of Calcutta, Bedana Dasi of Calcutta, Krishnabhamini of Calcutta, Zohra Bai of Agra, Mohamdi Jaan of Lucknow, Bai Sundara Bai of Pune, Mehboob Jaan of Solapur, Bangalore Nagaratnamma, Salem Godavari, Coimbatore Thaiy, Dhanakoti of Kanchipuram, Tiruchendur Shanmukhavadiwoo and Oomda Jaan of Hyderabad are the women who would be profiled. The royal courts of Delhi, Lucknow, Rampur, Hyderabad, Baroda and Mysore, the urban centres of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay and the Freedom struggle would form the foil to their stories. The book would end with the Anti-nautch movement, the fall from grace of these women, the transition that many of them made in society and in their personal lives (case studies being those of M S Subbulakshmi, Siddheshwari Devi, Begum Akhtar etc.) and the disappearance of the memories of those that did not adapt to changing times. It would also bring to light some of the exquisite poetry of the courtesan and come along with a CD of some of their select tracks.

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CHARLES FOSTER

Charles Foster needs no introductions as an established writer and an academic at the University of Oxford. He has written, edited or contributed to well over thirty books. The most recent include *Wired for God? The biology of spiritual experience* (Hodder, 2010), *The Sacred Journey* (Thomas Nelson, 2010), *The Misadventures of Mr. Badshot* (Quiller, 2010), *The Selfless Gene* (Hodder, 2009, and Thomas Nelson, 2010), *Choosing Life, Choosing Death* (Hart, 2009), *Tracking the Ark of the Covenant* (Monarch, 2007), *The Jesus Inquest* (Monarch, 2006, and Thomas Nelson, 2010). Several of his books have been translated into other languages. Further details are also available on his website: www.charlesfoster.co.uk

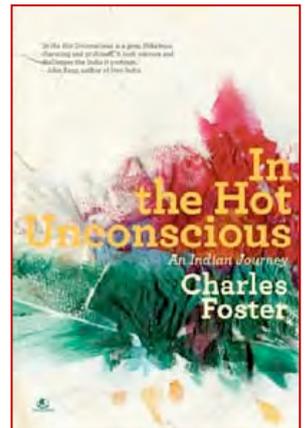
Charles Foster is a Fellow of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford. He holds a doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

IN THE HOT UNCONSCIOUS

An Indian Journey

This is a travel book. As in most travel books, there are two types of travelling going on – the movement of the person on the journey, and the movement of the journey within the person. The physical journeys are around north and south India. The metaphorical journeys are between eastern mysticism of various sorts and the more or less reductionist Christianity of the west. The book wonders whether it is possible to marry them, and what the marriage might be like. To be individually complete, do they need each other? On one level the book is a light read: it's full of slapstick. Some will want to read the book on that level alone, which is fine. But if anyone wants more, there is more.

His thoughts now move increasingly eastwards, and particularly to India. He has spent a lot of time in India, and plans to spend more in the coming years. The travel is on several levels, but essentially it explores the notion of a marriage between the religious traditions of the east and the west. Is such a marriage possible? If so, is it desirable? How might it look?



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PRAISE FOR 'IN THE HOT UNCONSCIOUS':

'Foster must by now be the greatest living travel writer in the English-speaking world. His vision is both extraordinarily acute and astonishingly wide, his prose tumbling forth like a lava flow straight from some muse of fire, hitting the page so hot that you can smell the scorching rocks and find yourself ducking for cover. Yet, not content with writing about India more evocatively, fondly, quizzically, searchingly, vibrantly, and, at times, comically than anyone I have ever read, he has also written here one of the finest tales of self-exploration, a work of deep spiritual questioning that is as unstuffy and full of life as the teeming Hindu temples he encounters, with their erotic carvings, gibbering monkeys and ancient holy men. You are constantly taken by surprise by this exuberant, but ruthlessly self-aware, account of the most unconventional and riveting of pilgrimages. Indeed, can one call it a pilgrimage at all, this wild journey that starts, characteristically enough, with a quest for giant leeches, and ends leaving the great questions, as it must, (almost) unanswered?' - **Iain McGilchrist**, author of *The Master and His Emissary: The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*

'Foster's *In the Hot Unconscious* is a gem. Hilarious, charming and profound, it both mirrors and challenges the India it portrays. Having read it once, I wanted only to read it again.' - **John Keay**, Author of *Into India, The Honourable Company, The Gilgit Game, India: A History, The Great Arc, and Where Men and Mountains Meet*

'Charles Foster has accomplished a rare thing. He has managed to write a book about religion that is funny, witty, totally irreverent, completely pleasurable, and utterly profound. Chesterton said, 'It is a test of a good religion whether you can make a joke about it.' He must have had someone like Foster in mind. Highly recommended. I couldn't put it down.' - **Larry Dossey, M.D**, Author: *Healing Words: Reinventing Medicine, and The Power of Premonitions*

'I recommend highly the critical and creative work of Charles Foster. While at times controversial, the book is a creative encounter of the dynamic Indian traditions by a perceptive western pilgrim. It's incisive and insightful - a genuine and honest contribution to dialogue between cultures. The author has experienced Indian life at close quarters, seeing things invisible to tourists.'

- **Kurivilla Pandikattu**, Author of *Surplus, Submission, Subversion, The Human Search, and Love: Be It*

FORTHCOMING WORK BY CHARLES FOSTER

* ON THE EDGES

The idea: To walk through India is to walk along edges. This is fascinating, vertiginous and tragic. This book is an account of the walk.

Social, political, geographical and ontological edges do similar things to the people who live on them and near them. Edges define the shapes of continents, societies and individuals. Trace the edges, and you've mapped the place or the person. But this is almost never done. Writers and politicians try to get to the centre of things – to the cores of cities, issues and personalities. Yet these centers are uniquely unrevealing. They say nothing about the relationship with the wider world of the entity that is being examined, and there is a law of centripetal greyness that makes all centres of everything similar to each other. But edges, quite apart from anything else, are a lot more interesting than actual or metaphorical Government buildings.

'You need to get out to the edges to see shapes, perspective, relationships and the real colours of things' – says Charles. It is often at the edge of our vision, and in the dusk at the edge of the day, that we see the strange but most characteristically native creatures. It is at the edges, too, where we encounter the Other: sometimes that results in new syntheses, sometimes in violence, and sometimes in sclerosis. Rarely does it make us less ourselves.

In this book Charles Foster explores India's edges, hoping to see what has been missed by the hysterical concentration on the central.

'I am a foreigner' says Charles. That is an advantage. Whenever I'm in India I'm dangling scarily over the edge separating the usual and the unusual. Living like that attunes your ear to the language shared by all the edge people.

There are obvious dangers in my foreignness'... but these are dangers that, I hope, I've seen and sidestepped in my previous writing about India. I plead not guilty to literary colonialism, voyeurism and a romantic love of misery.

The book is a collection of conversations, not a treatise.'

STRUCTURE:

Part 1: On the edge of the land

Chapter 1: Kanyakamari.

Chapter 2: The hill stations of Nainital region.

Part 2: On the edge of society

Chapter 3: Bihar: The aristocracy of the Dalits

Chapter 4: Bombay: The poverty of the merchant bankers

Chapter 5: Delhi: The edge at the heart of the centre

Part 3 : On the edge of religion

Chapter 6: Madurai: The fringes of Hinduism: Shrautism

Chapter 7: Kochi: The fringes of Hinduism: Nambudiri

Chapter 8: Ahmedabad: Islam: The Dawoodi Bohras

Chapter 9: Kerala: the Syro-Malankora Catholics

Chapter 10: Delhi: Jehovah's Witnesses

Part 4: On the edge of the nation

Chapter 11: West Bengal: the India-Bangladesh enclaves

Part 5: On the edge of life

Chapter 12: Kolkata: The dying in the home of the Sisters of Mercy

Part 6: On the edge

Chapter 13: Epilogue

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The most sought after Biographer of Indian History

Yusuf Anis Ahmad Ansari was born in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP), India on 26th January 1978.



He was educated at the Welham Boys Preparatory School, Dehra Dun and the Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, England. He graduated with a BSc in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from The London School of Economics in 2000.

By 2001, Yusuf returned to New Delhi, India, to the newly created Department of Policy Planning and Coordination of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). For ten years he worked within the highest echelons of the Congress Party and fought an election for the Uttar Pradesh Provincial Assembly from the rural heartlands of UP in 2007. He served as Chairman of the Department of Policy Planning and Coordination of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) from 2004-2007 and at the age of

26 became one of the youngest Secretaries of the UPCC. His great-grandfather had been President of the Indian National Congress in 1927; a great-grand-uncle its President in 1933. Other members of his family had been Members of Parliament and of the UP Provincial Assembly. Following his defeat in the 2007 election, he moved to Ranthambhore, in Rajasthan and was General Manager of one of India's finest safari camps, Sher Bagh, in this land of the Tiger, until 2011. During his four years in Ranthambhore, he often played an advisory role on matters of park management and other conservation and policy issues. Yusuf returned to UP in 2011 and worked in some key constituencies in preparation for the 2012 Assembly elections there.

He contributes regularly to magazines and newspapers on political issues and current affairs and is the author of *Sonia Gandhi - Triumph of Will* (Tara-IRP 2005). He is currently writing *Akbar* (Penguin 2010), a biography of the third Mughal emperor.

Yusuf's ancestor, and namesake, Qazi Mohammad Yusuf Ansari Ghazi founded the family seat Yusufpur-Mohammadabad in the 1430's. Coincidentally, the Emperor Akbar's first firman as monarch (in 1559), was to provide a revenue free grant to a branch of the family in Awadh. However it was not until the reign of the Emperor Aurangzeb that the family rose to any real prominence at the Mughal court. The depth of his personal cultural experiences, his family background and understanding and experiences of India's political dynamics, make Yusuf Ansari an ideal writer for *The Nehruvians*.

AKBAR THE FIRST INDIAN

A biography of the Mughal Emperor Akbar 1556-1605.

PENGUIN INDIA

Akbar's reign burst upon the stagnant landscape of medieval Indian life with a vitality that altered its predictable, repetitive motions forever, and gave a new energy and perspective to history of the sub-continent ever since. Descended from some of the greatest conquerors of history but who was himself born the son of a fugitive, an individual who, by his vision and the sheer force of his personality created one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen.

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SONIA GANDHI

The Congress Politics and Power

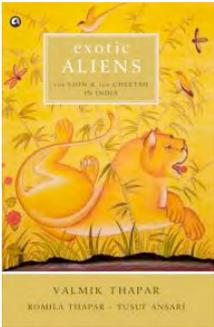
Sonia Gandhi, sheds light on the enigma that is Sonia Gandhi the politician and before that, Sonia Gandhi the political entity around whose silence the Congress party and its politics revolved. It sets a context to explain the phenomena of Sonia Gandhi's political life as the most powerful person in India.

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EXOTIC ALIENS: THE LION & THE CHEETAH IN INDIA

Co-written with Valmik and Romila Thapar.



In the sixteenth century, Dutch traveller Jan Linschoten noted the absence of lions throughout the Indian subcontinent. Two hundred years later, echoing similar comments made by various hunters and observers of Indian wildlife, the British shikari and writer, Captain Thomas Williamson, emphatically declared: ‘There are no lions in Hindustan.’ Much the same was said about the cheetah in the region. Remarking on the lack of accounts of encounters with these animals—as opposed to the tiger and the leopard, of which there are hundreds—as well as inconclusive genetic studies, he argues that, over the centuries, the lion and cheetah were brought into the country from Persia and Africa by royalty, either as tributes or to populate their hunting parks and menageries.

Enlisting the help of renowned historians, **ROMILA THAPAR**—who analyzes historical accounts and representations of the lion in early India—and **YUSUF ANSARI**—who looks back at the lives of the Mughals and their famed hunts—to further validate his theory, Valmik Thapar, concludes at the end of this thought-provoking book that the Indian lion and the Indian cheetah were, in fact, exotic imports, and not indigenous subspecies.

Tracing the history of the lion and the cheetah for over 5000 years, and substantiated with pictorial evidence, *Exotic Aliens* is a pioneering work that could turn field biology on its head.

MUGHALS AT WAR

A History of the Military Campaigns of the Great Mughals 1526-1710 OR
A History of the Military Campaigns that made the Mughal Empire 1526-1710
PROPOSAL + CHAPTERS AVAILABLE

‘Mughals at War’ is the study of conflicts in the reigns of the first six Mughal emperors, which spanned the better part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and examines their individual dispositions before, during and after each of these campaigns. Every battle, siege and campaign described in these pages is unique; for the reasons why it was fought, the way in which it was fought and for the implications of the result of that particular military event. Each of these confrontations was critical to the dynamic of how the Mughal Empire and the consequent history of India developed. The Mughals waged war for enrichment, aggrandisement and power and their wars introduced new political processes, cultural nuances and social change, sometimes unintentionally, to the lands and people they brought under their control. New territories and the expansion of the empire necessitated the modification of methods and systems within their militarism.

The book brings focus on the martial aspects of the Mughal Empire and its luminaries, through a study of particular campaigns and demonstrates how that engagement changed the course of history. This is by no means a conclusive thesis on the battles, sieges and campaigns covered here. However, it is the first attempt that combines a diverse range of sources. Topographical information, outlooks of the victors as well as the vanquished, the psychologies of commanders, soldiery and camp-followers, the ‘live coverage’ of neutral observers and other first hand contemporary evidence is brought together to present a comprehensive perspective of specific contests between the Mughals themselves and their adversaries.

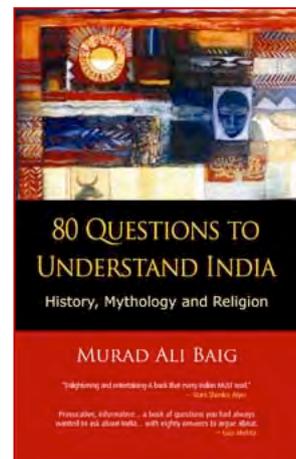
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80 QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND INDIA:
History, Mythology and Religion by **Murad Ali Baig**

Eighty questions and answers covering many interesting topics. 80 Questions is a fascinating journey into the complex world of India and all its influences; cultural, geographical, technological and social and the creation and impact of these as well as political and religious forces and how they have impacted upon the people of India. Murad Baig does not question the importance of faith but argues that ALL religions have been captured by their clergy who set themselves up as 'agents' of their faith, leading to distortions, superstitions and religiosity at odds with the original word of the founding sages. He analyses the five creators of religion: the founding prophets, the apostles, priests, the rulers and the rich as patrons, and finally the common people whose offerings and sacrifices provide power and wealth to the institution of their faith. Writing on religion can be volatile. Fortunately Murad cannot be accused of being partisan when his answers equally affect Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs and others.



“Provocative, informative... a book of questions you had always wanted to ask about India... with eighty answers to argue about” - **Gita Mehta**, author of *Karma Cola* and *A River Sutra*

“This is a thought provoking book... The author has explored our past and questioned popular beliefs and opinions... that have led to the beliefs and superstitions that we harbour today. Lakshmi Pillai. Jetwings flight magazine “What Reflections in a Sacred Pond does--as much by its method as by its content—is to quietly and persuasively facilitate the path of rational and open dialogue on some of the most demanding issues of our time”

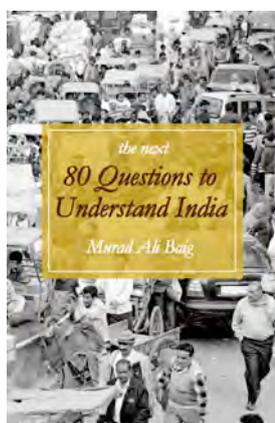
- **P.Gopinath**, World Commission on Globalization

Spiritual lessons. What impresses us here is the authors daring – some would say reckless – treatment of the facts dealing with anthropological, geographical, political, economic, mythological and metaphysical issues.

- **Arun Gaur**, *The Tribune*

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*** THE NEXT 80 QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND INDIA** by **Murad Ali Baig**

After the success of Murad's *80 Questions to Understand India* in hard cover and its subsequent paper cover editions, there are still more questions that remain unanswered. TARA press is proud to present the second book in the series.

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FINDING THE DEMON'S FIDDLE by *Patrick Jered*

Finding the Demon's Fiddle is completely based on fact and fits most closely into the genre of narrative non-fiction/travel literature. But more than anything, it is a *story*...or rather several stories wound around a central narrative, which move together in the same direction and all of which eventually draw to their respective conclusions. It is an account of a period recently spent in India and Sri Lanka researching the oldest extant ancestor of the violin family, the *ravanhattha*. A personal and travel narrative is used as a vehicle to delve into the history, religion, scripture, and mythology surrounding this fascinating instrument. The *Ravanhattha*, according to Hindu scripture, was invented by Ravana- a demon on a par with the Christian devil. It has been preserved from extinction by a nomadic sect of priests (Bhopas) in Rajasthan who use it during their 36-hour recitation of The Epic of Pabuji.

Besides the instrument, the book narrative also traces the Ravana mythology in India and Sri Lanka. There is a perhaps slightly controversial reassessment of Ravana which is at odds with the orthodox Hindu image of the evil demon portrayed in the Ramayana. The book is written in a deliberately easy-going, open style and can be read and enjoyed on a fairly superficial level as the story of a somewhat obsessive European meeting interesting people and experiencing unusual and often humorous situations. However, we won't pretend that the book is simple. Often the tip of the iceberg is visible, but there is a great deal happening under the surface.

The target readership is essentially in South Asia, Europe and the USA. His work has already picked up a fair amount of interest in India and Sri Lanka, and we feel that it has considerable potential in all countries, though certain aspects of it may well prove a little controversial here.

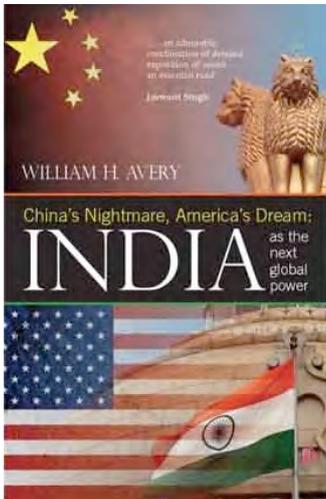
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Patrick Jered, a native English speaker was born in the UK, but has lived most of his life in The Netherlands. He is a professional medical writer with a PhD in molecular genetics. Patrick, until recently was employed by the academic publisher Elsevier. He is now working with an international medical communications agency, Excerpta Medica, part of the Omnicom group. In his spare time he writes about music and unusual musical instruments for specialist magazines. Besides his primary source of income, he is also a semi-professional musician, having released two CDs. His last collection *Tykhana* released in 2007 was well received by critics in Europe and the USA. It still sells the occasional copy on Amazon, iTunes, and a number of other on-line retailers. *Finding the Demon's Fiddle* is his first full-length book. It will certainly not be his last. He has some great ideas for future projects.

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CHINA'S NIGHTMARE, AMERICA'S DREAM by *William H. Avery* *India as the Next Global Power*



China's Nightmare, America's Dream: India as the Next Global Power is about what India needs to do to claim world power status. It tells the story of where India has come from (great wealth over much of the last two millennia), how far it has declined (hitting rock bottom in 1991), where it is today (still an emerging power, but full of natural advantages), and what it must do to claim its rightful place in the world (convert those advantages into raw power).

Like the US a century ago and China thirty years ago, India too is on the verge of attaining great power status. But India has a problem. The world will not grant India that status simply because of its size and economic potential; India has to reach out and grab it. The problem: so far India has not demonstrated the will to do so.

China's Nightmare, America's Dream is a frank critique of India's national passivity in the conduct of its affairs, and a call to action for a more assertive India in every sphere: to fostering innovation at home, instead of building intellectual property for other nations; aggressively promoting Indian culture overseas, instead of merely importing America's; bringing the world's talent to India, instead of sending India's talent to the world; exponentially increasing military strength, instead of waiting for China to dominate Asia.

China's Nightmare, America's Dream weaves together analyses of history, economics, foreign policy and social policy to chart the past, present and future of India's rise to global power status. The book concludes by arguing that US and Indian policy makers should aim to make the bilateral relationship a 21st Century version of the US-British "special relationship."

The author is an India expert, historian, journalist and former US diplomat who is uniquely qualified to tell this story. He served in the South Asia Bureau of the US Department of State for several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s, including a posting to India at the time of the 1998 nuclear test.

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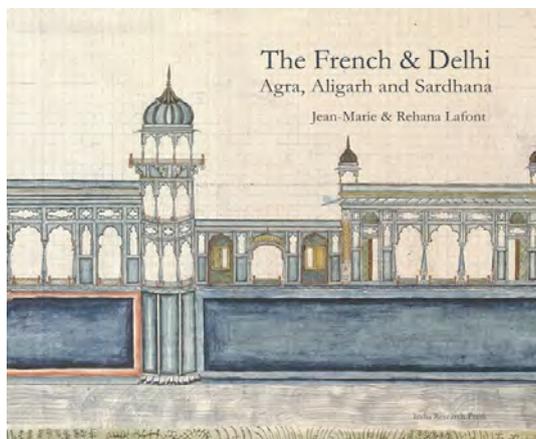
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William H. Avery is a writer and foreign policy analyst with a particular expertise in India and South Asia. A former diplomat with the US Department of State, he was posted to India in 1998 when India stunned the world with its nuclear test, and has continued to be associated with India inside and outside of government ever since. Mr. Avery has published extensively on international relations and US foreign policy. His work has appeared in journals and periodicals in the US, Asia and Europe. He writes a regular column for The Financial Express, one of India's leading financial dailies. The Financial Times of Sri Lanka calls Avery's work a "must-read" for "all leaders in governance, politics, business, academics and civil society."

Mr. Avery has also appeared as a foreign affairs commentator on several BBC news programs, including The World Today, Asia Today and The World. He is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He graduated from Princeton University, summa cum laude, with a degree in History and held a Fulbright Scholarship to Austria.

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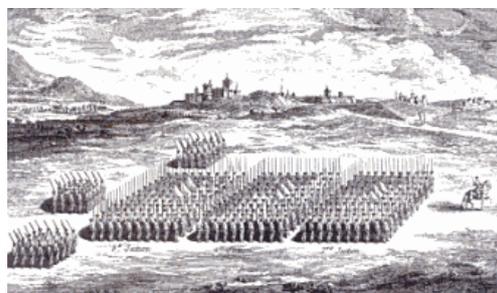
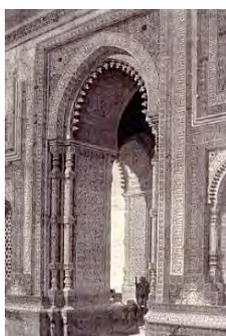
THE FRENCH & DELHI by *Jean-Marie & Rehana Lafont*
Agra, Aligarh and Sardhana



This collection deals with the French who lived in India between 1550 and 1857, sharing their know-how and skills with the Indian states they served. The first volume concerns Delhi and Agra, capitals of the Mughal empire and some principalities like Gohad, Bharatpur (Jats), Aligarh (Marathas and Sindhia) and Sardhana (Colonel and Begum Surnroo), which became independent when the Empire started disintegrating in the 18th century. These Frenchmen loved Hindustan, where they lived and worked, often marrying Indian women and leaving descendants in their adopted country. They were instrumental in the transfer of military technology to the Indian states and they helped start a 'military revolution' similar to the one in Europe in the

15th to 17th centuries.

These Frenchmen were also great collectors of paintings and manuscripts. In *The French & Delhi* volume, there are 213 illustrations, including large drawings of the Afghan Salim Shah Suri's Blue Palace and the Mughal palaces of the capital, which were commissioned by Colonel Gentil from an Indian architect in 1774.



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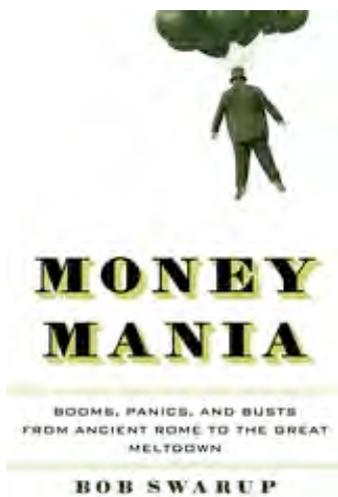
Jean-Marie Lafont, PhD (Lyons), worked twelve years in Lahore and twenty-two years in New Delhi. His research on *La présence française dans le royaume Sikh du Penjab* won him a D. Litt from the University of Paris 3 (published in 1992 by Ecole Française d'Extrême- Orient) and was awarded the Giles Award by the French Academy in 1995.

Rehana Lafont, née Joseph, has two MAs from the Punjab University (Lahore) and one Master from the University of Lyons. Her MA thesis in France dealt with Aspects of Punjabi Village Life in the Works of Mulk Raj Anand.

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* **MONEY MANIA** by *Amarendra (Bob) Swarup*

A Human History of Financial Speculation



What's so bad about a recession? The germs of *Money Mania* began with that chance comment in late 2007.

The fallout from the collapse of two Bear Stearns hedge funds earlier in August had gathered pace and we all clustered around Bloomberg screens daily, waiting to see if someone had called time on happy hour. On the 1st of December 2007, the US officially went into recession. It was not a surprise in hindsight, given the events of the previous few months, though few of us at the time had any inkling of how much more painful life was about to become. As defaults soared and the euphoria of the last few years evaporated, the finger pointing began. It was the fault of bankers for lending irresponsibly. It was the fault of central bankers for keeping interest rates so low. It was the fault of the politicians for turning a blind eye to the weapons of financial mass destruction massing outside suburbia and Capitol Hill.

Everybody else was to blame and everyone wanted just to return to happier days when bust was a phrase confined to late-night television and poker games, growth and ever-rising financial markets were a given and money was something we could all make or access. In short, they wanted to get back to normal.

Are crises an inevitable consequence of economic growth? Are they always bad? Do we need a lender of last resort? Are paper money systems an expensive and ultimately doomed experiment? When does a crisis of finance become one of society? These and many other implications are explored in the book's chapters.

In the end, we conclude that rises and falls are as natural to the economic condition as breathing is to the human condition. It's when we try and stifle these ebbs and flows that the system revolts. Therein lies the lesson: a clear perception of the characteristics common to these episodes can only help in warning off and curbing our irrational enthusiasm so that we remove the risks of our speculations becoming systemic. Try too hard to argue your innate brilliance and the outcome is inevitably the same, as amply demonstrated throughout recorded history.

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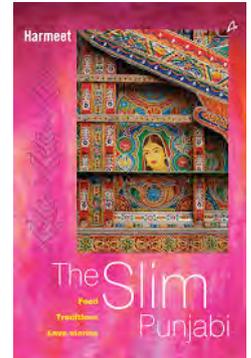
Born in 1977, in a family that played a crucial role in India's freedom struggle, *Amarendra Swarup* was schooled at Harrows, England and went on to study at Cambridge. Starting as editor of the school's weekly paper, Amarendra continued to write - both fiction and non-fiction - during his long career as an Academic, Investment Banker and a Hedge Fund Manager. He has helped to put together QFINANCE, a book of essays on global finance by leading practitioners and thinkers for Bloomsbury Publishing, sits on the Editorial Board of AllAboutAlpha.com, a blog for the alternatives industry and runs a website called Pensionomics.com. Money Mania is his first book.

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MIND, BODY, SPIRIT-

THE SLIM PUNJABI by *Harmeet Kaur*

The Slim Punjabi combines Punjabi culture and cuisine, and almost brings alive the fact that one could almost taste a culture through its food. The chapters, interspersed with the weaves of phulkari, poetry of Bulleh Shah, legends of Heer and Sohni and verses from folk songs hold within them traditional yet simple-to-make recipes for classic Punjabi dishes. From phirni set in a *mitti ka kulhad* to a barbecue party under the winter sky, this book is a love story. It's a love story of a Punjabi and her food, when the food went beyond filling her stomach to her senses as well.



*An engaging debut -- a delightfully nostalgic blend of folklore, family anecdotes, self-deprecating humour, and authentic Punjabi recipes' --Shobhan Bantwal, author of *The Dowry Bride* and other novels*

'Harmeet talks about food like it was a love affair... (she) paints a very beautiful picture of a very ordinary past with food being a delicacy of sorts, constantly stirs up memories and appears to be a very satisfactory way to reminisce' --Aanchal Malhotra, printmaker & photographer

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Harmeet Kaur is a marketing professional based out of Bangalore. Born and brought up in Delhi, she completed her honours in physics from Delhi University, followed by an MBA in 2008. She is passionate about art and culture, and loves to indulge in many of its manifestations – painting, music, cooking, reading and writing. In her debut work *The Slim Punjabi*, she takes the reader through a colourful and delicious tour of Punjabi culture and cuisine.

YOGĀCĀRA by *Rādhikā Vachāni* *Mantras & inspirations to live the life you want*

There are billions of cells in our bodies that seek balance and alignment on a daily basis, discarding resistance so that they may return to their natural state of *calm*. The more calm one feels, the easier it is for the cells to find their alignment, in order to restore and regenerate, preventing the depletion of cells that often manifest in disorders.

YOGĀCĀRA is a means to slow down life's pace, so that we may learn how to listen. It epitomizes an authentic and traditional approach toward healing and revitalization of one's mind, body, and essential energies. Embodying the ancient wisdom and philosophies of ayurveda, yoga, pranayama, meditation, chakra healing, and the practices of mind, body and spirit, one achieves a level to still the mind, release blocked energy, create harmony in the body and emotions and develop a heightened awareness of one's well-being, in order to make the necessary changes toward a happier, healthier and more harmonious way of living.

Its philosophy epitomizes an *authentic* and *traditional* approach toward healing and revitalization of one's mind, body, and essential energies. Embodying the ancient wisdom and philosophies of ayurveda, yoga, pranayama, meditation, chakra healing, and the practices of mind, body and spirit, one achieves a level to still the mind, release blocked energy, create harmony in the body and emotions and develop a heightened awareness of one's well-being, in order to make the necessary changes toward a happier, healthier and more harmonious way of living.

YOGĀCĀRA: *Mantras & Inspirations to live the life you want* is about learning to extend simple but important practices into our daily lives, so that we become creators of a new form of power and energy and some new experiences in our lives. Strong, centered and one with the flow of life, where we consciously become aware of the universal laws of cause and effect, so that we may align ourselves to these laws, in creating a simple but powerful life that matters in today's brave new world we live in.

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Rādhikā Vachāni leads a simple life dedicated to the creation of a mass of powerful energies in and around our lives through *Yogacara*. Rādhikā, who owns *Yogacara* and teaches yoga there, has been a practitioner since the early 1990s. She learnt Iyengar Yoga and also trained under gurus of the Bihar school of yoga while pursuing her career as a business director in a brand strategy firm.

Rādhikā began the *Yogacara* arts of healing some years ago, with the intention of reviving ancient and authentic holistic healing therapies to enable people to bring simple practices back into their lives. She hoped this would enable us to re-learn how to live harmoniously, to re-create balance within ourselves, our lives, relationships and in the environment around us, in order to re-establish simple links that brings together our personal universe holistically – the one that seems to be missing!

Radhika can be reached at <http://www.yogacara.in/>

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THE 'SSS' WAY by *Babita Narayanan*

Seven Seconds wonder to Success

The ability to communicate effectively and articulately is the greatest skill anyone can possess. With all the theories and books on communication, there are millions who wish they could communicate better. It is because they are just that - theories. And they have all propagated Communication but there is nothing about how to be a good communicator, which is the primary requirement for any kind of communication.

It is neither easy nor possible to just start communicating. Communication has 5 major areas, which are a combination of over 25 different skills, abilities and qualities. Each one has to be worked on and developed separately with specific modifications in lifestyle, which in turn will develop, hone and perfect your communication skills.

It is a slow but sure process but once you acquire them all, you become a Master Communicator!

Rights Available: World English and All Translations

Babita Narayanan

Entrepreneur, trainer, writer and speaker



CEO and Principal Consultant of Persona, the complete transformation centre having its corporate office in Bangalore and centers in Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut. She has conceptualized, designed and executed the entire course of Persona successfully, empowering and transforming hundreds. Babita heads 24 carats, a Public relations and Media company.

She is a keynote speaker for Seminars and conferences relating to entrepreneurship, personal empowerment, spirituality and life skills. She has been a facilitator and chairperson for various seminars & workshops relating to tourism, healthcare and hospitality. She is a columnist for "The Hindu" writing articles

about life skills through a perfect inner balance, nurturing and conditioning since the last two years. She is a free lance content and copy writer for leading creative and advertising agencies. She lends her voice for documentaries in National geography, Discovery , Presentations and Advertisements.

Travelling is her passion and she has travelled extensively to over 36 countries; 26 of them solo.

She has rich experience in meeting and interacting with a vast cross section of people across the globe, personally and professionally. She has trained in the ancient Kerala Martial arts, Kalari Paytt under CVN Kalari, Calicut and is now training in the 3rd degree under Hindustan Kalari, Calicut.

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TRANSLATION -

PRAN KAUL

Pran Kishore Kaul is a Kashmiri stage personality. In addition to acting, he has directed and written screenplays. He is best known as the writer and creator of 1991 Doordarshan television serial *Gul Gulshan Gulfam*. He was bestowed an award from the **Sahitya Natak Academy** for his novel *Sheen Ta Vatepod*. He was one of the founders of the Miltsar Kashmir Music & Dance Group, a group that travels widely with the goal of supporting Kashmiri and Indian arts.

He is also a recipient of **Silver Peacock** for the feature film *Maanzirath*. He has been a key player in the major cultural activities that have taken place in the Kashmir valley since past five decades, thus making a unique contribution and earning a significant position in the field of Kashmiri art and cinema.

GUL GULSHAN GULFAM

Gul, Gulshan, Gulfam tells the story of a family trying desperately to hold on to the glory of their past. It is painted against the backdrop of the beautiful Dal Lake and takes the reader through a calm journey through the everyday lives and relationships of the lake's inhabitants.

In a Kashmir constantly threatened by terrorism, Malla Khaliq tries to remain optimistic about his waning business of three shikaras, his house-boats Gul, Gulsham Gulfam that have made him the man he is today. He attempts to merge the brilliance and warmth of ancestral Kashmiri traditions with the rapidly changing society. A man of strong family values, he strives to keep his family of three sons and a daughter unified. While Noor Mohammed loves his father and does everything in his power to follow in his footsteps, Ghulam Ahmed and Ghulam Qadir have dreams of their own, getting involved in nefarious activities that could prove to be the end of Malla Khaliq's dreams.

Gul Gulshan Gulfam is a beautiful tragic tale almost allegoric in its narration of modern Kashmir, illustrating how the world of shikara owners and their families turned upside down with the rising terrorism and decline of the Kashmiri tourism industry.

The TV adaptation for Gul Gulshan Gulfam aired on Doordashan in 1991 and was an instant hit.

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SHEEN TA VATEPOD: *Snow of the bridle path*

Reshma is Rajwali's driving force. Even after years of their marriage, his love for her still shines as bright as it did on the very first day. Together they have a son, Qamroo, who embodies all the love that flows between them and their family.

Living in the beautiful valleys of Kashmir, the young shepherds with hundreds of sheep and goat embark on an annual sojourn to the higher reaches. At the beginning of autumn, when the meadows are drained of life, they return home. This year Qamroo convinces Rajwali and Reshma to let him take the journey.

As autumn begins, the proud parents go to welcome their son only to never see him return. Caught in the midst of the unexpected twist of life, Reshma quickly spirals into a state of deep depression and denial. As Rajwali holds on to memories of who his wife used to be, he heads on a journey to bring her back to herself. A deeply emotional tale, *Sheen* shows us the extent to which people will go for love.

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