



New Delhi, INDIA

RED INK LITERARY AGENCY  
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**Rights List**  
**LONDON BOOK FAIR 2015**

**NEW WRITINGS FROM INDIA & PAKISTAN**

**COMMERCIAL FICTION**

Fantasy • Myth • Historical  
Crime • Mystery • Thriller  
Romance • Chic Lit • YA

**LITT COMMERICAL**

**LITERARY FICTION**

**CROSS-OVER TITLES**

**GENERAL TRADE AND NARRATIVE NON-FICTION**

**MIND, BODY, SPIRIT**

**TRANSLATION**

## THE RED TEAM



**Aanchal Malhotra** - Born and raised in New Delhi into a family of booksellers, I hold the written word very close to my heart. As an editor, I am drawn to manuscripts that have a strong storyline told in simple language. In an attempt to marry my love for books and art, I like narratives that show rather than tell, visual writing that paints a picture for the reader as the story unfolds.

I appreciate dense literary works, stories resting on dark humour and wit and historical fiction, especially those inspired from the Indian subcontinent. Some favourites include Murakami, Virginia Woolf, Joan Didion, William Dalrymple, Vladimir Nabokov, Jhumpa Lahiri, Georges Perec, Salman Rushdie and Amitav Ghosh.

An artist with a BFA in Printmaking & Art History, I am currently a MFA candidate in Studio Art at Concordia University, Montreal and divide my time between Delhi and Montreal.



**Sanya Sagar** - Growing up, I spent all my time at my grandfather's bookstore, making my way through all kinds of books that were available to me. My heart lies with stories that speak of human nature and offer a different perspective on day to day lives. In my manuscripts, I look for writing that easily expresses the nuances of different emotions while maintaining a pace that keeps the reader interested and intrigued. Stories that shed light on society and its issues are of particular interest to me.

Some of my favorite fiction authors include Anne Enright, Murakami, Manu Joseph and Salman Rushdie. When it comes to non-fiction I enjoy the work of authors like Malcolm Gladwell.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in science from Delhi University and spent 2 years teaching in a government school as a part of Teach For India's fellowship programme.



**Anuj Bahri** - Like all good bosses – I too have to add my words of wisdom. First, never listen to anyone but yourself and last, the boss is always right !!

I believe, there is no story that has not been written, but the love with which it is narrated makes all the difference. A story 'well told' is what I am looking for and some day, I hope to be your agent as well.

Graduated from the University of Delhi with a Bachelors in Commerce and wasting enough time with a few small but good management courses, I joined the legendary booksellers – BHRISONS at Khan Market, New Delhi. After having worked with the bookstore for 20 odd years under the tutorship of Balraj Bahri, I looked at other avenues in the book trade and added a small publishing division (Tara Press) to the existing line of business as a bookseller. And six years ago added a new platform that

gave voice and opportunity to the young and talented writers in India to showcase their talent across the globe – thus in the year 2007-2008 was born the RED INK LITERARY AGENCY at New Delhi, India.

Thirty three years after – today, with an all-round, 360 degrees of experience as a Bookseller, Publisher and Literary Agent - I head the group of BAHRI. I am also the head of affairs at RED INK and the Principal Agent to Amish Tripathi and Anuja Chauhan (India's biggest and most popular author), Shrabani Basu, Amarendra (Bob) Swarup, Shobha Nihalani, Pranay Gupte and a few more in our small family of Red Ink authors.



**Sharvani Pandit** - If you have a great story, a well-written tale or a well-crafted plot to share, then I'm the one for you. I am always looking for a story that informs, but above all entertains and engages. It should hold you spellbound and suck you into the writer's world. Tell me about your work and yourself without making it seem as though you have used every fancy word in the dictionary, or dropping names of all the writers you have read on the bookshelf.

I read everything from thrillers to fantasy, young adult to historical fiction, classics to narrative non-fiction. Some favourites from an endless list of greats, include Leon Uris, Conn Iggulden, Rick Riordan, Eoin Colfer, JRR Tolkien, Terry Prachet, James Patterson (of Alex Cross books), Lee Child, Gabriel Marquez, Bill Bryson and Richard Dawkins. I've been a journalist for twelve years and then an Editor for five. I currently

spend my time reading and editing manuscripts, looking for that elusive diamond in the rough that can become the next phenomenon like Amish or take the world by storm. My motto - tell it simply and tell it well !!

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<p>THE WAIT IS FINALLY OVER!! COMING SOON...in the summer of 2015,  from the author of The Immortals of Meluha (2.2 Million copies sold of the trilogy),  Amish Tripathi - soon to be announced, new BUMPER MEGA-SELLER,  based on Indian Myths.</p>	
<b>COMMERCIAL FICTION</b> Crime. Mystery. Thriller (India & Pakistan) Fantasy. Mythological. Historical Chic Litt. Romance. Women's writing YA.	<b>5</b>
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## **STAR ATTRACTIONS FOR 2015**

**RELEASING SOON...**22nd June 2015 *Amish Tripathi's* new **BUMPER MEGA-SELLER**, based on Indian Myths – **SCION OF IKSHVAKU**

**Red Ink Literary Agency now agents the best-selling authors Jo Nesbø and Håkan Nesser for language rights in South Asia**

### **COMMERCIAL FICTION**

**SCION OF IKSHVAKU** by Amish Tripathi

**THE HOUSE THAT BJ BUILT** by Anuja Chauhan

**REHAB + SPOTLIGHT** by Megha Rao

**BUTCHER OF BENARES** by Mahendra Jhakar

### **LITT-COMMERCIAL**

**VOICE OF THE RAIN SEASON** by Subrata Dasgupta

**THE LAST ACT** by Neha Singh

**PATH OF THE SWAN** by Charu Jagat

### **LITERARY WORKS**

**ZOON** by Selina Sen

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

**CHILDREN OF WAR** by Suraj Sinha

**TENTACLES, NUMBING** by Shome Dasgupta

### **CROSS-OVER TITLES**

**MONK** by Ravi Shankar

**OCEAN OF COBRAS** by Murad Ali Baig

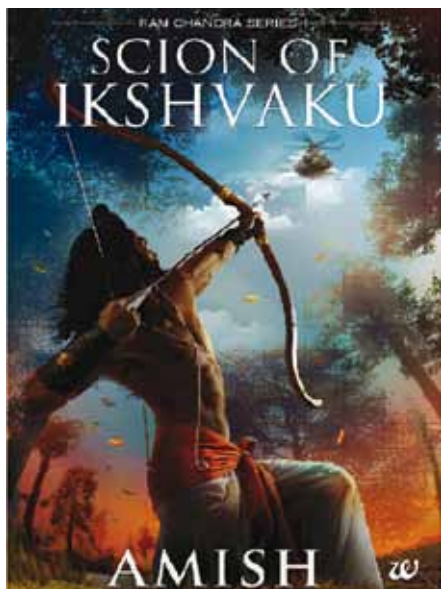
### **NARRATIVE NON-FICTION**

**JESUS JIGSAW** by Damian Bullen

**POISON IN HER BREAST** by Vikram Sampath

# COMMERCIAL FICTION

CRIME • MYSTERY • THRILLER • FANTASY • MYTH  
HISTORICAL • ROMANCE • CHIC LITT  
WOMEN'S WRITING • YA



RELEASING JUNE 22, 2015

# SCION OF IKSHVAKU

BOOK 1 OF THE 'RAM CHANDRA' SERIES

THE NEW BUMPER MEGA-SELLER, BASED ON INDIAN MYTHS  
FROM THE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF SHIVA TRILOGY

STARTING WITH AN 6,00,000 COPIES FIRST PRINT

When Amish set out to write the Shiva Trilogy in 2008, it all began with a simple question- What is evil? Since then, Amish has found that the question while simple, has no straight answer. Evil needs good as much as good needs evil. Not only that, his quest led him to the realisation that polar opposites serve a function, and hence originated the masculine and feminine way of life, the yin and the yang... As well as the realisation that while most

people view life in absolutist terms, it is all about the grey areas. How the various avatars of the Vishnu and the Mahadev himself redefine society, based on their function as the Nurturer or the Destroyer.

In his earlier series - the Shiva trilogy, you were presented a compelling story of an alien who comes to India. As he is removed from the players on the chessboard, Shiva is able to logically and systematically find the root of Evil and eradicate it, allowing society to rebuild itself. But that left Amish with a compelling need to tell you the story of how Meluha actually came about.

Picking up the clues and threads in the Shiva narrative, Amish brings to you the RAM CHANDRA SERIES, which continue to focus on Amish's core philosophies, but adds a twist. In Amish's new series, the essential question isn't what is good or evil, but what can be done to improve mankind's state. Here Amish deals with the cyclical nature of Life and society and how mankind can't help itself but ends up doing the same thing over and over. History literally keeps repeating itself, leaving Amish with the question: Can man actually rise above his petty concerns and daily tribulations for the greater good?

3400 BCE

He was born at the very moment his father King Dashrath lost the first battle. An event so monumental that it changed the fortunes of his people, as well as the entire subcontinent. An essential rich and influential confederacy was reduced to penury with its overlord a broken man, who blamed his infant son Ram for all his misfortunes.

Growing up in an atmosphere vitiated by hate, Ram is determined to be principled and fair. His highly developed sense of justice and equality leads him to reform the judicial system even as he continues to be slighted by his father and the entire Ayodhya nobility - as the man whose birth led to the downfall of the Sāpt Sindhū. Even as Ram negotiates these treacherous waters, things are being set in motion to bring about his ultimate downfall. While some want him destroyed, others want to use him to forward their own agendas. And then Ram meets Sita...

Can Ram rise above the taint of his birth? Will Sita be saving grace? And more importantly, is he the Vishnu, the Saviour, of civilisation or simply a pawn in a larger game being played by Ravana?

Begin an epic journey with Amish's latest on the battle for the soul of India.

**INDIA'S BIGGEST 'BOOK' FRANCHISE by Amish Tripathi**  
**WITH 2.2 MILLION COPIES SOLD**

IMMORTALS OF MELUHA - BOOK 1 OF THE SHIVA TRILOGY

SECRET OF THE NAGAS - BOOK 2

OATH OF THE VAYUPUTRA - BOOK 3





*'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.

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 in the UK and US.

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 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 Meluha (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 23 territories and languages:

South Asia (English): Westland/Tranquebar Press

UK and USA English: Quercus (Jo Fletcher Imprint)

Spanish

Tamil

Indonesian

Orriya

Vietnamese

Assamese

Portugese (BRAZIL)

Bengali

Portugese (Portugal)

Kannada

Estonia

Greek

FILM Rights Sold:

Polish

BOLLYWOOD : Dharma

Turkish

Productions, Mumbai

French: final stage

HOLLYWOOD : 108 Productions,

Hindi

New York

Gujarati

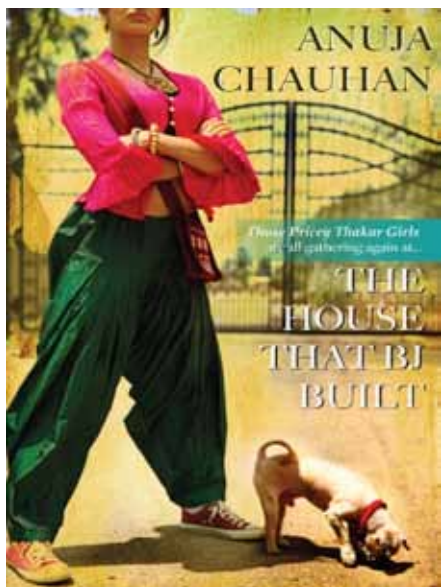
Malayalam

*Rights Available: All other Languages  
and Translations*

Marathi

Telegu





Those Pricey Thakur Girls are all gathering again at...

## The House that BJ Built

Releasing this MAY - Sequel to *Those Pricey Thakur Girls*

ANUJA CHAUHAN

*'I'll make them squirm like well-salted earthworms.' She vows furiously. 'I won't sell. Even my jutti won't sell...and if I die na, then even my gosht won't sell!'*

Upon his deathbed Justice Laxmi Narayan Thakur, fondly known as Bauji or BJ to his family, extracts a promise from his eldest grandson, a brilliant young filmmaker visiting from Mumbai. Samar is to unite the bickering clan, get them to agree to sell the Judge's 200 crore ancestral property on New Delhi's posh Hailey Road, and share out the monies equally amongst all five heirs.

This proves to be easier said than done. Samar's stepmother and her sisters all have decided - and differing - opinions on everything. Evil Ashok chacha is eyeing his neices's inheritance. And there are tenants with powerful political connections squatting in the annexe. Besides, Samar isn't at all sure about his new film, *Thakur Sahib*, a bio-pic based on BJ's parent's eventful marriage. And most exasperatingly, there is bloody Bonu Singh, orphaned daughter of Samar's dead step-aunt Binnie, whose first word on the planet was 'balls,' who hates her four aunts with a vengeance and who tells him, quite categorically, that she will never consent to sell the house that is her only home...

*When 'chick lit' is this clever, this funny, why label it as anything other than good writing !!*

*Sharply observed and pulse-quickeningly romantic, this is Anuja Chauhan writing at her warm and wicked best!*

**Rights Sold:** Indian subcontinent : **Westland Ltd.**

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.

**Anuja Chauhan** wrote ads for colas, chips and chocolates for seventeen years before deciding to do something healthier for a living. She now writes novels, movie screenplays, news articles and her children's Hindi essays. Her bestselling novels *The Zoya Factor* and *Battle for Bittora* have been optioned by major Bollywood studios. She lives in Gurgaon with her husband Niret Alva, two helpers who bang the doors a lot, a Lhasa Apso who thinks he is a German Shepherd, and three adolescents who give her attitude. She has been hailed as the best chick lit writer in India, but has repeatedly stated that "Chicks are small, brainless, powerless creatures, bred to be eaten. I'm not a chick and I don't write for chicks."



### PRAISE FOR ANUJA CHAUHAN

- 'Those Pricey Thakur Girls' is a warm potpourri of hilarious overtones' - Time of India
- For the third time in a row, she's cracked the rom-com code and given readers a story that's as cuckoo as it is cute. - DNA
- Anuja balances humour and sharp observations with consummate ease. - The Hindu
- Please do not attempt to read this book in a public area as there would be moments when you would be laughing out loud and it would definitely make you look like some idiotic fool. - Bibliophile



## THOSE PRICEY THAKUR GIRLS

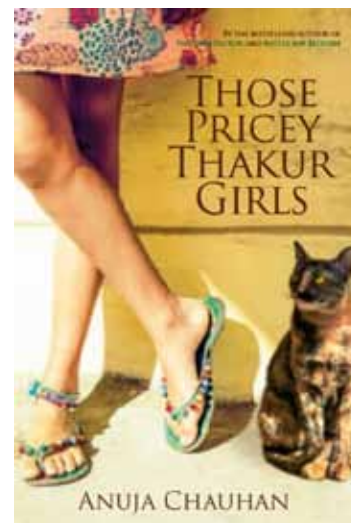
In a sprawling bungalow on New Delhi's posh Hailey Road, Justice Laxmi Narayan Thakur and his wife Mamta spend their days watching anxiously over their five beautiful (but troublesome) alphabetically named daughters.

Anjini, married but an incorrigible flirt; Binodini, very worried about her children's hissa in the family property; Chandrakanta, who eloped with a foreigner on the eve of her wedding; Eshwari, who is just a little too popular at Modern School, Barakhamba Road; and the Judge's favourite (though fathers shouldn't have favourites): the quietly fiery Debjani, champion of all the stray animals on Hailey Road, who reads the English news on DD and clashes constantly with crusading journalist Dylan Singh Shekhawat, he of shining professional credentials but tarnished personal reputation, crushingly dismissive of her state-sponsored propaganda, but always seeking her out with half-sarcastic, half-intrigued dark eyes.

Spot-on funny and toe-curlingly sexy, *Those Pricy Thakur Girls* is rom-com specialist Anuja Chauhan writing at her sparkling best.

**Rights Sold:** Indian subcontinent : HarperCollins India

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.



## BATTLE FOR BITTORA

Twenty-five-year-old Jinni lives in Mumbai, works in a hip animation studio and is perfectly happy with her carefree and independent existence. Until her bossy grandmother shows up and announces that it is Jinni's 'duty' to drop everything and come and contest the upcoming Lok Sabha elections from their sleepy hometown, Bittora. Of course Jinni swears she won't. But she soon ends up swathed in cotton saris and frumpy blouses, battling prickly heat, corruption and accusations of nymphomania as candidate Sarojini Pande, a daughter of the illustrious Pande dynasty of Pavit Pradesh. And if life isn't fun enough already, her main opposition turns out to be Bittora ex-royal, Zain Altaf Khan an irritatingly idealistic though undeniably lustworthy individual with whom Jinni shares a complicated history...

Enlivened by Chauhan's characteristic brand of wicked humour and sexy romanticism, this is a rollicking new tale of young India.

**Rights Sold:** Indian subcontinent : HarperCollins India

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.



## THE ZOYA FACTOR by Anuja Chauhan

When the younger players in India's cricket team find out that advertising executive Zoya Singh Solanki was born at the very moment India won the World Cup back in 1983, they are intrigued. When having breakfast with her is followed by victories on the field, they are impressed. And when not eating with her results in defeat, they decide she's a lucky charm. The nation goes a step further. Amazed at the ragtag team's sudden spurt of victories, it declares her a Goddess. So when the eccentric IBCC president and his mesmeric, always-exquisitely-attired Swamiji invite Zoya to accompany the team to the tenth ICC World Cup, she has no choice but to agree. Pursued by international cricket boards on the one hand, wooed by Cola majors on the other, Zoya struggles to stay grounded in the thick of the world cup action. And it doesn't help that she keeps clashing with the erratically brilliant new skipper who tells her flatly that he doesn't believe in luck...

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“UNDOUBTEDLY, INDIA’S MOST LOVED AUTHOR”



**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.

**RED INK LITERARY AGENCY NOW AGENTS THE BEST-SELLING AUTHORS JO NESBØ AND HÅKAN NESSER FOR LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN SOUTH ASIA**

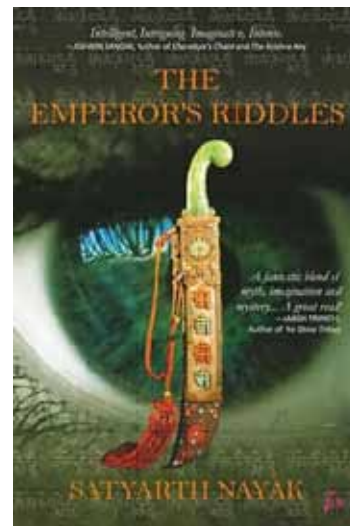
## SATYARTH NAYAK

### THE EMPEROR'S RIDDLES:

*A supernatural Crime thriller*

No.2 on the AMAZON.in bestselling thriller's chart

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.



### PRAISE FOR THE EMPEROR'S RIDDLES:

*"The book takes you on a journey of cryptic riddles that you need to solve to finally reach the gates of an ancient enigma. It's a racy thriller with murder, science, history, codes and myths, all rolled into one."*

– The Pioneer

*"The book reads like a Dan Brown novel (laden with cryptography and religious motifs) with a dollop of Indian mythology fused with a murder mystery"*

– The Big Brunch Summer Reading List

**Rights Sold:** English Indian subcontinent : **Amaryllis Publishers**

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## MAHENDRA JAKHAR

### \*THE BUTCHER OF BENARES

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

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### FORTHCOMING 2015 : THE SWASTIKA KILLER

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

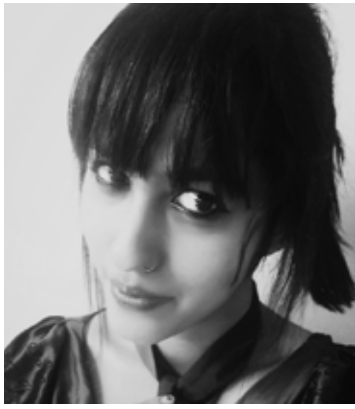
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**Mahendra Jakhar** is an ex-journalist currently working as a scriptwriter for feature films and television shows. He started working as a freelance photo-journalist for The Times of India, then full-time as a crime reporter. A voracious reader, crime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

*Best Crime Fiction  
Debut of 2014*





**Megha Rao** is a second year UG student doing her B.A. English course in Madras Christian College, Chennai. She lived in Singapore for ten years, and moved to Kerala when she was in her sixth grade. She published her first novel, *Alice: The Netherworld* in 2012 and its sequel, *Alice: The Inferno Conspiracy* in 2014. She started writing when she was six. She used to make comic books and create characters. What started as speech bubbles soon turned into short stories, and then became novels. She is more of a Young Adult author, but she also loves writing for middle grade, because it makes her feel like a kid again. Her favorite author and poet is Sylvia Plath, and her favorite book is Plath's *The Bell Jar*. She loves sketching and painting, and is an avid fan of Josephine Wall. Some other things she is crazy about are music and travel.

## MEGHA RAO

### \*REHAB

Insane people are beautiful."He looked at me seriously. "Then you are insane."A girl who was broken.A boy who was even more broken.Together, they decided to erase the past and write a new story. Their story .When Heer was five, she watched her family get murdered. She picked up the broken pieces of her heart and escaped. She tried to forget.Ten years later, Heer is chucked out of a boarding school run by nuns, and is checked into rehab for her cutting issues. She meets her roommate, Sonya, who has been admitted for her Bulimia and eating disorder, and some other inmates like Jai, a porn addict, Rohan, a depressed kid, and Isha, a victim of child abuse. She's scared of them, because they all look crazy. And she doesn't want to turn crazy as well.

In a group therapy session that goes awfully bad, Heer gets an insight into the absolutely bizarre world of Shravan O' Shea, the half-Indian, half-Irish boy with a drug addiction. He is everything she should stay away from, but the chemistry between them is so explosive that neither one of them can keep away. Shravan is a broken kid from a broken home, and Heer knows there isn't much she can do to help him. Besides, it's not like she has fixed herself completely. She's broken too. In this little town of insanity, when both their worlds come crashing down, Heer has to learn how to make the right choices, and answer her own questions- Can love protect you from the demons of your past? Or will you have to keep running from them forever?

**Rights Sold:** *Indian subcontinent* : PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE India

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.

### \*SPOTLIGHT

The only thing they had in common was their name. He thought he was God's gift to women, the reason why the solar system was in sync-Because he was the pampered bad ass rock star who appeared on every magazine cover. She had a troubled past. She was hurt and confused, and that turned her into a wild, rebellious freak who just had to be sent away by her parents. She hated him because he had everything. He hated her because she was being a 'bitch.' They hated each other. And that's how their story began.

When Aditya 'Tiger' Yadav, Indian rock star and teen idol finds a wide-eyed, black haired girl in his room when he comes back after a concert, he receives the shock of his life. She is none other than Aditya Mehra, his father's old college roommate's daughter, who has been sent to their place to 'mend her ways.' Aditya is bold, street-smart and hates superstars, which is the sole reason for her loathing towards Tiger right from the beginning. A college based romance, complete with a horde of guitars and not to mention, fame, fame, and fame,

'Spotlight' is the story of how two people from different worlds fall in love. 'Spotlight,' tells the tale of two very different individuals sharing the same name-Aditya. It might come as a surprise that both the male and female protagonists have the same first name, but it only adds to the humour and the cuteness of the whole concept. 'Spotlight' follows the new trend in YA romances, exploring the possibilities of bonding between two people who share nothing in common, yet find themselves falling in love, like pushing the limits, perfect chemistry etc.

**Rights Sold:** *Indian subcontinent* : PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE India

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.

# SHOBHA NIHALANI

## 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 Indian subcontinent : Hachette India

**Rights Available:** WORLD English (Excl. India) / 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!

**Rights sold:** Danish- EC Editions

**Rights Available :** World English outside of South Asia & Translation and all Languages



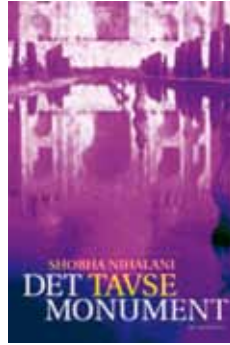
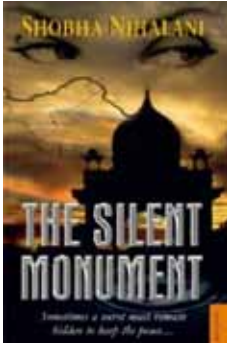
**Shobha Nihalani** is a Hong Kong-based freelance journalist, author, columnist, vice-president and events co-ordinator of a publishing society, life member of the Hong Kong Writers' Circle. Shobha is also a bookkeeper, working part-time in her family-owned watch manufacturing company! With over two 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.





## 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 Indian subcontinent : Tara Press (HB)/Jaico Publishers (PB)

Danish- EC Editions

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

## NINE : A Paranormal thriller in three parts



The NINE Unknown Men are a millennia-old secret society founded by the Indian Emperor Asoka c. 270 BCE. According to legend, upon his conversion to Buddhism after a massacre during one of his wars, the Emperor founded the society of the NINE to preserve and develop knowledge that would be dangerous to humanity if it fell into the wrong hands. The myth of The NINE Unknown Men is believed to currently still exist.

The identities of the Nine Unknown Men have been kept secret that even to this day they are considered a myth. The members of NINE lead normal lives as scientists, professors, researchers and experts in their fields. The knowledge assimilated by the millennia old secret society, is kept in a secret location....But the secret is out and three of the Nine are dead. The rest, believed to be protected in a safe zone have also disappeared.

The legend continues...Tara, Akash and Zubin are the chosen ones to carry forward the secrets of the society. The power of NINE has been divided amongst the three. Empowered with the knowledge, they must fight Jeremy and his alter ego - the powerful Kalingan. Lise is a Dutch woman, she carries the secret locations of the nine ancient texts from her boss, he sent it telepathically before he died. Tara, Akash and Zubin are from different parts of the world, they meet Lise in Tibet where a monk brings them into awareness of their true purpose and guides them on how to use their superhuman abilities. They must battle the ancient evil powers and bring the nine Ashoka's texts to the hidden kingdom in Tibet.

From the birthplace of Buddha to the mysterious land of Tibet and finally to the most revered ancient sites in the Himalayas, the three must face an arduous and dangerous journey to protect the Council of NINE and the ancient knowledge from the vengeance of the Kalings.

**Book 1: THE CURSE OF THE KALINGAN**

**Book 2: VENGEANCE OF THE WARRIOR**

**Book 3: SPIRIT OF THE CLAN (FORTHCOMING )**

**Series Rights Sold:** English Indian subcontinent : Penguin India

**Series Rights Available:** WORLD English (Excl. India) / Translation and all Languages.

## VIKAS SINGH

### Forthcoming from the bestselling author of 'The Big Fix' **MAN IN THE SHADOWS**

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 Dushhasana'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 Sold:** English Indian subcontinent : WESTLAND/Tranquebar Ltd.  
**Rights Available:** WORLD English (Excl. India) / Translation and all Languages.

### **THE BIG FIX**

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.

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**Rights Available:** WORLD English (Excl. India) / 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.





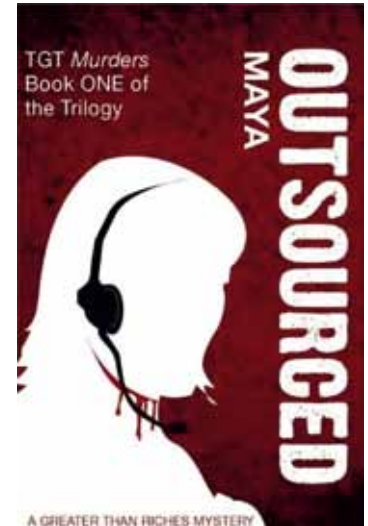
**Maya Kavita** has worked for many years in the IT industry. She has combined her experience as a professional writer and human resources manager, to write The TGT murders series. She and her husband live in Toronto.

## MAYA KAVITA

### A murder mystery in three parts : The TGT murders series by Maya Kavita Book 1: OUTSOURCED

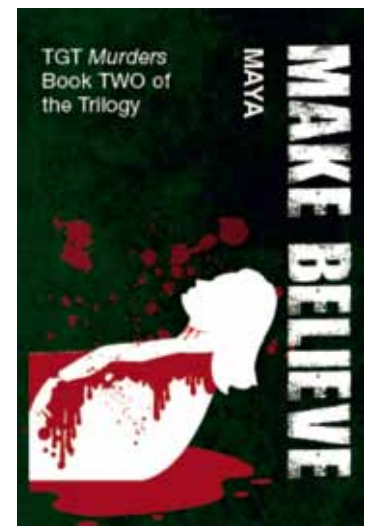
Ella Laraway, an HR executive with Trans-Geo Tech, leads a massive outsourcing of jobs in Toronto. Ella's US mentor, Odette Dodeur, is later found dead, her body shipped from Toronto to China in a barrel along with the message, "Outsource this". TGT's CEO Tapan Rao accuses Ella of incompetence in handling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

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 (Forthcoming)

**Series Rights sold:** English South Asia. Tara Press / Hindi: Tara Press  
**Series Rights Available:** WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.



## ANISH SARKAR

### \* SECOND LIFE

Three old friends – Neel, Tara and Omar – reunite in Goa after hearing that the fourth member of their group, Sarah, has died mysteriously. A few weeks before her death, Sarah had told them that she had stumbled on to something shocking. The trio soon discover that Sarah had been investigating the brutal murder of Anna Grishin, a Russian tourist in Goa. They learn about a possible witness to the crime but the man is killed before they can get to him.

Sarah was not just investigating the death of Anna Grishin but several other murders too, all committed by a sadistic psychopath over decades. The three friends arrive at the conclusion that she knew the serial killer, even as a terrible event from their past begins to haunt them. Roy, another close friend from school, had died twelve years ago when a prank they played on him during a camping trip went horribly wrong. New evidence emerges, pointing towards Roy being the man who killed Sarah and all the others. What follows is a classic whodunit, with innumerable twists and turns even as the friends try to trap the serial killer, and no one is who they seem. From secret rendezvous in casinos, to laying the trap for the man with six-fingers, it is a race against time, as Tara finally remembers who had helped kill Roy. But will they be able to catch the wily killer as the body count rises? And who is this psychopath that has eluded them so far?

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

### In print

### **BENAAMI: an epic thriller that spans two eras.**

The Benaami, a powerful secret society, spreads across India, inciting the native sepoys of the British army to mutiny in 1857. In the present, Arjun Chatterjee, a software engineer, has recurrent dreams of a mysterious past life. The beautiful Sheila Guha is researching the Benaami and she and Arun set out to unravel its secrets. They uncover the deadly conspiracy of a megalomaniac business tycoon with his own connection to the Benaami that threatens to shatter peace in the sub-continent. The parallel plots - separated by a century and a half - hurtle to their inevitable climax and Arjun and Sheila discover the astonishing secret that links them. But will they be in time to help avert disaster?

**Rights Sold:** South Asia: Amaryllis (English)

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



**Anish Sarkar** is an IIT-IIM graduate and a senior executive with a French multinational company. Born in Mumbai, he lives in Kolkata, where he also grew up. Anish is a tiger enthusiast and an avid cricket fan. This is his debut novel.





**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.

## AKBAR AGHA

### \* JUGGERNAUT

"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?

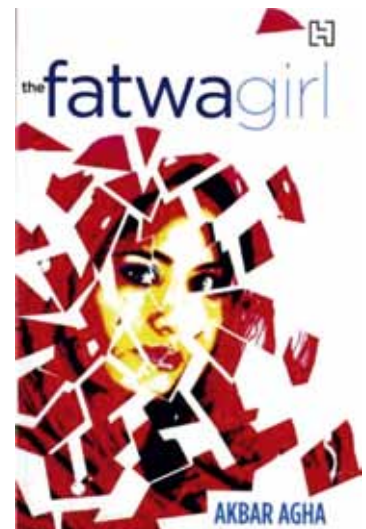
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**Rights Available:** WORLD English outside of South Asia/ Translation and all Languages.



### THE FATWA GIRL

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.



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

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



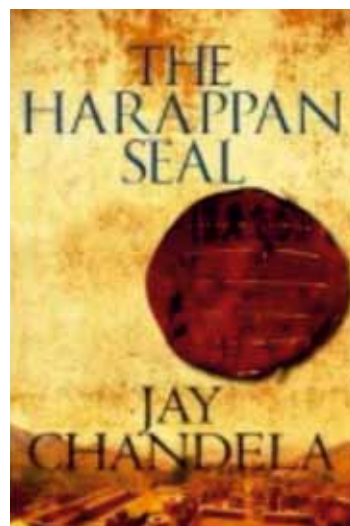
## JAY (&) CHANDELLA

### THE HARAPPAN SEAL

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

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**JAY (&) CHANDELLA**, Chandella 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).

Jay 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 in the Norwegian Military Journal (2008). His translation of the Bhagavad Gita was published by Yogyavidya in 2007 and he is currently working on a translation of the Kama Sutra.

## ABHIK MUKHERJEE

### SARAMEYA

When Saramaya Grover calls the police over the dead body of the young man lying in her bed, she is rather honest about it. She had killed him by mistake, when the man had arrived by the door at two—just like he had for more than a decade. Saramaya believed that her late night stalker to be her father, her pilot father, who would usually be flying over the seven seas when her daughter would see him standing by her door. Only the egotistical retired lawyer—today a talentless, albeit proud artist—Cyrus Billimoria sees what everyone else misses. Yes, Saramaya Grover did indeed commit murder. But was she guilty of that murder?

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



**Abhik Mukherjee** Thirty years ago, when he passed out of Jamnabai Narsee School in Bombay and entered the hallowed portals of Presidency College in Calcutta, Abhik Mukherjee first began to be consumed by the desire to know the answers to three questions of seminal importance. The search for answers to them consumed the rest of his life. Whether it is in his present role as an advocate in confrontational litigation, as an erstwhile media professional, as a guest speaker in IIM or as a presenter of academic papers in conferences in India and abroad, metaphysics and the principles of efficient cause stole his time, youth and money. The results of his search are embodied in three books on metaphysics. Whenever the mind screamed with fatigue, it amused itself by churning out stories. Saramaya is one such...

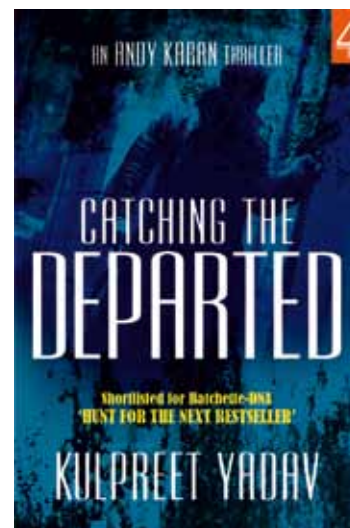


**Kulpreet Yadav** is the founder-editor of *Open Road Review*, a literary journal with a global footprint, Kulpreet's writings have appeared in various magazines and newspapers in India and elsewhere. He is also the founder member of the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Association and when not 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](http://www.kulpreetyadav.in)

## KULPREET YADAV

### The ANDY KARAN Series

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

**Rights Available:** WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

# SHOBHAN BANTWAL

## SIX ROMANTIC NOVELS FROM THE 'BOLLYWOOD IN A BOOK' SERIES



**THE FULL MOON BRIDE • THE UNEXPECTED SON • THE SARI SHOP WIDOW • THE FORBIDDEN DAUGHTER • THE DOWRY BRIDE**

### 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.

**Rights Sold:** USA : Kinsington Publishers USA.

**South Asia:** Fingerprint, PRAKASH India (English)

**Rights Available:** All Translations & Languages.

### 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

*"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

*"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



**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.





## AARTI vRAMAN

### TOAST OF THE TOWN

Sophia Marchand wants attention. Bad! So she dresses up as a hooker on Wall Street and asks New York City to help save her dream building from being demolished. She is a dessert chef and she is here to cause trouble! PR whiz, Mason Jones-Tarrant, is already dealing with family problems - a disinterested older cousin getting married to cement a business deal and a blogger who just won't stop stalking him. He does not need Sophia creating more trouble for him and wants her out of the public eye as soon as possible. What happens when fire meets ice? Toast of the Town! is a love story you can't put down. Romantic, funny and heart-breaking by turns, it will keep you engaged long after you've put the book down.

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

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

### ENCORE

*He was a world-famous pianist who lost his eyesight and memory...she was being paid to act as his loving wife. Dare she cross the fine line between love and lies?*

Adrian Renaud's marriage is a sham, his wife aborted his baby and he cannot find any pleasure in music, his great love. On his way to Paris for a grand concert, along with pilot Harvey Davies and his daughter Siobhan as well as his supermodel wife Ileana Renaud, the plane crashes.

The story picks up six months later, when Siobhan visits her comatose father at an expensive facility in London. Next door is Adrian, the temporarily blind and amnesic musician, who has no recollection of the last year of his life, save that he got married. So, his agent Vincent Cane tells a little white lie: Namely that Siobhan Davis is his wife, not the supermodel Ileana who died in the plane crash. Since, Adrian is unable to see his wife, and instantly takes to the smooth-voiced Siobhan, he is stuck believing this lie. Slowly, Siobhan starts falling in love with Adrian and he begins to play music again But what will happen once Adrian gets his memory back?

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

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

**Aarti vRaman** always wanted to be either a lawyer Or a writer!! So, LIKE MOST DECISIONS OF HER LIFE she tossed a coin and picked to be a writer. Since then, she has valiantly struggled to put words to paper and bring characters and stories alive that make people sigh and laugh and enjoy every moment of her make believe world. She has studied Journalism from Mumbai University, Creative Writing at Deakin, Australia and considers herself a student of life. Her three favorite words are, Happily-Ever-After. Her writing is contemporary Romance and has written several novels – two already published and three more works under contract with Harlequin UK, Harlequin India and Penguin India. She loves Haagen Dazs ice-cream and dreams up new plots for romancing her heroes - everyday. In Aarti's own words - It's fun-fun-fun and I had loads 'a fun writing it.....maybe I can finally think Desi afterall !! Writing a book in a week makes 'writer gal' super tired.

# SANGEETA SHAH

## MIRAGE

Things are not always what they seem...

Financial genius Abhinav Kaul has only one use for his billions -- to bring about the destruction of industrialist Rajvir Sehgal, the man he holds responsible for his father's death. He believes he has finally found the man's one weakness that he can leverage... his 18 year old daughter Anokhi. Hell bent on revenge, Abhinav invades Anokhi's life and charms her. He sweeps her off her feet into a hasty marriage, where Anokhi believes that she is the princess in the tower who has been rescued by her knight. But it seems as though Anokhi's father will have the last laugh. A closely guarded secret, Rajvir believes Anokhi is not his daughter and that in marrying her, it is Abhinav who will fall. It is only when he sees her photograph that his world shatters.

Caught in the cat and mouse game between these two men, Anokhi's world comes crashing down when the betrayal blows up in her face. She runs away and is nowhere to be found. Is it too late for Abhinav who finally realises that his love for Anokhi matters more than his vengeance? Can Abhinav and Rajvir reconcile their differences and their past to bring this musical prodigy home before it is too late?

## KINDLED LIVES

*'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.*

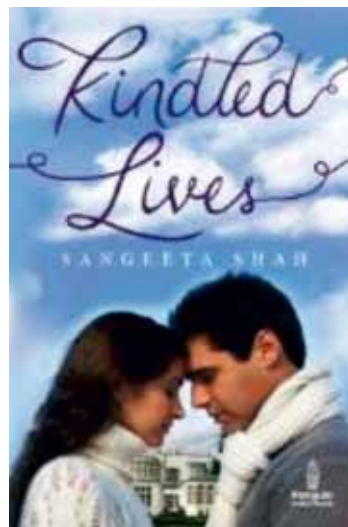
Billionaire Vijayendra Maurya laments that his brilliant but arrogant son, Aditya, has missed out on a few home truths in life. He knows that there is none better to teach him these other than Rhea, the girl who has grown up under his care. Returning to his roots after more than a decade in the US, Aditya 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. 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?

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

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



**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.







**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.

## TINA SHARMA TIWARI

### WHO ME ?

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.



**Sharon** was born in New Delhi but brought up all over the country. She graduated with English Honours from St. Stephen's College and went on to acquire a Master's Degree in English Literature from Delhi University. She is an Civil Servant in the Government of India but a romantic for soppy love stories.

## SHARON

### GOAN TANGO

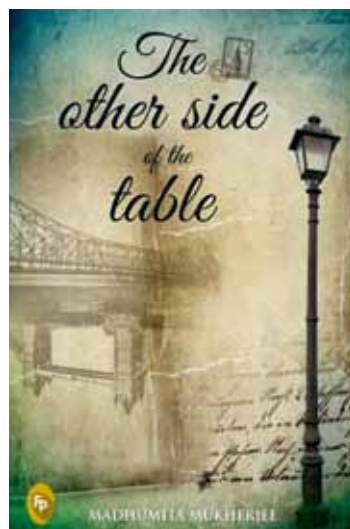
He's the dishy dreamboat.....She's the classic damsel in distress.....and they meet in sun-kissed Goa, where he literally sweeps her off her feet. Meet Mike - an ex-Marine bartender - and Lisa - a poor, little rich girl who runs away from home. Goan Tango is a fast-paced romance with terror lurking in 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 run away 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... ..a simple pure romance.**

**Rights Available:** WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

# MADHUMITA MUKHERJEE

## OTHER SIDE OF THE TABLE

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 in 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.



**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.

### 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.

**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



**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.

## ROHIT ARORA

### AT THE END

A deranged hero, a marooned psychologist, an inhumane experiment and only one pressing question – why do we live? Aniruddha Arya was held captive by the Naxalites for 12 years and he cannot be the same man after his return to the free world. His life is changed and he has no aim but one – to meet the God and ask why he was undone; why was he created? Neha, his doctor, tries to help him while he struggles with his ravaging questions, hanging at the edge of sanity; but she doesn't know how far he is willing to go to meet his maker, to challenge the authority of the creator himself and to find his answers. How will he rediscover the path he has lost, having seen his life standing.....

**Rights Available:** WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

### THE TEXTURE OF BLANK

*'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?

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## A COLLECTION BY GURPARTAP KHAIRAH, BISHWA AND STORMY AND SURAJ SINHA

### OBSESSION: STORIES OF ETERNAL LIFE AND DEATH

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- 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.





## MAHEK DALEH

### AND THE ROSES BLED

**Mehak Daleh** was born in Rajasthan, brought up in a boarding school in the Shimla Hills and completed her higher education in her hometown, Chandigarh. She is most influenced by her grandparents, who were both excellent storytellers. She loves nature and art, and has a penchant for the mysterious and the macabre. She is delighted to be doing what she loves most.

Alisha Sidhu, 28, is dying. But she has a secret. A deep and dark one. One that she needs to share...

Arun Mehta is a painter. He needs to create that perfect painting... But the one colour that drives him is RED. No shade he creates is good enough. Nothing comes close to the perfection of the colour of blood flowing through the veins, pooling on the ground during accidents. He wants to own that colour, make it, turn it into his signature shade. To him, that red is pure, unadulterated... It is life.

Alisha wants the world to know why she feels her hands are coloured with the blood of so many innocents. Her twin sister had been kidnapped when they were kids and she was a witness, but she blocked the memory out. Years later, as girls started disappearing in her boarding school, Alisha is plagued by memories of bleeding roses and a painting that seems to pull her; a face that her subconscious seems to want her to see.

Will Alisha be able to unlock her mind? Her visions seem to point in a certain direction, but does she really have ESP? Can she help save the missing children at her boarding school? Why does her art teacher look at her as though he knows her?

### SOBER

Abhay Malik is terrified. He has no option but to follow in his illustrious father and sister's footsteps, but the pressure is getting to him. Addicted to drugs and in denial, he stands to lose everything including the love of his life Ishani.

Nirvan Sharma is a recluse. He has lost everything... his parents died when he was young, his sister committed suicide and then... his wife left him. All he has now is his TV... and he is addicted to it.

Abhay and Nirvan are neighbours. The two meet one day when Abhay does not get his daily fix of drugs and Nirvan's TV dies on him. Both step out looking for a fix and end up becoming friends. Nirvan's bitterness is the perfect fodder for Abhay's paranoia. Desperate to make a name for himself, Abhay kidnaps Nirvan and soon begins a macabre dance of death...

Will Abhay finally gain his father's attention and make a name for himself? Can Nirvan escape the clutches of his frenemy? Will their perverse addiction be the life of them, or the death? Read on, and find out...



# PARAS JOSHI

## THE EQUILIBRIUM SAGA: the 'aavaasya' trilogy 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.

### 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.

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*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.





# LITT COMMERCIAL



**Qaisra Shahraz** was born in Pakistan and has lived in Manchester since the age of nine. She is a British-Pakistani novelist and scriptwriter, college inspector, teacher trainer, education consultant and freelance journalist. The author of three award-winning novels (*The Holy Woman*, *Typhoon* and *Revolt*), she is at work on a fourth, about honour killings. Her writing has been published throughout the world.

## QAISRA SHAHRAZ

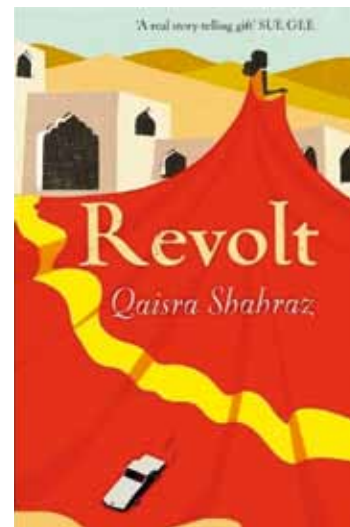
### REVOLT

A multi-layered, multi-faceted story of love and loneliness, finding and losing, and mixed-race marriage, *Revolt* is the tale of three wealthy sisters and the problems that no amount of money can solve. There is a daughter, abandoned because of an impulsive marriage, an aunt who pines for lost love, and a bridegroom with the biggest problem of them all. Set in England and the fictional village of Gulistan in Pakistan, with its fascinating array of quirky, eccentric and unforgettable characters, *Revolt* centres on the forthcoming marriage of two rich cousins and the often hilarious, but always deeply moving, pitfalls and perils of living in a place where everyone knows everybody else's business.

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**South Asia :** English : Penguin India

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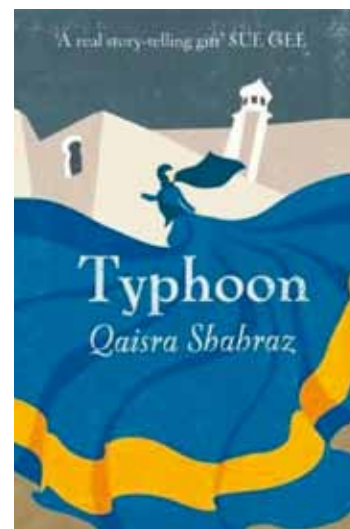
### TYPHOON

A tragic tale of three young women, each one demonized by her past. Naghama, a glamorous stranger from the city, Chaudharani Kaniz, the village land baron and Gulshan the innocent wife. One was raped in her youth, another is caught in the arms of another woman's husband and the third woman's life fell apart when she lost her husband and her mother swore revenge. The book is a riveting saga of love, duty, and deceit in Muslim family life. Set in the village of Chigapur, an innocent wife named Gulshan must watch helplessly as her husband is snatched away when he is caught cheating on her. As her world falls apart, the secrets of this city trapped in time, space, and guilt are revealed, along with the 20-year-old courtroom drama that started it all.

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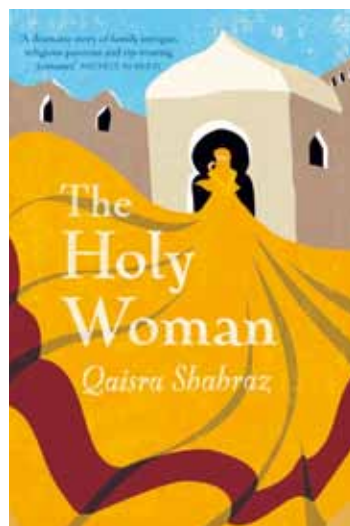




## THE HOLY WOMAN

Zari Bano, 28, is the glamorous daughter of a wealthy Muslim baron. When she falls in love with a business tycoon, her father vetoes the match and makes her his heiress resurrecting an ancient tradition that forces her into marriage with the Holy Koran. Faced with become the Holy Woman of her clan, Zari Bano is faced with the ultimate choice... or sacrifice.

An epic drama of love, passion and betrayal, *The Holy Woman* is a powerful and compelling romance that hauntingly reminds us of the conflicts between modern life and old traditions, and the pressures, politics and torn loyalties they bring.



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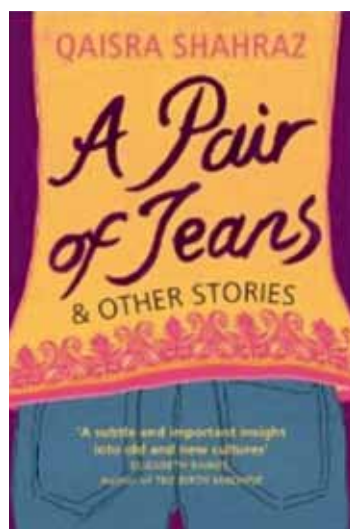
## A PAIR OF JEANS AND OTHER STORIES (ePub Kindle)

In this vibrant and moving collection of short stories by award winning author Qaisra Shahraz, she demonstrates yet again her abilities for storyline and plot which are always gripping - *The Elopement*, *The Discovery* and *Pair of Jeans* focus on the issues facing young Muslim women as they work out how to live in a world where traditional and Western values clash. Can they create a synthesis? Miriam in *a Pair of Jeans* discovers that

a seeming innocuous item of clothing can cause disaster while Rubiya in *The Elopement* and *The Discovery* pays the price of rejection for her past misdeed.

In *The Zemindar's Wife* and *Perchanvah* the reader opens a window into a world of feudal lifestyle and class consciousness that is embedded in the psyche of many of the country's inhabitants.

Other stories - *Escape* and *the City Dwellers* explore the feelings of those struggling to discover the meaning of "home". *The Malay Host* is a contrast with an element of the mysterious. What is behind the one locked door in the old Malay house that is a tourist attraction and why is the woman of the house brandishing a piece of burning wood at the Western visitors?



**Rights Sold:** ePub Kindle : HOPE ROAD

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**Charu Jagat Singh** is an Indian author who grew up in Chandigarh and her grandparents' place in the Shivalik Hills. She graduated from the Punjab University in Chandigarh. She worked as a freelance researcher for Unicef before offering her services to institutions such as Asian Age, Tribune, and Frontline. Besides that, she is a classical dancer, trained in Kathak and Odissi. Her deep interest in spirituality shows up in her writing as she explores Buddhism and Hinduism in their many facets.

## CHARU JAGAT

### \*THE MAITREYA CHRONICLES

#### A Two-Part Tibetan-Buddhism based fantasy THRILLER

The Path of the Swan is essentially a Tibetan Buddhism based fantasy THRILLER. The book is spun around legends central to Tibetan Buddhism and it uses these legends as well as the vast pantheon of deities and other-worldly beings that populate Tibetan and Mahayana Buddhism to set together a fantasy series. The central legend used is that of Shambhala or what is better known as Shangrila, a legendary Buddhist paradise which is present on Earth and yet eludes ordinary reality as we understand it. Woven along with this legend is that of the prophesized birth of the Maitreya or the future Buddha that forms an important element in this series. The book moves from the eastern Himalayan state of Sikkim to Tibet and then onto Shambhala.

**Rights Sold:** Indian subcontinent : Hachette India

**Rights Available:** World English (Excl India) / Translation and all Languages.

### Part I- PATH OF THE SWAN

#### Book 1:

The first book, the Path of the Swan, begins in Sikkim and with two important characters Lama Ozer and young Tashi Thendup, Lama Ozer is an old experienced Lama and young Tashi is his rather refreshing student. They reside in a Hidden monastery tucked away in the alpine heights of Sikkim, the book opens with Lama Ozer going into a sacred trance and getting a call from the legendary kingdom of Shambhala. Thus begins their journey to Shambhala, the first quarter of the book is devoted to

this impossible journey and after many hardships and facing many trials Lama Ozer and Tashi travel across Sikkim and Tibet to the legendary Silver Fortress located in obscure western Tibet in a protected valley, Qiang La. In the fortress is located a gate to Shambhala, they make it across to Shambhala after leaving their bodies behind in the fortress, it is essentially their spirit body that travels into Shambhala. There is a host of dakinis or sacred sky dancers waiting to pilot the two Lamas to Shambhala. The dakini host is led by the golden dakini, Yeshe Nam Lha, she is a central character in the book and is introduced at this stage. Yeshe pilots the Lamas to Shambhala



and enroute they meet up with the fiery celestial prince, A-Kar O, he is another important character not only is he the divine heir to the celestial Lha empire but he is a rare Ningma warrior and a highly accomplished celestial. In Shambala, the two Lama's are lodged in a guest house in the middle of an exquisite garden and the next morning they are taken through a mystic journey to the heart of Shambala, the royal palace of the Rigden king. Next follow descriptions of the palace of the Rigden king, the Rigden king is again a mythic being associated with Vajrayanism and Shambala. At the heart of the palace a divine meet unfolds where Arhats, Yidams, bodhisattvas and Buddha Lords and Goddesses of the five sacred families representing different parts of the universe attend. The five central characters of the book are now assigned their divine mission beginning with Yeshe Nam Lha, the dakini who is now revealed as the prophesized mother of the divine child, the Messiah who is to be born. Then follows Lama Ozer and young Tashi, then the dark celestial Prince A-Kar O, heir to the Lha empire and last but not least Prince Narasimha, the heir to Shambala and the Rigdens legacy. The five central characters are assigned their mission of returning to Earth for the imminent birth of the divine child.

At the same time they are apprised of the grave threat they will face from the demon Lords, the Asur who are expanding their influence on Earth and will try their utmost to sabotage the divine mission. The two Princes are Yeshe's protectors though Narasimha is an excellent healer, Tashi is to serve as Yeshe's protector and friend, Lama Ozer is to serve as the go-between or the liaison between Shambala and Earth. The five have to safeguard Yeshe from the Asur till the divine child or Maitreya is born on Earth and then they have to do their utmost as protectors and guardians of this divine child. Then the Rigden plans a huge farewell banquet for the group of five, simultaneously, the Asur demon Prince, Arden Ti Nazer Bashere, is introduced in the tenth chapter. He sets out on a mission to sabotage the divine plan and kidnap Yeshe and take Shambala by surprise. He successfully infiltrates Shambala and at the banquet he lures Yeshe away and kidnaps her escaping with her onto the paths of chaos. Meanwhile, Tashi alerts Prince A-Kar O who in turn reports to the Rigden and the two Princes plus Tashi along with 80 Lha troops set out on the paths of chaos on a rescue mission. Cutting a long story short Tashi and the two Princes along with a rescue team travel to the demon world of Inka and after facing many trials and battles against the Asur they rescue the dakini Yeshe Nam Lha. The Princes face many trials on the snow bound paths of chaos they face harpies and demon wolves and traps, they fight pitched battles till they rescue Yeshe. Meanwhile Yeshe is having a strange relationship with Arden, the Prince places her under his thrall and tries to seduce her. She is attracted to him but thanks to a magical shield she is able to keep him away. The rescue team finally returns back to Shambala.

The Rigden king orders the group of five to Aggartha where they have a meeting with the Sages. The Sages apprise them of their mission in great detail and then they send all five of them to Earth and they step on Earth in the fortress of Qiang La where Tashi and Lama Ozer gain their bodies back. The celestials with them get over their shock of reaching mortal world, they have lost their divine incarnations and are mortal now. Book I ends here.

## COMING SOON

### Book 2: UNTITLED

The second book is currently being worked on, it centers around the action building upto the birth of the divine child, Maitreya, the Buddha to be. The book begins at Qiang La, the silver fortress located in an obscure valley in western Tibet, the group of five tiredly travel across Tibet and make their way to Sikkim. They stay a week there and have meetings with evolved beings who hint at the location of Mt Meru. The group follows the trail of clues as to the location of Mt Meru, they travel to Guwhati (Assam), a monastery in Arunachal and finally follow the trail of elusive Mt Meru to Ladakh. At the same time they are attacked by the Asur and harried by them till they finally discover Mt Meru in the wilderness beyond Ladakh. On Mt Meru a huge ritual of fire is held following which the divine child, the Maitreya is born. This happens in conditions of insecurity and warfare with the Asur demons attacking them and following them. The book is being worked out and could change with the writing. Book 2 ends with the birth of the Maitreya.





**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.

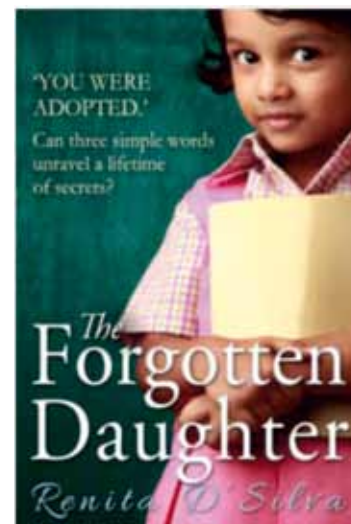
## RENITA D'SILVA

### 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.



**Right sold:** UK/USA Bookouture, South Asia (English): FINGERPRINT (Prakash Books)

**Rights available:** Translation, Audio and all Languages.

**Co-agency :** Lorella Belli Literary Agency, UK & Red Ink Literary Agency, India

### 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*



## SUBRATA DASGUPTA

### \*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

### THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

It is Deb and Ruma's 50th anniversary. Visiting America for the first time is Deb's sister Nanda, a fiercely independent widow from Kolkata with a quizzical outlook on life; from Oxford, elder daughter Anji with her lover Asha, a Gujarati woman; from the Bay area, younger daughter Diya 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; and Diya's and Tom's twin teenage offspring. A full house. Yet all is far from well: 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 becomes a time of relationships lost and found, of remembrances of willfully-forgotten things past, of confessions, of self-discoveries, of acceptances and rejections, of new decisions and 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:

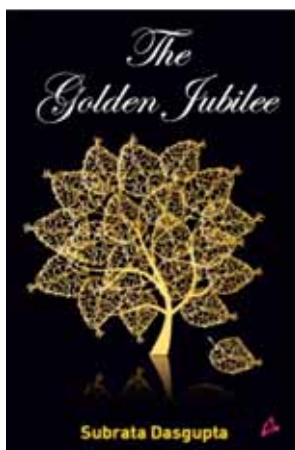
MACAULAY'S GHOST

BORN AGAIN INDIAN

**Rights Available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages



**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).





## PRAN JOSHI

### THE PERFUME WOMAN'S DIARIES

*'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.

**Rights available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages.

**Pran Joshi** A master in English, 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. 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.



## NEHA SINGH

### \*THE LAST ACT

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.

**Neha Singh** A software engineer and MBA, she 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 currently lives in California's bay area with her husband and son.

## KALYANI RAO

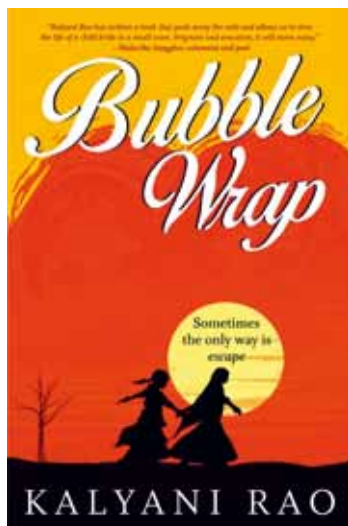
### BUBBLE WRAP

When twelve-year-old Krishna marries Shyam Singh of Rokhagadh, her grandmother gives her a box filled with jewelry, 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:** WORLD English outside of South Asia / Translation and all Languages.



**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](http://twinklingpebbles.wordpress.com). An amateur writer since she was 15, she enjoys writing poetry the most.

## STORMY HAZARIKA

### A RIVER ON THE WALL

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 extraordinary tale of ordinary people, their lost chances, their desperate gambles and their unfulfilled dreams.

**Rights sold:** English South Asia. **TARA PRESS**

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



**Stormy Hazarika** Born into an Anglo-Indian family, Stormy 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! The HOD of English at a reputed college in Mussoorie, Stormy has co-authored 'Obsession: Eternal Stories of Life and Death' (Tara Press, 2014)



**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, *Drowning Shadows* (Amaryllis, 2012) being his first novel, and his novella "Synchronicity" was published at Chowk.com. He is currently working on his third novel.

## UMAIR NAEEM

### RUNAWAY

'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. It is a story that will touch you, while leaving you at the edge of your seat.

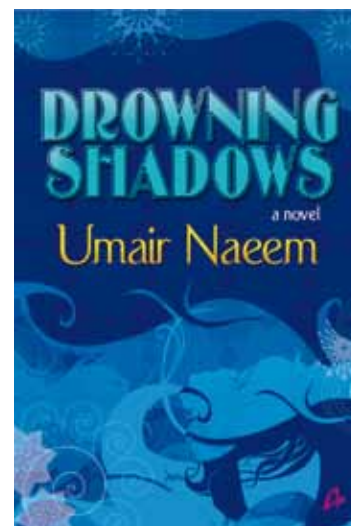
**Rights available:** WORLD English, Translation and all Languages

### In Print

### DROWNING SHADOWS

With a structure reminiscent of *American Beauty*, Umair Naeem's first book is a thriller with a spiritual angle. The book traces the journey of Hyder's life at two levels – the physical, where he is a successful, powerful photographer – and the metaphysical, where he is trapped in the mist, forced to confront his many failings and the havoc he has wreaked on the lives of others.

Set in the socialite culture of Karachi, *Drowning Shadows* is a racy, psycho-spiritual thriller. It isn't a murder mystery in the conventional sense. In fact, it isn't till you're over halfway into the book that the twist in the reality of Hyder's life reveals itself.



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

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



# LITERARY WORKS



**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."

**\* PRAJWAL PARAJULY**

## **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: Nepalya

**Rights available:** Translation and all Languages

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

### **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.'

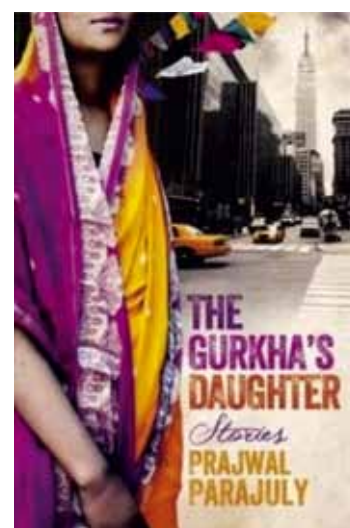
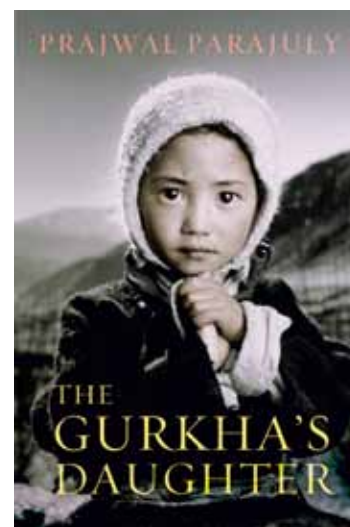
- **Hope Cooke, author of *Time Change* (former Gyalmo of Sikkim)**

'Crisp, inventive and insightful'

- **The Guardian**

'Equally moving stories, the author takes us effortlessly inside the lives of the families in this remote ancient kingdom and its diaspora'

- **Daily Mail**



## 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 Nepaune's Chaurasi – her landmark 84th birthday – Chitrlekha's grandchildren are travelling to Gangtok to pay their respects. Agastya 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:** Red Ink Literary Agency, India (RILA) & Susan Yearwood Literary Agency, UK (SYLA)

### 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*



**Selina Sen** is a Delhi-based Indian author whose work has been compared to Jhumpa Lahiri. She achieved acclaim with her debut novel *A MIRROR GREENS IN SPRING* which she based on her mother's memories of her ancestral home that is now in present-day Bangladesh. The book, originally published in English received many reviews and literary acclaim, did great business and also got published in Italy, Germany, Spain and in France – where it was one of three finalists for the prestigious French literary prize, Prix du Premier Roman. The book is now being considered for translation into many more languages in Europe. Selina was educated in Simla (a hill station of the Raj era and the winter capital of the British rule in India) and the Delhi University where she studied Economics. She began her career in writing with features and travel pieces for India's leading newspapers. For over a decade she has worked as the North Indian correspondent for a Hong Kong-based publication which brings out magazines on Asian economic affairs. *A MIRROR GREENS IN SPRING* depicts the difference between two refugee cultures in Delhi, created upon the partition of India. In fact, issues of identity and displacement are woven as a distinct motif throughout the book. The book is full of surprises and is depicted through the eyes of two Bengali sisters. Selina Sen has charmed both Indian and European audience and her work has received many literary reviews and acclaim.

## SELINA SEN

### \*ZOOM

Film school graduate Joya Banerjee joins the production team of award-winning Bollywood director Shantanu Rai. The film, a historical based on the star-crossed love of the 16th century Kashmiri queen and poet Zoon, better known as Habba Khatoon. As Joya discovers the hidden treasures of Kashmir and is enchanted by its geographical beauty while researching alongside the local historian Rashid, the project becomes bigger with Bollywood's reigning beauty Annapurna signing on the dotted line, even as an Oscar winning cinematographer Sheridan agrees to film in the Valley. The year is 1988. Insurgency is raising its ugly head in the Valley. Half way through the film Sheidan is kidnapped and beheaded. The fall guy is Rashid. Rashid, with the heart of a poet, a man Joya, a woman brought up in an orthodox Hindu home, has tried hard to resist. She knows Rashid is innocent, and yet...

Kashmir to Joya, in the present, is a memory so painful that she wants nothing to do with it. The more she tries to forget, the more it ensnares her. Then Joya receives a second chance. However, Kashmir has transformed from a landscape of ethereal beauty to a valley with the heaviest military presence in the world, bristling with weapons and barricades of barbed wire. A peaceful syncretised culture shared by both Muslims and Hindus has become intolerant and violently fundamentalist. Yet, the lyrics of Zoon's poetry, the songs she composed in the hope of reuniting with her lover Yusuf, the king who was betrayed by Mughal Emperor Akbar, transcend history and continue to ring out with a new relevance in the Valley even today; she, who had lost everything to armed subjugation five hundred years ago, gives voice to every woman in the Kashmir of today. But can Joya heal what has been sundered?

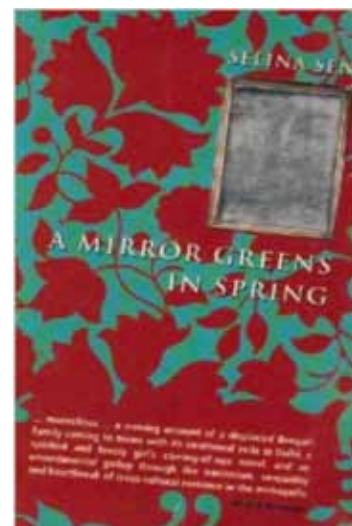
Can Joya turn that incomplete masterpiece into the ultimate statement on Kashmir? Will her film help heal wounds or tear what little is left in her life permanently scarred, with her bereft and weighed down by grief and longing? Will Kashmir's landscape forever be dotted with stories of star-crossed love and betrayals, both political and personal? Or, will its people and the protagonists rise above the conflict and finally move on?

**Rights Available:** All World English and All Languages.

### BACKLIST

### A MIRROR GREENS IN SPRING

It is 1984, and New Delhi is simmering with ethnic strife as anti-Sikh riots erupt after prime minister India Gandhi's assassination. This cataclysmic event serves as the backdrop to the day-to-day ordinariness of an immigrant Bengali family's life. Chhobi, the elder, sensitive and intelligent, is forever trying to rein in beautiful, narcissic Sonali, Ma, their mother, struggles with her loneliness after being widowed in her thirties; Dida is their feisty grandmother whose indomitable spirit prods the family on during times of adversity; and Dadu, their grandfather, is a man perpetually





homestick for his estates, irretrievably lost as borders are redrawn to form Bangladesh. Sonny - rich, handsome and arrogant - enters Sonali's life, only to jilt her Sonali's thwarted love affair, and a maritime misadventure, are the catalysts that alter the predictable pattern of the Bengali family's life and propels its women to find within themselves hitherto unknown strengths - and to evolve and deal with changed circumstances. The story traces the gradual erosion of old values, an acceptance of new identities and, for the grandfather, at last a sense of realization that Delhi is home.

**RIGHTS SOLD:**

Indian subcontinent : (India Ink -Roli)

Italy (Neri Pozza)

Spain (Siruela)

France (Sabine Wespieser Editeur) - finalists for the French literary prize, Prix du Premier Roman.

Also published by CPI Brodard ET Taupin

**RIGHTS AVAILABLE:** World English (Excl India) and All Languages.

## KANZA JAVED

### **\*ASHES, WINE AND DUST**

**SHORTLISTED FOR THE TIBOR JONES SOUTH ASIA PRIZE  
2013**

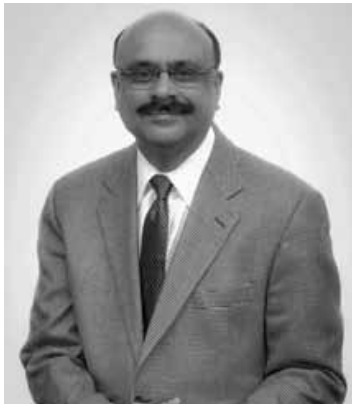
Embroiled in the set imperative of middle class lifestyle in contemporary Pakistan, Mariam Ameen decides to challenge the tradition of being female. The novel begins in Lahore, entering its first phase with Miriam struggling to retain all the memories of her dead grandfather so engrained within her. 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 *Earthern 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.'



**Rakesh Kaul**, whose family hails from Kashmir, migrated to the US in 1972 after becoming a gold medalist at IIT Delhi. 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.

## RAKESH KAUL

### THE LAST QUEEN OF KASHMIR

An innocent girl of noble birth, Kota is thrust into the murky world of Kashmir's court. 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. 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.

*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. An extraordinary woman, she deftly manages the cross currents of medieval jihad right up to her grand end.

**Rights Sold: South Asia English : HARLEQUIN INDIA**

**Rights available:** WORLD English Excl. India / Translation and all Languages.



**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.

## DINESH PRASAD

### EAST OF LOVE WEST OF DESIRE

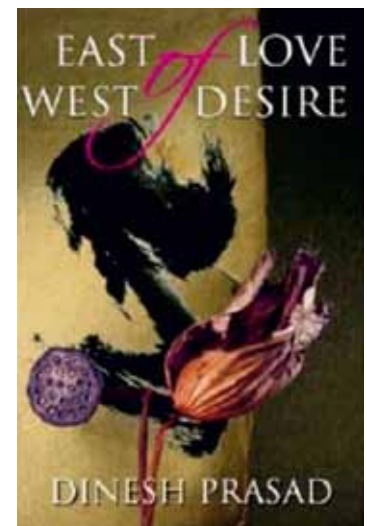
*A collection of stories that make you cry, make you laugh but above all they make you hope and want to believe that all will be well!*

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.

**Rights sold:** English South Asia. **TARA PRESS**

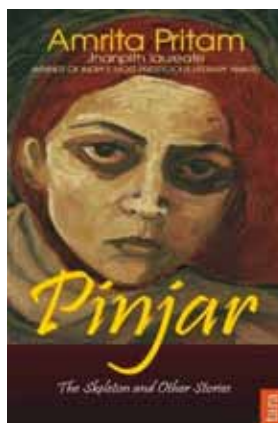
**Rights Available:** WORLD English outside of South Asia / Translation and all Languages.



## AMRITA PRITAM

### PINJAR

Brought together in this volume are two of the most moving novels by one of India's greatest women writers. *The Skeleton* and *The Man*. *The Skeleton*, translated from Punjabi into English by Khushwant Singh, is memorable for its lyrical style and depth in her writing. Amrita Pritam portrays the most inmost being of the novel's complex characters. *The Man* is a compelling account of a young man born under strange circumstances and abandoned at the altar of God.

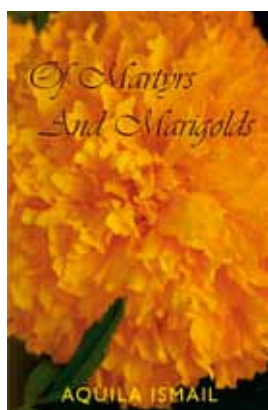


**Amrita Pritam**, recipient of the Janpath Award- India's most prestigious literary prize, for her *Kagaz Te Canvas* (Punjabi), **Sahitya Academy Award**, Padma Shri and many other such honours, wrote for the common people in Punjabi and was known for her simplicity and purity of thought. Where she wrote the acclaimed and laurels-winning *Pinjar* or the *Raseedi Tikat*, she also wrote the thrilling *Doctor Dev*, *Kore Kaagaz* (blank pages) and *Unchaas Din* (49 days). Essentially a poet, she has several novels and collections of short stories to her credit and in total penned 28 novels, 18 anthologies of prose, 5 short stories and 16 miscellaneous prose volumes. Much of her writing has been translated into English, Hindi and some European languages.

## AQUILA ISMAIL

### OF MARTYRS AND MARIGOLDS

*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 sub-continent. 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 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. 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.





**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. Two months into his PhD, he revolted and bolted, choosing to work on his father's 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.



An engineer-turned-banker, **Suraj Sinha** started his professional career as an aeronautical engineer in 2006. 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. 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.

## SHASHANK GUPTA

### THE PIMP

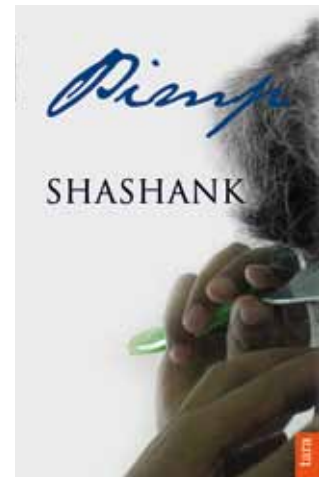
*The Pimp is a story of a man who graduates from lesser pleasures to higher planes. A spiritual journey of a fear-some lunatic's successes and excesses*

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.

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## SURAJ SINHA

### \*CHILDREN OF WAR

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. He 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. He eventually fled the village and 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 predicted he would die on a Tuesday but fate was to show him otherwise.

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## SHOME DASGUPTA

### 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.

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### \*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.

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#### *In Print*

### THE SEAGULL AND THE URN

(Bridges literary fiction, commercial fiction and crossover YA)

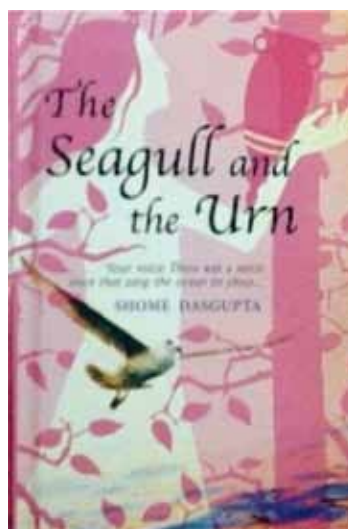
*The Seagull And The Urn* is a blend of magical realism, fantasy, and science fiction. *March* is born in April, just as the sun is setting. Asinging baby who can't sleep, she sets Kolkaper on edge. The Town Council orders scientists to take her away and study her to the Cave Forest, a place for freaks 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



*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). 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*.





# CROSSOVER TITLES



**Ravi Shankar** is the Executive Editor of The New Indian Express group and The Sunday Standard. He is the author of a collection of supernatural stories *The Scream of The Dragonflies* and three earlier novels namely *‘The Tiger by the River’* *The Village of the Widows’* and *The Gold of Their Regrets*, have been translated into many other languages including Spanish, German and French. He lives in New Delhi.

## RAVI SHANKAR

### \*MÔNK

The following title is like *‘Monk who sold his Ferrari’* - part fiction, part philosophy, reinventing traditional tales like that of Pandora’s Box and King Midas to give it an Indian philosophical interpretation.

Asānanda, a monk belonging to the ‘Order of Hope’, is sent by his Master to the Himalayas on a quest. **He is charged with the task of discovering the mysterious Book of Siva.** Starting out from his ashram in the sacred town of Rishikesh beside the Ganges, Asānanda meets ordinary people with extraordinary stories of freedom, serenity, hope, loss and pain.

Among the people he meets - monist tantric gurus and Vedic teachers, a fruit-seller who waits for a pomegranate tree to bloom; a storyteller who tells his version of Pandora’s box; mothers who seek salvation for their afflicted children; a wandering ascetic who teaches him the sound of one hand clapping; a sadhu who walks backwards to discover his future; the son of a 9/11 victim seeking his father’s legacy; a boatman who seeks payment in songs and many more.

**The narrative is interspersed with re-imagined fables and myths—both Indian and European.** It is a motivational work of fictional-non-fiction, seeking to play a healing role in the troubled times we live in.

Its message is simple—the search for god is a journey by many names... This one is called MÔNK.

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### THE BRAHMIN

In Lanka, King Ravana contemplates using the Golden Scythe, a weapon powerful enough to destroy the world, to defeat Ram. In the end, sickened by the slaughter of previous battles and the lament of bereaved mothers and widows, he gives it to his spymaster, who disappears.

Centuries later, King Ashoka rules Magadha with an iron fist. He wants to become India’s most powerful monarch and is preparing to conquer Kalinga. He hears about the Golden Scythe from a Sri Lankan monk being tortured in his dungeons.

Meanwhile, concubines are being murdered in the King’s palace. Enraged, he summons his head of Secret Service -- The Brahmin -- to investigate. The hunt takes the Brahmin through the constantly shifting, treacherous sands of palace politics and intrigues, where Queen Asandhamitra tells him that one of the murdered concubines was the granddaughter of Selucus, a general in Alexander’s Indian campaign. She had come to Pataliputra in search of a relic.

The Brahmin discovers that the search for the Golden Scythe is connected with the murder of Ashoka’s concubines and a picture of the killer starts forming in his mind. The Brahmin’s ingenuity and war skills are stretched as Ashoka charges him with stopping Kalinga spies, avenging the death of the Buddhist monks and find the Golden Scythe apart from the job of unmasking the killers of the women. Will the spymaster unmask the killer, stop Kalingan spies and also find the Golden Scythe? Does his conscience allow him to share the secret of this weapon of mass destruction with Ashoka?

Read on and find out.

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## THE PESHWA

### Book 1: The Lion and The Stallion.

In the 18th century, the Maratha Confederacy has established itself as a force to reckon with. Despite a fatal military setback, the power of the young Confederacy is the only real threat in the face of the deeply-rooted Mughal Empire.

The Mughal Emperor and Maratha Chhathrapathi, Farrukhsiyar and Shahu respectively, rely on the resourcefulness and cunning of their powerful and fiercely loyal deputies – Nizam Ul Mulk of the Mughal Empire and Balaji Vishvanath Bhat, Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy, to further the interests of their respective kingdoms. In a daring military maneuver, Balaji Vishvanath goes one up on the Empire and humiliates the Nizam in particular. However, little did the Peshwa know that he had dealt the Nizam an unintended wound – one with roots in the Nizam's mysterious past and one that the Nizam would seek to avenge till he could draw a breath.

An already fragile peace is once again threatened when the Peshwa surrenders his life to a horrible malady. Rebellion threatens the Confederacy and the Nizam rages at its borders with lust for vengeance. All the while a mute and passive spectator in the events, the Peshwa's son, Bajirao Bhat needs to rise beyond the grief of his father's passing, his scant military and administrative experience, and his intense love for his wife and newborn son to rescue everything he holds dear. Will the young man be able to protect the Confederacy from internal strife and break the enemy – all while battling inner demons? Will he live up to his title of Peshwa?

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## (FORTHCOMING)

### Book 2: The Maratha Lightning

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**Ram Sivasankaran** was born in Madras, India, but has spent most of his life abroad – largely in the Middle East and the United States of America. He was brought up with stories from Hindu legend and the great epics and classics of both India and the West. In addition to being a passionate student of history in school, Ram built keen interest in stories of valor, heroism, chivalry, beauty and romance.

A day-dreamer of sorts, Ram believes deeply in the power of imagination – the mind being the canvas on which even the seemingly talentless can create new universes, resurrect eras long gone, bring the gods to life and even resurrect heroes and damsels of yore. As such,

Ram makes his debut with a historical novel on one of the greatest and yet, to an extent, less-known warrior from Indian history – Bajirao Bhat, Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy.



**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 30,000 copies. He has a career in public relations and writing and is he is published prolifically on widely different subjects.

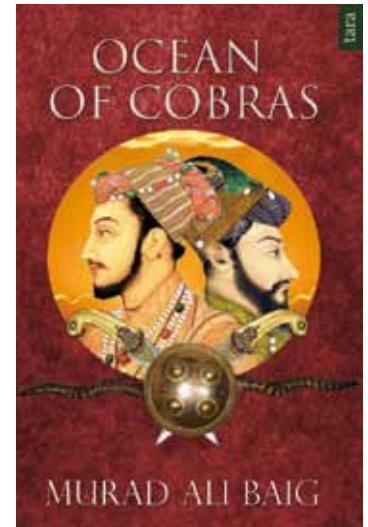
## MURAD ALI BAIG

### \*OCEAN OF COBRAS

*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.



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# **GENERAL TRADE AND NARRATIVE NON-FICTION**



**Avalok Langer** was Senior Correspondent with Tehelka. He is a conflict journalist and has covered the Northeast extensively. He is currently filming documentaries for BBC.

## AVALOK LANGER

### IN PURSUIT OF CONFLICT

Born into a military family, the author's idea of India was what he saw on the map. As a kid, he stood at attention, saluting the TV screen every Republic Day as the national anthem played. He always understood why the Army fought, why they were willing to die and believed in the idea of India. His journey through the Northeast has not only been about discovering the people, their culture and violent uprisings, but a journey where he has questioned the many truths he grew up on.

When asked by a militant Naga general about where he was from, the only answer the author could up with in his strange attempt to be honest yet cover up his military background, was his pre-Partition roots - how he was part Kashmiri, an idea that he liked - another struggling people, and how his other three grandparents were from what is now Pakistan - Lahore, Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan. The man's answer: "That's why we fight. You are man without a home, your ancestors didn't fight for their homes and today you are a man without his land. We Nagas don't want that, we don't want to lose our land. So we fight."

As Avalok Langer travelled from state to state on a shoe string budget, he started to push and take up issues local journalist were scared to, travelling to Nepal and Myanmar to complete the stories that ended at the borders and started to see through the mesmerising web of patriotism and nationalism to core of most movements, money. It was a business, a business that earned Naga groups over Rs 600 crore annually from just the central funds they were able to siphon off.

The author chose to report on the Northeast by pure accident, a financial blunder. However, this largely ignored part of the country has captivated his imagination for the last five years. It is a complex maze of emotions, culture, history, aspirations and spy games that exists outside the mental space of the average India. Through his stories, he wants to share with the nation this forgotten frontier - In Pursuit of Conflict.

**Rights Available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages



## YUSUF ANSARI

### 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*

'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, aggrandizement 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.

**FULL PROPOSAL AND SAMPLE CHAPTERS AVAILABLE**

**Rights Available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages

### AKBAR: THE FIRST INDIAN

*A biography of the Mughal Emperor Akbar 1556-1605.*

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.

**FULL PROPOSAL AND SAMPLE CHAPTERS AVAILABLE**

**Rights Available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages



**Yusuf Anis Ahmad Ansari**, great grandson of Dr. MA Ansari (President of the Indian National Congress), was educated at the Stowe School in England and graduated in Industrial Relations from the London School of Economics. He returned home to the complex world of Indian politics and served as a Member, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, AICC, and Chairman, Department of Policy Planning and Coordination, UPCC. He contributes regularly to magazines and newspapers on political issues and current affairs in a changing India. He is the author of *Sonia Gandhi, Triumph of Will* (Tara Press).



**Damien Bullen** lives in Edinburgh, UK. A musician and reviewer throughout the British summer, he enjoys spending his winters in India, where he immerses himself in Indian literature. He is also an ardent fan of historical mysteries, and his first book, 'The Jesus Jigsaw', describes his journey around the subcontinent on the trail of the Indian Jesus.

## DAMIEN BULLEN

### **\*THE JESUS JIGSAW**

The Jesus Jigsaw tells the story of one man's journey throughout all of India upon a quest for the historical Jesus. Building upon the work of Nicholas Notovich (*The Life of Issa*) and Fida Hassnain (*the Search for the Historical Jesus / The Fifth Gospel / Jesus in Kashmir*), the book paints perhaps the most detailed account of Jesus' time in India both before and after the Crucifixion.

The Jesus Jigsaw is part mystery puzzle, part history and part foray into the field of comparative theology. Beginning at the end of the nineteenth century, with the publication of Nicholas Notovich's '*Life of Issa*,' the idea that Jesus lived and even died in India has slowly taken root among interested parties the world over.

Its author, Damien Bullen, describes his journey around India, from Ladakh in the Himalayas to the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu, collecting all the clues which Jesus left behind during his time on the subcontinent. The resulting picture shows how Jesus is worshipped by Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike, and is known by several different names or avatars such as Asvaghosha, Iarchus and Agastya, etc.

In the book, these various names of Jesus are referred to as 'avatars'. The aim of the Jesus Jigsaw is to identify each of these Indian 'avatars,' connecting them to each other and also to the traditional character of Jesus as presented by the Christian Gospels. The complete manuscript runs to approximately 82,280 words, accompanied by the personal photographs of each place visited by the author. To this are added over thirty notes, an extensive academic bibliography and five key texts either written by, or about, the Indian Jesus.

Sources: A wide array of source-materials have been used throughout the Jesus Jigsaw, from Sanskrit texts stored in the National Library of Scotland, to Tamil manuscripts available in the Madras University. Also included for reference are the research works of a number of scholars in several fields, from classical historians to modern theologians.

**Rights Available:** WORLD English Translation and all Languages  
**FULL PROPOSAL AND SAMPLE CHAPTERS AVAILABLE**

## KASHMIR (*tentative title*)

With an endorsement by Adrian Levy

India's collective sense of history is among the major reasons that prevent large number of Indians from having a sympathetic view of Kashmir. Unlike the rest of India, no invading Muslim army ever conquered Kashmir. Islam flourished in the Valley thanks to the conversion of a Buddhist king to Islam and his patronage to Sufism in the 14th century. Indigenous kings ruled Kashmir for the next two centuries before Akbar brought it under the Mughal Empire. Kashmiris initially frustrated the Mughal attempt to occupy the Valley by organizing an armed revolt against its army. It was perhaps the first time Kashmiris had actually taken up arms before 1989. Kashmiris were unsuccessful the second time when Yousaf Chak capitulated to usher in non-Kashmiri rule till 1947. The Sikhs and Dogras brutalized Kashmiris in the intervening period, subjecting them to untold miseries. Even perceived cruelty to cows was subjected to severe punishment and freedom of religion was virtually non-existent. Mosques were closed and butchers hung publicly. Here again Kashmir's history has taken a different course and this forms an important aspect of my book.

Sheikh Abdullah emerged as a messiah and redeemer of Kashmiris and his friendship with Jawaharlal Nehru played a key role in deciding Kashmir's political fate when the subcontinent was divided in 1947. His volunteers guarded Hindu homes while Hindus and Muslim were slaughtering each other elsewhere in India. Unlike other Muslim-majority areas, Kashmir again took a different course and acceded to India in October 1947 with certain guarantees. New Delhi was not keen on keeping its promises became clear sooner when Abdullah was jailed on flimsy charges despite playing a key role in Kashmir's accession to India. The process of undermining Kashmir's autonomy began soon after and laid the foundations of Kashmir's acrimonious relationship with New Delhi. The man responsible for Kashmir's accession with India was to spend two decades behind bars. In this historical backdrop, I argue in the book that New Delhi began messing up in Kashmir from day one because of its suspicions about Kashmir's predominantly Muslim population. It thus formulated policies designed at keeping Kashmiris in check which undermined the famed Indian democracy in Kashmir. The deep state was given a free hand in Kashmir to manipulate elections and as a result of this a succession of puppets ruled the state after Abdullah. Kashmir's majority Muslim population began feeling increasingly uncomfortable because of this and overbearing nature of the state. In the 1960s and 1970s, you could get jailed in Kashmir for something as innocuous as listening to radio Pakistan. Arbitrary arrests and torture were common even before 1989 when the state had the excuse of cross-border terrorism. This along with farcical democracy degenerated into perhaps the second armed uprising in the history of Kashmir in 1989.

The Indian state's crackdown on the Kashmiri insurgency was furious. Unarmed protesters were fired upon indiscriminately leading to several massacres in the early 1990s. This coincided with arbitrary arrests and even sexual violence which forced the main Kashmiri militant organisation to give up the armed struggle in the 1994. This could have been a turning point for New Delhi to do some course correction. But instead it chose the disastrous policy of using death squads and illegal militias to brutalise Kashmiris to the extent that by late 1990s foreign mercenaries began orchestrating suicide attacks in the Valley. Kashmir witnessed its most violent phase between 1999 and 2004 before India and Pakistan began a peace process. Consequently Kashmir has since seen almost negligible militant violence.

In between, all appeals of ending Kashmir's militarisation and draconian laws have fallen on deaf ears. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act for instance violates the basic right to life and has perpetuated killings of innocent people. This has been among the reasons why Kashmir has witnessed some of the biggest street protests since 2008. Even these protests have had no impact on the government. In fact, 300 unarmed protesters have been killed since then, which is much higher than those killed in militant violence.

In 2010 alone, over 120 people were killed. This included kids as young as nine and women. It has had virtually had no impact on Indian public opinion which remains hostile to any healing touch policy there. This has a lot to do with how the media has reported Kashmir particularly in the last three decades. While the international press has been reporting harrowing stories of rights abuses in Kashmir, the Indian media has largely taken a nationalistic line on Kashmir. This has worsened in last 10 years. As such it has turned Indian public against any resolution to the Kashmir issue instead of moulding opinion to support a just and humane approach to Kashmir.

My book puts a human face to the entire Kashmir story with a historical perspective focussing on the massacres of the 1990s which governor Jagmohan justified unabashedly, torture, sexual violence, draconian laws, mass graves etc. Each chapter has been told from how I saw it personally growing up in Kashmir in the 1990s, and through the personal stories of two generations of my family.

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**Sameer Arshad Khatlani** is a journalist with the *Times of India's* national and international newsgathering team. He has a master's degree in history and deep interest in Kashmir, Pakistan, South Asia and the world beyond. Sameer writes hard news stories, features, opinion pieces, blogs besides regularly contributing to the *Economic Times* and *News International*.



**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*.

## SHRABANI BASU

### SAHIB'S WAR

#### *Indian Soldiers on the Western Front 1914-18*

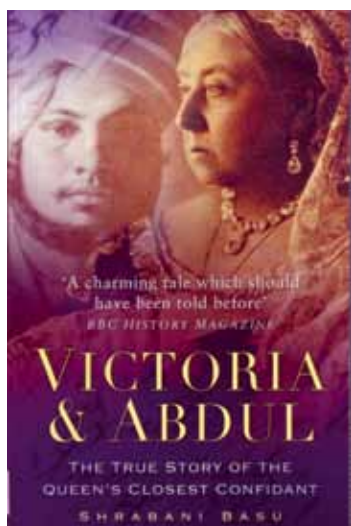
The book looks at the forgotten story of the contribution of Indian soldiers in World War One. One and a half million Indian soldiers volunteered for the war, the largest army from the colonies. They came from remote areas in India and were sent straight into the trenches in the harshest of winters, 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.

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### VICTORIA & ABDUL

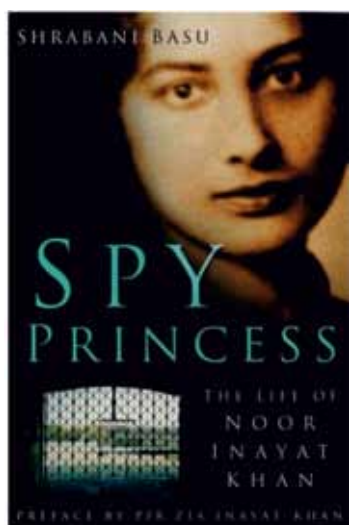
#### *The True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidante*

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.

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### 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*

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### CURRY

#### *The story of the nation's favourite dish*

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## PATRICK JERED

### FINDING THE DEMON'S FIDDLE

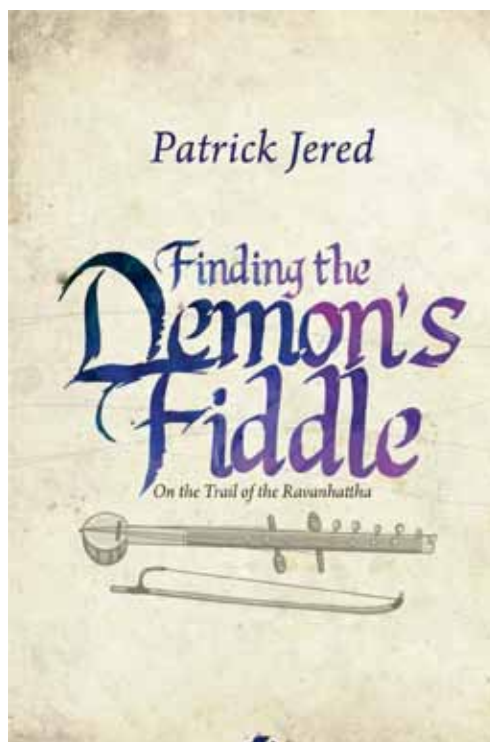
*Finding the Demon's Fiddle* is completely based on fact and fits most closely into the genre of narrative non-fiction/travel literature. But more than anything, it is a story...or rather several stories wound around a central narrative, which move together in the same direction and all of which eventually 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 online 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.



## 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).

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)**. 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.

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.

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 Thayi, Dhanakoti of Kanchipuram, Tiruchendur Shanmukhavadiyoo 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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## MY NAME IS GAUCHAR JAAN! –

### *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 'MY NAME IS GAUCHAR JAAN!'

'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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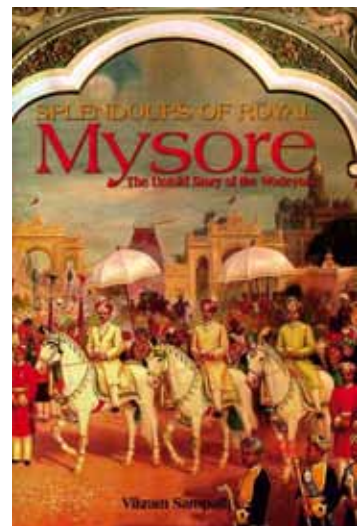
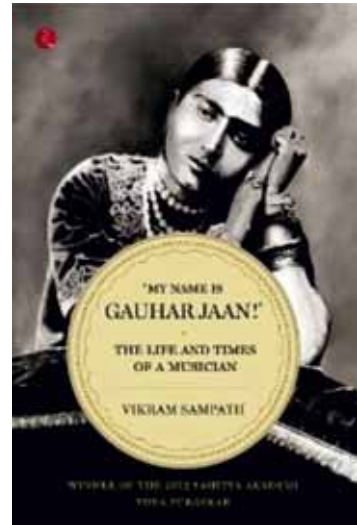
## VOICE OF THE VEENA:

### *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.

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**MURAD ALI BAIG**

**OVER 30,000 COPIES SOLD!**

## **80 QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND INDIA:**

*History, Mythology and Religion*

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*

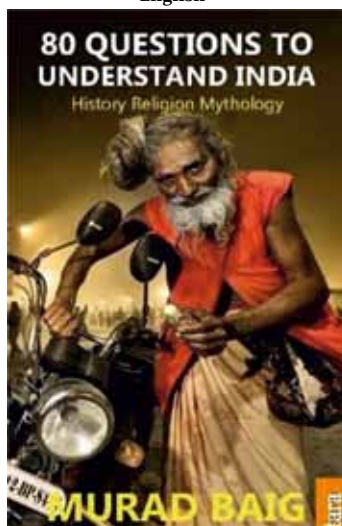
"This is a thought provoking book... The author has explored our past and questioned popular beliefs and opinions... that have led to the beliefs and superstitions that we harbour today. Lakshmi Pillai. Jetwings flight magazine "What Reflections in a Sacred Pond does--as much by its method as by its 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

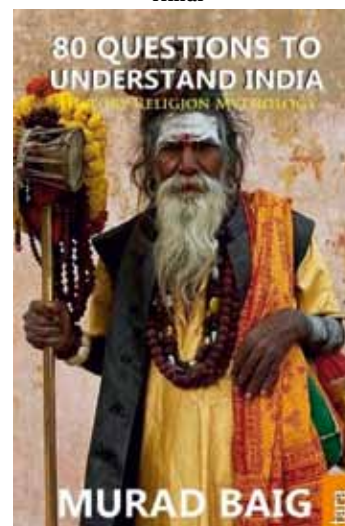
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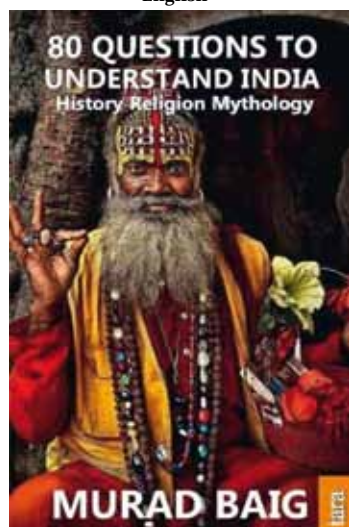
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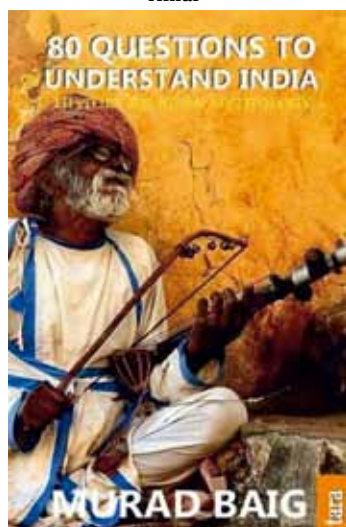
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English



Hindi



## **The Next 80 QUESTIONS TO UNDERSTAND INDIA**

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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## BOB SWARUP

### MONEY MANIA

*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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

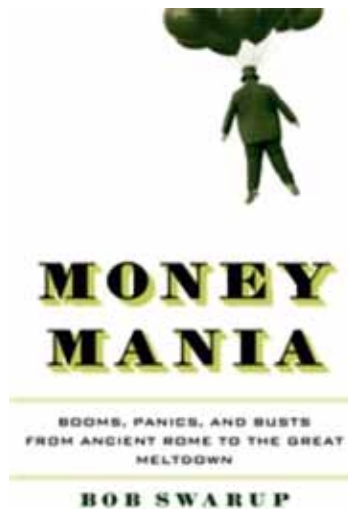
Are crises an inevitable consequence of economic growth? Are they always bad? Do we need a lender of last resort? Are paper money systems an expensive and ultimately doomed experiment? When does a crisis of finance become one of society? These and many other implications are explored in the book's chapters.

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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**Co-agency Representation:** TRIDENT MEDIA GROUP NY/ Claire Roberts



Born in 1977, in a family that played a crucial role in India's freedom struggle, **Amarendra (Bob)**

**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.



# MIND, BODY, SPIRIT



## RĀDHIKĀ VACHĀNI

### YOGĀCĀRA

*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!

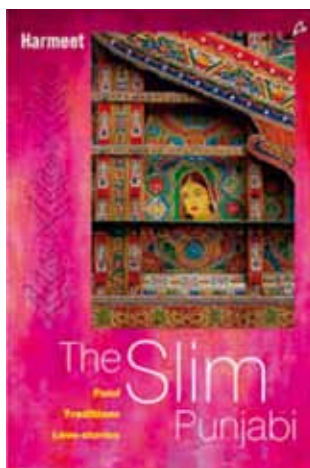
Radhika can be reached at <http://www.yogacara.in/>



## HARMEET KAUR

### THE SLIM PUNJABI

*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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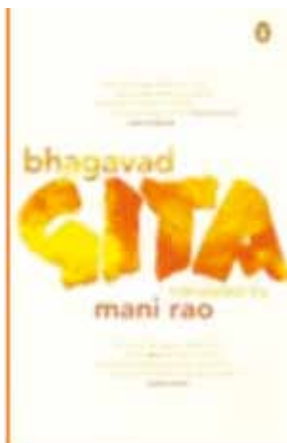


**Harmeet Kaur** is a marketing professional based out of Bangalore. Born and brought up in Delhi, she completed her honours in physics from Delhi University, followed by an MBA in 2008. She is passionate about art and culture, and loves to indulge in many of its manifestations – painting, music, cooking, 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.**

## MANI RAO

### BHAGWAD GITA

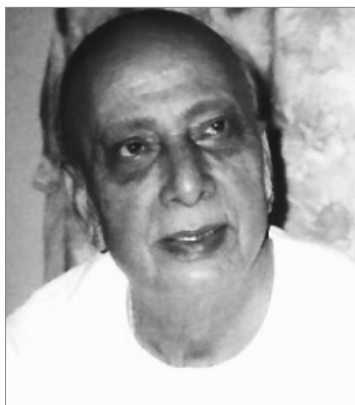
In this bold, new translation of the Gita, poet Mani Rao cuts past conventions and uses space and language innovatively to deliver an experience of immediacy for the reader. At the same time, she adheres strictly to the meaning of the original and is sensitive to the nuances of the Sanskrit original with all its wordplay and texture. Mani Rao's Bhagavad Gita sets a new standard for the translation of canonical spiritual texts.



**Mani Rao** is the author of eight poetry books including *Ghostmasters* (2010) and *Echolocation* (2003). Her poems and essays have appeared in journals including *Indian Literature*, *Kavya Bharati*, *Almost Island*, *Wasafiri*, *Meanjin*, *Washington Square*, *eXchanges*, *Fulcrum*, *Asia Literary Review*, *West Coast Line*, *Iowa Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Interim*, and in anthologies including Penguin's *60 Indian Poets*, *Zoland Poetry*, W.W. Norton's *Language for a New Century* and *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*. Born in 1965, Rao was raised in India. She worked in television and advertising in India, Hong Kong and New Zealand for twenty years, including at Star TV for nearly a decade, before turning to literary and scholarly interests full-time. She was a visiting fellow at the Iowa International Writing Program in 2005 and 2009, and the 2006 University of Iowa International Program's writer-in-residence. She has a BA in English from Stella Maris College, Chennai, a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in poetry from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is a PhD student of religious studies at Duke University. The author's website is [www.manirao.com](http://www.manirao.com).



# TRANSLATION



**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 the Doordarshan television serial *Gul Gulshan Gulfam*. He was bestowed an award from the Sahitya Natak Academy for his novel *Sheen Ta Vatepod*. He is 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, thus making a unique contribution and earning a significant position in the field of Kashmiri art and cinema.

## PRAN KISHORE KAUL

### 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 houseboats *Gul, Gulshan, 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.

***Gul Gulshan Gulfam* has also been adapted for an TV series that was an instant hit and was aired for approx. 200+ episodes.**

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### SHEEN TA VATEPOD:

#### *Snow of the bridle path*

**Sahitya Natak Academy Awardee**

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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