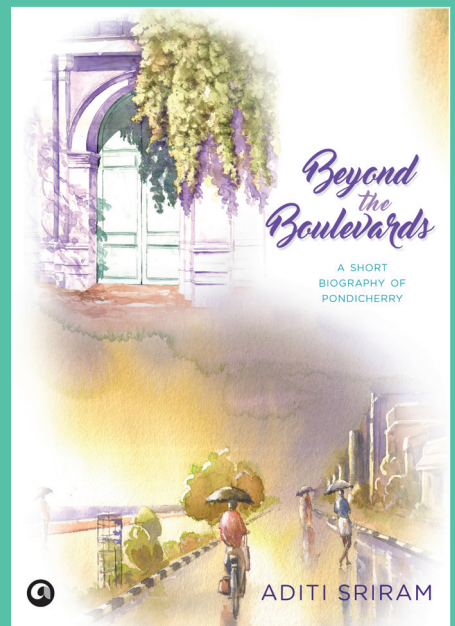
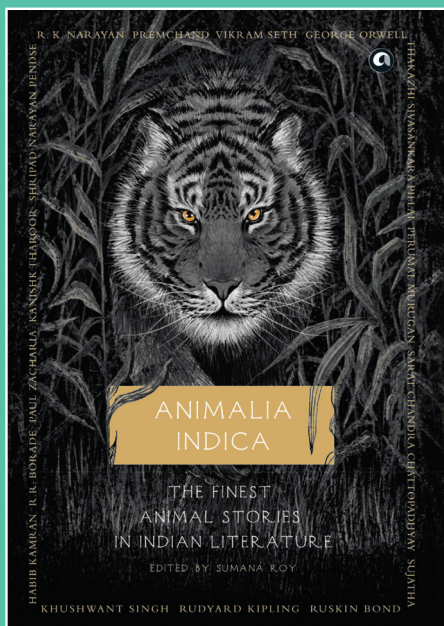
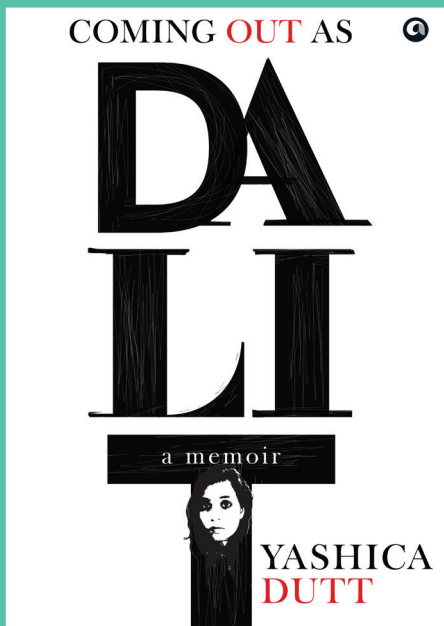
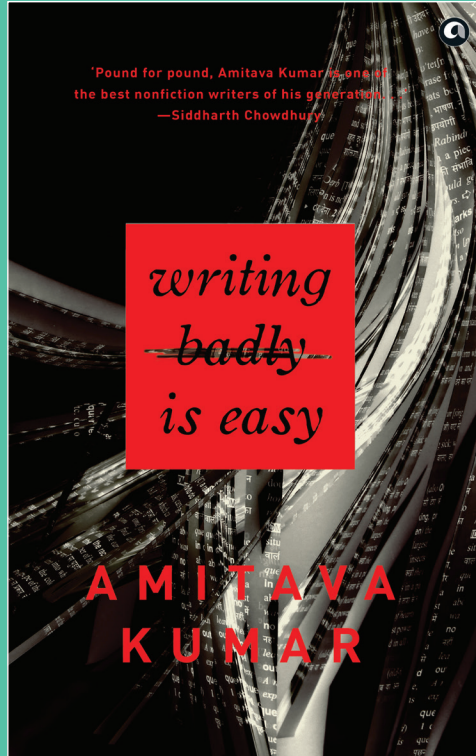
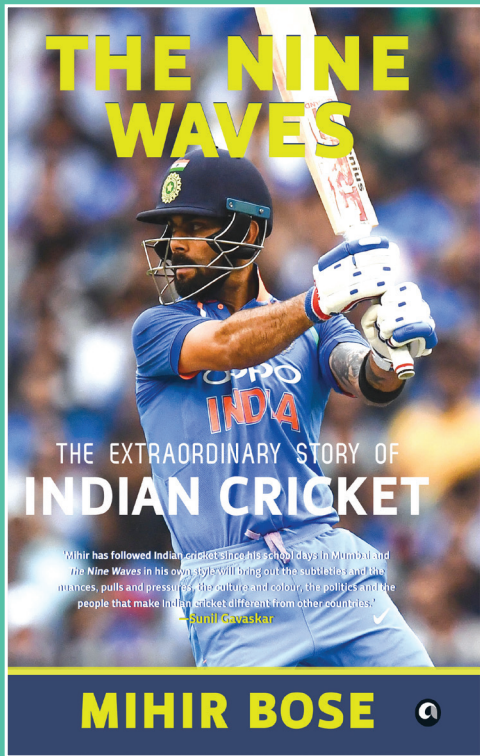


Highlights

2019-2020





OUR AUTHORS



SHASHI THAROOR

The Hindu Way: An Introduction to Hinduism

The Hindu Way is the perfect introduction to one of the world's oldest and greatest religions. Derived from Shashi Tharoor's bestselling book, *Why I Am a Hindu*, this is an examination of the fundamentals and complexities of Hinduism—a book that can be read with profit and pleasure by adults as well as young adult readers. Starting with an examination of his own belief in Hinduism, Tharoor ranges far and wide in his study of the faith. He talks about the Great Souls of Hinduism, Adi Shankara, Patanjali, Ramanuja, Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, and many others who made major contributions to the essence of Hinduism. He delves deep into Hinduism's most important schools of thought such as the Advaita Vedanta and explores the seminal concepts that underpin the religion.

Fully illustrated, *The Hindu Way* is a brilliantly original masterwork on the essence of Hinduism.

SHASHI THAROOR is the bestselling author of eighteen books, both fiction and non-fiction, besides being a noted critic and columnist. His books include the path-breaking satire *The Great Indian Novel* (1989), the classic *India: From Midnight to the Millennium* (1997), the bestselling *An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India*, for which he won the Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2016 for Books (Non-Fiction), and most recently, *The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi and His India*. He was a former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and a former Minister of State for Human Resource Development and Minister of State for External Affairs in the Government of India. He is a two-time member of the Lok Sabha from Thiruvananthapuram and chairs Parliament's External Affairs committee. He has won numerous literary awards, including a Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and was honoured as New Age Politician of the Year (2010) by NDTV. He was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, India's highest honour for overseas Indians.

OUR AUTHORS



Photo credit: Allegra Donn

FATIMA BHUTTO

New Kings of the World: The Rise and Rise of Eastern Pop Culture

Today, a vast cultural movement is emerging from the Global South, notably from India, whose Shah Rukh Khan - an icon of the country's journey towards modernity—is the most popular actor in the world. This movement extends beyond India to include Turkish soap operas and K-pop music. Truly international in its range and allure, the rise and rise of Eastern culture is the biggest challenge yet to America's monopoly of soft power since the end of the Second World War. This is a book about these new arbiters of mass culture sweeping the world of the twenty-first century. Carefully packaging not always secular modernity with traditional values in urbanized settings, they have created a new global pop culture that can be easily consumed, especially by the many millions coming late to the modern world and still negotiating its overwhelming challenges. Though this is a book primarily focused on India, it also explores the cultural industries of two other countries at the forefront of the challenge to American pop culture: Turkey and South Korea. Plummeting American prestige, the belated rediscovery that local cultures are valuable in and of themselves and the rise of classes with different tastes and backgrounds emerging out of the turbulence and migration of globalization have marginalized the old guard of 'Westoxified' elites and created a vast new landscape of cultural power. Indian, Turkish and even Korean pop culture offer a much better fit for this majority's self-image and aspirations of sovereignty and dignity. Bestselling author Fatima Bhutto gives us a probing, richly learned study of this phenomenon, braiding incisive analysis with exclusive interviews with Shah Rukh Khan, other pop culture stars, fans, sociologists and cultural commentators.

FATIMA BHUTTO was born in Kabul, Afghanistan and grew up between Syria and Pakistan. She is the author of five previous books of fiction and non-fiction. The memoir about her father's life and assassination, *Songs of Blood and Sword*, was a bestseller. Her debut novel, *The Shadow of the Crescent Moon*, was long-listed for the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction and won the Prix de la Romanciere in France. Her most recent book is *The Runaways*, a novel.

Follow her on Twitter and Instagram at @fbhutto.

OUR AUTHORS



DEEPTI NAVAL

A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir

The legendary movie star Deepti Naval writes a candid and moving memoir about growing up in Amritsar in the fifties and sixties before moving to Bombay to join the movie industry.

DEEPTI NAVAL is an Indian film actor, director, writer, painter and photographer. She is perhaps best known for her contribution to art cinema, for which she has won many national and international awards. Deepti made her debut in the year 1980 with the path-breaking film *Ek Baar Phir*, and has since appeared in more than ninety films, including the iconic *Chashme Baddoor*, *Katha*, *Saath Saath*, *Mirch Masala*, *Ankahi*, *Main Zinda Hoon*, *Didi* and *Leela*, to mention just a few.

OUR AUTHORS



MIHIR BOSE

The Nine Waves: The Extraordinary Story of Indian Cricket

The Nine Waves is a tour de force. The most entertaining and comprehensive book on cricket in this country to be published yet, it tells the story of the nine great waves that have rolled through the history of Indian cricket, from India's international debut in 1932 to the incredible achievements of Virat Kohli's team today. Each wave or era was chock-full of mesmerizing stars, thrilling moments, great victories, heartbreaking losses and significant turning points—this book tells the story of each of them in great detail.

The first wave of Indian cricket rolled in against the background of momentous changes in the country and the world: Gandhi's civil disobedience campaign, World War II and India becoming independent. Through each of the successive waves, India strengthened its position in the cricketing firmament. Towards the end of the twentieth century, it became the most powerful nation in world cricket—the prowess of the national team today matches the economic strength of the cricketing establishment.

As a five-year-old, the author saw Vijay Hazare, India's first test-winning captain, play. Since then he has been witness to some of the most dramatic moments of Indian cricket: India's first win in England in 1971, Kapil Dev lifting the World Cup in 1983 at Lord's, Tendulkar's first Test century at Old Trafford in 1990, Sunil Gavaskar scoring his 30th Test century, the 2011 World Cup in India where M. S. Dhoni emulated Kapil Dev, Virat Kohli in 2018 in England proving he is the best batsman in the world today and much much more. He brings to the book his first-hand experience of some of the most seminal moments in Indian cricket, his encyclopaedic knowledge of the game and his unrivalled ability as a chronicler of the sport to create a magisterial history of Indian cricket.

Once dismissed by the English as the dull dogs of cricket, India is now eagerly courted by all cricketing nations. On the field its cricketers are displaying skills which make India a world-beater. Over a billion Indians, the greatest fan base in the world, treat their cricketers as demigods. *The Nine Waves* is a fitting testimonial to the game's only superpower.

MIHIR BOSE is an award-winning journalist, broadcaster and author of more than thirty books—*The Indian Spy* is being made into a film; his *History of Indian Cricket* won the English Cricket Society Silver Jubilee Literary Award. He has also won *Business Columnist of the Year* and *Sports News Reporter of the Year*. A UK resident, he worked for the *Sunday Times* for twenty years, was the chief sports news correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* for twelve years and the BBC's first Sports Editor.

OUR AUTHORS



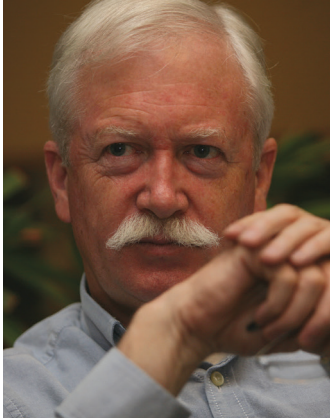
CYRUS MISTRY

The Prospect of Miracles: A Novel

The Prospect of Miracles, the new novel from award-winning novelist, playwright and short story writer Cyrus Mistry, tells the story of Pastor Pius Philipose, a charismatic priest in a small town in Kerala. The novel opens with the death of the pastor. As his adoring flock gathers around to mourn his passing, his wife, free of her husband's domineering presence, begins to recreate for the reader, in vivid detail, the terrible truths and lies of a man who was never what he seemed. A masterpiece of psychological characterization, *The Prospect of Miracles* is yet another triumph from a gifted storyteller.

CYRUS MISTRY began his writing career as a playwright, freelance journalist and short story writer. His play *Doongaji House*, written in 1977 when he was twenty-one, has acquired classic status in contemporary Indian theatre in English. One of his short stories was made into a Gujarati feature film. His plays and screenplays have won several awards. His novel, *Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer* (2012), won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, 2014.

OUR AUTHORS



STEPHEN ALTER

Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Highest Mountains on Earth

Award-winning novelist and non-fiction writer Stephen Alter was born in the Himalaya. He considers himself an endemic species, having lived there most of his life. Beginning in Arunachal Pradesh in the east, where the Tsang Po or Brahmaputra cuts its way through hidden gorges, to the western extremes of Kashmir along the banks of the Indus, he travels high into the Himalaya to probe the mysteries of giants like Kangchenjunga, Everest, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Nanga Parbat. A book that he has spent a lifetime preparing to write, Alter uses botany, zoology, geology, folklore, science, mythology, spirituality and personal reflection to craft the definitive natural history of the greatest mountain range on earth.

STEPHEN ALTER is the author of fifteen works of fiction and non-fiction. His honours include a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Fulbright award. He was writer-in-residence for ten years at MIT and directed the writing program at the American University in Cairo. He is founding director of the Mussoorie Writers' Mountain Festival.

OUR AUTHORS



RUSKIN BOND

A Gallery of Rascals: My Favourite Stories about Rogues, Rascallions and Ne'er-Do-Wells

Featuring the first new fiction that Ruskin Bond has written for adult readers in several years, *A Gallery of Rascals* brings together the most memorable stories featuring rascals, rogues and ne'er-do-wells that India's most beloved writer has written. As he explains in his foreword to the book, he has always liked writing about rascallions because 'Good people are usually rather dull, especially in literature.' Brand new stories like 'A Man Called Brain', 'Sher Singh and the Hot Water Bottle' and 'Crossing the Road' rub shoulders with classics like 'A Magic Oil', 'The Boy Who Broke the Bank', 'Strychnine in the Cognac' and 'The Thief's Story' to make this book another unforgettable addition to Ruskin Bond's oeuvre.

RUSKIN BOND is the author of several bestselling novels and collections of short stories, essays and poems. These include *The Room on the Roof* (winner of the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize), *A Flight of Pigeons*, *The Night Train at Deoli*, *Time Stops at Shamli*, *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra* (winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award), *Angry River*, *The Blue Umbrella*, *Delhi is Not Far*, *Rain in the Mountains*, *Roads to Mussoorie*, *A Little Night Music*, *Tigers for Dinner*, *Tales of Fosterganj*, *A Gathering of Friends*, *Small Towns*, *Big Stories* and *Unhurried Tales*.

Ruskin Bond was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1999, a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Delhi government in 2012 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014.

OUR AUTHORS



ANNIE ZAIDI

Prelude to a Riot: A Novel

Prelude to a Riot is one of the finest short novels by an Indian writer to have come out in the last decade. Set in an unnamed southern town amidst lush spice plantations, at the heart of this book is the story of two families from different religions and the shadow of communalism that is creeping up on the town, threatening to divide relations between two generations that go back hundreds of years. The great achievement of this novel is the nuanced and subtle way in which Zaidi unpacks the horrors of sectarian violence and her exquisite writing of the novel's characters: whether it is Garuda, the high school teacher who in his own desperate way is trying to impart the knowledge of history to a classroom full of uninterested students, or Dada, the aging grandfather who lovingly tends to the plants on his estate and is single-handedly raising his two grandchildren, Abu and Fareeda, or the newly married Devaki, who cannot fathom the growing militant nationalism that is branding her husband and her father.

Zaidi's book is destined to become a classic.

ANNIE ZAIDI is the author of *Gulab*, *Love Stories # 1 to 14*, and *Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales*, which was shortlisted for the Vodafone Crossword Book Award. She is the coauthor of *The Good Indian Girl* and a book of illustrated poems, *Crush*. Her work has appeared in several anthologies like *Eat the Sky; Drink the Ocean*, *Mumbai Noir*, *Dharavi*, *Women Changing India*, *21 Under 40*; and in literary magazines like *Out of Print*, the *Northeast Review*, *Pratilipi*, the *Raleigh Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Big Bridge*, and *Asian Cha*. She is the editor of *Unbound: 2,000 Years of Indian Women's Writing* (published by Aleph Book Company). She also writes scripts for the stage and screen.

OUR AUTHORS



AMITAVA KUMAR

Writing Badly is Easy

When Lord Macaulay introduced English as the instrument of education in India, he also bequeathed to us a legacy of language-use that is often stiff and bureaucratic. This awkwardness plagues academic, journalistic, legal, even creative writing in India.

You fail as a writer if your writing is not concrete, if it is vague and abstract, and your reader is unable to see what you mean. *Writing Badly is Easy* is a style guide for those who want to write well. It presents advice given by award-winning creative writers—including Jonathan Franzen, Jennifer Egan, Suketu Mehta, Marilynne Robinson, George Saunders and Colson Whitehead—and noted thinkers like Alain de Botton, Andrew Ross, Anna Tsing, Kathleen Stewart and Rob Nixon, as well as numerous others. Amitava Kumar's own essays on writing, including his collaboration with Teju Cole, demonstrate the importance of blurring the line between critical and creative writing. A manifesto for writing that is exuberant, imaginative and playful, *Writing Badly is Easy* will change the way you think about reading and writing, and reveal the pleasures to be had in the inventive use of language.

AMITAVA KUMAR is the author of several books, including *A Matter of Rats: A Short Biography of Patna* and *The Lovers: A Novel*, both published by Aleph. His first novel, *Home Products* (2007), was shortlisted for the Crossword Prize, and his non-fiction report, *A Foreigner Carrying in the Crook of His Arm a Tiny Bomb* (2010), which the *New York Times* described as a 'perceptive and soulful...meditation on the global war on terror and its cultural and human repercussions', was given the Page Turner Award. Kumar's writing has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Caravan*, *Harper's* and *Vanity Fair*. His essay 'Pyre', first published in *Granta*, was selected by Jonathan Franzen for Best American Essays 2016. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2016. Kumar is Professor of English at Vassar College.

OUR AUTHORS



SUDEEP CHAKRAVARTI

Plassey: The Battle That Changed the Course of Indian History

A company on the make, looking to aggressively expand with ever newer trading opportunities. Robert Clive, an ambitious soldier of fortune with the British East India Company. Siraj-ud-daula, a callow, impetuous nawab a year into the job, beset by conspirators at home and away. Add this cast to other local and global dynamics, and you get the Battle of Plassey on 23 June 1757. The battle fought in a mango orchard a four-hour train ride north of Kolkata changed the Indian subcontinent and helped to change a vast slice of Asia, fuel Britain's industrial revolution and much of its empire, and its many great wars.

Victory at Plassey transformed the British East India Company into the greatest mercantile and military force of the era, helped create Britain's Indian and Asian empires, support its African colonies and so boosted Britain's empire that it would help it to survive the loss of America as a colony. It transformed Robert Clive from a mere colonel who led a motley crew of 3,000 troops against 50,000 of Siraj's into Baron Plassey. Some would go as far as to claim Mughal rule effectively ended in 1765, when Clive negotiated the 'dewanny' of Bengal—and with it, unimaginable riches for himself, his company and his country.

But what was Plassey all about, besides being about a young nawab who stood in the way of a company's business plans, a corporate coup to beat all corporate coups? Was it really a battle or was it won before it began, as some historians surmise?

Plassey presents an arresting cast of characters whose passion play fused ambition, treachery, greed, profit, politics and geopolitics. Using several military histories, government and court papers of the time, memoirs, histories and biographies written in several languages, folk histories, cultural and political touchpoints, travel to Plassey hotspots, and interviews, this is the definitive history of Plassey.

SUDEEP CHAKRAVARTI is an award-winning author of groundbreaking and bestselling works of narrative non-fiction including *The Bengalis: A Portrait of Community* (shortlisted for The Hindu Prize 2018). His other notable non-fiction works are *Red Sun*, *Highway 39*, and *Clear.Hold.Build*. He has written three critically acclaimed novels (*Tin Fish*, *The Avenue of Kings* and *The Baptism of Tony Calangute*) and short stories. His essays and short fiction have appeared in collections in India and overseas. Some of his books have been translated into various languages including Bengali, Hindi, Tamil, Spanish, Portuguese and German.

OUR AUTHORS



K. R. MEERA

The Angel's Beauty Spots: Three Novellas

This book is a collection of three of K. R. Meera's acclaimed novellas. *Slowly Forgetting* is the story of the trauma and violence that Radhika endures and the memory of a former love that refuses to leave her; *The Deepest Blue* evokes the realm of magic and metaphor to tell the story of a wife who yearns for a love that transcends lifetimes; and *The Angel's Beauty Spots* is a novella about Angela's repeated infidelities and the tragedy of failed love. The novellas are translated by J. Devika and edited by Mini Krishnan.

K. R. MEERA is an award-winning Malayalam writer. She worked as a journalist for the *Malayala Manorama*, but resigned to focus on her writing. Her first short story collection, *Ormayude Njarambu*, was followed by more short story collections, novellas, novels and children's books. She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2015 for her most famous novel, *Aarachaar (Hangwoman)*. It was shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, 2016 and won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 2013, as well as other regional awards.

J. DEVIKA is a teacher and researcher at the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala. She is a writer, translator and feminist. Her most notable translations include short stories by Sarah Joseph and K. R. Meera, and the autobiography of Nalini Jameela. In 2014, she translated K. R. Meera's *Aarachaar (Hangwoman)* which won widespread acclaim.

MINI KRISHNAN edits translations for Oxford University Press (India). She is the Consultant Editor of the translation programme of the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur.

OUR AUTHORS



YASHICA DUTT

Coming Out as Dalit: A Memoir

Dalit student Rohith Vemula's tragic suicide in January 2016 started many charged conversations around caste-based discrimination in universities in India. For Yashica Dutt, a journalist living in New York, this was the moment to stop living a lie, and admit to something that she had hidden from friends and colleagues for over a decade—that she was Dalit.

In *Coming Out as Dalit*, Dutt recounts the exhausting burden of living with the secret and how she was terrified of being found out. She talks about the tremendous feeling of empowerment she experienced when she finally stood up for herself and her community and shrugged off the fake upper-caste identity she'd had to construct for herself. As she began to understand the inequities of the caste system, she also had to deal with the crushing guilt of denying her history and the struggles of her grandparents and the many Dalit reformers who fought for equal rights.

In this personal memoir that is also a narrative of the Dalits, she writes about the journey of coming to terms with her identity and takes us through the history of the Dalit movement; the consequences of her community's lack of access to education and culture; the need for reservation; the paucity of Dalit voices in mainstream media; Dalit women's movements and their ongoing contributions; and attempts to answer crucial questions about caste and privilege. Woven from personal narratives from her own life as well as that of other Dalits, this book forces us to confront the injustices of caste and also serves as a call to action.

YASHICA DUTT is a New York-based journalist who writes on gender, identity and culture. She was previously a principal correspondent with *Brunch* and the *Hindustan Times* and is the founder of *Documents of Dalit Discrimination*.

OUR AUTHORS



APARNA VAIDIK

My Son's Inheritance: A Secret History of Lynching and Blood Justice

My Son's Inheritance: A Secret History of Lynching and Blood Justice by Aparna Vaidik weaves threads of histories of the world, mythology, folklore and literature with filaments of personal journeys, to narrate the deep history of lynching and blood justice in India. In this story the author acquaints her son with his ancestors who are men who abet and carry out lynchings and the ones who are lynched. The son embodies both the violator and the violated much like the country where he will come of age. The narrative uncovers a conspiracy of silence that veiled this violence. A masking and erasure that occurred through physical annihilation, mythological co-option and historiographical absence. The book disabuses the reader of the myth that non-violence and tolerance are the essence of Indian history. It is actually violence and its heritage that is bequeathed from generation to generation. She demonstrates how the perpetrators of violence have not always been the state, the rulers, the police or the army. The epicentre of violence lies buried deep within privileged classes' indifference and blindness. It is our self-righteousness, our silence, our looking away from inconvenient truths, our blindness to our social privilege grounded in belonging to a particular caste, religion or class, in our ability to pass off our unearned privilege as merit and, even more insidious, as advantages earned by hard work that has historically abetted violence against minorities, lower-castes and marginal groups. This is the privilege of wilful ignorance. It immunizes us from being recipients of violence and also from seeing it. It makes us glorify non-violence as our essence. We let it lynch our souls.

APARNA VAIDIK is Associate Professor of History at Ashoka University. She previously taught at Georgetown University, Washington DC. She studied at St. Stephen's College and University of Cambridge and received a PhD from Centre for Historical Studies, JNU. Her first monograph 'Imperial Andaman: Colonial Encounter and Island History' was published by Palgrave Macmillan, Cambridge Imperial and Postcolonial Studies Series in 2010. She contributes regularly to newspapers and journals.

OUR AUTHORS



KALPANA SHARMA

The Silence and the Storm: Narratives of Violence Against Women in India

From Mathura, a young tribal girl who was raped by two policemen in Desaiganj, Maharashtra in 1972, to Kathua in Jammu province, where a beautiful eight-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and killed in 2018, the narrative around violence against women in India has barely changed. It binds women's history in contemporary India and is a theme that persists. While laws have been reformed, societal structures that perpetuate and even justify this violence have remained the same over the decades.

After three decades of journalistic writing on gender issues, Kalpana Sharma argues that violence against women is not restricted to sexual assault, rape, domestic violence and child sexual abuse. What of the violence that developmental policy and environmental destruction wreaks on women—on their health, on their workload, on their mobility? Poor women lose their lands, their livelihoods and access to common resources like forests and rivers. Their daily lives, already burdened, become close to unbearable. There is also the violence in which women are often the collateral. In conflict zones, men take up arms on behalf of the state or an ideology but the cost is not just loss of life on both sides, but what happens to the women caught in the middle. Sexual violence against women in India is also inevitably linked with the kind of politics that dominates. Today, sectarian politics feeds on, breeds, encourages, and inflames societal divisions. As a result, in the battle between two or more warring groups, women pay the price.

In *The Silence and the Storm*, Sharma provides the necessary perspective to understand the violence against women in the larger context of the politics and economics of India. Her book is a passionate and empathetic account of the violence that Indian women have had to endure and battle over the last three decades.

KALPANA SHARMA is an independent journalist and author based in Mumbai and is currently Readers' Editor with Scroll.in. In her 47 years as a journalist, she has worked with Himmat Weekly, of which she was the editor during the Emergency, the Indian Express, the Times of India and The Hindu, where she was Mumbai Bureau Chief and Deputy Editor. She has also been a Consulting Editor with Economic & Political Weekly.

A recipient of the Chameli Devi Award for an Outstanding Woman Journalist (1987), Sharma is also a published author. She has written *Rediscovering Dharavi: Stories from Asia's Largest Slum* (Penguin 2000) and edited *Missing: Half the Story, Journalism as if Gender Matters* (Zubaan 2010). She has also co-edited *Whose News? The Media and Women's Issues*, (Sage 1994/2006) and *Terror Counter-Terror: Women Speak Out* (Kali for Women 2003).

OUR AUTHORS



POONAM SAXENA

The Greatest Hindi Stories Ever Told

The latest addition to Aleph's highly successful *Greatest Stories Ever Told* series, this collection, edited and translated by Poonam Saxena, features some of the greatest practitioners of the genre, from the Naya Kahani stalwarts like Mohan Rakesh, Kamleshwar and Rajendra Yadav to other formidable writers such as Bhisham Sahni, Mannu Bhandari, Nirmal Verma, Krishna Sobti and many others.

POONAM SAXENA is the National Weekend Editor at the *Hindustan Times*. She has translated *Gunahon Ka Devta*, Dharamvir Bharati's iconic 1949 novel and Hindi fiction's biggest bestseller, into English (*Chander & Sudha*). Her most recent translation is *Scene: 75*, author and film writer Rahi Masoom Reza's satirical novel about the Hindi film industry of the 1970s. She has also co-authored filmmaker and television host Karan Johar's memoir, *An Unsuitable Boy*, which won the Popular Award, Biography, at the Raymond Crossword Book Awards.

OUR AUTHORS



MUSHARRAF ALI FAROOQI

The Mermaid and the Book of Power

In the thirteenth century a merman is presented by fishermen to the Baghdad governor. The merman's presence and his mysterious powers cause fear in the citizens who associate him with omens of apocalypse. Historical accounts of another marine creature thought to be the Beast of Apocalypse come to light; clandestine missions over the centuries to verify signs of End Time, and conspiracies to bury the terrifying reports are uncovered. The events dated from a caliph coming into possession of the magical *Book of Power*. The merman falls in love with a slave girl and it is revealed that the *Book of Power* that binds the merman and slave girl's cursed lives together also holds the key to their happiness.

MUSHARRAF ALI FAROOQI was born in 1968 in Hyderabad, Pakistan and currently lives in Lahore. His novel, *The Story of a Widow*, was shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature in 2010. He is also the highly acclaimed translator of Urdu classics *Hoshrubah* and *The Adventures of Amir Hamza*, contemporary Urdu poet Afzal Ahmed Syed's selected poetry and Urdu writer Syed Muhammad Ashraf's novel, *The Beast*. His children's fiction includes *The Amazing Moustaches of Moochhander*, *The Iron Man and Other Stories*, *The Cobbler's Holiday or Why Ants Don't Wear Shoes* and *Tik-Tik, The Master of Time*. His novel, *Between Clay and Dust* (published by Aleph Book Company), was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2012.

OUR AUTHORS



SUMANA ROY

Animalia Indica: The Finest Animal Stories in Indian Literature

Extraordinary stories for readers of every stripe.

For centuries, the animal kingdom has captured the Indian imagination. And the land of the *Panchatantra* and the *Jataka Tales* continues to give rise to literary masterpieces. Some of the greatest stories in modern Indian literature have animals as protagonists.

In *Animalia Indica*, Sumana Roy collects the best fiction written about animals from the past hundred years or so. Beginning with Premchand's classic, 'A Tale of Two Bullocks', and taking in its sweep some of the greatest pieces of literary fiction to have originated in India including 'Rikki-Tikki-Tavi' by Rudyard Kipling, 'Mahesh' by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, 'The Mark of Vishnu' by Khushwant Singh, 'A Horse and Two Goats' by R. K. Narayan, 'Poonachi' by Perumal Murugan, 'The Crocodile and the Monkey' by Vikram Seth, 'The Reflections of a Hen in Her Last Hour' by Paul Zacharia, 'The Last Tiger' by Ruskin Bond and 'Elephant at Sea' by Kanishk Tharoor, the stories in *Animalia Indica* are guaranteed to dazzle the reader.

These stories, centred on animals, and written over the last hundred years or so, are among the greatest feats of creation in the annals of modern Indian literature. Once read, their flaming brilliance will ensure they are never forgotten.

SUMANA ROY's first book, *How I Became a Tree*, was shortlisted for the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize, 2017, and the Tata Literature Live! First Book Award, 2017. Her first novel, *Missing*, was published in 2018. *Out of Syllabus*, a book of poems, was published in 2019. She lives in Siliguri.

OUR AUTHORS



ADITI SRIRAM

Beyond the Boulevards: A Short Biography of Pondicherry

Pondicherry, the South Indian coastal town, union territory and former French colony, is a city unlike any other in India. Here, the game of pétanque is as commonplace as a mini-thali sambar-rice lunch, or the briny tang drifting out of Goubert Fish Market first thing every morning... The French sport's slower pace and quieter sounds reflect a different cultural trajectory compared to the rest of the country. Indeed, it is one of many aspects of Pondicherry that make the city wholly distinctive. Everywhere you look there are elements of the place that are local and foreign, unusual and traditional, all at the same time.

Besides its hybrid identity, the city is also an important spiritual centre, a hub for alternative education, a quasi-extension of the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu, an ecological and environmental bastion—and, thanks to a liberal liquor license, a party town. Tapping into every aspect of Pondicherry, in *Beyond the Boulevards*, Aditi Sriram captures the substance of a city that is a contrast of colours, languages, religions, and cultures.

ADITI SRIRAM teaches writing at Ashoka University. She completed her Master's in Creative Writing from The New School in New York City in 2013. She has not lived in Pondicherry, but grew up hearing about it from her family whose roots are in the city. Her inspiration has been the Pandy locals who shared their life stories with her. This is her first book.
