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# fiction

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**ASHWIN SANGHI**

## **RAZOR SHARP**

**A baffling crime. A rundown ex-cop. But he's their best bet.**

### **A city on edge**

A ruthless serial killer stalks the streets of Mumbai, leaving behind a gruesome trail of tortured victims. As the city reels in terror, the authorities grapple with a vital question: What links these seemingly random targets?

### **A dogged investigator**

Enter Prakash Kadam, once a decorated cop but now an angry, bitter wreck of a man haunted by his past. Summoned to put an end to the madness, he finds himself neck-deep in an investigation mired in police sluggishness and antiquated forensics.

### **A deadly game**

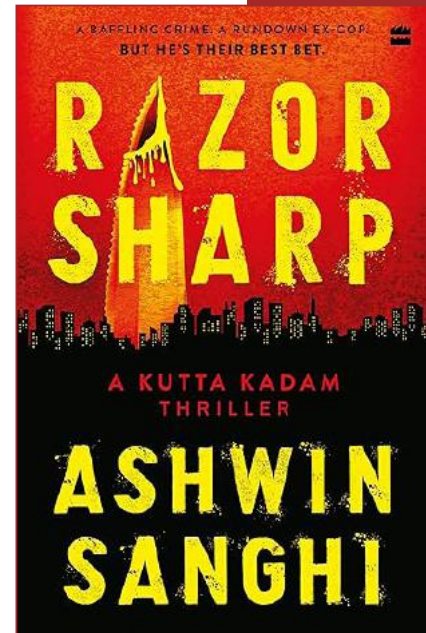
As old enmities resurface and perplexing twists in the case push him to the limit, can Kadam find the killer before it is too late? Or will he lose someone close to him – again?

With Razor Sharp, the first book in an exciting new series, Ashwin Sanghi demonstrates yet again his undisputed mastery at weaving complex, gripping thrillers that keep readers on the edge of their seats.

“

*Senior Police Inspector Vishnu Tawde sighed and stretched his aching back, wincing at the cracking sound. It was Monday morning, just a little past midnight, and he had hoped to be home and comfortably tucked into bed by now. Instead, he had got that damned call telling him to rush to a flat where a body had been discovered.*

”



**CRIME | THRILLER**



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In Discussion

Ashwin Sanghi is among India's highest-selling English fiction authors. He has written several bestsellers in the *Bharat Series* and two *New York Times* bestselling crime thrillers with James Patterson, *Private India* (sold in the US as *City on Fire*) and *Private Delhi* (sold in the US as *Count to Ten*). He has also co-authored several non-fiction titles in the *13 Steps Series*. Ashwin has been included by *Forbes India* in their *Celebrity 100* and by *The New Indian Express* in their *Culture Power List*. He is the winner of the *Crossword Popular Choice Award 2012*, *Atta Galatta Popular Choice Award 2018*, *WBR Iconic Achievers Award 2018*, the *Lit-O-Fest Literature Legend Award 2018*, and the *Kalinga Popular Choice Award 2021*.

# SANA SHETTY

## BLOOD TIES

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Sana Shetty lives in Mumbai. She finished B.Sc. in statistics and computer programming (D.G. Ruparel College) from Mumbai University and went on to do a post graduate diploma in management studies from the same University (NMIMS).

She started as a research assistant with an NGO, did a short stint as a management consultant at a private consultancy company, and presently helps in the family business (Yarn Agency) in Mumbai, where she currently resides. Writing is a passion for her – she blogs regularly and has previously authored the book 'Betrayals and Paybacks', which boasts of a 4-star rating on Goodreads and Amazon.

On a holiday in a small breakaway atoll in Lakshadweep, Namita Patil is pulled into a murder investigation by her brother-in-law Rishi Manik, a local SI. At first, she believes the victim to be her close friend and colleague ACP Ansh Nair but finds out that actually it is his twin, Shrey – a brother she did not know existed. When a Special Forces team is brought in to work on the case, Namita realises that the truth is murkier than it seems.

The investigation gets her embroiled into the Nair family secrets, leading her to unearth a two-decade old financial scam, and the involvement of a drug and money laundering cartel. She discovers that all family members – Ansh, his mother, and his love interest Maira – are keeping secrets from her. With no one to trust, she is pushed to navigate through it all while figuring out what is the connection between the murder and the team of Special Forces that is working with her.

With long-buried secrets coming out into the open, false identities, and a man with a vendetta on the prowl, the stakes are at an all-time high in this new work.

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ELL P

## SHAMELESS IN STILETTOS

Anant 'fucking' Reddy is dead.

A simple suicide is ruled a murder when the coroner finds something sharp embedded in his eye. His business tycoon father wants answers, so Inspector Meenakshi Rao has been ordered not to sleep, eat or drink till she finds the killer.

Her suspects – 3 women who live in the complex where his mangled body was found.

A desperate mother turned dominatrix.

A woman with baby fever whose husband can't get a rise without masturbating.

A devout Christian and closeted lesbian with a voyeur fetish.

With her own marriage in shambles, all that Meenakshi wants is to get stoned so that she can communicate with her dead son. Can she find the killer?



*“Anant Reddy is dead. That is mighty clear by the way his entire face is smashed into concrete and drowning in a pool of blood. If anyone still has any doubts about his mortality, the pieces of tissue, tendons, and splinters of bones floating in a pool of red, would quickly dissipate them. The sweet, tangy smell of blood permeates the chill of the night, and few onlookers have already emptied what was left of their dinner.*

*“Mother-fucking asshole!” Inspector Meenakshi Rao mutters under her breath and then spits a spoonful of regurgitated phlegm on a scanty bed of grass by the side of the road. She double-checks the driver's license and curses again, kicking a lone pebble that stands in her way.*

CRIME | THRILLER

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ELL P (Lakshmi Priya) is a writer, artist, and executive coach from Bangalore. Her writing journey began in 2014 when she became a part of the Write Club, Bangalore. She created Litlatte, a publishing platform, and churned out two anthologies. In 2019, she co-founded The Hive, a publishing collective for anthologies that has brought out six anthologies, of which ELL P has written for four. She regularly writes for [www.womensweb.com](http://www.womensweb.com), and is the 2021 winner of the Orange Flower Awards in the Short Fiction category, which recognize the power of women's voices for digital creators in India.

BALRAJ JUTTLA

## A REASON TO KILL

CRIME | THRILLER

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In the heart of bustling Delhi, a young woman's lifeless body is discovered along the banks of the Yamuna River. As the police target her boyfriend as the prime suspect, a tenacious and inexperienced journalist, Rajesh Gupta, stumbles upon evidence that questions the official narrative.

An unlikely alliance with his colleague Jaskiran, who has her own reasons to delve into the murky waters of the case leads them from the gritty streets of Delhi to the upper echelons of power and privilege. Unbeknownst to them, keen to stop them at every turn is a cunning and ruthless tycoon who has risen from humble beginnings to control the financial heart of Delhi. The truth can make his carefully built empire come tumbling down.

As Rajesh and Jaskiran investigate leads across Delhi, they uncover shocking revelations that lead them from the opulent corridors of power to the forgotten outskirts of the city. With relentless determination, Rajesh and Jaskiran piece together a puzzle that exposes a nexus of corruption, betrayal, and cold-blooded murder.

**A Reason to Kill** explores the courage of those who seek justice in a city where power and influence blur the lines between right and wrong.

Balraj graduated with a BA in English Literature and Creative Writing in 2008 and is now the editor of PRIME, the international journal of aesthetic and anti-ageing medicine. A post he has held for over ten years.

Born to Indian immigrants in the UK, he grew up fascinated with his family's history and relationship with India. Over countless trips and long summers spent in India, primarily Punjab and Delhi, the infatuation that gripped him as a child still holds firm today. In keeping with his family's intrepid tradition, he now lives in Sydney, Australia, with his wife and two boys.

“

*He surfaced from beneath the sacred black waters of the Yamuna. Turning away from the glare of the early morning sun, Lalit surveyed the surroundings with an air of calm he achieved only while bathing in the holy water. Despite the pleasure it brought him, his wife continued to protest against his morning ritual, arguing that the waters were unsafe and that the sewage from the entire city of Delhi poured into the river.*

”

## ANISH SARKAR

# MEN TO MURDER

Dev Malik, entrepreneur and rich playboy, is stabbed to death. The prime suspect is his girlfriend, dentist Sharon Sequeira, his only visitor that evening.

DCP Kabir Khan of the Mumbai Crime Branch is asked to investigate the high-profile murder, as Dev's wife is TV celeb and actress Tanya Bose. But Sharon has gone underground. Kabir's hypothesis is that Sharon, known to be very possessive, killed Dev in a fit of jealousy.

When a second person – Harry Shah – is found dead, Kabir knows that this simple murder just got complicated. Both Rhea Menon, Sharon's best friend, and Harry Shah, Dev's neighbour, have something to hide. While Tanya is mourning Dev's death, Kabir meets Neena Razdan, Dev's former lover who had hired a PI to spy on Dev.

When a building security guard is found dead in Neena's apartment, Kabir knows he is running out of time. With more suspects than breakthroughs, will he be able to find out who the actual killer is?

*“When Dev Malik woke up that day, he had no way of knowing that he had only a few hours left to live.*

*The screen of his mobile phone showed 5:15 am, well before the time his alarm had been set. All those years of late nights and irregular work schedules had disrupted his body clock for good. Further sleep was impossible so he got out of bed and padded over to the bathroom.*

*The face that stared back at him in the mirror, with its square jaw, broad forehead and dark, brooding eyes, was strikingly handsome. Dev didn't like the fact that his thick mop of wavy hair was greying at the sides but it made him even more irresistible to women. And men too, if they were so inclined.*”



Anish is a part-time author and *How to Kill Men* is his third thriller. He is also a full-time corporate slave, heading the Indian entity of a multinational company headquartered in Paris.

His interests include travelling, cricket, wildlife, and the stock market. Anish lives in Mumbai but escapes to his home in Coonor when he can.

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CRIME | THRILLER



SHARON GUPTA

## KILLER KAVITA : THE HUNTED

She will tell you the day of your death, that too in a poem, but you still won't be able to catch her. But killing is not a sport for her, it's like a monkey on her back who won't stop till the depraved have been punished.

But she's not out to seek revenge. It's righteous indignation that drives her. Kavita accepts a contract only if she's convinced of the target's sinfulness and the need to eliminate them. Her targets are always evil and above the law. The story covers five such hits, each of which describes her boldness, ingenuity, and her ability to out-think her opponents, sometimes even the CBI.

People often underestimate her because she's a woman, forgetting that, as Rudyard Kipling pointed out long ago: "For the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

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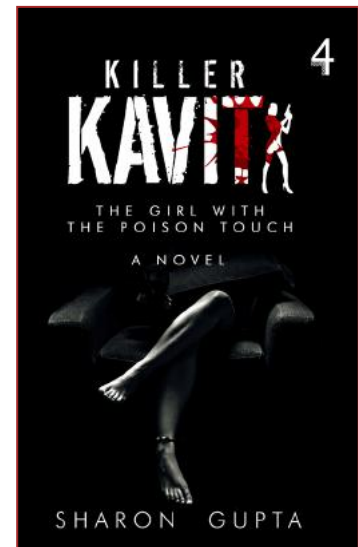
Sharon Gupta is the author of fiction thriller novels and short stories, both contemporary and historical. She is a senior Civil Servant and writing is her passion.

“

*All killers have one thing in common. They are born of a woman. She is the mother of saints and sinners. So, why should it come as a shock if the new killer on the block is a woman?*

”

Previous Titles



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ZOYA SIDDIQI

## WOMEN WE BIRTH, WOMEN WE BURY

1922

Lumi Salaluddin, in the enticing streets of Lucknow, unexpectedly finds freedom from the prison that the men in her life have placed her in. Soon, she finds herself freefalling into a world where she risks the destruction of herself, and everything she knows and loves.

1945

In the politically-changing old capital of Delhi, Gul Rehman Ali harbors dreams – one of being an acclaimed writer. She meets the dashing Zafar Siddiqi and his strange mother, who watches her with emotionless eyes as though waiting for something terrible to happen. Gul finds herself caught up in a budding romance even as the political situation of Hindustan becomes more precarious and threatens to rip apart everything she holds dear.

2013

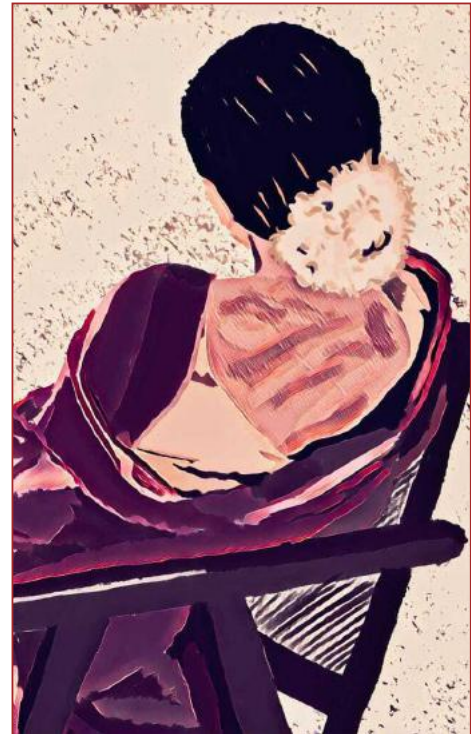
In an old haveli in the small streets of Aligarh, Rumi Siddiqi discovers secrets of pre-partitioned Hindustan in the sepia pages of a story hidden inside a carved walnut box.

**Women We Birth, Women We Bury** shows what it truly means to be a woman through its characters – three girls on the cusp of womanhood who grapple with love, life, and loss across time and space...

“

*I've never understood what they mean when they say that 'a house can be as decked up as a bride' until today. Imtiaz bhai, a few of Aapa's friends from the mohalla, and I spent the day stringing up laddis of white fragrant mogra, reddish pink desi gulaab and bright yellow marigold over the aangan. We lay down small clay diyas on the edge of the courtyard, evenly spaced out, and pour golden oil into each carefully making sure none slips over the side of the reddish-brown clay. When we are done, we sit and roll cotton wicks for the deeyas and then place them ready to light. Noor Manzil has never been so colorful nor so filled with light.*

”



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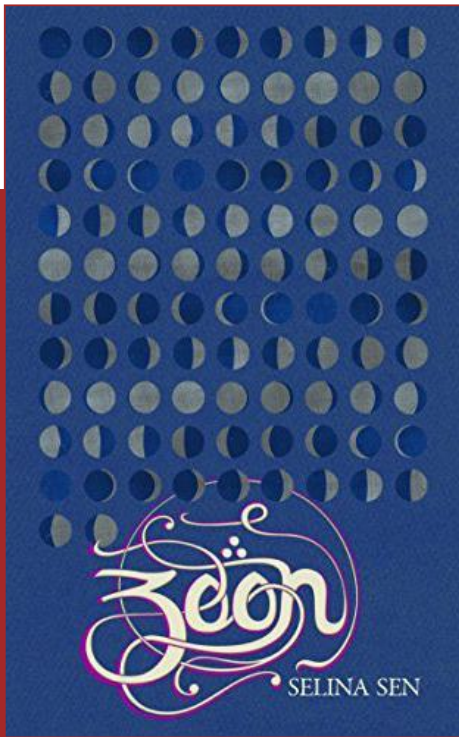


Zoya Siddiqi is a fresh voice making her debut with *Women We Birth, Women We Bury*. Born and raised in New Delhi, Zoya has a double degree in Law and History from the Queen Mary University of London. Zoya has always had a passion for storytelling and the art of written word. Her deep fascination with the numerous stories hidden within the folds of history inspires her creative work. With a gift for vivid imagery and a talent for creating relatable characters, Zoya is sure to leave a lasting impression on readers. Currently, Zoya is pursuing her Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Columbia University, New York. You can follow her work on Instagram (@thezoyaproject) and her website (thezoyaproject.com)

# SELINA SEN

## ZOON

LITERARY



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Selina Sen's articles have been published in most of India's leading dailies. She has also worked as a scriptwriter for a documentary series on art and was Correspondent for a Hong Kong-based publishing group for more than a decade. She has lived in Kashmir for three years and travelled extensively in the Valley, both before the insurgency as a student and during it while researching *Zoon*. Her first book, *A Mirror Greens in Spring*, was translated into several European languages and the French version shortlisted for the Prix du Premier Roman. She is working on her third novel, set in Kolkata, in and around the lane where her ancestral house still stands.

Sen lives in New Delhi with her son and a Lhasa Apso who imagines he is a lion.

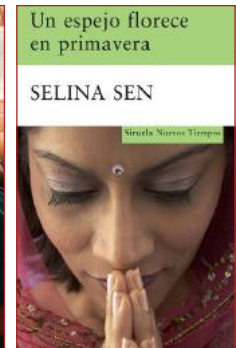
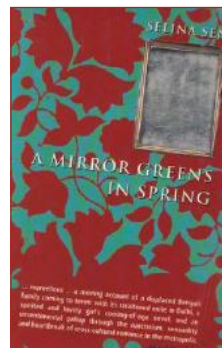
Acclaimed Bollywood director Shantanu Rai is eager to begin shooting his magnum opus, *Zoon*, a film on Habba Khatoon, 16th century Kashmiri queen, poet, and musician. Joya, fresh out of film school, joins the production team to work alongside young Kashmiri historian Rashid.

The filming progresses well; the romantic landscape unfolding in picture-postcard vistas forms an irresistible backdrop for the film – as well as for Joya and Rashid to fall in love. But this is Kashmir at the onset of a crippling insurgency. A shocking incident of terrorism halts the shoot, and lives descend into interlocking spirals of loss and betrayal. Ten years on, Joya returns to Kashmir to complete the film and reach out to her lost love. She struggles in a strife-torn Valley, marred by curfews and barricades, despair and anger, until she finally discards Bollywood's rose-tinted lenses in a quest to face the truth.

Will *Zoon* the film ever get released? A powerful mingling of real and reel, past and present, the novel plays out against the violence and volatility of Kashmir.

*The blow struck with splintering force, the pain blinding. His knee shattered like a papier-mâché bowl pulverized by a sledge hammer. He blacked out, desperately trying to curl into foetal position to hide his humiliating nakedness. He was back in his cell when consciousness returned. The grey walls tilted, blurred. He writhed in agony, a bubble of acute panic trapped in his throat. Somebody had strapped down his leg with a makeshift splint. As he looked down, his immobile leg swam in and out of his vision. Against the blood thudding in his ears, he could hear a man groaning. Moments later he realized the sound was bursting forth from his own mouth.*

### Previous Titles



**JAWAHARA SAIDULLAH**

## **WHERE THE RIVERS MEET**

In 1972 Allahabad, 17-year-old Aastha is forced to marry her rapist.

Oblivious of this, her son, Prayag, saves another young woman, Reshma, from the same fate thirty years later.

In the face of communal riots in 2002 Allahabad, Aastha's determination to finally make her own choices and reveal long-held secrets may hold the keys to life, death, reconciliation, and redemption.

**Where the Rivers Meet** gets to the roots of hatred to dissect the nature of family across the barriers of status, religion, and community.



LITERARY

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*The four young men—“boys” her parents would have called them—had stopped her car by arranging their two scooters across the road, pretending they had been in an accident. When the driver of her car slowed to a stop, one of the boys reached in the open window. Two of boys grabbed Aastha and dragged her out, ignoring her screams and those of her ayah. They wheeled their scooters away and out of sight.*

*There, on the side of a deserted road that ran by the Polo Grounds, near the Allahabad Cantonment, they dragged Aastha to a spot between two distantly placed streetlights that barely pierced the night fog. They threw her on the hard surface and presented her to the fourth as a gift.*



Jawahara Saidullah's debut novel, *The Burden of Foreknowledge*, was published in 2007 by Roli (India) Press. Shorter works of her fiction and non-fiction have appeared in anthologies by Seal Press and Penguin Press, as well as platforms including *Rind Literary Journal*, *Open Road Review*, *Feminist Wire*, and others. Jawahara procrastinates and writes in New Jersey, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

POONAM SAHA

## SONGBIRD IN THE WALL

LITERARY

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Born in Ranchi, Poonam Saha grew up travelling across India, sampling and learning to appreciate cultures, languages, cuisines, and people. In her teenage years, she accidentally witnessed her grandmother reliving horrific memories of the Partition in a semi-conscious state, which led to her interest in the woman's perspective of the biggest human migration in history. Years later, she stumbled upon helping authors research and write. What followed was an inevitable story, born out of more than five years of research, and a lifetime of memories and sagas that laced together to become Amrit. Poonam currently lives in Hong Kong, where she shares her home with her husband, two daughters, and the people who walk in and out of her stories.

October 1947. Amrit is standing on the window's edge. A mob of Kabilis storms her village near Srinagar, and she can hear them running up the stairs to her room. She is expected to jump to an 'honourable' death. She turns to look at her children – they're hiding under the sheets just beside her – and hesitates. The cursed legacy of her troubled mother has been successful in dictating her life (and death), after all.

She was the first girl in the household to get educated and tiptoe around the patriarchal lines of society. She always had the love and comfort of her maidservant Banto, an orphaned Muslim girl who protected Amrit all her life but also resented Amrit for the fortunes that life denied her.

**Songbird in the Wall** seeks to understand the lives of the women in pre-Independent India and their brushes with postpartum depression, the freedom struggle, religious prejudices, and the traumatic gendered violence of the Partition that was a culmination of all these.

“  
*I could hear their footsteps in the street outside. Their horses, restless and sweating. Two floors up, at the back of the house, I could not see them, but I strained to count their feet, their voices. I stood staring in the dark, my heart beating hammers through my veins, in harmony with the thudding that shook the ancient wooden door that opened onto the street. The door of my room that stood between me and them shivering in anticipation. The edge of the windowsill cut into my palms as I pulled myself up onto the narrow ledge. All thoughts of courage and valour that I had dreamt of, deserted me. I didn't want to jump.*  
”

**GUNIYA SHARMA**

## **ORCHARD OF LOVE**

Arjun Pandita and Chitrangada Raina foolishly fall in love in the politically volatile Kashmir in the 1980s and abandon all practicality and logic to be together. Twenty years later, their marriage is falling apart.

Meera, their eighteen-year-old daughter has first-hand received the brunt of her parents' rotting love. But when her father gets into an accident after an argument at home, Meera struggles through life and therapy, tracing her family's dereliction back to their exile from Kashmir. She also falls in love with the mysterious Dev Mathur, a devastatingly handsome drug addict.

The novel travels through the tempestuous years of the family and its members' lives, unveiling the interwoven tapestry of their past: years stained and disfigured by death and resentment, but also full of unyielding love and hope.

**Orchard of Love** is a saga divided into three parts: The Chinar Tree, The Apricot Tree and The Jacaranda Tree, in which a family tries to navigate the distance between them — exploring treacherous emotions, young love, and a decades-old love of a marriage that's on the verge of crumbling to the ground.

*The first and only time Chitrangada fell in love was at fourteen. He was older, smarter and interested in what she had to say. It was an instant but terrifying realisation because your first love always burns. It burns breathless with rosy cheeks and tempestuous sighs, looking at you the way fallen leaves look at barren branches, with so much longing and hope.*



Guniya was born and raised in Jammu. She wrote her first poem when she was nine years old, unaware that writing would become such a big part of her life; not until ninth grade when a story started sprouting in her brain. A story she wanted to tell.

Orchard of Love is her debut work, which explores generational trauma in the scenic setting of Kashmir and Dehradun, inspired by her trips to Srinagar as a child.

Guniya currently lives in Jammu and works at a media production company. She continues to write and is working on her second book.

LITERARY

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**SMITA LUTHRA**

## **NIKITA**

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Smita Luthra is a forty-something writer and techie. She grew up in different states across India soaking in different cultures and traditions that have influenced her writing and outlook towards life.

Her short story “Diamond in the rough” published in the anthology titled “The Other” edited by Abha Iyengar and Mona Verma, was well received and much appreciated by readers and critics alike.

She believes in the power of Karma and that of Chocolate – not necessarily in the same order. She loves spending time in nature and reading poetry.

She currently lives in a small city on the foothills of Mount Rainier in the beautiful Pacific NW of USA.

Have you ever woken from a dream convinced that the events of the dream had once been a reality? And when I say that, I do not refer to a breezy feeling of déjà vu. I am talking about a spine-chilling feeling that you just glimpsed of past.

It was such a night for Nikita. The night that left her convinced that she had killed someone.

She wasn't wrong.

This story that spans two continents and thirty years is about Nikita's quest for the truth.

But no story ever belongs to just one person. This too contains many lives, far apart in space and time but connected through the events of one night.

This is a story of crime and redemption, of love and forgiveness, and of finding home.

“

*It was the night she went to bed a jilt and woke up a killer.*

”

**MINITA SANGHVI**

## **HAPPY ENDINGS**

Krish is the latest 'it' thing. An Indian-export, award-winning lesbian author, she is being actively pursued by Bollywood's darling Karan Raichand for movie rights to her Booker-nominated book.

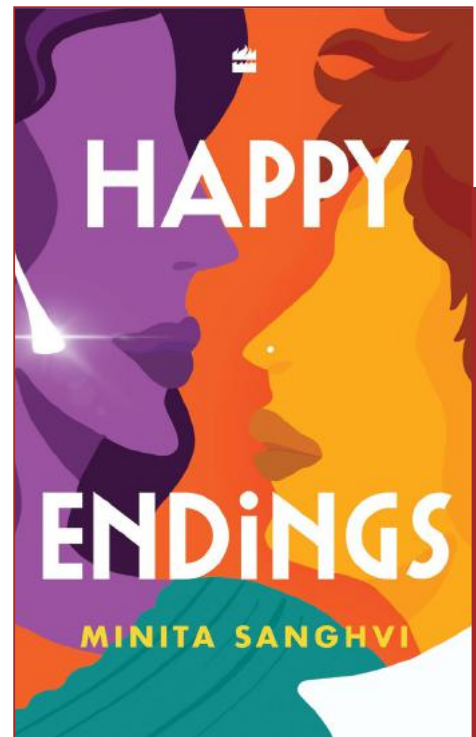
But her past catches up with her on the 14-hour flight back to India when she's seated next to Mahi, the woman who broke her heart ten years ago. Mahi, now Mahek Singh, is India's #1 actress and Karan's biggest star.

As old memories and anger resurface, Mahi and Krish have to contend with Bollywood glamour, interfering relatives, crazy fans, and zealous best friends, all of which complicate their already star-crossed relationship.

Traversing the past, present, and a hopeful future, can Krish move beyond her heartbreak? Will Mahi have to choose between her career and her love all over again?

Or will a second chance finally lead to happiness?

“*Many years later, after all was said and done, Karan Raichand, the famous Bollywood producer and director, was once asked in an interview what his best creation was. He said that it was not a movie but a real-life story. 'You know, to be a success, every love story must have love and a story. Now this one, it had all the components of a Bollywood masala film before I even came into the picture. It was a story of pehla pyaar – first love. And because it was your typical Indian love story, it had all the ingredients – parents, drama, anger and betrayal.'*”



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Minita Sanghvi is a fiction and nonfiction author, a politician and tenured professor at a nationally ranked college in the US. Her research centres around gender and intersectionality in political marketing. Her book *Gender and Political Marketing in the United States and the 2016 Presidential Election: An Analysis of Why She Lost* was published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2019. In 2022, Harper Collins India published her book *Happy Endings*, making it the first lesbian romance novel to be published in India. A hopeless romantic, Minita prefers her drama in fiction, not in real life. You can follow her @minitawrites on Facebook, and Twitter, or visit her website at minitawrites.com

ADHIRATH SETHI

## SEARCHING FOR SAANVI

COMMERCIAL

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Adhirath Sethi was a management consultant with The Boston Consulting Group, when he took an all-too-eager plunge into entrepreneurship in 2008, only to be immediately confronted with the financial crisis. He took to writing as a way to stay sane during this time. As an individual, he hopes to remain as uncomplicated as possible, unlike what he expects of his stories. Adhirath's first book, *The Debt Collector's Due*, was published by HarperCollins and draws on his own experiences of hiring debt collectors to recover funds for his business. He is an alumnus of The Rishi Valley School, Eton College, and the London School of Economics. He is currently settled in Bangalore.

Well-versed with the whirlwind, too-good-to-be-true romance of his parents, Yash Arora never doubted that his would be a similar story. The picturesque idyllic campus of his boarding school provides the perfect backdrop for his made-for-movies love for his senior Saanvi. Even in an environment where hierarchy reigns supreme, the hopelessly romantic Yash never gives up. From getting her gifts to sneaking out to help her, he leaves no stone unturned in trying to win her affections.

But then one summer vacation, Saanvi goes home. And never comes back.

Now in his late twenties, Yash is a hotshot lawyer. Having followed through on all leads related to Saanvi years ago, he has finally given up. But when a chance meeting with an old friend brings him news of Saanvi, he can't help but go searching for her again, even if it means questioning everything he knew about her.

But does Saanvi want to be found? And even if she did, will they be able to rekindle their friendship and romance after years of separation?

*If ever the words 'incurable romantic' were to be assigned a worthy mascot, Yash Arora's name would effortlessly find its way to the uppermost rank of any list of potential candidates.*

*The Arora household, where Yash was raised and pampered by his mother, Aarti, and father, Arjun, was a happy one. Not only did Aarti and Arjun lavish attention, love, and a significant proportion of their respective incomes on the betterment and education of their only son, they also imparted on him the wondrous notion of a 'love marriage'.*



**KEVIN MISSAL**

## **THE DEMON KING**

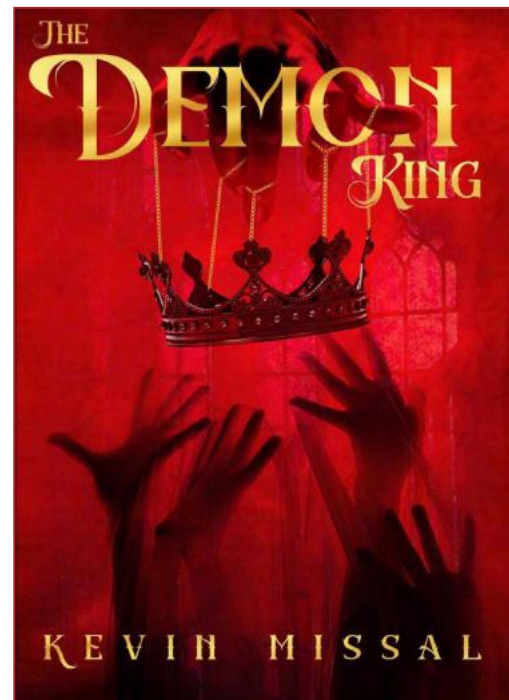
**“At the height of your power, you shall lose everything.”  
Such was the curse from his past that haunts his present.**

Parasmudr, one of the richest island fortresses across the seven continents of Arya, stands tall like a majestic beast, envied by kings and emperors and wanted by pirates and criminals. To defend and preserve it with an iron fist is a man in central – The Demon King. Selfish, greedy, and atrocious, he doesn't disappoint!

But a curse ageing him rapidly begins to haunt his days and nights, and he must choose a successor to safeguard the throne he has built for so long. But the predicament lies in the absence of an heir. The only one can replace him the right way – a son born to his first wife, hidden from him and the world – holds a spiteful wish for the sadist king's death.

Soon, The Demon King realizes that enemies aren't just outside the island but within the walls of his castle too. As darkness begins to corner him and traitors rebel; the knives of treachery graze the inches of his skin, poised to plunge and kill.

One of the bestselling writers of South Asia, Kevin Missal, weaves a cruel tale of family and posterity, inspired by the wonderous worlds of the Ramayana and Mahabharata, reimagining the character of Raavana in a fresh new avatar.



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**previous titles**

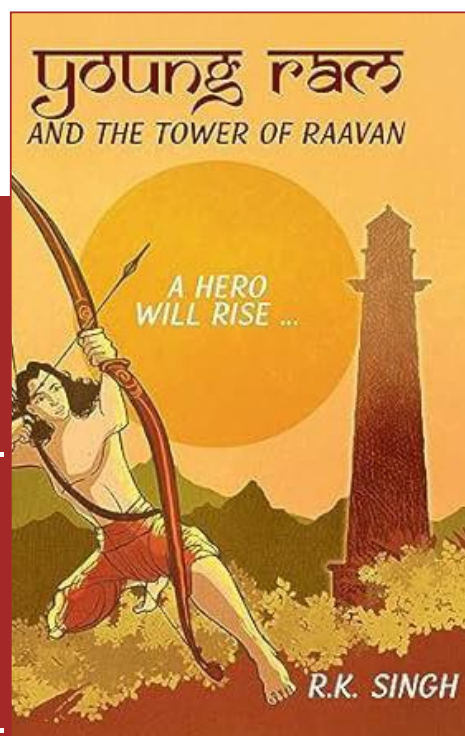


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Kevin Missal is the author of the national bestselling *The Kalki Trilogy*. He has also written *The Narasimha Trilogy* and *Raavanputra Meghnad: Prince of Lanka*, while having established his own marketing agency called HubHawks that caters to authors. He immensely enjoys the look on people's faces when they find out that he's done all of this at the tender age of 24 – that too without an MBA. Kevin resides in Gurugram in a library he lovingly calls 'my room'. When he's not reading or writing, he loves to interact with his readers on Instagram: (kevin\_9695) and Twitter: (kevin\_missal).

RAVI SINGH

## YOUNG RAM AND THE TOWER OF RAAVAN



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A prince destined for greatness. His name will be whispered through the ages. An unforgettable adventure set amidst the sprawling landscape and culture of ancient India. The teenage Prince of Ayodhya is imprisoned by an evil sorcerer who is being controlled by dark and powerful forces.

Ram finds himself alone and lost in a vast wilderness, yet help comes from the strangest of allies. Wild beasts, sagacious forest tribals, and a long-forgotten race emerge from legend to aid young Ram as terrifying demons close in. **Young Ram and the Tower of Raavan** is RK Singh's debut novel and his first book in the Young Ram series.

RK Singh is an Indian-Australian author with a passion for history and stories that can transport one to another time and place. He woke up one day with an entire novel (possibly three) in his head, describing it as a product of his over-active imagination. He holds two degrees from the University of Queensland and has a varied background in business and education. He is a fervent admirer of Star Wars creator George Lucas and owns a large aquarium. His other interests include writing mystic poetry, religion, and landscape photography writing the Young Ram series.

### Titles in the series:

Young Ram and the Tower of Raavan  
Young Ram and the Weapon of Surya  
Young Ram and the River Pirates  
Young Ram and the Return of the Demon King  
Young Ram and the Princess of Janakpur

VIKAS SINGH

## THE BEAUTY AND BHIMA

"I am Bhima. The second Pandava. The killer of a hundred of my own kinsmen. The man in the shadows. And this is my story."

Everyone knows Bhima as the man who killed a hundred Kauravas. But who was Bhima, the man? A lover? A brother? A father? Is there anything beyond his strength and power?

He loved a woman. She never loved him back.  
He loved a brother. The brother loved his wife.  
He loved his son. His brothers sacrificed him.  
He loved them all. And, they broke him.

**The Beauty and Bhima** is a refreshing take on the story of Bhima, the Pandava who always remained unsung, endowing him with complexity and emotion, while remaining humorous and accessible to a modern readership.

Fans of Stephen Fry and Madeline Miller will enjoy this contemporary retelling of Bhima's story from the *Mahabharata*, the greatest Indian epic of all time.

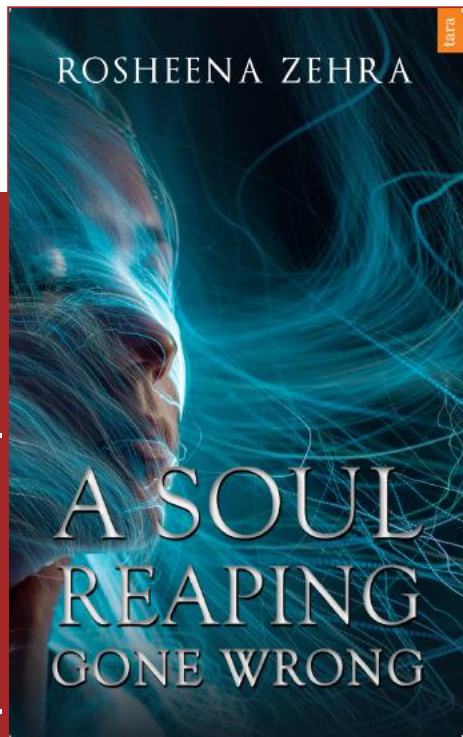
*Dusshasana lies whimpering at my feet. He's pleading for mercy, but all I can hear are Draupadi's cries as he dragged her through the gambling hall, her menstrual blood staining the pristine marble floor. He raises an imploring hand – the same hand with which he had brutally yanked her hair as she tried desperately to hold on to one pillar after another; and then, scrabbled frantically at the floor.*



Vikas Singh is a self-confessed word addict who obsessively reads anything that comes his way. An army kid, he spent most of his early life moving from one place to another, with books being his only constant companion. He pursued a degree in history honours from St. Stephen's College and a post-graduate diploma in marketing management before embarking on a career in journalism. Now the Executive Editor at The Times of India, Vikas lives in Delhi with his wife and daughter, who are equally enthralled by literature, in a house which seems to have more books than furniture. Having previously co-authored a brief, breezy history of knowledge, *'The Know of Things'*, with Derek O'Brien, Jug Suraiya, and Bunny Suraiya, *Bhima* is Vikas's second novel, after the successful cricket thriller *'The Big Fix'*.

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Rosheena Zehra is a Mumbai-based journalist and has been writing since the age of 11, when she wrote a collection of four horror short stories. In 2014, Rosheena entered a short-story competition, where she coupled romance with horror in a 5,000-word piece titled 'Moon' and won the first prize. This was followed by *Dreamcatcher*, a novella on clinical depression and schizophrenia, published in 2016.

**ROSHEENA ZEHRA****A SOUL REAPING GONE WRONG**

Just when Katha thinks nothing could be worse than betrayal, cheating, and heartbreak, the universe sends an unexpected twist her way – death.

She cannot stay in Nasayan, the afterlife, because she has been reaped before her time. And she cannot be sent back because she knows what comes after death.

When she discovers why she was reaped, she knows she has no option but to lead the war against the evil that looms over Nasayan. She must find allies in an increasingly fragmented world driven by petty self-interest and extreme bigotry.

As forces realign on the chessboard, Katha has a larger concern: Will she be able to return to her mortal life even if she vanquishes the enemy? Can Katha erase her life in Nasayan and reset time, or will she forever be in limbo?

“

*I died over six months ago in a car accident. I see you have already begun to make up your mind about me while also wondering how much of what I tell you is true. But this is my story for better or for worse. One about what happens after death, or at least all that happened to me.*

”

**ARYA PANDEY**

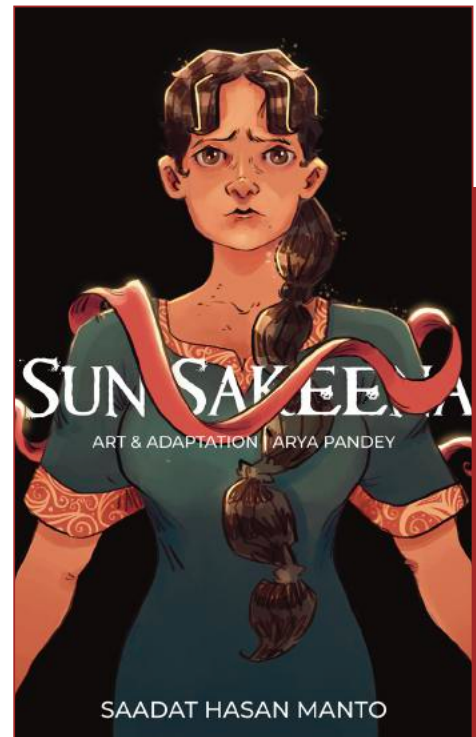
## **SAKEENA: A HOMECOMING**

*In this graphic novel adaptation of Saadat Hasan Manto's acclaimed story "Khol Do," readers are transported to 1947 Lahore, showing the devastating impact of the partition on individuals and families.*

Sirajuddin, a grieving father desperately searches for his missing daughter in the tumultuous aftermath of the partition of India and Pakistan. His journey is a moving examination of loss, identity, and the enduring spirit of hope as it passes through war-torn streets and takes place in the midst of societal tensions.

The compelling narration and striking imagery of the graphic adaptation perfectly capture the unfiltered emotions and complexity of Manto's original story. It goes deeply into the human experience, confronting the horrors of violence, displacement, and the shattered lives left in the wake of the division.

The graphic novel honours Manto's literary genius while providing a new and visually engrossing viewpoint on Manto's works. **Sakeena: A Homecoming** is evidence of Manto's capacity to challenge accepted narratives and face societal taboos as well as his work's ongoing influence.

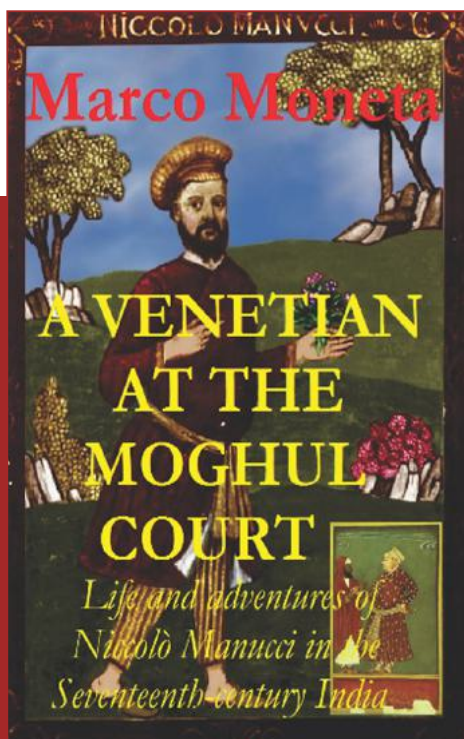


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Arya Pandey is an animator and illustrator from Lucknow, India. Currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Communication Design at the National Institute of Design India, Arya has always been keen on making up stories and playing with various media to communicate the same. Be it animation filmmaking, illustrations, or graphic narratives, storytelling has always been a driving force in his work and practice. In 2023, his animated film *Who Watches the Watchmen?* was selected for several animation film festivals including the Animator's Guild India Fest 2023. Arya continues to explore techniques, methods, and media of storytelling, telling one story at a time.

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Marco Moneta graduated in Philosophy and is currently a professor at SUPSI in Lugano, Switzerland.

In 2006, Franco Angeli published his book *L'officina delle aporie. Leopardi e la riflessione sul male negli anni dello Zibaldone*.

**MARCO MONETA****A VENETIAN AT THE MOGHUL COURT**

A journey through Deccan, Goa, Madras, and Golconda portrayed with the freshness of a picaresque novel and the precious details of a miniature.

First days of January 1656: East India Company's sailing ship anchors in the port of Surat, West India. Among the crowd of merchants and European adventurers, who disembark is an eighteen-year-old boy, Nicolò Manucci. He was only fifteen when he left Venice, hidden in the cargo hold of a little Mediterranean sail ship to Smirne – he'd run away from his parents' poor miserable life to chase every traveler's "oriental dream": India. He had crossed the Ottoman Empire and Persia, stopping in Ragusa, Esfahan and Hormuz.

Wandering through the town while chewing a betel leave he's just been offered, he didn't realize the future that was awaiting him. And yet, this naïve and fearless boy would live for decades side by side with the men holding India's destiny: the Moghuls.

Having grabbed the chance of entering their court in Delhi – where sat the famous jeweled Peacock Throne – Nicolò became a soldier, courtier, physician, diplomat, and the narrator of his own story.

ANDREW OTIS

# HICKY'S BENGAL GAZETTE

Late eighteenth-century Calcutta.

The British are well-ensconced in Bengal, but not yet an empire. Indian princes pose a danger to the East India Company's plans of commerce and domination. Warren Hastings, the British governor-general, is attempting to consolidate his power in the Company. Johann Zacharias Kiernander is on a mission to convert heathen souls in a land far from his native Sweden, though he is not averse to lining his pockets while doing 'God's work'.

Into this steaming cauldron of skulduggery and intrigue walks James Augustus Hicky, a wild Irishman seeking fame and fortune. Sensing an opportunity, he decides to establish a newspaper, the first of its kind in South Asia. In two short years, his endeavour threatens to lay bare the murky underside of the early British empire. Does it succeed?

This is the story of the forces Hicky came up against, the corrupt authorities determined to stop him and of his resourcefulness. The product of five years of research by Andrew Otis in the archives of India, UK and Germany, *Hicky's Bengal Gazette: The Story of India's First Newspaper* is an essential and compelling addition to the history of subcontinental journalism.

'A gripping story of 18th century Calcutta politics and the fate of those who became infamous because of a newspaper.'

## — ASIAN REVIEW OF BOOKS

'Otis' portrait of Hicky is compassionate and affirming.'

## — HINDUSTAN TIMES



Andrew Otis is a PhD candidate at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. He was a Fulbright-Fellow to India in 2013–2014 and lived in Kolkata where he researched on journalism in early India. His work has been profiled in *The Telegraph*, *Business Economics Magazine* and *Mid-Day India*.

He was also a 2011 Joseph P. O'Hern Scholar and researched on British colonial newspapers in London. He holds a BA in history from the University of Rochester and has a background in journalism, having interned with National Public Radio – the US government's popular public radio network.

HISTORY | POLITICS

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**KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE**

## **FIRST RECRUITS: INDIA'S FIRST DIPLOMATS**

**HISTORY | POLITICS**

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India was born as a rebel and the nationalist anti-colonial leadership that took charge of running the Government of India starting with the interim set up of 1946-47 had little experience in conducting foreign policy negotiations. Yet, at the dawn of independence, India already had an emerging canvas of foreign policy challenges stretching from Kashmir, big power politics, to technology import and industrialisation at home. As a result, the government of Prime Minister Nehru had to scramble to set up a service dedicated exclusively to diplomacy – the Indian Foreign Service. The diplomats of the first decade were personally selected by Jawaharlal Nehru and his close advisers including Girja Shankar Bajpai.

This book is a tour of the time in which the foreign service was created and also a recollection of the careers of some of the best officers – Leilamani Naidu, KM Kannampilly, Chandra Shekhar Jha, TN Kaul, Cyril John Stracey, Harivansh Rai Bachchan, and others – covering the entire spread of the Cold War to the early 20th century. This monograph plans to present the world as it was dealt with by first generation diplomats like A P Venkateswaran, Soonu Maneck Kapadia and Brajesh Mishra.



Kallol Bhattacharjee has been a journalist since 2001 and reported extensively on South Asian affairs, and conflicts in West Asia and North Africa. He is currently a Senior Assistant Editor with *The Hindu*, where he reports on diplomatic affairs. His Twitter handle is @janusmyth.



**FRANCESCA MARINO**

## **BALAKOT: THE TRUE STORY**

On the night of February 26, 2019, the Indian Air Force (IAF) suspended years and years of its non-intervention policy by crossing the Line of Control to attack the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. This was done in retaliation to the Pulwama attack on February 14, 2019, sending a clear message to Pakistan. However, Pakistan denied the presence of any JeM camp in Balakot; it also denied any casualties or destruction to property caused by India's retaliatory strike.

And that is the last we heard of the terrorist group. However, an eyewitness who was at the camp on the night of February 26 recalls the event and the following days, with details about the people present at the camp and the camp's power structure. This and more previously unpublished documents are what Debunking Balakot offers about the inside of the Balakot camp and the strike that happened that night. Along with an exclusive interview with Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa and an OSINT detailed satellite analysis to explain the strategic choice behind the strike.

The monograph will also demystify Jaish-e-Mohammed – it reveals buttoned-up details on the group's formation, its new and old training camp structures, its indoctrination of recruits, its mafia-family-style source of income, and its links with other terrorist groups, including the Taliban. What special training are JeM recruits given before they're sent to Indian Kashmir, what routes do they operate on, how do they organize themselves in J&K, and how do they deal with the locals? The book debunks it all.



Francesca Marino is a journalist and photographer specialising in the Indian subcontinent. She has collaborated in organising exhibitions with the "MG Favara" Observatory on Racism of the III University of Rome and the Neroenonsolo Anti-Racist Association in setting up seminars on racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia. She has been a part of the independent association of journalists Lettera 22 from 1996 to 1999.

HISTORY | POLITICS

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HARLEEN SINGH

## THE LOST HEER FEMININE VOICES OF COLONIAL PUNJAB

SOCIETY | CULTURE

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**The Lost Heer** is a collection of women's voices from colonial Punjab of 1849–1947 whose stories are a homage to Heer, the symbol of a quintessential Punjaban – rebellious, brave, and daring. The Punjaban who dares to fall in love in a medieval patriarchal Punjab, elope with her lover despite being 'married' to another man, and stand up against the court for her love. Heer's courageous spirit that shapes history is what *The Lost Heer* attempts to highlight by documenting the stories of Heer's sisters: nameless women whose contribution has shaped our present world would have been much different.

Harleen has put together a collection of photographs and stories by combining years of cataloguing oral histories and anecdotes, scouring through personal archives and museum/library archives, and interviewing real accounts of fortitude. Despite the history of most Punjabi women of that time being documented through the names of their fathers or husbands, Harleen has taken help of old magazines, newspapers, personal histories, and records to thoroughly corroborate these stories.

Some of these stories include that of Hardevi Roshan Lal, the first Punjabi woman to start her magazine and write a travelogue; Syeda Muhammadi Begum, the first woman editor in Punjab to publish a women's weekly newspaper; Meena Shorey (Khursheed Jahan), a young woman who shot to fame as the 'Larra Lappa' girl due to the hit song by the same title in 1949's *Ek Thi Larki*; and Sarla Thakral, the first Punjabi woman in India to qualify as a pilot after flying between Karachi and Lahore in 1936.

Born in Delhi, and now living in Canada, Harleen Singh is a historian and scholar working on the 'Lost Heer Project', a research venture uncovering hidden histories through the art of storytelling. He archives his findings on his Instagram page @thesingingsingh in an attempt to make history accessible and enlightening.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the partition of India Harleen takes a closer look at what inspires him to document events from British India.

**KHAQAN SIKANDAR**

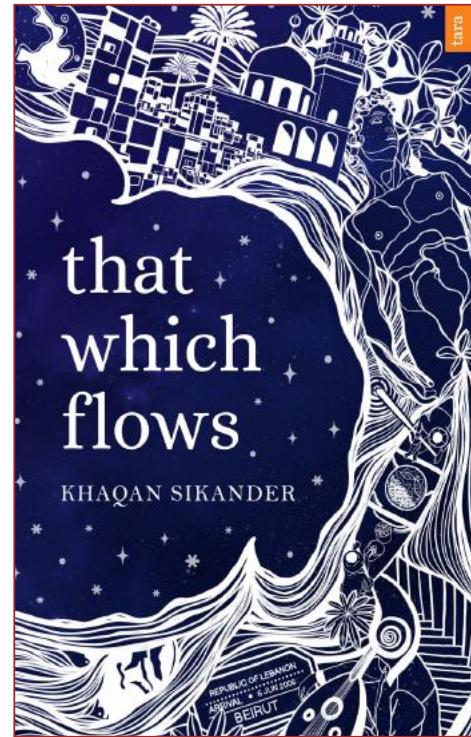
## **THAT WHICH FLOWS**

Muslim, Male, Multilingual, and Mobile — I am a recipe for disaster when it comes to crossing borders, and yet, I have crossed a lot of them.'

Meet Khaqan Sikandar, an international student from a third world country, a war survivor well acquainted with UN bureaucracy, fluent in Arabic, Spanish, and French. Khaqan had more doors open to him than he could have hoped for but as he went through them, he found that not many places spread their arms in invitation.

When Khaqan landed in a notorious Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut, things took an explosive turn as Lebanon erupted into a full-scale war with Israel trapping him in its deadly jaws. What followed was an unexpected journey that took him around the world – the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia – with life-altering lessons in this journey into adulthood. Lessons that made him confront his identity and Muslim history.

This is the story of how he wanted to change the world, instead, the world changed him.



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A steadfast proponent of the road less travelled, Khaqan, over the course of his career has been fortunate enough to work in conflict zones, live in refugee camps, survive a full-scale war, travel the world, handle nationally televised crises, start a company, and pen a book. He is an executive management professional, educated at University of Paris and University of Arizona with degrees in Management, Economics, Diplomacy, French, Spanish, Arabic & Creative Writing. In addition to United Nations Millennium Development Goals (now SDGs) focused projects in Middle East (UNRWA, Lebanon, 2006), Latin America (UNESCO, Costa Rica, 2007) and Africa (UNIDO, Senegal 2009), he has been working in the development and corporate sector of Pakistan over the last decade.

SANDHYA MULCHANDANI

## SPIRITED:

### A CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOL IN INDIA

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Sandhya Mulchandani has spent considerable time with the print media. She is the author and researcher of several projects and books that explore eroticism in Hindu mythologies as well as in ancient and medieval literature. She's the author of *The Indian Man*, *Kama Sutra for Women*, *Love and Lust*, *The Five Arrows of Kama*, and *Mudupalani's Radhika Santswanam*, besides being featured in several documentaries. Currently based out of Delhi, Sandhya is interested in Hindu philosophy, mythology, and music.

Much like everything else in India, alcohol has mystical beginnings; it made its appearance as Soma. It came with the promise of new thought-processes, and thus an opportunity to contact the Other, often experienced and expressed as a union with God.

Soon enough, its consumption started getting regulated – who could access liquor and of which kind got determined by one's caste and varna. By the third century, regulatory licensing, brewing taxes, tavern licenses, and more came into play by the wily Chanakya. After all, anything being consumed in such quantity had to be funnelled in as a source of revenue for the king and his country.

And so forth the book traces alcohol's journey from the inebriated gods and goddesses during rituals, to the kings and heroes, all the way to the common men and women who would devour it and sing paeans in its glory, thus making the drink an intrinsic part of India's literary and artistic expression. Every region had its own brew from local produce, its own laws and rituals, even as monistic religions like Buddhism and Jainism struggled to preach abstinence and austerity. Undeterred, India continued to drink its way through wars and pestilence, reaching its acme during the Mughal rule where the kings raised the bar for excessive indulgence. After the locals' exposure to imported liquor brought in by Europeans and the British art of brewing beer, infusing gin, and making antimalarial tonics, the stage was finally set for Indian-made foreign liquor to thrive.

The use of alcohol has been an issue of great ambivalence throughout India's long history. This complex yet simultaneously celebratory nature of the drink is what Spirited pours over its pages for its reader to reflect.

ROSHEENA ZEHRA

## A *MUSLIM* WOMAN OF THE WORLD

A **Muslim Woman of the World** is part memoir, part social commentary based on the simultaneously stifling but empowering lived reality of being not just a woman but a Muslim woman of this world.

Rosheena Zehra pens a powerful narrative, balancing her very personal experiences with the knowledge and research her background as a journalist in the gender space affords her. This book looks at the many dynamics of being a Muslim woman in contemporary, urban society, examining experiences and flawed expectations imposed on women by outward forces as well as the damaging ideologies internalized through years of microaggressions.

Covering topics like gendered differences in upbringing, prejudices against and dismissal of women's concerns by health professionals, an internalization of guilt and acceptance of mental and physical abuse, dating culture (or the lack thereof), street harassment and Gedi culture, and the many familial pressures on women and fractured interpersonal relationships, Rosheena paints a vivid picture of life as a Muslim woman in India.

A **Muslim Woman of the World** is an articulation of the long process of unlearning that each one of us must undergo for the sake of our own mental peace, if nothing else. It is a book that so many of us will find wishing we could have read when we were wide-eyed, naive eighteen-year-olds, struggling to come to terms with our place in a bafflingly patriarchal society.



Rosheena Zehra is a Delhi-based journalist. In 2014, Rosheena won a short-story competition, where she coupled romance with horror in a 5,000-word piece titled "Moon". Her book *Dreamcatcher*, a novella on clinical depression and schizophrenia, was published in 2016.

Fascinated with the darkness of the human mind, it's these dilemmas and questions (among others) which Rosheena wishes to explore. For Rosheena, writing is made up of skipped meals, all-nighters, anxiousness, and so much more than the romanticism that is often associated with it. Other than writing, she nurtures a borderline unhealthy obsession with cats and the night sky.

SOCIETY | CULTURE

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**NAWAL ALI**

## **MARGINALISATION ON THE LOC**

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Nawal Ali is a researcher, photographer and journalist based in Kashmir. Her research practice includes security amidst state violence in Kashmir, specifically in, but not limited to communities around the Line of Control.

She is a contributing writer in *History, Resistance and Life beyond Politics in Kashmir: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Conflict* being published by Lexington Books. Her chapter is titled "Restricted Time, Space and Mobility: The Everyday Oppression Through Militarised Roads."

She recently completed a multi-media Arts research project with India Foundation for the Art on post-colonial culture in Gurez, a region on the LoC, printed in the form of a book. Currently she is an AHRC funded PhD (Human Geography) scholar at Durham University

The Line of Control is a de-facto border between India and Pakistan that divided people, their land and their families. These people along this line have not only been dispossessed of their intimate family relations, but also their earlier transnational trade relations and political agency. The living conditions have deteriorated, making them victim and a pawn in a space where they have no say about their lives.

**Marginalisation on the LoC** comes from journalist and researcher Nawal Ali's need to understand their lives. An interview-based narrative non-fiction exploring the stories as well as the many ways in which the people experience marginalisation along the LoC in terms of culture, geography, economy, politics and space.

This book is an attempt to bring into focus the lives around this line on the map, the lives this line has affected, changed, and brought to stagnation. It is purely through the narratives of the people, built on the foundation of their memory and inter-generational stories. The interviews, conducted across seven different regions over four years, focus on multiple aspects like livelihood, national identity and security, governance, etc.

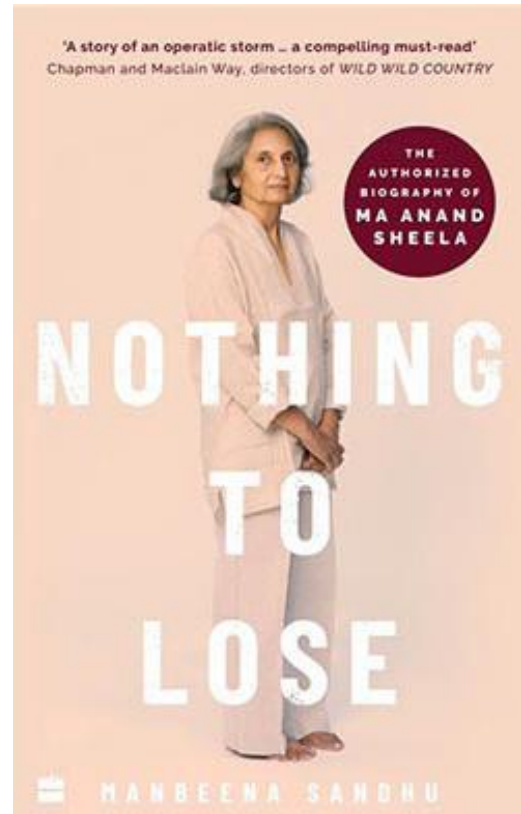
**MANBEENA SANDHU**

## **NOTHING TO LOSE**

From heading an ashram at Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, USA, in the 1980s to allegedly spearheading what is known as the largest bioterror attack in American history and spending 39 months in prison, Ma Anand Sheela's life is one that fascinates and intrigues.

But who is the woman beyond the persona of the commune leader? What is Sheela like behind the sensational "tough titties" avatar?

Manbeena Sandhu followed the Osho movement for two decades before her journey finally led her to Sheela. *Nothing to Lose* is a no-holds-barred account of Sheela's life, her intense relationship with Bhagwan, and the riveting story of what actually happened behind the closed doors of the cult's ashram.



**BIOGRAPHY | AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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Besides being a keen follower of all things spiritual, Manbeena Sandhu is a thorough researcher of biographical histories and a successful debut novelist of *Layla in the Sky with Diamonds*. Her novel is presently sold in bookstores throughout Canada, United States, and India. Her novel also speaks about Osho briefly. Manbeena has been involved in studying Bhagwan Rajneesh and the new Osho group for the past 20 years and knows the complete cycle of events and its following from beginning to the present day.

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Kallol Bhattacharjee has been a journalist since 2001 and has reported extensively on South Asian affairs and about the conflicts in West Asia and North Africa. He is currently a Senior Assistant Editor with The Hindu where he reports on diplomatic affairs. His Twitter handle is @janusmyth.

**KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE**  
**COOMAR NARAIN:**  
**INDIA'S BIGGEST SPY SCANDAL**

On 17 January 1985, the Intelligence Bureau carried out raids in multiple locations across Delhi. The search threw up sensational number of official papers that captivated the nation for months, triggering what would later be known as the Coomar Narain spy scandal.

This is the story of Coomar Narain, the former stenographer, his colleagues, and his troubled marital life with the charismatic and forceful Geetanjali Narain or Greta.

The story looks at how Coomar, who hailed from Chittoor in Kerala landed in Delhi, and became one of the biggest under-the-radar lobbyists working for a famous engineering firm till his debut in the world of trade involving diplomats and arms deals.

The book looks at the dramatic witch hunt against Coomar, his complex personality, and his successful career which ended in a tragic episode that engulfed him and the political structure of an entire era.



**SANDHYA MULCHANDANI**

## **THE UNCOMMON MEN:**

### **A PARALLEL BIOGRAPHY OF RK LAXMAN AND RK NARAYAN**

R.K. Laxman and R.K. Narayan changed the landscape of Indian literature. The two siblings were extraordinary men – one became India’s greatest English novelists when India was still adapting to the language, and the other brought political satire to Indian households. The two R.K.s never forsook their roots of a traditional middle-class South Indian household. If one R.K. (Lakshman) created the Common Man, the other R.K. (Narayan) celebrated the Everyman.

R.K. Laxman was a man with strong political and moral ideologies. He was interested in the events and bureaucratic idiosyncrasies that shaped India and depicted them in a gentle, laconic manner.

R.K. Narayan, on the other hand, has been often compared to William Faulkner. He’s best remembered for his fictional village Malgudi, whose not-so-naive inhabitants helped Narayan comment on life from a philosophical perspective.

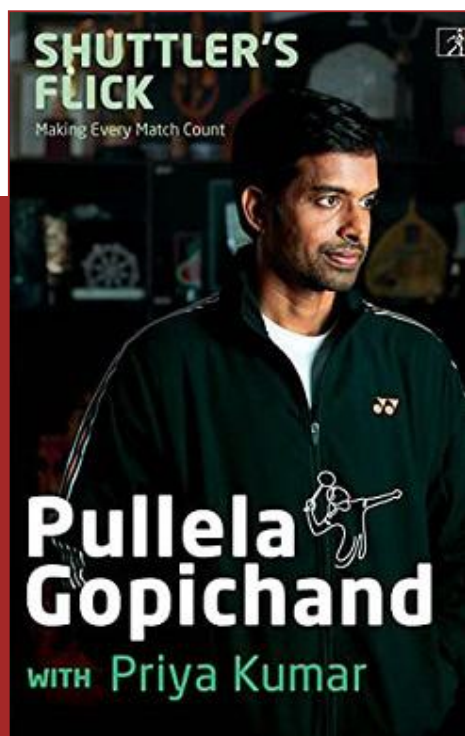
However, despite an age difference of 15 years, the lives of these two gifted brothers were deeply intertwined, as depicted in the biography. The younger brother helped Narayan’s books with his sketches for Malgudi Days when it was adapted as a TV series, while Lakshman had constant support of his older brother. Together, through their respective art, they celebrated the simplicity of the times they lived in against the backdrop of an India that was rapidly evolving.



Sandhya Mulchandani has spent considerable time with the print media. She is the author and researcher of several projects and books that explore eroticism in Hindu mythologies as well as in ancient and medieval literature. She’s the author of *The Indian Man*, *Kama Sutra for Women*, *Love and Lust*, *The Five Arrows of Kama*, and *Mudupalani’s Radhika Santswanam*, besides being featured in several documentaries. Currently based out of Delhi, Sandhya is interested in Hindu philosophy, mythology, and music.

**BIOGRAPHY | AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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Pullela Gopichand is a former Indian badminton player. Currently, he is the Chief National Coach for the India national badminton team. He won the All England Open Badminton Championships in 2001, becoming the second Indian to achieve this feat after Prakash Padukone. He runs the Gopichand Badminton Academy.

## PULLELA GOPICHAND

# SHUTTLE'S FLICK

*'But the return is not always easy, especially when the world has moved on without you, when the people who were rooting for you have now found other heroes to support.'*

When Pullela Gopichand had to undergo a risky arthroscopic surgery, chances of his full recovery were not great. His return to the badminton court seemed a far-fetched dream. The odds were stacked against him. Then, in 1998, he won the bronze in the Commonwealth Games. But his biggest win was yet to come. In 2001, Pullela became the second Indian to win the All-England Championship.

This is the story we know. From not being able to walk to winning the most prestigious title in badminton, this is Pullela the player. But his success hasn't stopped at just him. The Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy, set up in 2008, boasts of a host of World No. 1s, including Saina Nehwal and Srikanth Kidambi and World Badminton Champion PV Sindhu. What is it about his teachings that propels players right to the top?

In his official autobiography, we meet Pullela the coach. Through his own voice as well as those of his students, mother, and wife, we get a look at the mind that revolutionized the game. We are shown not only what it takes to get to the top, but also, and more importantly, how to stay there.

With the principles of his play laid bare, we are invited to apply them to our everyday lives. In doing so, we ask questions, take accountability for our actions and perhaps find the answer to the greatest question of all – what does it take to become a champion?

**DR. DARYL TURNER**

## **THE SLEEP BOOK (WIP)**

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Most of us, at one time or another, have found sleep eluding us. We've tried everything – stowing away our screens before sundown, maintaining a meticulous sleep diary to crack the code, sleeping pills, the most expensive mattresses, calming whale sounds – and yet, woken up groggy, far from rested.

Why does this happen? Dr Daryl Turner is here to demystify this most vital state of being with a nifty handbook on how to sleep better.

Having found an effective treatment for Hashimoto's disease over twenty years of research and clinical trials, Dr Turner stumbled upon strategies to manage the hormones that are involved with sleep. In this book, he takes readers through the significance of the circadian clock, the function of sleep and impact of sleep deprivation, stages of sleep and why we dream and ultimately, how we can use what we know to achieve restful, restorative sleep.

**Forthcoming Title : The Stress Book**



Dr Daryl Turner is a hormone specialist, well-known for his discovery of an effective treatment for Hashimoto's disease. In over twenty years of research and clinical trials, he has invented, patented, and developed hormone-testing devices and supporting medications for the treatment of hormone imbalances. He is on the faculty of Age Management Medicine Group (AMMG). Leading anti-ageing specialists have embraced Dr Turner's research. He has appeared on The Dr Phil Show, The Doctors Show, The Today Show, and many more. He is also the founder of 'The For Need Foundation' (Doctors For Need, Dentists For Need, Teachers for Need, etc.), helping underserved people in the Pacific nations for over 49 years.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS | SELF-HELP**

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**AISHAWARYA AGGARWAL**

## **STROKE: THE JOURNEY OF AN ILLNESS**

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS | SELF-HELP**

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| HarperCollins India

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Each year, around 15 million people worldwide suffer a stroke and about 6 million die from it.

This book describes the history of the disease, major developments in the understanding of its pathology, and the evolution of its treatment.

The journey begins with Hippocrates (370 BC), who first described the disease, and culminates with current treatment modalities and other research being done in the field of stroke treatment. Because of its sudden onset, the 'stroke' used to be known as 'apoplexy', meaning 'struck by lightning'. It was renamed because of the belief that a 'stroke of God's hands' was the cause. The understanding of how a person suddenly falls to the ground, is paralysed or unable to talk came much later.

In the absence of imaging techniques like CT scan or MRI in the past, the diagnosis of a disease was often made after the death of an individual. We owe a great deal to scientists who developed these technologies, and to The Beatles, who funded it.

Aishwarya Aggarwal is an MBBS graduate from Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, Punjab, and is currently doing Externship at Harvard Medical School. She did a clinical elective in Sleep Disorders Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center – a Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. She did a second 'Advanced Clinical Elective in Diagnostic Radiology' at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center- Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. She is currently doing a Child Neurology rotation at Boston's Children's Hospital (BCH)- Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. BCH is ranked as No. 1 paediatric hospital in the United States. She will be rotating through general neurology, ICU and epilepsy division and will be spending an additional 2-3 months in Neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre.

## DEEPAK TOMAR

# TAO

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Most people struggle when they start working. Expectations are sky high, and employees are expected to top these already sky-high expectations.

But a wide gap between what is taught to an individual versus what is expected of them when they join a company is what leads to a patchy start.

If you are smart (and lucky), you will learn from your experiences and come to understand the corporate jungle. But that takes time.

Which is where TAO comes in.

Using his experience of the past 15 years, during which he has hired 100s of young grads from the top IIMs, IITs, and other top education institutions, he has developed a framework based on his own methods and by observing how the most successful investment banking analysts operate.

This framework has benefitted young MBAs and other grads in starting their corporate careers well, and positioned them for tremendous growth in their careers.



Deepak Tomar grew up with 6 siblings trying to find space for himself. He first found sports to give him a unique personality, later to realize that Education was going to cut it for him. He graduated from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and spent 15 years in investment banking. He is an M&A banker and an investor in startups. Deepak is the co-founder of FutureTayari, an edTech venture. He is a sartorialist and a tastemaker for gentlemen. Deepak personifies upward social mobility and has understood how to create pathways to replicate it. With *TAO (Transition from Academics to Organisations)*, Deepak shares all the necessary tools for early success in your career.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS | SELF-HELP

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# WORKS BY PRANAY GUPTA

THE GREATEST AND HIGHEST SELLING WRITER ON  
SPIRITUALITY AND SELF HELP

## NEEM KAROLI BABA

Neem Karoli Baba is the most enigmatic mystic.

Besides being an Indian icon, he has also been an inspiration to luminaries like Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Brilliant, Ram Dass amongst others. Most recently, Julia Roberts has found solace in her life through his teachings. Apart from that, the simple yet profoundly deep nature of his message has much to teach us with regard to living a life of bliss and fulfilment no matter how tough things seem.

The book offers key insights on Neem Karoli Baba's deep impact, transformative life, and secret message.

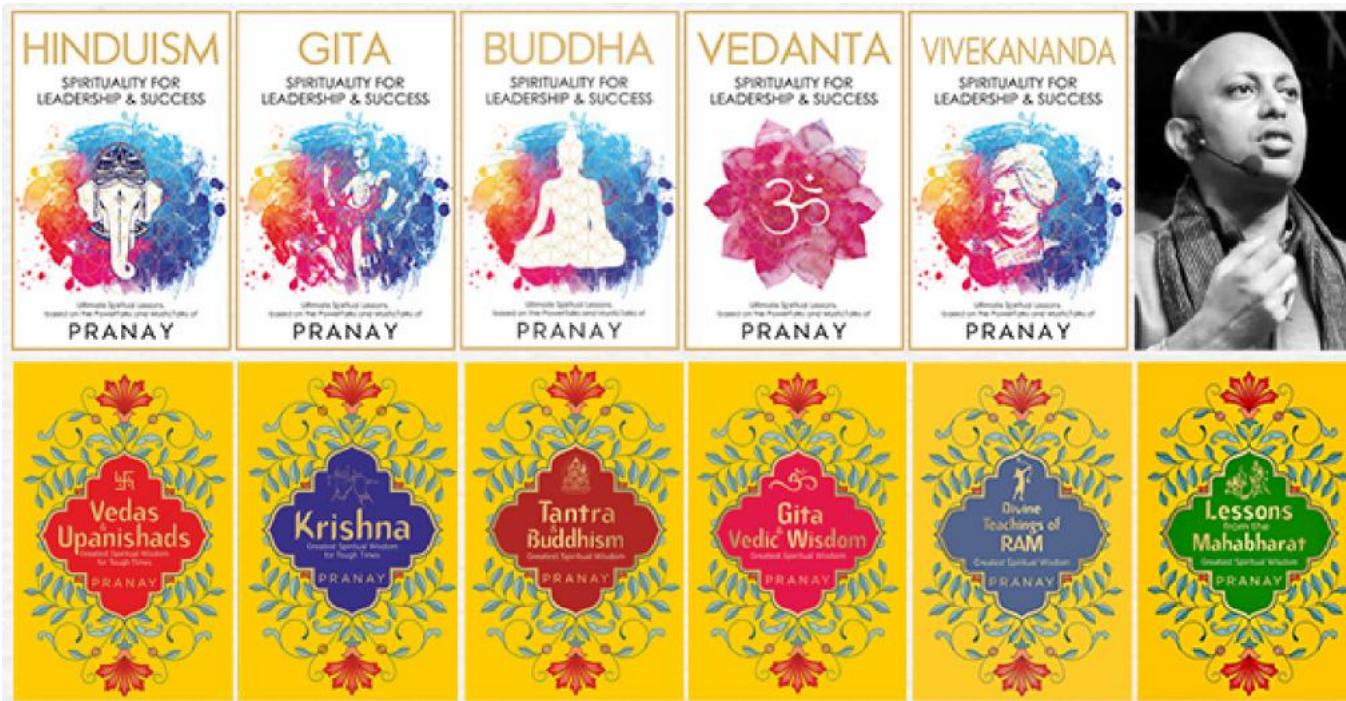
## OPPENHEIMER & THE BHAGAVAD GITA

Christopher Nolan's film *Oppenheimer* has brought the enigmatic personality of J Robert Oppenheimer sharply into the popular consciousness of the world. Oppenheimer was a man of many shades; an exceedingly driven scientist and thought leader, yet also one who was looking for ultimate truth and higher purpose in life. And that is how the Bhagavad Gita became so important to him.

Through the Bhagavad Gita, Oppenheimer evolved into the dynamic, determined, fearless and brilliant individual that he was. Like Arjun in the Mahabarat, Oppenheimer realized that when thrown into battle, one is not to withhold, but instead pour the totality of one's energy into the task at hand! This present book encompasses the deepest ancient wisdom, as well as our modern scientific understanding of the universe, through the charismatic personality of J Robert Oppenheimer. It aims at bridging the scientific with the spiritual, the material with the mystical aspects of life. It is intended to reach millions of people worldwide who have an interest in spirituality, the universe and science, mysticism, self-evolution, potential-realisation, self-realisation, excellence, and human consciousness.



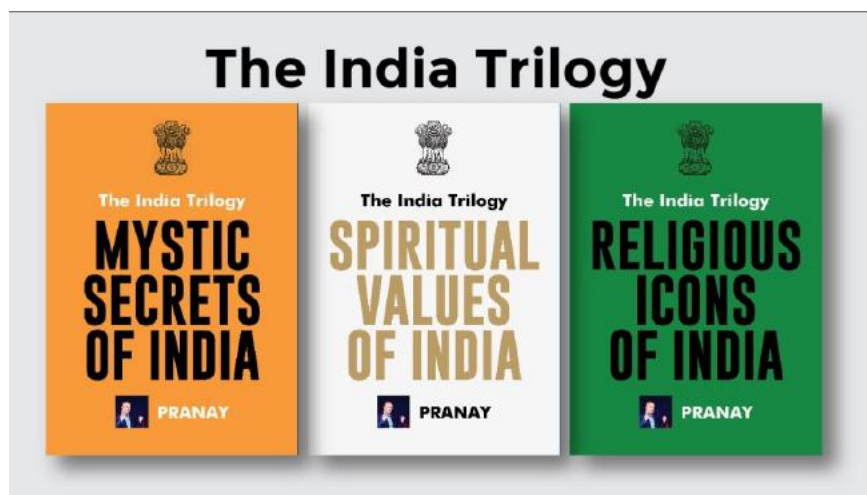
Pranay is a renowned mystic, captivating speaker, and accomplished author who has dedicated his life to exploring the depths of spirituality. With a deep understanding of the human experience and an unwavering commitment to personal growth, Pranay has written numerous books that offer insights into the realms of spirituality. One of Pranay's most celebrated contributions is his groundbreaking series of modules titled "Advanced Spirituality for Leadership and Success." His transformative PowerTalks and MysticTalks have garnered international recognition for their exceptional ability to inspire and empower individuals from all walks of life. Pranay's unique approach combines ancient wisdom with contemporary insights, providing a roadmap for achieving spiritual fulfilment while embracing leadership qualities that lead to remarkable success. To learn more about Pranay and his transformative teachings, visit his official website at [pranay.org](http://pranay.org).



**THE GREATEST AND HIGHEST SELLING SERIES ON SPIRITUALITY AND SELF-HELP**

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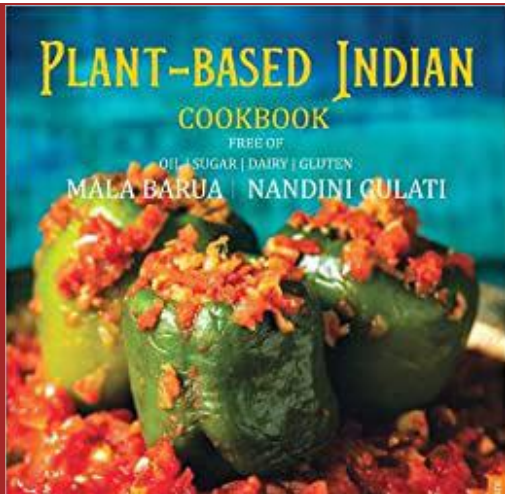
A dynamic new trilogy that presents the essence of Bharat. Encapsulating spirituality and mysticism, plus the the most enduring values and best ideas from India’s ancient and vibrant civilization. Given India’s thought leadership over millennia, and its resurgence as a global power, this trilogy is one whose time has come. The core of India has always been the mystic search for truth, hence the emphasis on mysticism and spirituality within this trilogy.

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**MALA BARUA, NANDINI GULATI**

## **PLANT-BASED INDIAN COOKBOOK**

**COOKBOOKS**



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This cookbook addresses the challenging times that our planet is going through. The health of human beings and the planet are both in crisis. One of the proven solutions to both these crises is whole plant-based food.

By switching to this way of eating we will:

- Contribute to the reduction of our carbon footprint.
- Prevent and reverse food related lifestyle diseases.
- Be more compassionate towards animals.

This book presents everyday recipes for the urban Indian home and anyone interested in making Indian food. This wholesome food is made without using processed ingredients like oil and sugar without compromising on taste. It is also suitable for those who are sensitive to gluten and lactose.



Barua is an eternal student of Vedanta and the founder of Mystic-Asia, a wellness travel company. Her own journey is under the guidance of Swami Anubhavanandaji, a teacher of Vedanta. She is also a freelance writer on wellness for *Vogue India*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Asiaspa*, and *Condast Traveller*, and the author of *The Divine Feminine*.



Nandini Gulati is a holistic health coach practising the art and science of detoxification and nature to restore health. Her own health challenges inspired her on a quest for true health. By changing her lifestyle and habits, she reversed her hypertension and pre-diabetes, and shed 30 kilos of excess weight.

Together, Mala and Nandini have written two books, *Guilt-free Vegan Cookbook* and *Plant-based Indian Cookbook*.



## *Notes*

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## RED INK LITERARY & FILM AGENCY

Red Ink is one of India's leading literary agencies. We offer manuscripts from and about the Indian subcontinent to a world market. With new and exciting writing emerging from South Asia, we are well placed to sign original manuscripts across most genres, though our areas of specialization remain literary fiction and narrative non-fiction on political and current affairs. Our main aim is to be able to lessen the gap between Indian and International publishers, for a mutual exchange of ideas and works, and to be able to represent a wide range of Indian writing abroad.

### THE TEAM

**Anuj Bahri**, CEO & Principal Agent: [anuj.redink@outlook.com](mailto:anuj.redink@outlook.com)



Graduated from the University of Delhi with Bachelors in Commerce, 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 called Tara- India Research Press, and a literary agency called Red Ink, to the existing line of business as a bookseller. Thirty-five years later, with an all-round experience as a Bookseller, Publisher and Literary Agent, - I head the group of BAHRI.

**Priyanka Kedia**, Assistant Agent and Editor: [priyankakedia.redink@gmail.com](mailto:priyankakedia.redink@gmail.com)



I enjoy reading stories that have a strong plot and immerses the reader in the narrative from the get-go. I like reading across genres but I mostly gravitate towards young and new adult, literary and commercial fiction. I will read anything written by Sally Rooney, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Emily Henry, and Cassandra Clare. I am especially looking for stories that play with the formula and surprise you along the way, staying with you long after you have turned the final page.

**Sharvani Pandit**, Head of Editorial (Books and Films)



All books talk, and I am listening. Tell a story simply, and tell it well! I am looking for books that engage, entertain and inform. I read everything from thrillers to fantasy, young adult to historical fiction, classics to narrative non-fiction. Some favourites from an endless list, includes Conn Iggulden, Rick Riordan, Erin Morgenstern, JRR Tolkien, Neil Gaiman, Sarah J Maas, Stuart Turton, James Patterson (of Alex Cross books), Lee Child, Brad Thor, Salman Rushdie, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Upmanyu Chatterjee, and Richard Dawkins. I've been a journalist for twelve years, and then an editor for more than that time. I spend my time reading and editing, looking for that one gem that will take the world by storm.



**Ankita Marwaha**, Copyeditor

I come from a background of journalism, travel, and subversion. Alongside an on-again, off-again relationship with long fiction, readings that always get me going are: short stories and personal essays, eco fiction and non-fiction, personal memoirs, critical writings on politics, culture and society, urban non-fiction, and zines.



**Ankita Naik**, Communications, Media, PR

I'm the public relations and media relations manager. My association with communications and storytelling goes back to having founded India's first spoken word poetry group, and later working towards content and brand building at BYJU's, S.Chand publications, Pravah Foundation, among others. I believe that partnerships are the keystone of any organisation and I'm passionate towards building liaisons which help the organisation sustain its story.