



RIGHTS CATALOGUE 2024 NON-FICTION

ABOUT US

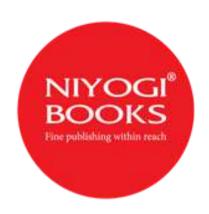
Subtext Literary Agency is a Delhi and London-based agency that has been founded on the grounds that sharing and adapting content is key to bridging gaps between cultures and societies, increasing understanding and awareness, while fighting prejudice and ignorance. This philosophy also informs the relationship of the two co-founders, Ben and Ishita, who met during their studies and bonded over their differences and mutual curiosity, sharing their passion for books (obviously), languages, psychology, feminism, masculinity, popular culture, gender studies, sexuality, history, and social inequalities, to name a few, and how these aspects of humanity interact with and affect our current world. It's been said 'words are powerful', but we'd like to add 'in every form'. Subtext Literary Agency has been created to allow as many people as possible to access that power and use it to help them constantly rethink the world we live in and to enjoy the beauty and opportunities words have to offer, in whatever shape they take.



Loves Kapuscinski, coffee shops and bagels

Lives on coffee, words and sitcoms

REPRESENTING FOREIGN RIGHTS

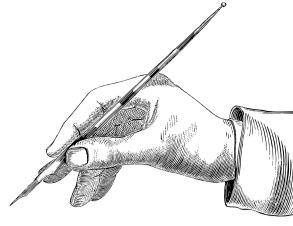






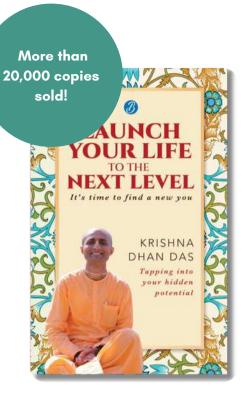






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LAUNCH YOUR LIFE TO THE NEXT LEVEL BY KRISHNA DHAN DAS

Improving one's self and be the best possible version of ourselves sounds like a drastic and gigantic task, it is actually not! Launch Your Life To The Next Level gives to readers the key tools to reach the best version of themselves via simple and small changes.

Based on the 5 principles of Kaizen (Sort, Set In Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain), this book will help you reset yourself and start afresh to reach success in no time!

Full of memorable inspiring stories, revealing statistics and personal examples as well as practical advice, exercises and tips - this is the go to guide to success and inner peace.

Based on the key principles of Kaizen, this book is a beacon of light for those who are keen to make a steady, sure and successful rise in life. It blends practicality and spirituality to deliver a successful cocktail for self-improvement.

"Simple yet effective practical tips on developing an improvement mindset that help you get into the zone where miracles can happen. If you want to excel and reach your highest potential with ease, this book is for you. It breaks this arduous process down into simple, doable steps and lays it bare in a structured way."

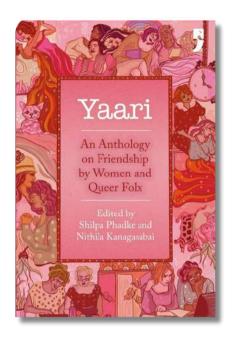
- Anand Pherwani Vice President at America Sterling, Inc., Bloomfield Hills, MI, USA

"Krishna Dhan Das, with his deep practical experience, unlocks the door to success by urging us to work on ourselves effectively, efficiently and enthusiastically." - Manish Advani TEDx Speaker, Founder & CEO MIMO Potentio, Award Winning Storyteller and a Business Leader.

Winner of PVLF Author Excellence awards 2024

English | Rights sold in English (South Asia)





YAARI: AN ANTHOLOGY ON FRIENDHSIP EDITED BY SHILPA PHADKE and NITHIKA KANAGASABAI

Yaari centres friendship in the politics of everyday life and well-being. Drawing on narratives of women and queer folx from South Asia, it reflects on friendship in all its avatars—as wondrous and full of excitement; as joyous and embedded in an ethics of care, as evoking jealousy, anger, and disappointment; and as strained and fractured. Just as friendship itself resists definition, the pieces in this collection come in various shapes and forms: comic strips and poems, essays and fiction, as paeans, reflections and rants. These ninety-five contributions examine the world not only through the lens of what is but what we might aspire to. At the heart of this anthology is the recognition that friendship not just matters but is also deeply political.

A unique, lovingly-produced anthology that celebrates that ignored but vital relationship, friendship, especially among queer and unconventional individuals who often find family outside the ties of blood.

Yaari: An Anthology on Friendship by Women and Queer Folx is a heartwarming read that traverses the joy of friendship, the complexity of ethics of care within these bonds, and also the changing nature of friendship embedded in the politics of everyday life.' **Feminism in India**

'The book dives into a number of important topics pertaining to friendship such as intimacy, motherhood, navigating grief, post-pandemic resilience, acknowledging privilege, and more.' **Feminist Giant**

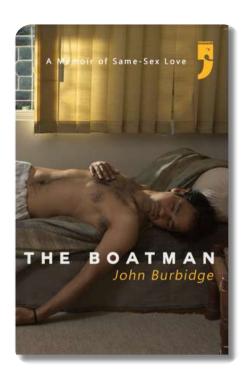
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#MeToo in India and South Africa (2022).

English | Rights sold in **English (South Asia)**

Shilpa Phadke is a Professor at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. She is co-author of the critically acclaimed book Why Loiter? Women and Risk on Mumbai Streets (2011), co-director of the documentary film Under the Open Sky (2016), and co-editor of Intimacy and Injury: In the Wake of

Nithila Kanagasabai is an Assistant Professor at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, where she teaches research methods and documentary filmmaking courses. She researches and writes in the areas of feminist media studies, feminist pedagogies, journalism studies, academic mobilities, research cultures, digital media and friendship.



THE BOATMAN: A MEMOIR OF SAME-SEX LOVE BY JOHN BURBINGS

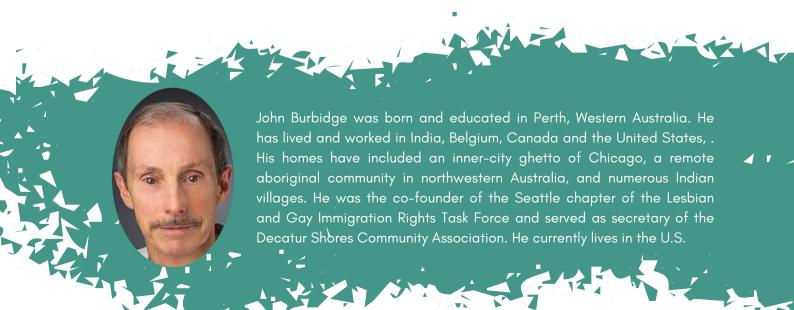
John Burbidge's time in India as a community development worker changed him in many ways,. It led him to confront a deeply personal secret—his attraction to his own sex. After taking the plunge with masseurs on a Bombay beach, he found himself on a rollercoaster ride of sexual adventuring. A complicating factor in his journey of self-discovery was the tightly knit heteronormative community in which he lived and worked, with its highly regimented schedule and minimal privacy that forced him to live a double life.

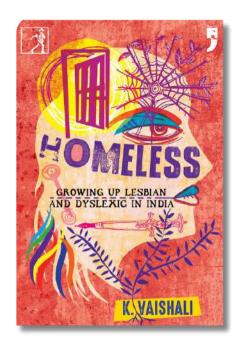
It is well known for LGBTQ+ individuals to go West in order to fully explore their sexuality but here Burbidge reversed a well known pattern to go East and shows us how, when we dare to immerse ourselves in a culture radically different from our own, we may discover parts of ourselves we never knew existed.

'Burbidge's book is immensely educative and should be compulsory reading on how a foreigner discovers his true nature but returns home a very strong and confident man in charge of his life. The Boatman will surely take you across the Ganga.' **Ashok Row Kavi, Hindustan Times**

'Unexpectedly contemporaneous, while still managing to evoke the ethos of a country in flux-the early profusion of exotica giving way to a more observed understanding of India.' Vikram Phukan, TimeOut Mumbai

English | Rights sold in English (South Asia / AUZ)





HOMELESS: GROWING UP LESBIAN AND DYSLEXIC IN INDIA BY K VAISHALI

After discovering she's lesbian and dyslexic at 20, Vaishali begins to untangle her anxieties around reading and writing. She comes out to her mother at 22 and leaves her Bombay home to make her own way. In a dingy, insect-ridden yet rent-free hostel room in Hyderabad with a door that doesn't quite close, she tries to make the best of the situation by writing a book about her experiences. As she writes, she finds the past has a way of catching up with her, even as she explores her dyslexia, homosexuality, and the clitoris; falling in love and recovering from a harrowing breakup; academic failure, loneliness, and homophobia; living with sickness, anxiety, depression, and her caste, gender, and body. This is the story of Vaishali's relationship with her many truths and the truths of many young people in India.

A one of its kind memoir that speaks to the everyday loneliness of Gen-Z in the South Asian community.

'On the face of it, Homeless: Growing Up Lesbian And Dyslexic In India is a memoir. At its heart, though, the book is a nod to all queer and neurodivergent people who have struggled to articulate the effects of their identity on their lives.' **Mint Lounge**

'The vision that Vaishali articulates is entirely different from how a writer pandering to the heterosexual gaze might depict sapphic intimacy. The author dreams of a space that is anti-patriarchal and prioritizes nourishment; where women grow herbs, draw portraits, make furniture, write poetry, play the veena, do yoga, soak and bathe together.' **Hindustan Times**

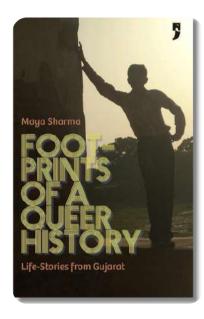
English | Rights sold in **English (South Asia)**





LOVING WOMEN: BEING LESBIAN IN UNDERPRIVILEGED INDIA BY MAYA SHARMA

Located within a personal journey of emergence from a space fraught with silences and half-truths, the book dispels the myth that lesbians in India are all urban, westernized and come from upper and middle classes. These real-life narratives create a space for voices with little or no privilege, providing these women with an opportunity to share their lived realities and effectively challenge the notion of women as sexual beings without agency.



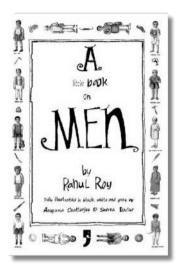
FOOTPRINTS OF A QUEER HISTORY: LIFE STORIES FROM GUJARAT BY MAYA SHARMA

Footprints of a Queer History is a simple narrative of queer stories marked by personal journeys, political consciousness, socio-legal struggles, friendships, and love; it puts on record, within the larger historical backdrop, our humdrum and unexceptional acts of everyday-living that are pierced with the pain of stigma and silence. Stories capture the voices of the marginalized, the rarely heard, and only stories can truly and fully capture their day-to-day reality. They transcend the limitations of defining human experiences and show the impossibility of telling the whole truth, arousing the imagination for that untellable tale and leaving room for the inarticulate to attempt those spillages of reality that can only be sensed. As you turn the pages in this book, you can hear the untold and the unstated in the stories-both unique and universal, you may find footprints that echo some parts of your journey in the everydayness of our human lives.

By bringing in the lenses of both class and sexuality to capture the life stories of same-sex love among underprivileged women, Sharma makes significant contributions to queer studies in India. She successfully challenges the dominant imagery of the homosexual subject in India — as urbane, westernised, college-educated and English-speaking middle class, that a sole focus on pride parades, gay queer collectives and gay bars seem to project.' **Feminism in India**





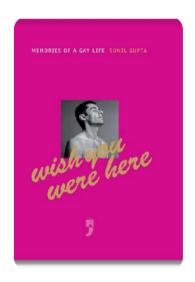


A LITTLE BOOK ON MEN

BY RAHUL ROY; FULLY ILLUSTRATED BY ANUPAMA CHATTERJEE & SHERNA DASTUR

As the varied discourses within gender studies grow increasingly complex, the study of masculinities continues to remain an area of darkness within the South Asian reality. An unprecedented and timely effort, A Little Book on Men, a graphic book, attempts to address many of the issues and questions that surround masculinity in a creative and reader-friendly manner through drawings, text and video frames.

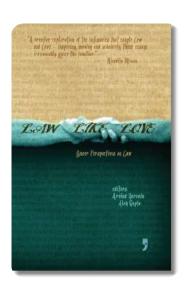
72 pages | ALL RIGHTS AVAILABLE



WISH YOU WERE HERE: MEMORIES OF A GAY LIFE BY SUNIL GUPTA

Part of the first rank of a creative 'migrant' generation which became increasingly visible on the global visual art scene in the 1980s, Sunil Gupta welds together a new language of aesthetics, art, and politics in his work. Wish You Were Here is a journey through the creation of a new visual vocabulary that transformed words like diaspora, sexuality, sex, migration, home, AIDS, and disease into images that revealed and provoked other ways of seeing and understanding. It is a fiercely contemporary work which will define new directions in visual art as well as in ongoing debates about difference and sexuality.

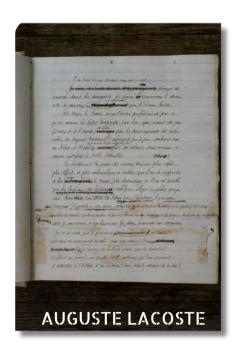
120 pages | ALL RIGHTS AVAILABLE



LAW LIKE LOVE: QUEER PERSPECTIVE ON LAW EDITED BY ARVIND NARRAIN AND ALOK GUPTA

With the landmark Delhi High Court victory in July 2009, sexuality and the law entered mainstream, legal and public discourse in India inviting both celebration and resistance. How do we understand this conversation? The July judgement stands on the shoulders of a much longer history, argue the writers in this contemporary and critical volume on queering the law. A longer history that shapes, unsettles and challenges both legal and queer histories and begins new conversations on the intersections between bodies, politics, activism, sexuality, identity and law.

590 pages | ALL RIGHTS AVAILABLE



CONFESSIONS OF A MAD MAN

BY AUGUSTE LACOSTE

Some might say he was mad some others that he was a genius...

Auguste Lacoste's epistolary memoir gives us unique and intimate insights into the 19th century and reveals the unexpected life of an essential witness of the time—a great philosopher with a cutting edge way of thinking and a rebellious and revolutionary mind who predicted a lot of the historical changes that happened afterwards.

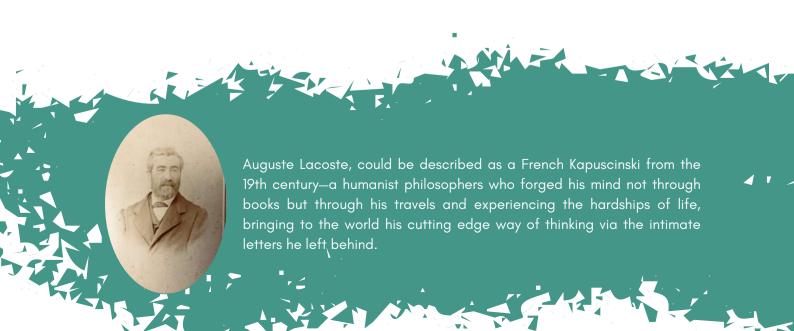
Back in France after a world tour Auguste makes his way to Paris to get his story published. A literary ambition that puts Auguste on the path to meeting fascinating figures of the French literary scene of the time, such as Jacques Arago, Victor Hugo, Honoré de Balzac, and Felix Solar.

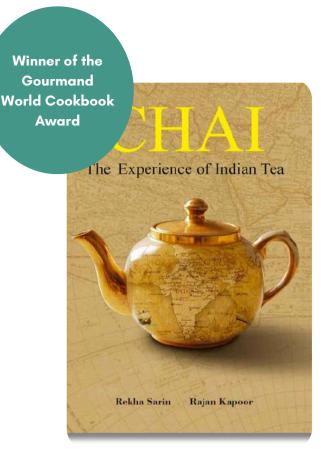
On his journey he witnesses key political events and develops a strong leftist political mind. At the heart of the insurrection of June 1848, Auguste gives us an intimate and rare testimony to a key French political event that has scarcely been documented.

Forced to flee the country to avoid imprisonment Auguste makes his way to the United States to be part of the gold rush. However, gold is not the only thing that motivates Auguste to reach those dangerous and unexplored territories, his real agenda is to meet with the native Americans and try to achieve the birth of a new civilization.

This epistolary memoir revives the concept of narrative non-fiction—taking the reader on a compelling adventure that is also a unique humanist testimony on life, its conditions, its instability and its diversity—revealing through its philosophical beauty the hidden secrets of a fascinating century and a fascinating man!

French | All Rights Available





CHAI BY REKHA SARIN and RAIAN KAPOOR

Chai is a journey into the heartlands of tea, across the length and breadth of India, offering a glimpse into the making of the cup that cheers—the locales, the people, the process—a visual treat for the tea connoisseur, the casual tea-lover, the tea industry enthusiast from all over the world.

The repertoire of teas offered by India is vast and varied. The geographical spread and climatic variations impart distinct characteristics to the tea. Tea from a region depicts characteristics unique to the region—Assam, Darjeeling, Nilgiris, Kangra valley, etc.

The book portrays this remarkable feature tracing the journey of the tea leaf from the bushes to the brew covering the entire spectrum of the tea industry through well-knit text and eye-catching photographs.

An impassioned endeavour to draw the reader into the true magic of tea, a drink that has traversed the passages of time, giving rise to several significant international historic events, and that reflects the marvel of nature, human perseverance and intelligence.



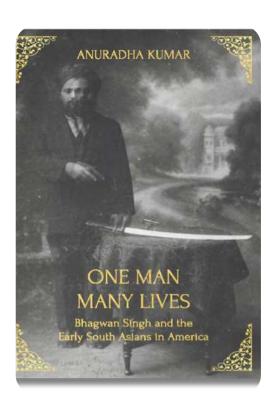


Winner of Gourmand World Cookbook Award

English | Rights sold in English (South Asia)

Rajan Kapoor is a photographer who has received numerous national and international awards for his work, including the Commonwealth Photographic Award for environmental photography, the National Wildlife Photographer Award, and the National Award on the theme of literacy

Rekha Sarin is a graduate of the University of Delhi, and she achieved academic excellence by earning a gold medal from the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School of Journalism. She is also the recipient of the *Times of India* gold medal.



ONE MAN MANY LIVES Bhagwan Singh and the Early South Asians in America

BY ANURADHA KUMAR

Two men, near-identical names, and their intertwined lives. On one side is Bhagwan Singh, an itinerant religious preacher, a rebel on the run, poet, writer, and even a self-help guru. On the other is Bhogwan Singh, turban-wrapper, occasional actor, and one of the first Indians in Hollywood. When one appears on historical records, the other goes off the radar. This is a story of their journeys, intersecting, meshed, and melded mysteriously with each other.

Anuradha Kumar plays armchair detective as she courses through books, newspapers, pamphlets and films to uncover the trajectories of these two lives and the times they inhabited.

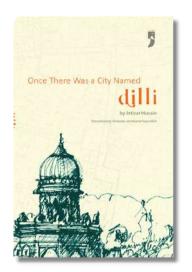
As much as it is about Bhagwan and Bhogwan Singh, this book tells the larger and more remarkable story of how the first South Asians adapted, adjusted and remade themselves for a life in the New World.

'Kumar does a good job of laying out the terrain as well as extracting interesting historical nuggets. Her research is commendably thorough, and her enthusiasm for archival discoveries infectious. One Man is filled with sparkling and balanced insights. Kumar describes the symbiotic relationship of orientalism and a burgeoning entertainment industry without sugar-coating Indian immigrants' ambivalent and canny participation in it. This extends into the emergence of a cohort of yogis and spiritual gurus, who profited off an American hunger for 'Eastern wisdom'. She describes the evolution of immigration policies against 'swarthy' newcomers (both working class and elite), outlining both deep-seated enmities as well as surprising alliances.'

India Today

English | Rights sold in **English (South Asia)**

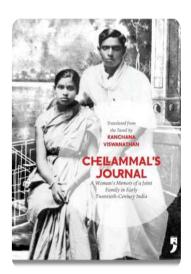




ONCE THERE WAS A CITY NAMED DILLI BY INTIZAR HUSSAIN: TRANSLATED BY GHAZALA JAMIL & FAIZ ULLAH

The history of Delhi has been told and retold many times. Often the intent is to use history as an ideological tool for staking a claim to the present of the city. In Intizar Husain's retelling, it is the tale itself that becomes delectable. A popular recital that highlights the forgotten nuances of the story, Once There Was a City Named Dilli, is a celebration of the people and culture that made the city unforgettable. Forts, walled cities, bazaars, diwan khanas, durbars, and the Yamuna itself come alive in this ode to a capital serenaded and ravaged by powerful kings and chieftains over time.

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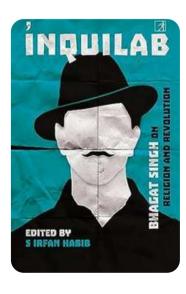


CHELLAMMAL'S JOURNAL BY KANCHANA VISWANATHAN

Chellammal's Journal records the journey of a woman in an upper-caste joint family in early twentieth-century Tamil Nadu. It excavates the complex familial relationships within the walls of the house, and the interplay of love, hurt, affection, disappointment, anger and control which thwart the aspirations of a young woman. In her memoir, Chellammal is especially sensitive to the treatment of young widows in Brahmanical society. She raises questions and concerns about a society that places its women under tremendous scrutiny, and the reader can feel her indignation at the oppressive social customs that suffocate a woman's ability to have a more complete life.

Written at a time when dissent or disagreement by women in Chellammal's circumstances would have been frowned upon, the book provides the reader with a rare, contemporary look at the interior of an upper-caste twentieth-century Tamil household, even as her daughter's translation brings the narrative to life for non-Tamil speaking readers for the first time.

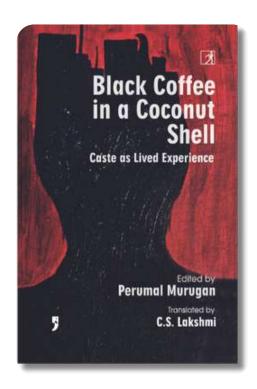
RIGHTS SOLD IN ENGLISH (SOUTH ASIA)



INQUILAB: BHAGAT SINGH ON RELIGION AND REVOLUTION EDITED BY S IRFAN HABIB

Extolled for his extraordinary courage and sacrifice, Bhagat Singh is one of our most venerated freedom fighters. He is valourised for his martyrdom, and rightly so, but in the ensuing enthusiasm, most of us forget, or consciously ignore, his contributions as an intellectual and a thinker. He not only sacrificed his life, like many others did before and after him, but he also had a vision of an independent India. During the past few years it has become routine to appropriate Bhagat Singh as a nationalist icon, while not much is known or spoken about his nationalist vision. In doing so, it compels the reader to see that while continuing to celebrate the memory of Bhagat Singh as a martyr and a nationalist, we must also learn about his intellectual legacy. This important book also makes a majority of these writings, hitherto only available in Hindi, accessible for the first time to the English-language readership.

RIGHTS SOLD IN ENGLISH (SOUTH ASIA)



BLACK COFFEE IN A COCONUT SHELL: CASTE AS LIVED EXPERIENCE

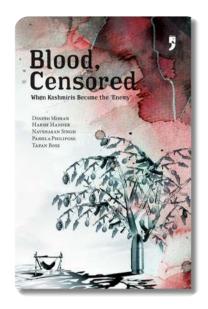
EDITED BY PERUMAL MURUGAN, TRANSLATED BY C. S. LAKSHMI

Caste, as it is experienced in everyday life, is the pièce de résistance of this book. Thirty-two voices narrate how from childhood to adulthood, caste intruded upon their lives—food, clothes, games, gait, love, marriage and every aspect of one's existence including death. Like the editor Perumal Murugan says, caste is like god, it is omnipresent. The contributors write about the myriad ways in which they have experienced caste.

It may be in the form of forgoing certain kinds of food, or eating food at secluded corners of a household, or drinking tea out of a crushed plastic cup, or drinking black coffee in a coconut shell, or water poured from above into a cupped hand. Such experiences may also take the form of forbidden streets, friends disapproved of and love denied. And when one leaves behind the fear of caste while living one's life, there is still death to deal with.

English | Rights sold in **Tamil** and **English (South Asia)**



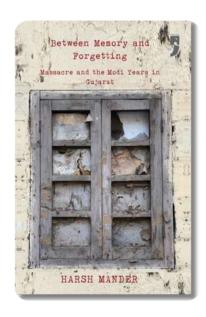


BLOOD, CENSORED

BY DINESH MOHAN, HARSH MANDER, NAVSHARAN SINGH,
PAMELA PHILIPOSE, AND TAPAN BOSE

This is a book about the Kashmir valley-lacerated, wrathful, aflame. It is a disturbing account of children blinded by pellet guns, of a government in a bitter state of undeclared war with its own civilian populations, of the rage of stone-throwing youth and the hubris of military generals. The book also attempts a concise history of the conflict in the valley and makes a strong plea for humanity, for fairness, and for justice. The authors argue, there should be no denying a just peace to the embattled people of the valley.

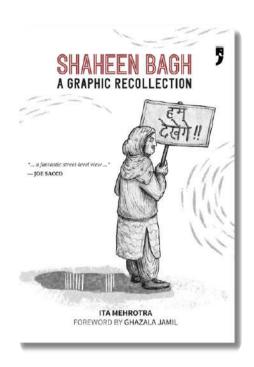
RIGHTS SOLD IN ENGLISH (SOUTH ASIA and ANZ)



BETWEEN MEMORY AND FORGETTING: MASSACRE AND THE MODI YEARS IN GUJARAT BY HARSH MANDER

Harsh Mander recounts the history of one of the most gruesome communal massacres since India's independence, in Gujarat in 2002. This occurred under the watch of Chief Minister Narendra Modi, who led the state until he went on become Prime Minister a dozen years later. Mander tells the story of the years that passed between the carnage and his elevation as Prime Minister, examining difficult questions of whether he carries guilt for the crimes, and whether acknowledgment, remorse, reparation and justice were accomplished in the years which followed. The book emerges as a powerfully reasoned indictment of Modi's record in these years, for not just why the survivors of the carnage were denied both reconciliation and justice; but also for the rise of a series of spectacular extrajudicial killings, including of Ishrat Jahan and Sohrabuddin Sheikh.

RIGHTS SOLD IN ENGLISH (SOUTH ASIA)



SHAHEEN BAGH: A GRAPHIC RECOLLECTION BY ITA MEHROTRA

A graphic account of the most famous political sit-in of recent times, which started on one side of a public thoroughfare in Delhi in December 2019 and continued till March 2020 when it was cleared by the police after the government declared a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. The book tells the story of the Muslim women who started the protest that became the catalyst for a pan-India political movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Based on conversations and interviews with the women who were part of the protest, Ita Mehrotra's graphic narrative archives moments from a movement that spread like wildfire through the length and breadth of the country and continues to inspire voices of dissent.

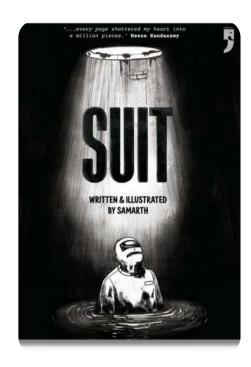






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SUIT BY SAMARTH

Suit is set in a Mumbai of the near future, when Safai Karamcharis have been provided with safety equipment, including a full body safety suit which gives them the moniker of Suitwalas. The story explores stigma, social change and mobility through the eyes of Vikas, a young "Suitwala", or someone who wears the suit, as we follow him through a day in his life, flitting between incidents at work, moments he catches with his family and memories of his father.

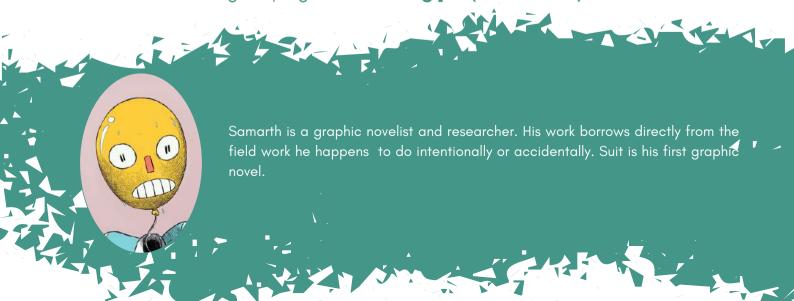
The suit is hailed as a great leap in the right direction for the safety and dignity of Suitwalas; however, has anything changed in reality or is the suit just a cover? Can we really abolish the pressure of the cast system still so strongly rooted in our curent society.

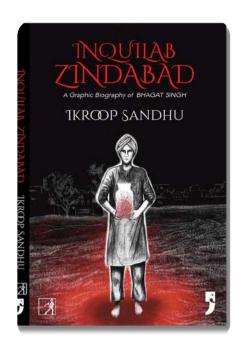






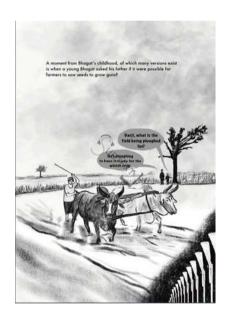
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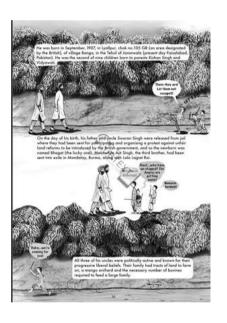




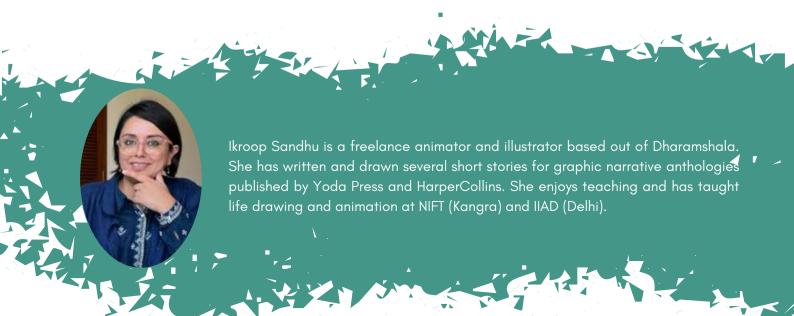
INQUILAB ZINDABAD BY IKROOP SANDHU

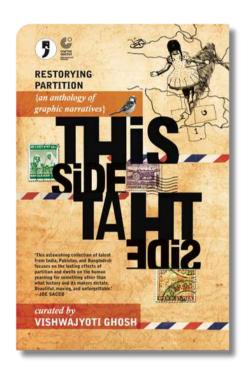
Far from the gun-toting, swaggering young man represented in pop culture, Bhagat Singh was a fearless student leader who spent his time reading, writing, debating, strategising and executing plans while working alongside his comrades. Detailing the life of a national icon, Inquilab Zindabad maps Bhagat Singh's journey toward revolutionising the Indian freedom struggle and the people and events that influenced this quest.





English | Rights sold in **English (South Asia)**





THIS SIDE THAT SIDE CURATED BY VISHWAJYOTI GHOSH

For over three generations now, the most definitive formative moment in modern South Asian history, Partition has remained a phenomenon of constant engagement for scholars, artists, journalists and commentators manifesting their explorations through academic research, reportage and most importantly, creative encounters through art, literature and films. This volume brings together storytellers from diverse practices and professions and explores the possibilities on the drawing board from their perspectives.

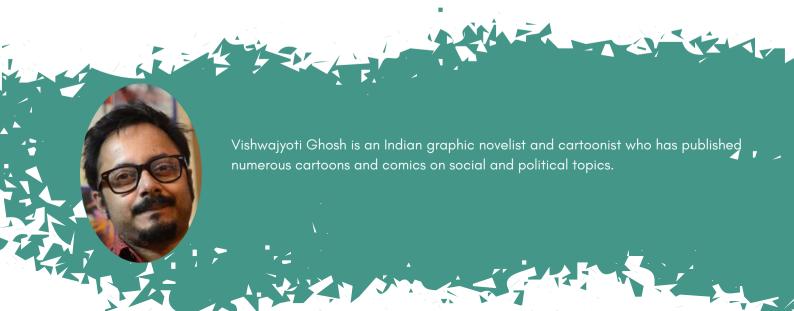
This Side, That Side seeks to bring together graphic narratives on that epochal moment from comic book artists, writers, artists, illustrators, film makers, theatre artists and every other storyteller from across the subcontinent.







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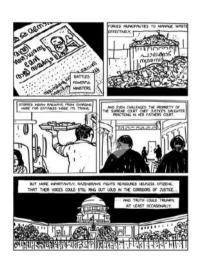


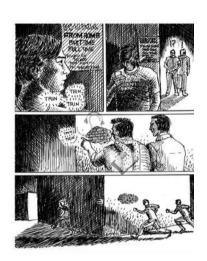


FIRST HAND: GRAPHIC NON-FICTION FROM INDIA EDITED BY ORUIT SEN AND VIDYUN SHABANEY

First Hand Volume I, a collection of new non-fiction graphic narratives, features works by independent writers, artists, reporters, activists, researchers, designers, anthropologists, academicians, and film-makers based in India, who comment on and describe their world through comics in six genres: biography, autobiography, oral history, documentary, commentary, and reportage. By combining image and word to tell stories that range from urgent contemporary narratives to more exploratory historical perspectives to simply the extraordinary lives of ordinary people, the book offers new worlds through which we can re-enter our own.

Whether it be reporting the murder of an RTI applicant, or an account of the Gujarat riots, or a biography of Begum Akhtar, or a narrative about becoming familiar with one's city through the use of its public transport system, each comic tells the story of an Indian reality, bringing alive what has only been encountered in word till now, visually.



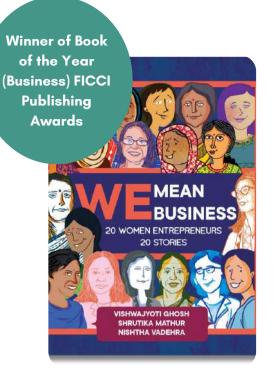




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Vidyun Sabhaney is a writer and illustrator who has worked on various comic book projects.

including her own. Orijit Sen is a well-known graphic artist and designer.



WE MEAN BUSINESS: 20 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, 20 STORIES
BY VISHWAJYOTI GHOSH, SHRUTIKA MATHUR, NISHTHA VADEHRA

An anthology of graphic narratives by and of twenty inspiring businesswomen from across India. These visual retellings convey the diverse lifestories and lifeworlds of their protagonists as they chose to narrate them. These are stories of ambitious women defying expectations and claiming space. Here, you will meet steel traders, factory owners, potters, YouTubers, weavers and several others as their diverse trajectories unfold in non-metropolitan India. 'There's no greater joy than to watch women entrepreneurs take a leap forward and be an important part of the startup ecosystem.

These are not just 20 stories of courage and hope but a revolution bringing women's growth to the fore.

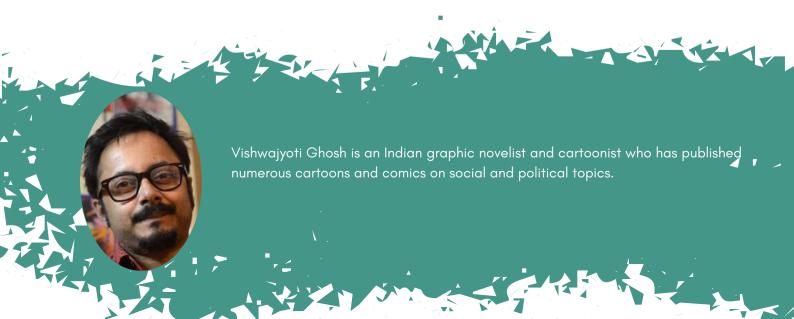






2023 Winner of the Comic Graphic Novel of the Year Award

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