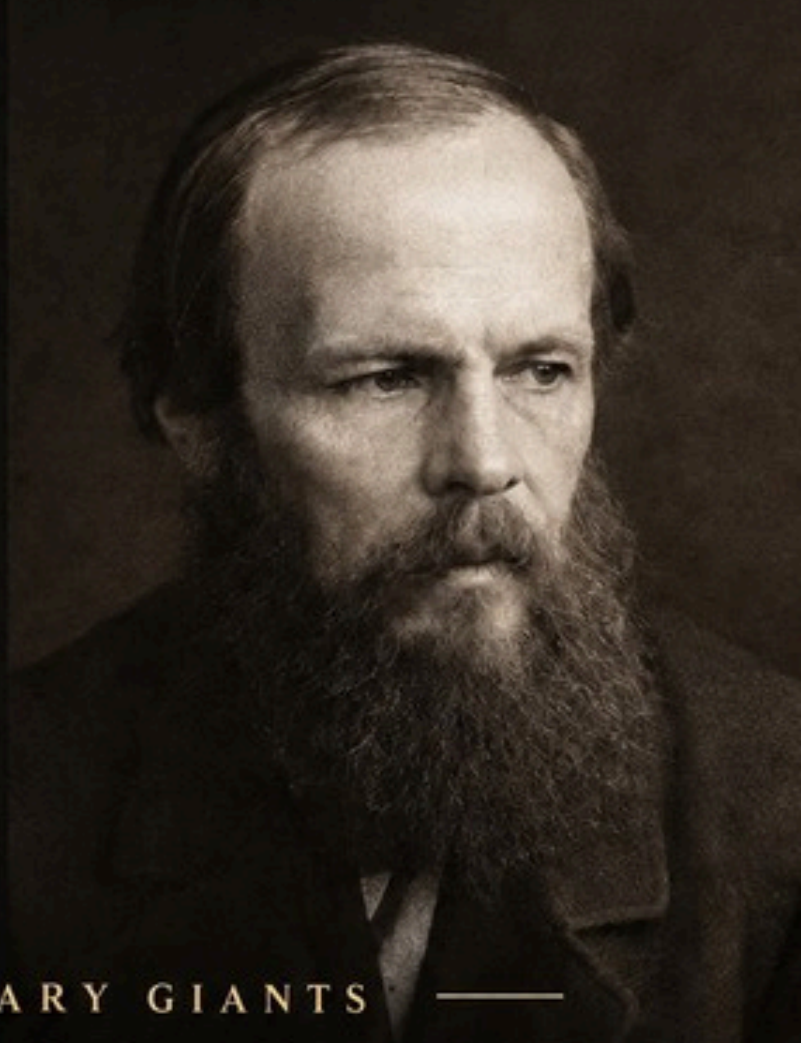


VOL. 2 ISSUE 2

LITERATURE | IDEAS | PEOPLE

EliteOne *Stories*

THE MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS MINDS



— THE LITERARY GIANTS —

KAFKA × DOSTOEVSKY

*The Human Soul, Alienation &
the Search for Meaning*

LITERATURE • PHILOSOPHY • EXISTENTIALISM



*"Two minds.
Two worlds.
One question —
what does it mean
to be human?"*

There is something timeless about the written word. A book can begin as a quiet thought, a story can emerge from a deeply personal experience, and an article can turn a passing idea into something worth remembering. At EliteOne Stories, we believe literature continues to matter because it gives us new ways to understand stories, people, and the world around us.



EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue brings together a thoughtful selection of book reviews, author features, and literary articles, created to celebrate both the works that reach readers and the voices behind them. Each piece offers a different window into the literary world, from books that stay with us long after the final page to authors whose journeys reveal the dedication, imagination, and vulnerability behind their work.

Our book reviews look beyond summaries to explore the ideas, emotions, themes, and experiences that make a book meaningful. Our author features bring readers closer to the people behind the pages, offering glimpses into their creative journeys, inspirations, challenges, and perspectives. Alongside these, our literary articles explore the broader relationship between books, culture, readers, and the changing world of literature.

A literary magazine is not simply a collection of words. It is a meeting place for ideas. It connects writers with readers, stories with conversations, and individual experiences with something larger and shared.

SOUMYA THAKUR

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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ELITEONE STORIES

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Cover Story

FRANZ KAFKA & FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

THE WRITERS WHO LOOKED INTO THE DARKEST
CORNERS OF THE HUMAN MIND

Cover Story

There are writers whose books entertain us, writers who educate us, and writers who remain with us because they disturb something deep within us. Franz Kafka and Fyodor Dostoevsky belong to that rare category. Their works do not simply tell stories; they enter the uncertain territory of human consciousness, where guilt, fear, loneliness, morality, freedom, faith, and identity exist without easy answers.

Though they belonged to different generations and literary traditions, both writers possessed an extraordinary ability to expose the invisible struggles that take place behind ordinary human existence. Their characters are often trapped between what they want to be and what they are, between society and the self, between reason and emotion. More than a century after their most influential works appeared, Kafka and Dostoevsky remain deeply relevant because the questions they asked were never limited to their own time. They were questions about being human.

Fyodor Dostoevsky entered literature through a world of intense social, political, philosophical, and religious conflict. His novels are populated by people who are rarely comfortable with themselves. They doubt, argue, suffer, desire, deceive, confess, and constantly question the meaning of their own existence. Dostoevsky understood that human beings are not governed by logic alone. We can know what is right and still choose what is wrong. We can desire freedom and simultaneously fear the responsibility that comes with it. We can seek love while pushing away the people who offer it. This contradiction is at the centre of much of his fiction. His characters are not presented as simple representatives of good or evil.

Both writers were also fascinated by isolation. Their characters frequently find themselves surrounded by people yet profoundly alone. Dostoevsky explores isolation through psychological conflict, showing how pride, shame, guilt, and fear can prevent genuine human connection. Kafka approaches loneliness through alienation, depicting characters who become increasingly separated from family, society, work, or institutions. Their worlds suggest that loneliness is not simply the absence of other people. A person can be surrounded by voices and still feel completely unheard.

Their treatment of guilt is equally significant. In Dostoevsky, guilt often emerges from an individual's actions and moral consciousness. It becomes something that cannot easily be reasoned away. In Kafka, guilt can feel more mysterious. His characters may not even understand what they have done wrong, yet they find themselves caught inside systems that seem to presume their guilt. This difference reveals two distinct literary visions of human anxiety. Dostoevsky often asks what happens when we know we have crossed a moral boundary. Kafka asks what happens when we are made to feel guilty without ever being given the certainty of knowing why.

Perhaps the most enduring connection between the two writers is their refusal to simplify the human condition. Neither Kafka nor Dostoevsky believed that people could be reduced to neat categories. Their characters contain contradictions that resist easy interpretation. They can be selfish and generous, rational and irrational, cruel and compassionate. They can desire freedom while creating their own prisons. They can search for meaning while simultaneously doubting whether meaning exists. This complexity is precisely what makes their literature feel alive. Their characters do not behave like symbols designed to prove a single argument. They behave like people.

They remind us that literature's most enduring power comes from its ability to ask the questions we carry silently

There is also something striking about the different kinds of darkness these writers create. Dostoevsky's darkness is often loud. His characters argue, confess, confront one another, and experience emotional extremes. His novels can feel like philosophical battles taking place inside crowded rooms. Kafka's darkness is quieter. His characters often move through strange bureaucratic corridors, unfamiliar rooms, ordinary workplaces, and silent family spaces. His horror frequently comes from the absence of explanation. Dostoevsky confronts the reader with the noise of the human soul; Kafka confronts the reader with the silence of a world that refuses to explain itself.

Yet neither writer should be remembered simply as a novelist of despair. Their works are dark because they take human questions seriously. They recognise suffering without pretending that suffering is the only truth. Dostoevsky's characters continue searching for moral and spiritual possibilities even after confronting terrible contradictions. Kafka's stories, despite their bleakness, continue to provoke questions about identity, dignity, responsibility, and the structures that shape human life. Their literature does not necessarily offer comfort, but it offers recognition. It tells readers that confusion, contradiction, fear, and loneliness are not experiences that belong to one individual or one generation.

That may be why Kafka and Dostoevsky continue to speak so powerfully to modern readers. The technologies surrounding us have changed, social structures have transformed, and the pace of life has accelerated, but the fundamental questions remain. Who are we when our identities are stripped of status and usefulness? How much freedom do we actually possess? What do we owe to other people? Can we escape our past? What happens when our own minds become our greatest obstacles? And perhaps most importantly, how do we find meaning when the world refuses to provide clear answers?

Kafka and Dostoevsky did not write to make these questions comfortable. They wrote to make them impossible to ignore. Their greatest contribution to literature may therefore be found not in the answers they provided, but in the depth with which they explored uncertainty itself. Dostoevsky looked into the human soul and found contradiction, conscience, rebellion, suffering, and the possibility of transformation. Kafka looked at the individual confronting an incomprehensible world and found alienation, anxiety, absurdity, and the desperate desire to be understood. Together, they created two very different literary mirrors, but both reflected the same unsettling truth: the human being is a mystery even to himself.

That is why their books continue to be read, discussed, debated, and rediscovered. Kafka and Dostoevsky belong to different literary worlds, but they meet in the deepest territory of literature, the place where fiction stops being merely a story and becomes an examination of existence itself. Their characters may be trapped in bedrooms, courtrooms, apartments, streets, prisons, families, or their own minds, but their struggles remain recognisable. They remind us that literature's most enduring power comes from its ability to ask the questions we carry silently, sometimes for years, without knowing how to put them into words.

SHASHI THAROOR

THE GREAT INDIAN NOVEL

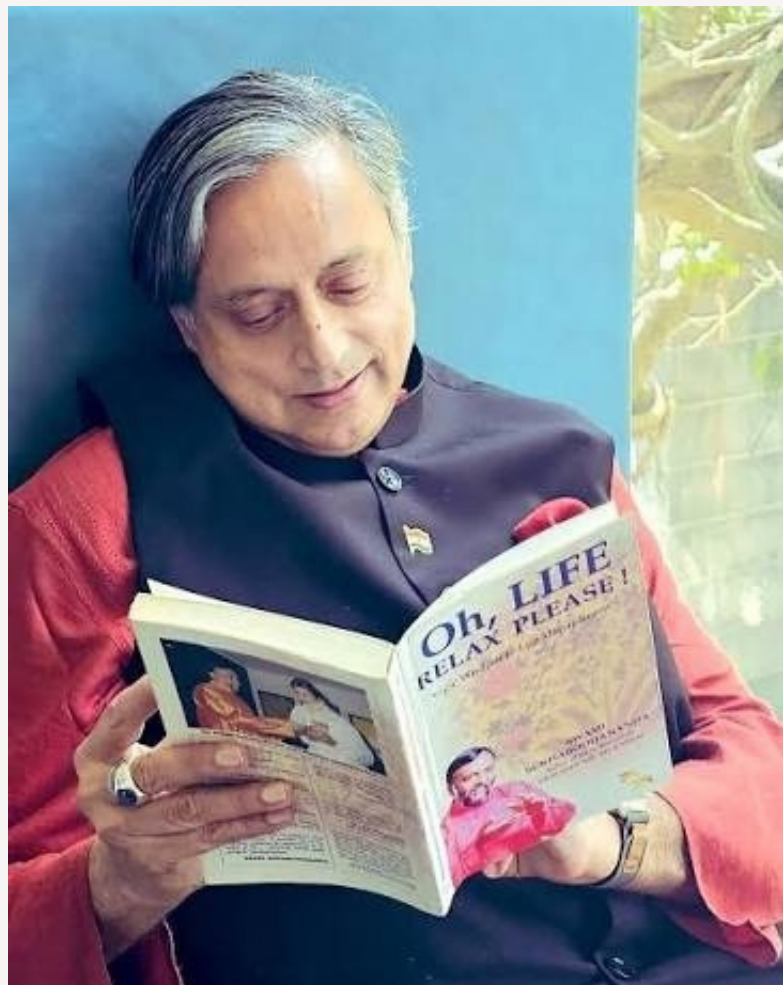
There are books that tell stories, and then there are books that challenge readers to rethink history itself. The Great Indian Novel by Shashi Tharoor belongs firmly in the latter category. A brilliant blend of mythology, political satire, and historical fiction, this novel stands as one of the most innovative works in modern Indian English literature. The Great Indian Novel reimagines India's political history through the Mahabharata, offering a witty and thought-provoking commentary on modern India..

Through symbolic characters like Draupadi Mokrasi, the novel brilliantly blends mythology with modern Indian politics.

One of the novel's greatest strengths is Shashi Tharoor's exceptional command of language. His prose is elegant, witty, and richly textured, filled with puns, literary allusions, and satirical observations. Every chapter offers moments of laughter alongside sharp political critique, making the novel as entertaining as it is thought-provoking. Tharoor never resorts to simplistic judgments; instead, he invites readers to question historical narratives, examine political power, and reflect on the cyclical nature of human ambition. His distinctive writing style makes the novel both intellectually rewarding and highly memorable.

What makes The Great Indian Novel remarkable is its ability to balance humor with profound insight. The novel explores themes of democracy, leadership, corruption, nationalism, identity, and morality without becoming overly preachy. Through satire, Tharoor highlights how history often repeats itself and how myth continues to shape political imagination in modern India.

Decades after its publication, The Great Indian Novel remains astonishingly relevant. Its observations on political ambition, public leadership, media influence, and democratic institutions continue to resonate with today's readers. The novel is not merely a retelling of history—it is an exploration of how nations create myths, remember the past, and define their future.



Some love stories are remembered for their grand endings, while others stay with readers because of the emotions they leave behind. *Half of Forever* by Ravinder Singh is one such novel—a heartfelt tale that explores love, destiny, sacrifice, and the moments that quietly change a life forever. Its heartfelt storytelling leaves a lasting impression.

Review: Half of Forever by Ravinder Singh

The story follows Ravin and Heer, whose unexpected encounters gradually grow into a deep emotional bond. As their relationship evolves, they face difficult choices, showing that love is about cherishing what truly matters.



Ravinder Singh's writing is simple, honest, and emotionally engaging. His ability to portray vulnerability, hope, and heartbreak makes the characters feel genuine and relatable. The narrative flows effortlessly, allowing readers to connect with the emotions rather than just the events. His storytelling leaves a lasting emotional impact.

One of the novel's greatest strengths is its emotional depth. Instead of relying on dramatic twists, it focuses on quiet moments, meaningful conversations, and the subtle ways love transforms people. The book beautifully suggests that "forever" is measured not by time, but by the impact someone leaves on our lives.

As the final installment of Ravin's love trilogy, following *I Too Had a Love Story* and *Can Love Happen Twice?*, the novel offers a heartfelt emotional closure. Long-time readers will especially appreciate its emotional depth.

Why Some Books Find Us at Exactly the Right Time

Have you ever opened a book at a particular moment in your life and felt as though it had been waiting for you?

Sometimes, a book we once ignored suddenly becomes meaningful years later. The words have not changed, but we have. Our experiences, questions, losses, dreams, and fears have changed the way we understand them. The same story can feel completely different when read at different stages of life.

Perhaps that is the quiet magic of literature. Books do not simply tell us stories; sometimes, they meet us where we are.

A novel may find us when we are searching for direction. A poem may arrive when we are struggling to express an emotion. A memoir may remind us that someone else has walked through a road that feels painfully familiar. Even a fictional character can sometimes understand us in ways the people around us cannot.

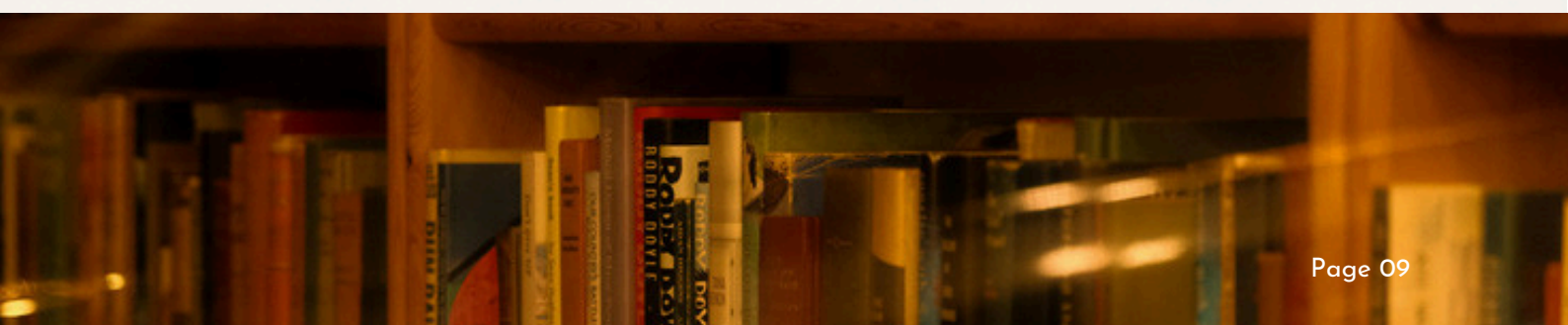
There are books we read for entertainment, and then there are books we remember because they arrived at the right moment.

They become companions during difficult seasons, reminders during uncertain ones, and celebrations during joyful chapters of our lives. Years later, we may forget the details of the plot, but we remember where we were when we read it and how it made us feel.



Maybe we do not always choose the books that change us.

Maybe, sometimes, the right book simply finds us when we are finally ready to understand it.



BOOK REVIEW

Cosmic Longing: Love that's Vast for Earth by Namratha Nayak

Some poetry collections seek to impress with complexity, while others quietly find a place in the reader's heart through sincerity. *Cosmic Longing: Love that's Vast for Earth* by Namratha Nayak belongs to the latter. It is a gentle, emotionally rich collection that explores the universal experiences of love, longing, loss, trust, and the invisible threads that connect human souls across time and distance.

The poems unfold like intimate conversations with the heart. Rather than relying on elaborate metaphors or intricate structures, Namratha embraces simplicity, allowing emotions to remain at the forefront. Every poem reflects a quiet honesty that makes the collection deeply relatable. Whether she writes about love that remains unspoken, memories that refuse to fade, or the hope that survives separation, the verses carry a sense of authenticity that resonates long after they are read.

One of the book's greatest strengths lies in its emotional consistency. The poems are interconnected by recurring themes of unconditional love, silent companionship, and intuitive faith. Instead of presenting love as merely romantic, the collection portrays it as an enduring spiritual experience—one that transcends physical presence and continues to exist through memory, trust, and emotional connection. This perspective gives *Cosmic Longing* a reflective quality that invites readers to slow down and contemplate their own relationships and emotions.



Namratha Nayak's writing style is graceful and accessible. Her language flows naturally, creating verses that are easy to read yet emotionally layered. The absence of unnecessary ornamentation allows each emotion to breathe, making the poetry feel personal rather than performative. Readers who appreciate contemporary lyrical poetry will likely find comfort in her straightforward yet evocative expressions.

The collection also demonstrates the author's sensitivity to silence—the moments between words, the emotions left unsaid, and the quiet spaces where love often speaks most profoundly. This subtle approach gives the poems a meditative rhythm, encouraging readers to revisit them and discover new meanings with each reading.

As a multilingual poet and writer, Namratha Nayak brings a unique perspective to her work. Her literary voice reflects emotional depth while maintaining clarity, and her background in storytelling is evident in the way each poem creates vivid emotional imagery. The influence of her broader artistic interests, including scriptwriting and music, lends the collection a gentle cinematic quality, where every poem feels like a carefully framed moment suspended in time.

NAMRATHA NAYAK

A Voice of Love and Longing



*"I refute that we've met
only in this life.
I've met you a million
times, in a million forms."*

In a literary world often captivated by complexity and spectacle, some writers choose a quieter path, one that values sincerity over ornamentation and emotional truth over grand declarations. Namratha Nayak is one such voice. A multilingual poet and writer, she has steadily carved a place for herself through poetry that explores love, longing, trust, and the profound connections that shape the human experience. Her work resonates with readers because it embraces emotions that are deeply personal yet universally understood. With every poem, she reminds us that the simplest words often carry the deepest emotions, leaving a lasting impression on the hearts of her readers.

For Namratha, poetry is more than a literary form; it is a conversation with the soul. Every poem she writes reflects an intimate understanding of emotions that often remain unspoken. Whether capturing the bittersweet ache of separation, the comfort of unwavering love, or the quiet faith that binds two hearts across time and distance, her words invite readers to pause, reflect, and reconnect with their own emotional journeys. Her verses remind us that the most meaningful emotions are often expressed in silence, memory, and unwavering hope.

Following the success of *Charita* and *Cosmic Longing*, Namratha Nayak is preparing to release her forthcoming poetry collection, *Starlit Desires*, later this year. The new work promises to further explore the emotional landscapes of love, dreams, longing, and hope that have become central to her poetic voice. As her literary journey continues, so does her contribution to contemporary poetry, a contribution defined not by literary trends but by sincerity, compassion, and timeless human emotions.



How Books Stop You From Overthinking



Overthinking often begins when the mind has too much empty space. A simple thought becomes a question, the question becomes a possibility, and soon the mind is running through endless versions of what could happen. Reading a book can quietly interrupt this cycle. It gives the mind something meaningful to focus on without demanding that we solve anything.

Reading also creates a slower rhythm. Unlike social media, where one thought quickly replaces another, a book asks us to stay with an idea. Page after page, our attention becomes steadier. That small act of concentration can give an overactive mind a much-needed pause.

Perhaps books do not completely stop us from overthinking. Instead, they teach our minds where else they can go. They give us stories to enter, questions to explore and moments of silence to sit with.

When we read, our attention moves from our own thoughts into another world. We follow a character, imagine a place, understand a conflict, or simply become curious about what happens next. For a while, the constant conversation inside our head becomes quieter. We are not thinking about tomorrow's problems or yesterday's mistakes. We are simply reading the next sentence.

Books can also change the way we understand our own worries. A character struggling with uncertainty, loss, failure or loneliness can remind us that difficult emotions are part of being human. Sometimes seeing our feelings reflected in someone else's story makes them feel less overwhelming.

And sometimes, that is enough. You close the book, take a deep breath, and realise that the problem you were carrying so heavily a few minutes ago has become a little lighter.



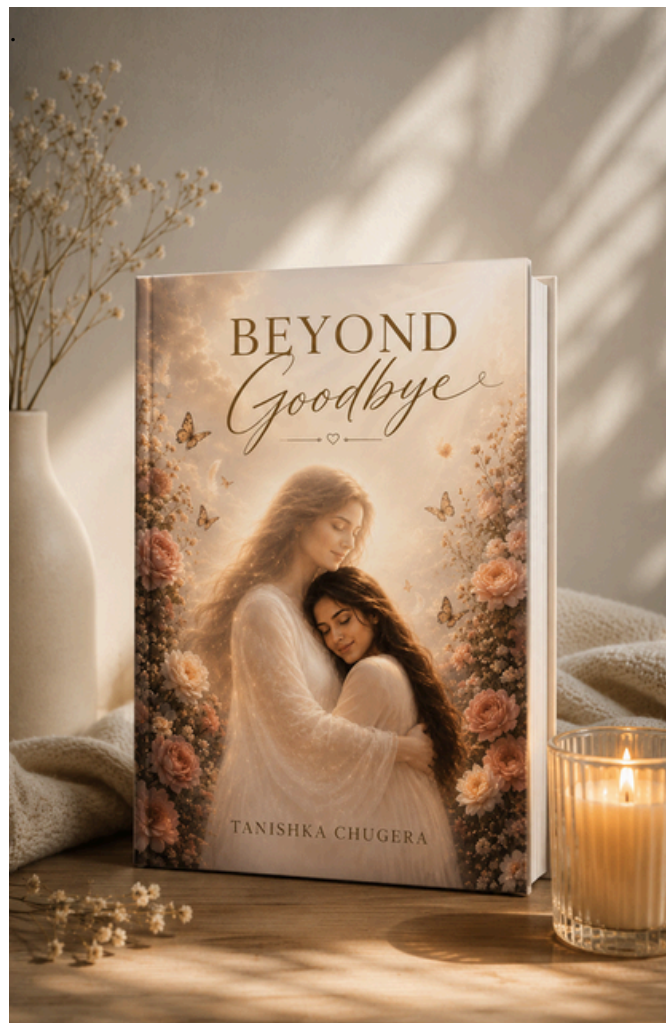
Some books tell stories, while others become companions through life's most difficult moments. *Beyond Goodbye* by Tanishka Chugera belongs to the latter. More than a memoir, it is an intimate reflection on love, grief, healing, and the extraordinary belief that the bonds we share with those we love do not end with death. Written with remarkable honesty and emotional depth, the book offers comfort to anyone who has experienced the pain of losing someone close to their heart.

Book Review

What Sets *Beyond Goodbye* apart from many memoirs on grief is its delicate balance between emotional vulnerability and spiritual exploration. Tanishka openly shares how meditation, auto-writing, dreams, feathers, butterflies, hearts, and other meaningful signs became sources of comfort during her healing journey. Whether readers interpret these experiences spiritually or symbolically, the sincerity with which they are presented makes them feel authentic and deeply moving. These moments offer gentle reassurance that even in loss, hope and connection can continue to exist in unexpected ways. The book never insists on a single belief system; instead, it gently encourages readers to remain open to the possibility that love may transcend physical existence.

Beyond Goodbye by Tanishka Chugera

The writing is simple, heartfelt, and accessible. Tanishka avoids dramatic language or excessive sentimentality, allowing her experiences to speak for themselves. This restraint gives the memoir its greatest strength. Every chapter feels like a sincere conversation rather than a carefully constructed narrative, making it easy for readers to connect with her emotions. The honesty with which she describes fear, loneliness, hope, and acceptance creates an atmosphere of trust that carries the reader from beginning to end.





Tanishka Chugera: Transforming Grief into Hope

*At the heart of Tanishka's work is the belief that love never ends with death. Through *Beyond Goodbye*, she reminds readers that grief can become a journey of hope, healing, and lasting connection.*

Some stories are written to be remembered, while others are written to heal. Tanishka Chugera belongs to the latter category. Through her deeply personal memoir, *Beyond Goodbye*, she has emerged as a compassionate voice for those navigating grief, loss, and the search for hope. Her writing reflects not only her own journey of healing but also her desire to remind readers that love never truly ends, it simply changes form.

Following the unexpected loss of her mother in 2022, Tanishka experienced the overwhelming pain and emptiness that accompanies profound grief. Rather than allowing heartbreak to define her, she transformed it into a source of strength and purpose. Through writing, spiritual exploration, and personal reflection, she found a way to keep her mother's presence alive while inspiring countless others facing similar loss.



What Genres Are Readers Loving Most in 2026?

The reading landscape in 2026 is being shaped by a simple desire: readers want stories that make them feel something. Whether it is the excitement of a mystery, the emotional pull of a romance, or the escape offered by fantasy, today's readers are increasingly choosing books that provide both entertainment and emotional connection.

Romance continues to be one of the strongest forces in the book market. Its popularity has expanded through social reading communities such as BookTok and Bookstagram, where readers share recommendations, favourite tropes and highly emotional reactions to books. The growth of popular fantasy fiction, which combines romance with fantasy, has brought together two powerful and widely preferred preferences: emotional relationships and immersive worlds. Industry data continues to show strong momentum for romance and fantasy, while 2026 sales data from the UK indicates that romantasy remains a major part of the science-fiction and fantasy market.

Mystery, thriller and crime fiction remain essentially compelling. Readers are drawn to stories that create curiosity and keep them turning pages. Psychological thrills, in particular, continue to attract younger readers who enjoy trying to solve the mystery before reaching the final chapter. In India, recent reporting suggests that Gen Z readers are increasingly exploring thrills, fantasy and paranormal fiction, with mythology and folklore also influencing their choices.

Fantasy and science fiction are also thriving because they offer something increasingly valuable: escape. Fantasy allows readers to enter a completely different world, where science fiction invites them to imagine possibilities beyond the present. Current 2026 market data shows strong performance for speculative fiction, while manga has also experienced significant growth, particularly among younger audiences.

Interestingly, readers are not limiting themselves to one genre. A 2026 State of Reading report found that 80% of readers explored a new genre, suggesting that curiosity is becoming an important part of modern reading culture. Cozy fantasy, dark academia, cowboy romance, paranormal fiction and other niche categories are finding dedicated audiences alongside mainstream genres.

Perhaps the biggest trend of 2026 is not the dominance of one particular genre, but the freedom to move between them. Readers may want romance one week, a thriller the next, and a fantasy adventure after that. In a world filled with constant noise and endless content, books that offer emotion, escape, suspense and a sense of belonging are finding their way into readers' hands.

And that may be what readers are really looking for in 2026: not simply a genre, but a story they can disappear into.

80%

of readers explored
a new genre.

Yogesh Kumar

From Failure to Founder: A Story of Resilience, Reinvention & Purpose

Success is often portrayed as a straight road paved with achievements and milestones. But for Yogesh Kumar, success has been anything but linear. His story is one of resilience, reinvention, and the courage to keep moving forward despite life's toughest setbacks.

In 2017, Yogesh completed his CBSE Class 10 examinations with a perfect 10 CGPA, emerging as his school's topper. With academic excellence on his side, the future appeared bright. Like many high achievers, he enrolled at Kodaikanal Public School to pursue his higher secondary education, believing he was on the path to fulfilling every expectation placed upon him.

However, life had different plans.

Unexpected challenges forced him to discontinue his regular education, making him a Class 12 dropout. For many, it would have been the end of a promising journey. Friends, relatives, and society questioned his future, while many assumed his dreams had come to a halt.



Yogesh chose to prove them wrong.

Determined to rebuild his future, he completed his Higher Secondary education through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in 2021. That decision became the first step toward redefining his life, proving that success doesn't depend on following a conventional path—it depends on refusing to give up.



Yogesh Kumar

From Failure to Founder A Story of Resilience, Reinvention & Purpose



Yogesh Kumar's journey is a powerful story of resilience, determination, and the courage to start again. His life proves that success is not always about having a perfect beginning, it is about continuing to move forward despite setbacks.

In 2017, Yogesh completed his CBSE Class 10 with a perfect 10 CGPA and became his school topper. However, his educational journey soon took an unexpected turn. He discontinued his regular schooling and became a Class 12 dropout. While many people questioned his future, Yogesh refused to let that setback define him. He completed his Higher Secondary education through NIOS in 2021, opening a new path for himself.

He later pursued a Diploma in Animation and Visual Effects, discovering his passion for creativity, design, storytelling, and technology. Since 2019, he has worked as a freelancer, helping businesses with graphic design, video editing, branding, social media management, website development, drone cinematography, and other digital solutions. He also gained valuable professional experience as a Customer Relationship Manager at Decathlon.

Yogesh's journey was also marked by deeply personal challenges. He lost his mother in 2020 and later lost his grandmother. During difficult financial periods, he even had to sell things he valued, including his camera and drone equipment, to support his family. Yet, these hardships strengthened his resilience rather than stopping him.

He continued learning and developing skills in web development, application development, UI/UX design, digital marketing, branding, business strategy, and entrepreneurship. His determination eventually led him to take the biggest step of his career, building a company of his own.

Yogesh founded SGGV Infotech and Solutions Private Limited, operating under the brand Tunnel Infotech. The company focuses on software development, websites, mobile applications, branding, digital transformation, and technology solutions for businesses. He is also building an EdTech platform aimed at connecting students with opportunities, mentorship, and industry exposure, particularly those from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Entrepreneurship has brought its own challenges, including financial struggles, sleepless nights, rejected ideas, and uncertain moments. But through every challenge, Yogesh has continued to believe in persistence and continuous improvement.

Beyond business, he also works to support and inspire the next generation by conducting workshops, mentoring students, speaking at colleges, and encouraging young people to develop skills and create their own opportunities.

Today, Yogesh is defined by his ability to keep moving forward.

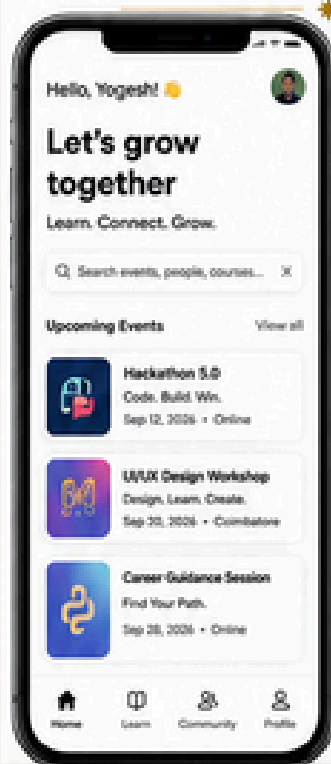
INSIDE TUNNEL INFOTECH

THE MAKERS OF
TUNNEL APP

We're excited to announce that we're building something extraordinary — **Tunnel App!** A modern, student-first platform that helps you learn new skills, discover opportunities, connect with the right people, and grow together. Whether you're a student looking to upskill, find events, get mentorship, or showcase your achievements — Tunnel App is your all-in-one companion for success.

Your journey. Your future. Our platform.

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Access micro-courses, resources and learning paths.



Discover Events
Find hackathons, workshops, webinars & more.



Showcase Yourself
Build your profile and highlight your skills, achievements & projects.



Get Mentorship
Connect with mentors and industry experts.



Grow Your Network
Meet like-minded students and professionals.



Stay Updated
Real-time updates on opportunities, trends & more.

INTRODUCING TUNNEL APP

LEARN. CONNECT. GROW.

A Next-Gen Platform for Students
and Young Professionals.

LAUNCHING
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THE JOURNEY BEGINS SOON.



LEARN



CONNECT



GROW



SUCCEED

At Tunnel Infotech, our mission has always been to use technology to create meaningful impact. Tunnel App is a step towards empowering students and young professionals with the right tools, guidance, and opportunities to unlock their true potential and build a better tomorrow.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE TUNNEL APP

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- ✓ Personalized experience
- ✓ Trusted mentors & experts
- ✓ Real opportunities, real growth
- ✓ A safe and positive community

LAUNCHING
SEPTEMBER 2026

Are You Ready?

BE PART OF THE JOURNEY.

How to Start Writing a Book

“Writing a book often begins with a simple thought: I have a story to tell. Yet between that first idea and the finished manuscript lies a journey that can feel overwhelming. Many aspiring writers spend more time wondering how to begin than actually beginning. The truth is, you do not need to have the entire book figured out before you write the first page.

Start with the idea that refuses to leave you alone. It could be a story, a character, a personal experience, a question, or even a feeling you want to explore. Ask yourself what makes this idea important to you and why you want to tell it. When the reason behind the book is clear, writing becomes easier to sustain.

Once you have an idea, give it some shape. Think about what kind of book you are writing, who you are writing it for, and what you want readers to feel or discover by the end. You do not need a perfect outline, but having a basic direction can prevent the story from becoming lost along the way.

Then, create a writing routine. It does not have to mean writing for hours every day. Even a few hundred words can move a book forward. The important thing is consistency. A first draft is not supposed to be perfect. It is supposed to exist.

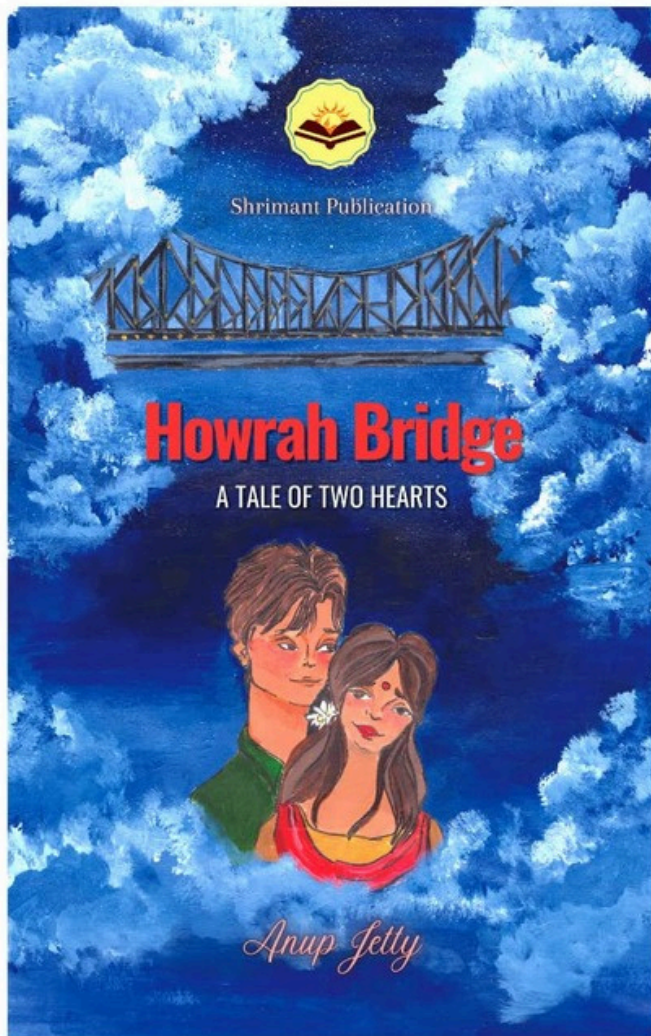
Most importantly, give yourself permission to write badly at first. Good writing is often created through rewriting. The first draft is simply where the conversation between you and your story begins.

Every published book once started as an unwritten idea. The difference is that someone eventually sat down and began writing it.



HOWRAH BRIDGE

BY ANUP JETTY



For readers familiar with Kolkata, this cultural backdrop can create a sense of familiarity and nostalgia. For others, it offers an opportunity to experience the city's atmosphere through the lens of romance. The streets and cultural character of Kolkata provide a fitting environment for a story where emotions, memories, and relationships occupy centre stage.

An emotionally driven romance where Kolkata becomes more than a setting and the Howrah Bridge becomes a metaphor for a love that refuses to be divided by distance.

LOVE BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Love stories are often told through togetherness, shared dreams, and the joy of companionship. But some of the most compelling romances begin where togetherness ends. *Howrah Bridge* by Anup Jetty explores precisely this emotional territory, presenting the story of a married couple whose lives are separated by circumstances while their hearts remain deeply connected through an enduring bond of love.

Set against the culturally rich and visually captivating backdrop of Kolkata, the novel brings together romance, separation, emotion, and Bengali cultural flavour. At its centre are Soham and Sayanthika, whose journey becomes an exploration of what it truly means to remain connected to someone even when life creates a physical distance between them.

The premise of *Howrah Bridge* immediately gives the novel an emotional foundation. Soham and Sayanthika are married, yet they find themselves parted from one another. Their separation creates the central conflict of the narrative, but the novel does not treat distance as merely an obstacle. Instead, it uses distance to examine the strength of their relationship. When two people cannot be together physically, what remains? Memories, emotions, affection, hope, and above all, love.

This emotional idea is beautifully reflected in the title itself. The Howrah Bridge is one of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks, connecting two sides of the city across the Hooghly River. In the context of the novel, the bridge becomes a powerful metaphor for Soham and Sayanthika's relationship. They too are separated by circumstances, yet an invisible emotional bridge continues to connect them. Jetty's experimentation with this format is not limited to this novel. His previous works, including *Kalki*, *Applying Darwin's Theory of Evolution to Love*, *Sahdev*, and *Green*, have also explored this distinctive style. This consistency suggests that the author is not simply telling stories but also experimenting with how stories can be experienced.

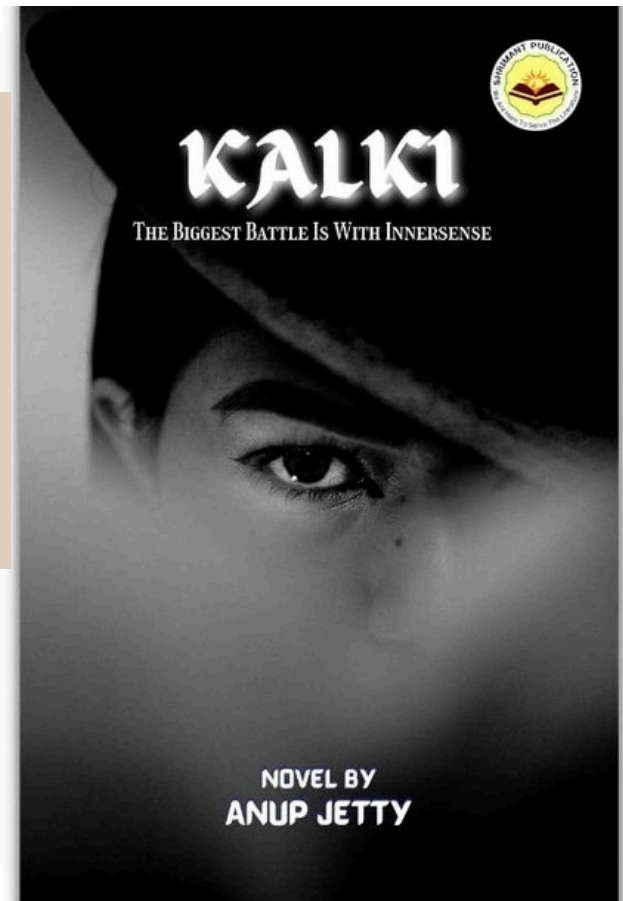
AUTHOR ANUP JETTY

For readers familiar with Kolkata, this cultural backdrop can create a sense of familiarity and nostalgia. For others, it offers an opportunity to experience the city's atmosphere through the lens of romance. The streets and cultural character of Kolkata provide a fitting environment for a story where emotions, memories, and relationships occupy centre stage.

Anup Jetty is the author of five novels, including *Howrah Bridge*, *Kalki*, *Applying Darwin's Theory of Evolution to Love*, *Sahdev*, and *Green*. His unique writing style blends traditional fiction with elements of drama and screenplay. This cinematic approach creates a vivid and immersive experience for readers.

His approach reflects the changing relationship between literature and visual storytelling. In an age where readers are increasingly familiar with films, web series, and digital narratives, Jetty's screenplay-inspired style creates an interesting connection between the written word and the visual imagination. Instead of simply describing a scene, his writing aims to make readers feel as though they are witnessing it unfold.

A significant aspect of Jetty's literary work is his exploration of relationships and human emotions. His novel *Howrah Bridge*, for instance, presents the fictional story of Soham and Sayanthika, a married couple in Kolkata who are separated from each other but remain emotionally connected through a strong bond of love. Set against the cultural richness and beauty of Kolkata, the novel brings together romance, separation, emotion, and Bengali culture.



Redefining Storytelling Through Cinema

The title *Howrah Bridge* itself carries a meaningful symbolism. One of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks, the bridge connects two sides of the city across the Hooghly River. In the context of the novel, it becomes a metaphor for the emotional connection between two people separated by circumstances. The physical distance between Soham and Sayanthika contrasts with the invisible bond that continues to connect them, making the bridge an appropriate representation of their relationship.

His work has also received recognition through the Indian Golden Award and has been featured in publications including *Literature Weekly Magazine* and *Mumbai Times*. His novels have reportedly been reviewed by government institutions and have found their place in institutional libraries. The reach of his books has extended to educational spaces as well, with schools distributing hundreds of copies of his novels among students as prizes.

BANDINI: IRAADON KEE EK KALAJAYEE YATRA

BY DR. RAJSHREE
VERMA



Bandini: Iraadon Kee Ek Kalajayee Yatra, subtitled Suae Se Silicon Tak ka Mahaasafar, by Dr. Rajshree Verma, presents itself as a sweeping narrative of women's resilience, transformation, and self-assertion across generations. Set against the social and cultural backdrop of Bihar and extending toward the contemporary digital world, the novel traces the lives of Sarla, Vidya, and Aradhana, using their experiences to portray the changing dimensions of womanhood. At its heart, the book attempts to give voice to women whose aspirations and identities have historically been suppressed by tradition, social expectations, and notions of honour.

One of the book's strongest aspects is its intergenerational framework. By placing three women at the centre, Verma explores how circumstances, choices, and opportunities change across generations.



The movement from the metaphorical “needle” to “silicon” effectively captures this transformation—from domestic labour and limited opportunities to education, technology, independence, and participation in a rapidly changing world. The journey is therefore not merely geographical or technological; it is psychological and social as well.

The book’s portrayal of women appears to be deeply influenced by the author’s understanding of human emotions and social realities. Her background as a homeopathic physician adds an interesting dimension to the characterization, particularly in the attention given to emotional suffering, suppressed desires, and the psychological consequences of social restrictions. The women in the narrative are conceived not simply as victims of circumstances but as individuals negotiating difficult choices, personal responsibilities, family expectations, and their own ambitions.

Her background as a homeopathic physician adds an interesting dimension to the characterization, particularly in the attention given to emotional suffering, suppressed desires, and the psychological consequences of social restrictions. The women in the narrative are conceived not simply as victims of circumstances but as individuals negotiating difficult choices, personal responsibilities, family expectations, and their own ambitions. This gives the story a potentially relatable emotional core.

The Bihar setting also contributes significantly to the book’s identity. Rather than treating social change as an abstract concept, the narrative appears to root it in a specific cultural landscape, allowing the reader to witness the tension between inherited traditions and emerging aspirations. The progression from the dusty streets of Muzaffarpur toward the global digital horizon creates an effective symbolic contrast. It suggests that technological and educational advancement can open doors that earlier generations could scarcely imagine, while also reminding readers that external progress does not automatically eliminate deeply rooted social attitudes.

At the same time, the book’s ambitious thematic scope may occasionally risk making its message more prominent than its literary subtlety. The narrative explores women’s empowerment, tradition, and social change.

How Readers Can Turn Books Into Opportunities



Earning Ideas If You Are a Reader

- Being a reader is more than a hobby. If you genuinely love books, you can turn that interest into several creative and practical income opportunities. The key is to transform your reading habit into something useful for other readers, authors, publishers, or literary communities.
- One of the simplest options is book reviewing. You can start a blog, Instagram page, YouTube channel, or newsletter where you share thoughtful reviews and recommendations. As your audience grows, opportunities can come through sponsored content, collaborations with publishers, affiliate marketing, and paid promotional campaigns.
- If you enjoy writing, you can also become a book or literary content writer. Authors and publishing companies often need website articles, book descriptions, social media captions, newsletters, interviews, and promotional content. Your reading experience can help you understand books and communicate their value to potential readers.
- Another possibility is beta reading and developmental feedback. Writers often need someone who can read an unpublished manuscript and provide honest feedback about pacing, characters, storytelling, and readability. If you develop strong analytical skills, this can become a freelance service.
- Readers who enjoy talking about books can explore book-related social media content. You could create reels about reading recommendations, underrated books, memorable characters, literary quotes, reading challenges, or genre discussions. A strong niche audience can eventually create opportunities for brand collaborations and affiliate income.
- You can also earn through affiliate book recommendations, where you recommend books and receive a commission when someone purchases through your referral link. This works particularly well when combined with a blog, newsletter, or social media community.
- For readers who love meeting people, another path is organizing book clubs, reading communities, literary events, or online discussions. These communities can eventually support memberships, workshops, partnerships, or sponsored events.
- The important thing is to remember that you are not really selling your ability to read. You are selling what you read helps you create: recommendations, opinions, insights, content, community, or useful feedback.

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Your bookshelf can be more than a collection of stories. With creativity and consistency, it can become the starting point for a career.
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HOW A WOMAN GETS HER POWER BACK: RECLAIMING YOUR INNER STRENGTH

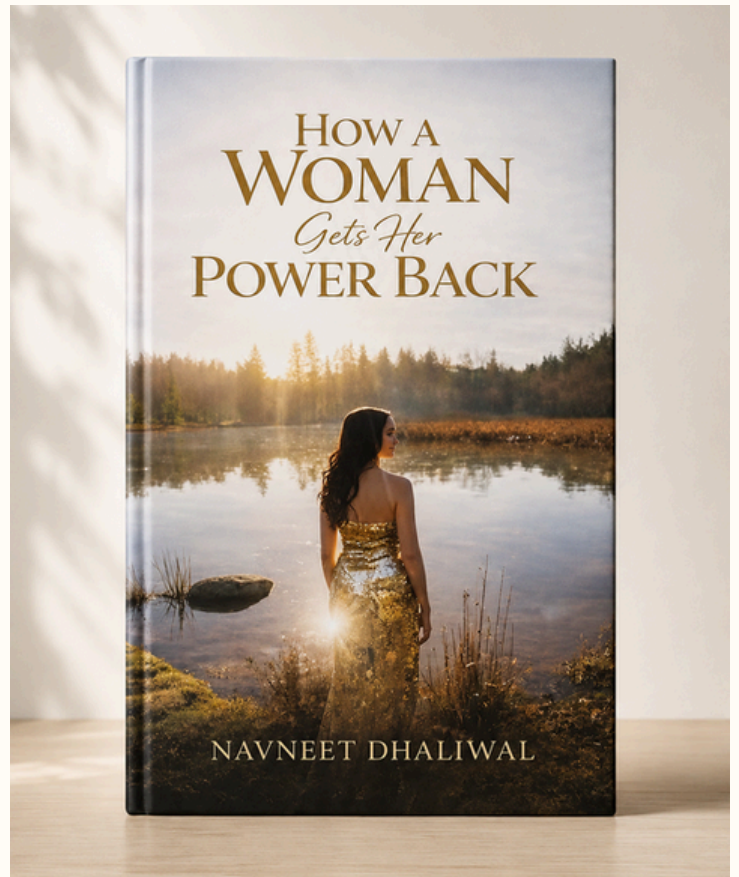
In a world where women are often expected to balance countless roles, responsibilities, and relationships, it is easy to lose touch with one's own identity. *How a Woman Gets Her Power Back: Women's Empowerment* by Navneet Dhaliwal addresses this very struggle, offering readers a compassionate and practical guide to reconnecting with themselves, rebuilding confidence, and reclaiming their personal power.

The book reminds women that their power has always been within them, and encourages them to reconnect with their inner strength, confidence, and authentic selves.

One of the strongest aspects of the book is its focus on self-awareness and authentic identity. Rather than encouraging women to compete with others or constantly prove their worth, the author invites them to understand who they are beyond their roles and responsibilities. This makes the book particularly relevant for women who feel that they have spent so much time caring for others that they have forgotten themselves.



"Your power has never been lost; it has only been waiting for you to reclaim it, reconnect with your true self, and step into the powerful woman you were always meant to be."



The book explores several important areas of personal transformation, including rebuilding self-confidence, developing emotional resilience, establishing healthy boundaries, overcoming limiting beliefs, and reconnecting with intuition. These themes are presented as interconnected parts of a larger journey towards self-acceptance and empowerment.

The discussion around boundaries is particularly significant. Many people struggle with saying no because they fear disappointing others or being perceived as selfish. Dhaliwal approaches boundaries as an essential part of self-respect rather than rejection. Learning to protect one's emotional space can be an important step towards healthier relationships and a more balanced life.

Ultimately, *How a Woman Gets Her Power Back* is more than a book about women's empowerment. It is an invitation to reconnect with the woman beneath the expectations, responsibilities, fears, and experiences that may have shaped her life. Navneet Dhaliwal reminds readers that reclaiming one's power does not necessarily mean becoming louder or stronger in the eyes of others. Sometimes, it means becoming more honest with oneself.

Helping Women Reclaim Their Inner Power

Navneet Dhaliwal



Navneet Dhaliwal, a women's healing and empowerment coach, has made it her mission to help women reconnect with themselves, rebuild their confidence, and reclaim control over their own stories.

As a life coach and RTT practitioner, Dhaliwal helps women overcome emotional challenges, self-doubt, and relationship struggles. She encourages them to reconnect with their authentic selves and inner strength. For her, true empowerment means living with confidence, self-awareness, and self-belief. Her work inspires women to heal, grow, and reclaim their personal power.

Her work has grown from a deep interest in human behaviour and the emotional lives of women. Over the years, she has supported women through emotional healing, inner-child work, mindset breakthroughs, and personal transformation. These experiences have shaped her belief that every woman deserves to feel grounded, valued, and in control of her own journey.

This philosophy forms the foundation of her book, *How a Woman Gets Her Power Back*, which focuses on self-love, emotional healing, confidence, boundaries, and personal empowerment. The book addresses a question many women may quietly ask themselves: what happens when you become so occupied with fulfilling the expectations of others that you lose connection with yourself?

Dhaliwal's approach is not about changing who a woman is, but helping her rediscover herself beyond fear, self-doubt, and difficult experiences. She believes personal power can be reclaimed through self-awareness, healthy boundaries, emotional healing, and trusting one's own voice. Her message encourages women to embrace their journey and step confidently into their authentic selves.

BRILLIANT MINDS, MISSING GIANTS:

WHY INDIA HASN'T BUILT A GOOGLE OR APPLE BY MANOJIT MAJUMDAR:

India has long stood as an undisputed powerhouse of global talent. From steering Fortune 500 tech behemoths to powering advanced research facilities across Silicon Valley and Western capitals, Indian professionals, engineers, and corporate visionaries consistently demonstrate elite technical competence, strategic ingenuity, and leadership acumen. Yet, despite this astounding individual pedigree, the Indian nation-state and its corporate ecosystem have yet to construct a true global technology giant—a brand on the scale, influence, and market dominance of Google or Apple.

Unpacking Internal Barriers to Organizational Greatness

In his compelling, incisive, and deeply reflective treatise, *Brilliant Minds, Missing Giants: Why India hasn't built a Google or Apple*, corporate veteran Manojit Majumdar undertakes a critical diagnostic examination of this haunting paradox. Refusing to succumb to tired clichés or convenient external scapegoats, Majumdar turns the mirror inward. He establishes from the outset that this text is neither an indictment of domestic market demand, nor an unyielding critique of capital availability or legislative policy.



Instead, it is a nuanced, forensic exploration of internal leadership habits, embedded organizational dynamics, and institutional cultural patterns that systematically stifle scaling efforts long before domestic enterprises reach global saturation.



Majumdar's analytical core relies on a striking metaphor: the phenomenon of an organization stopping at 99 degrees Celsius—precisely one degree short of the boiling point required to generate the steam that drives global industry.

Brilliant Minds, Missing Giants delves into why Indian enterprises routinely achieve respectable preliminary success, expanding into substantial regional enterprises, only to plateau when tasked with transforming into self-sustaining global giants. Through rigorous thematic breakdown, the author dissects how well-crafted strategic blueprints disintegrate upon entering the crucible of execution. He addresses how executive authority becomes diluted when management prioritizes conflict avoidance over uncompromising operational standards, creating environments where accountability shifts and decisions drift. World-class experts are hired, yet constrained by micromanaging bureaucracy.

Furthermore, Majumdar sharply critiques the corporate tendency to mistake operational chaos and reactive fire-fighting for true corporate agility, pointing out that true scale demands structural discipline, standardized governance, and long-term systemic architecture. What elevates Majumdar's narrative above standard management literature is his unique vantage point, earned across a distinguished four-decade career.

His tenure at SCO (Santa Cruz Operation), the organization famously at the heart of the Unix operating system ecosystem, provides a profound real-world case study in how even technologically superior and highly capitalized entities can falter when leadership flaws and structural governance break down. Having lived in both India and the United States and operated across more than 40 countries—while maintaining active business partner networks spanning 70 nations—Majumdar brings a global perspective to domestic corporate culture. He asserts that the central barrier preventing Indian entities from building magnificent global organizations is not a deficit of intellect or effort, but a quiet, deeply entrenched fear of scaling that ultimately outweighs the fear of failure.



Throughout the manuscript, Majumdar dissects the psychological underpinnings of corporate governance in India, detailing how fear, excessive central control, and weak institutional governance quietly suffocate global ambition. Founders and executive leadership often delay building robust operational systems and professional management hierarchies, favoring centralized control until the organization becomes bottlenecked by its own creators.

By examining why leaders hesitate at critical inflection points and why systems break down under the stress of expansion, *Brilliant Minds, Missing Giants* serves as both a sobering diagnostic tool and an inspiring blueprint for structural transformation. It forces readers, founders, and corporate leaders to confront uncomfortable truths about internal operational cultures. Majumdar's prose is measured, deeply authoritative, and persuasive, offering an ethical, purpose-driven call to action for the next generation of builders who aspire to transform domestic potential into enduring, globally dominant institutions.

The Stories We Carry

Why Every Life Deserves to Be Written



THE STORIES WE CARRY: WHY EVERY LIFE DESERVES TO BE WRITTEN

We often think of stories as something that belongs to writers. A novelist creates characters, a poet turns emotions into verses, and a memoirist revisits the past to transform memories into pages. We admire books because they allow us to enter lives that are not our own. But perhaps we have misunderstood where stories truly begin.

Stories begin long before they become books. They begin in ordinary rooms, on crowded streets, during difficult conversations, in moments of silence, in unexpected goodbyes, and in the quiet decisions nobody else notices. Every person carries a story. Some stories are loud and dramatic. Others are almost invisible. There are stories about success, but there are also stories about starting again. There are stories about love, but equally powerful stories about losing it. There are stories about achievement, and stories about surviving days when simply getting through the day felt like an achievement. Yet most of these stories remain unwritten.

We wait for something remarkable to happen before we consider our experiences worthy of being remembered. We believe a meaningful story requires a spectacular beginning, a dramatic struggle, or an extraordinary ending. But literature has always taught us otherwise. Sometimes, the most powerful stories are hidden inside ordinary lives.

A mother remembering the first time her child called her by name. A young person leaving home with a suitcase and a dream. An old man returning to a street he has not visited in forty years. A writer staring at a blank page because there are certain memories that still hurt too much to put into words. These moments may never appear in history books, but they contain something history often misses: the human experience.

When we write about something that happened to us, we are not merely recording an event. We are giving meaning to it. We are asking ourselves why a particular moment changed us, what we learned from it, what we lost, and what we became because of it. Sometimes the answers do not arrive immediately. Writing can take us back to questions we thought we had already answered. Sometimes, that is exactly where understanding begins.

Writing honestly is not always easy. It requires us to confront versions of ourselves we may not particularly like. It asks us to acknowledge mistakes, disappointments, fears and regrets. It may even force us to admit that the person we blamed was not entirely responsible, or that we ourselves were not entirely innocent.

That vulnerability can be frightening, but it is also what makes writing human. Readers rarely connect with perfection. They connect with truth. A character who never fails is difficult to believe. A narrator who has never been afraid is difficult to understand. A story without vulnerability often feels distant. We read because we recognise ourselves in someone else's uncertainty.

We live in an age of constant information. Every day, we scroll through thousands of photographs, headlines, opinions and short videos. We consume enormous amounts of content, yet meaningful attention has become increasingly rare. Stories offer something different. They ask us to slow down.

A story does not simply tell us what happened. It allows us to feel what happened. Facts can give us information, but stories give that information a human face. News can tell us that someone lost everything in a disaster, but a story can show us the photograph they refused to leave behind. Stories turn facts into experiences.

A LONG WAIT TO FREEDOM:

A CIVILIZATIONAL ARGUMENT FOR RECLAIMING IDENTITY

Book: A Long Wait to Freedom: Hindus' Fight to Reclaim Their Civilization

Author: Anand Kumar

Anand Kumar's *A Long Wait to Freedom: Hindus' Fight to Reclaim Their Civilization* is a deeply assertive work that approaches Indian history and Hindu identity from a distinctly civilizational perspective. Rather than presenting itself as a conventional historical account, the book positions itself as an argument about memory, identity, cultural continuity, and what the author sees as the unfinished nature of India's freedom.

The central premise is introduced with considerable force: political independence in 1947 did not, in the author's view, automatically translate into complete civilizational freedom. Kumar examines the long historical experience of Hindu society through the themes of invasion, resistance, cultural disruption, colonial rule, and post-independence politics. His narrative is driven less by detachment than by urgency, seeking to encourage readers to reconsider how history shapes contemporary identity.

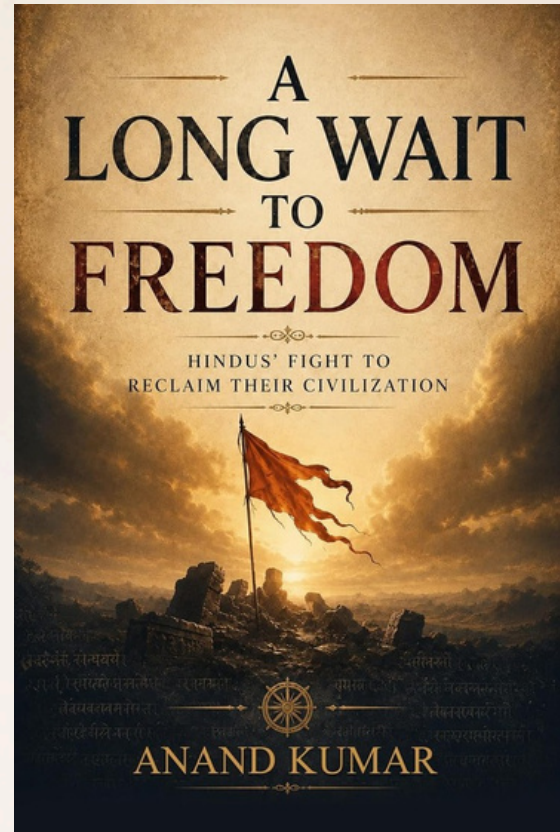
One of the book's defining characteristics is its emphasis on historical memory. Kumar argues that civilizations are sustained not merely through political institutions but through their temples, traditions, languages, stories, cultural practices, and collective understanding of the past. From this perspective, the loss or distortion of cultural memory becomes more than a historical problem; it becomes an ongoing question of identity.

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Civilizational freedom is not merely a political condition; it is the right to remember, interpret, and carry forward one's own story.

Ultimately, Anand Kumar's book is an invitation to a larger conversation about history, heritage, identity, and the meaning of freedom. It will resonate particularly with readers who are interested in Hindu civilizational thought and contemporary debates surrounding India's cultural and historical consciousness. At the same time, its strongly argued perspective makes it a book best approached critically, with readers willing to distinguish between historical evidence, interpretation, and political argument.

A Long Wait to Freedom is not a quiet book. It is deliberately provocative, emotionally charged, and written to challenge the reader. Whether one agrees with all of its conclusions or not, the book succeeds in making its central concern difficult to ignore: what does it truly mean for a civilization to be free?



The book also explores the author's concerns regarding colonial interpretations of Indian history and what he describes as post-independence patterns of appeasement and institutional compromise. These arguments are presented as part of a larger examination of how historical narratives influence political and cultural consciousness. Readers will likely find the book most compelling when engaging with these broader questions: Who controls the telling of history? What happens when communities feel their past has been misunderstood? And how should a civilization preserve its identity while participating in a modern democratic society?

Importantly, the book is unapologetically written from a particular ideological position. It does not attempt to maintain the distance of a neutral academic history. Instead, Kumar writes with the tone of a manifesto, frequently moving from historical interpretation toward a call for awareness, unity, and action. This approach gives the book its emotional intensity, although readers looking for a strictly academic treatment may want to engage with its historical claims alongside independent scholarship and differing perspectives.

The strongest aspect of *A Long Wait* is therefore not simply its catalogue of historical events, but the questions it raises about civilization and identity. Its underlying message is that cultural survival requires more than remembering the past. It requires understanding it, debating it, and deciding what aspects of it should be carried forward.

VERDICT

A powerful, provocative, and urgent call to reclaim civilizational identity and confront the unfinished journey

10 Instagram Content Ideas Every Author Should Try

If you're an author, Instagram can be more than a place to promote your book. It can help you build your identity, connect with readers, and create a community around your writing.



The Golden Rule

Don't make every post about selling your book. Make your content about giving readers a reason to care about the person, story, and ideas behind it.

1. **Share a Book Quote**
Choose a powerful, emotional, or thought-provoking line from your book. and turn it into a visually appealing post.
2. **Introduce Your Characters**
Give readers a glimpse into your characters. Share their personality, motivations, secrets, or even a fun fact.
3. **Show Your Writing Process**
Post your writing desk, handwritten notes, research material, drafts, or the place where your story began.
4. **Share a Behind-the-Book Story**
Tell readers what inspired a particular character, chapter, setting, or idea in your book.
5. **Create a "Did You Know?" Post**
Share an interesting fact about your book, its creation, your research, or your journey as an author.
6. **Ask Your Readers a Question**
Turn your post into a conversation. Ask questions such as, "Which fictional character do you relate to most?" or "What makes you pick up a new book?"
7. **Share Your Reading Recommendations**
Recommend books you love. This shows readers what influences you and helps position you as part of the wider reading community.
8. **Post a Personal Story**
Share a meaningful moment from your journey as a writer. Authentic stories often create a stronger connection than promotional posts.
9. **Create a Reel Around Your Book**
Use a short visual story, book aesthetic, reading scene, character introduction, or emotional hook instead of simply showing the book cover.
10. **Share Reader Reactions**
Feature genuine reviews, messages, photographs, or feedback from readers. Social proof can help new readers feel more confident about discovering your book.

Your book may be what brings readers to your profile, but your voice is what makes them stay.

BOOK REVIEW

Book Review: Spetsnaz Z by Zahid Anis Ahmad

Spetsnaz Z is a gripping thriller that takes readers into a world where devastation, revenge, terrorism, and survival collide. From the very beginning, the novel creates a tense atmosphere as Russia is thrown into chaos and the fragile balance of global peace begins to collapse.



At the heart of the story is a lone survivor, scarred by the destruction around him but driven by an unshakable determination to seek justice. His journey from surviving a devastating calamity to confronting the mastermind behind it forms the emotional core of this novel. As he joins forces with allies, the stakes become increasingly higher, making every decision feel like a matter of life and death.

What makes Spetsnaz Z particularly engaging is the combination of **action and psychological struggle**. The protagonist is not simply fighting an external enemy; he is also battling the haunting memories of those he lost. His grief becomes both his weakness and his greatest source of strength, giving the story an emotional dimension beyond its action-driven narrative.

The novel also explores the consequences of violence on a much larger scale. With the fate of nations and the possibility of global chaos hanging in the balance, the story constantly maintains a sense of urgency. The question is not simply whether the protagonist can win, but whether he can survive the journey without becoming consumed by the very darkness he is fighting against.

Zahid Anis Ahmad builds a narrative filled with **suspense, danger, determination, and high-stakes conflict**. Readers who enjoy military thrillers, survival stories, revenge-driven plots, and international conspiracies will find plenty to keep them turning the pages.

Ultimately, Spetsnaz Z is a story about a man who has lost almost everything yet refuses to surrender. It reminds us that sometimes the strongest motivation to keep fighting comes from the memories of those we could not save.

A tense and dramatic thriller where survival is only the beginning — the real battle is for justice.

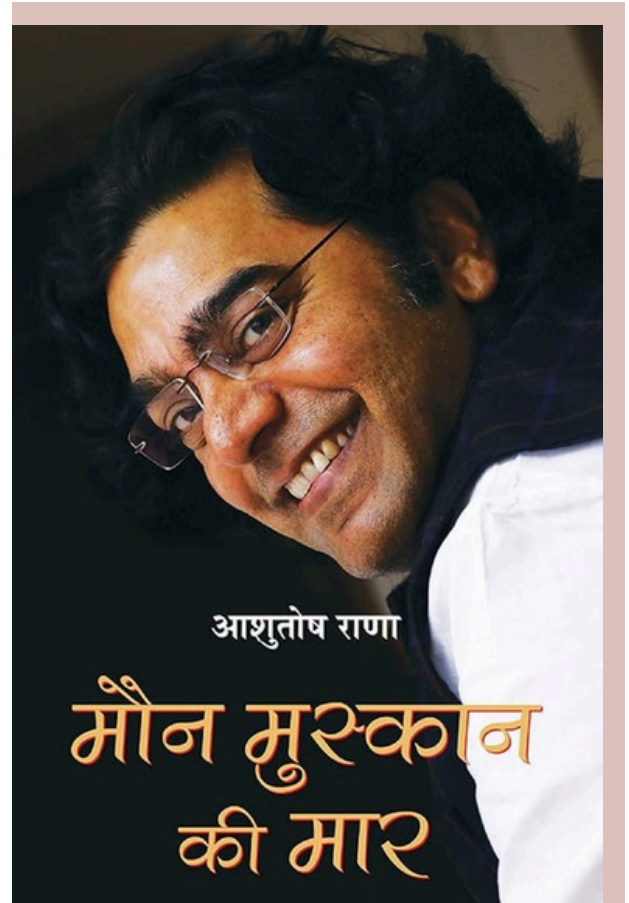
ASHUTOSH RANA

MAUN MUSKAAN KI MAAR

Satire has always been one of the most powerful ways to question society. It can make readers laugh while quietly drawing attention to realities that might otherwise be uncomfortable to confront. Maun Muskaan Ki Maar by Ashutosh Rana, the acclaimed actor and writer, brings together humour, irony, social observation, and philosophical reflection in a collection that encourages readers to look at familiar situations from a different perspective.

What makes the book particularly interesting is Rana's ability to find satire in the everyday. His writing does not rely on humour merely for entertainment. Beneath the wit are observations about human behaviour, politics, society, patriotism, ambition, and the changing ways in which people communicate and express themselves.

One of the most striking elements in the excerpt is the book's commentary on social media and modern-day patriotism. The idea of participating in a "thoo-thoo rally" from the comfort of one's home is humorous on the surface, but it carries a sharp criticism of performative activism. Through this amusing situation, Rana questions whether expressing support or opposition online can truly be considered meaningful social action.



The satire becomes even more effective through the author's clever use of language and wordplay. The altered pronunciations in the dialogue create comic moments while simultaneously giving the conversation a deeper layer. Behind the humour are reflections on desire, fulfilment, happiness, suffering, and the ways people understand concepts such as heaven and hell.

Another strength of Maun Muskaan Ki Maar is its conversational quality. The writing feels accessible and rooted in everyday speech, allowing serious observations to emerge naturally through dialogue and humour. This makes the satire approachable without making it superficial.

Rana's background as an actor also adds an interesting dimension to his writing. His understanding of dialogue, dramatic timing, characterisation, and human behaviour is reflected in the way his scenes unfold. Conversations carry rhythm, personalities emerge through speech, and humour often arrives through the interaction between characters rather than through forced jokes.

Justice Written in the Absence of Law

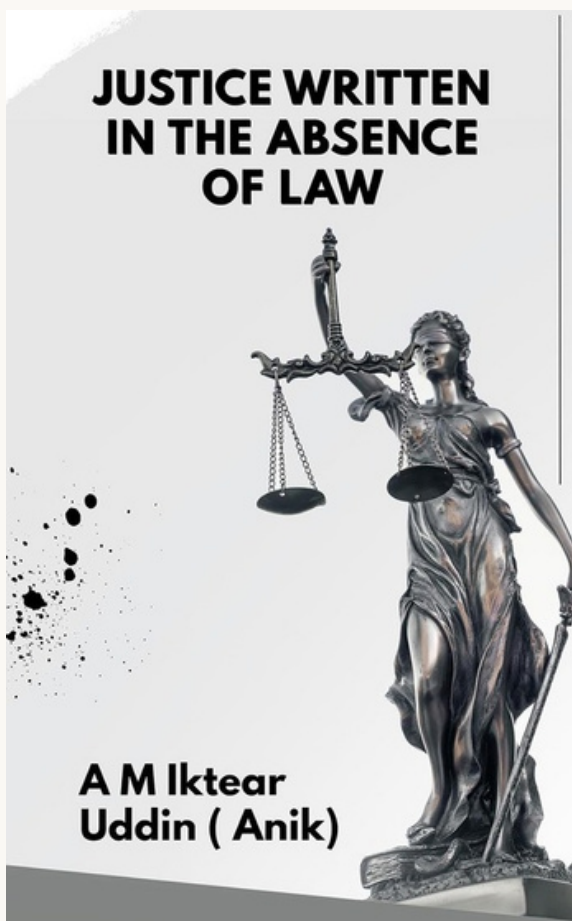
BY ADVOCATE ANIK M. IKTEAR UDDIN

Constitutions are, at their heart, promises. They tell a society what its government may and may not do, what rights citizens can expect, and what limits bind even the most powerful offices of state. But a promise on paper is only as strong as the mechanism that enforces it. That is the subject of Advocate Anik M. Iktear Uddin's latest work, a study of judicial review, the institutional safeguard that has, for over two centuries, forced governments to answer not just to the ballot box, but to the law itself.

The book opens with a deceptively simple observation: constitutions limit authority, but it takes an institution, willing and able to act, to actually enforce that limit. Judicial review is that institution.

From Natural Law to Marbury v. Madison

The book traces judicial review's origins to the philosophical foundations of natural law and early constitutional thought — the idea, older than any modern nation-state, that there exist standards of justice against which human-made laws can be measured. From there, it moves to the institution's defining moment: the early nineteenth-century ruling in *Marbury v. Madison*, which established that courts could strike down laws inconsistent with a constitution. This was not merely a legal technicality; it was the birth of a new kind of institutional power, one that would eventually spread, in different forms, across the globe.



What makes this section of the book valuable is its refusal to treat judicial review as a fixed, universal formula. Instead, it is presented as a set of evolving practices, shaped by the particular political and historical circumstances of each place that adopts it. This sets up the book's broader argument: judicial review is not a static doctrine handed down from on high, but a living institution that each constitutional democracy must continually reinterpret.

A GLOBAL TRADITION, SHAPED BY LOCAL STRUGGLES

Perhaps the most compelling part of the book is its comparative sweep. After the Second World War, several countries, many in Europe, established powerful constitutional courts explicitly designed to prevent the kind of unchecked authoritarian power that had devastated the continent. Elsewhere, nations charted their own paths. India and South Africa, in particular, developed traditions that pushed judicial review beyond its original scope, extending it into public interest litigation and the enforcement of socioeconomic rights, food, housing, healthcare, dignity, areas that many older constitutional systems had left largely to legislatures.

Alongside this comparative history, the book engages seriously with the theoretical debates that have shaped judicial review's evolution: constitutional supremacy, the separation of powers, proportionality as a legal test, and the much-discussed "counter-majoritarian difficulty" the uneasy question of how unelected judges can legitimately overrule decisions made by elected representatives. The author does not portray judicial review as a flawless solution.

These are not abstract academic concerns. As the author makes clear, they directly shape how courts interpret rights, how legislatures respond to rulings they dislike, and ultimately how ordinary citizens come to see their constitutional systems as legitimate — or not.

JUDICIAL REVIEW MEETS THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Ultimately, the book argues that a functioning constitutional democracy requires more than elections and legislation alone. It requires institutions capable of defending the rule of law precisely when political pressure is at its highest, when governments are most tempted to act outside the boundaries a constitution sets for them. Judicial review, in all its varied global forms, remains one of the most vital of these institutions.

Written by Advocate Anik M. Iktear Uddin, a litigator with over seventeen years of experience across civil, corporate, consumer, family, and criminal law, with a particular specialization in cybercrime litigation, the book benefits from a practitioner's eye as much as a scholar's. For legislators, judges, law students, and concerned citizens, this book offers a clear guide to how constitutional democracy checks power.



PRAJAKTA KOLI



Too Good to Be True: A Witty Romance About Love, Doubt and Modern Relationships

One of the book's strongest qualities is its humour. The romance does not take itself too seriously, and Avani's reactions bring a refreshing sense of comedy to the narrative. Her tendency to overthink, question her feelings, and seek advice from her friends makes her journey feel contemporary and recognisable. Beneath the humour, however, lies a more meaningful exploration of vulnerability and the fear of being hurt.

Romance novels often promise perfect love, perfect timing, and perfect people. *Too Good to Be True* by Prajakta Koli takes that familiar fantasy and gives it a distinctly modern, witty, and relatable twist. At the centre of the story is Avani, a romance-loving bookstore employee who knows every rule of fictional love but finds herself completely unprepared when something resembling her favourite stories enters her real life.

Avani's love for romance novels makes her an instantly relatable protagonist for anyone who has ever imagined what it would be like if a fictional love story came true. Her carefully predictable world changes when Aman walks into the bookstore. Successful, charming, attentive, and seemingly capable of anticipating her every thought, Aman appears almost impossibly perfect. And that is precisely where Avani's doubts begin.

The novel asks: when someone seems too perfect to be real, can you truly believe in them? Its charm lies in the uncertainty and hesitation of falling in love.



LETTERS TO MILENA BY FRANZ KAFKA

A Love Letter That Became a Confession

Letters to Milena is not a novel, though it reads with a novel's tension. It is not fiction, though its author's mind bends every fact into metaphor. It is, instead, one of the most intimate and unsettling documents Franz Kafka ever produced: a collection of letters written between 1920 and 1923 to Milena Jesenská, the young Czech journalist and translator who first brought his work into her language and who, for a brief and consuming period, became the object of Kafka's most naked emotional writing. Reading these letters today feels less like reading correspondence and more like watching a man dissect his own capacity for love in real time, unsure whether the operation will kill the patient or save him.

A Correspondence Born of Translation

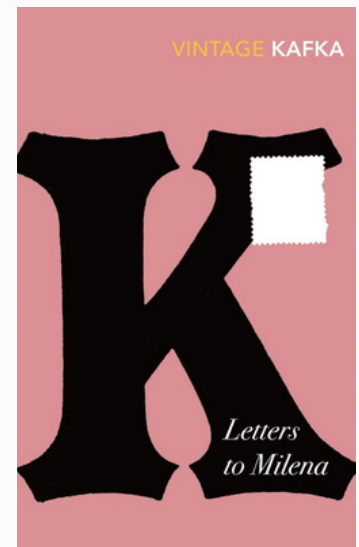
The letters begin almost professionally. Milena Jesenská, married and living in Vienna, had written to Kafka seeking permission to translate his story "The Stoker" into Czech. What starts as a courteous literary exchange, questions of phrasing, gratitude for her interest, the small formalities of two writers in contact accelerates with startling speed into something far more charged. Within weeks, Kafka's letters shift from measured to urgent, from polite to consuming. He begins writing daily, sometimes multiple times a day, and the correspondence takes on the rhythm of an addiction he is simultaneously indulging and diagnosing.

What makes this opening movement so compelling is watching Kafka's prose style migrate along with his feelings.



The careful, controlled sentences of the early letters give way to fragmented, anxious, self-interrupting passages, he second-guesses his own affection almost as soon as he expresses it, apologizes for burdening her, then writes again the next day as though the apology had changed nothing. For readers familiar with Kafka's fiction, this will feel eerily recognizable: the same anxious, recursive logic that traps Josef K. or the unnamed land surveyor of *The Castle* is here turned inward, aimed at Kafka's own heart.

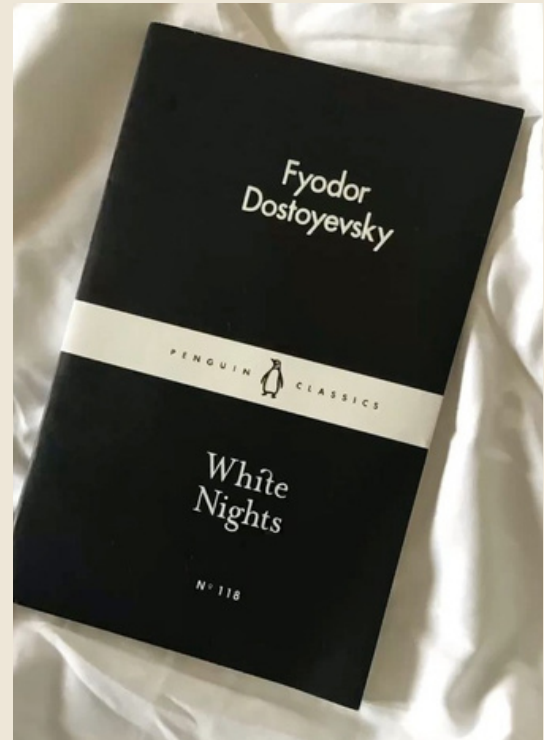
Letters to Milena endures as a portrait of longing, doubt, and unreachable closeness.



WHITE NIGHTS BY FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY: UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATIONS

White Nights by Fyodor Dostoevsky is a short, tender, and deeply melancholic novella about loneliness, love, and the fragile nature of human connection. First published in 1848, the story follows an unnamed young dreamer living in St. Petersburg, whose isolated existence changes when he meets Nastenka, a young woman waiting for someone she loves.

The narrator is a solitary man who spends much of his life inside his imagination. He observes the city and its people from a distance, creating an inner world where he can escape the loneliness of everyday life. His chance encounter with Nastenka becomes the first genuine human connection he has experienced in a long time. Over the course of four nights and a morning, the two share their hopes, fears, memories, and dreams.



What makes White Nights particularly moving is the contrast between the narrator's intense emotional experience and the briefness of their relationship. For him, these few nights become almost an entire lifetime. He falls deeply in love with Nastenka, yet his affection is complicated by his awareness that her heart belongs to someone else. Dostoevsky handles this emotional conflict with remarkable sensitivity, allowing the narrator to experience both the happiness of intimacy and the pain of inevitable separation.

White Nights is a quiet, bittersweet exploration of loneliness and unrequited love, reminding us how even a brief, unexpected connection can leave a lasting impression on the heart.

Special Thanks To



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