



# Touchpoints

*Miniscule Reads on the Go!*

*Sherin Ashraf*

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## ABOUT TOUCHPOINTS

*A book about Books!*

The thought itself was so spectacular. Being an ardent reader for ages; one who has practically lived her life in and out of the pages, I wanted to give a tribute to the masterpieces, which have influenced, guided as well as enlightened me throughout various phases.

The starting point was scribbling book reviews in my college diary. Soon the list became endless- hundreds of books read; how many reviews to write? The reviews then took the shape of a list and finally reduced to reviews of my favorite books only.

Through ***Touchpoints***, I have presented those very minuscule reviews of my most favorite 45 books. This is not an exhaustive list; it is just that both time and space constrained the titles to 45. I will continue to read more books and may have to come up with Touchpoints Part 2.

Hope you too will find your favorite book in my list or maybe a book you have not yet read, but are motivated to read after going through the review in Touchpoints. Believe me this will be the biggest satisfaction for a book fan!

Long Live the Reader Community,

Happy Reading!

*Sherin*

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*Thank You Daddy for that one last Book you gave  
me as a gift, before leaving us forever.*

*I dedicate Touchpoints to you, for encouraging the  
reader in me...*

*Will Miss You Always!*

THE  
**DA VINCI**  
**CODE**

A NOVEL



**DAN BROWN**

AUTHOR OF ANGELS & DEMONS

## **DA VINCI CODE BY DAN BROWN**

***We all Love Jesus no matter what!***

This Book made history by questioning religion, faith and God.

It erodes ancient beliefs - was it Christianity or the Pagan religion, was Jesus married or not and other similar doubts in the minds of people for centuries.

In Langdon & Sophie's quest for the truth, the reader is entertained.

The book unfolds many secrets, for example the Grail is not a cup but Mary Magdalene, who was not a prostitute but was in fact the wife of Jesus Christ, who was pregnant during His crucifixion, and the Priory was formed to protect their descendants.

Langdon and Sophie are confronted by Teabing, a Holy Grail expert who walks using crutches (friend who later turns into a foe), and wants to bring down the Church for decades of persecution and deceit

This book is pure entertainment that adds to your knowledge too.

Irving  
Wallace  
A NOVEL  
The  
Almighty



## THE ALMIGHTY BY IRVING WALLACE

*Wallace at his best!*

What happens when a man starts thinking that he can run the world as per his wish?

This is the story of a maniac, Edward, a power-centric and uncanny genius, who wants to own the world. After his father's death, Edward inherits his father's estate, his father's mistress and a challenge- the newspaper his father ran, which he will only get if it hits the top ratings.

This background makes Edward a maniac and he keeps doing crooked things to become successful. This newspaper is the first one to report all kidnappings, thefts, and terrorist outrages because Edward and his team, to get the top slot, create this news.

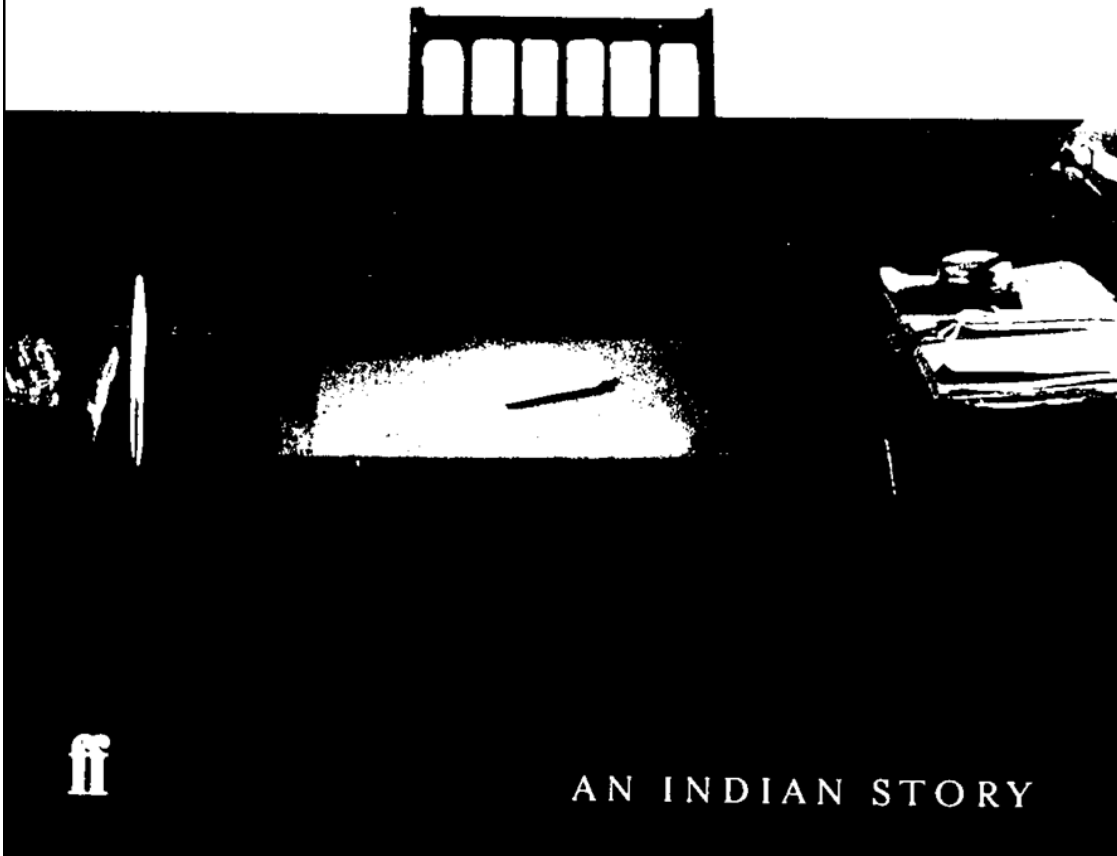
In a way the book makes the readers realize that behind the headlines is a dirty world of corrupt ambitions, billion-dollar conspiracies, crimes and terrorism.

All evil die a shocking death; so does Edward when one of his own reporter's Victoria, exposes him.



# English, August

*Upamanyu  
Chatterjee*



ff

AN INDIAN STORY

## ENGLISH AUGUST BY UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE

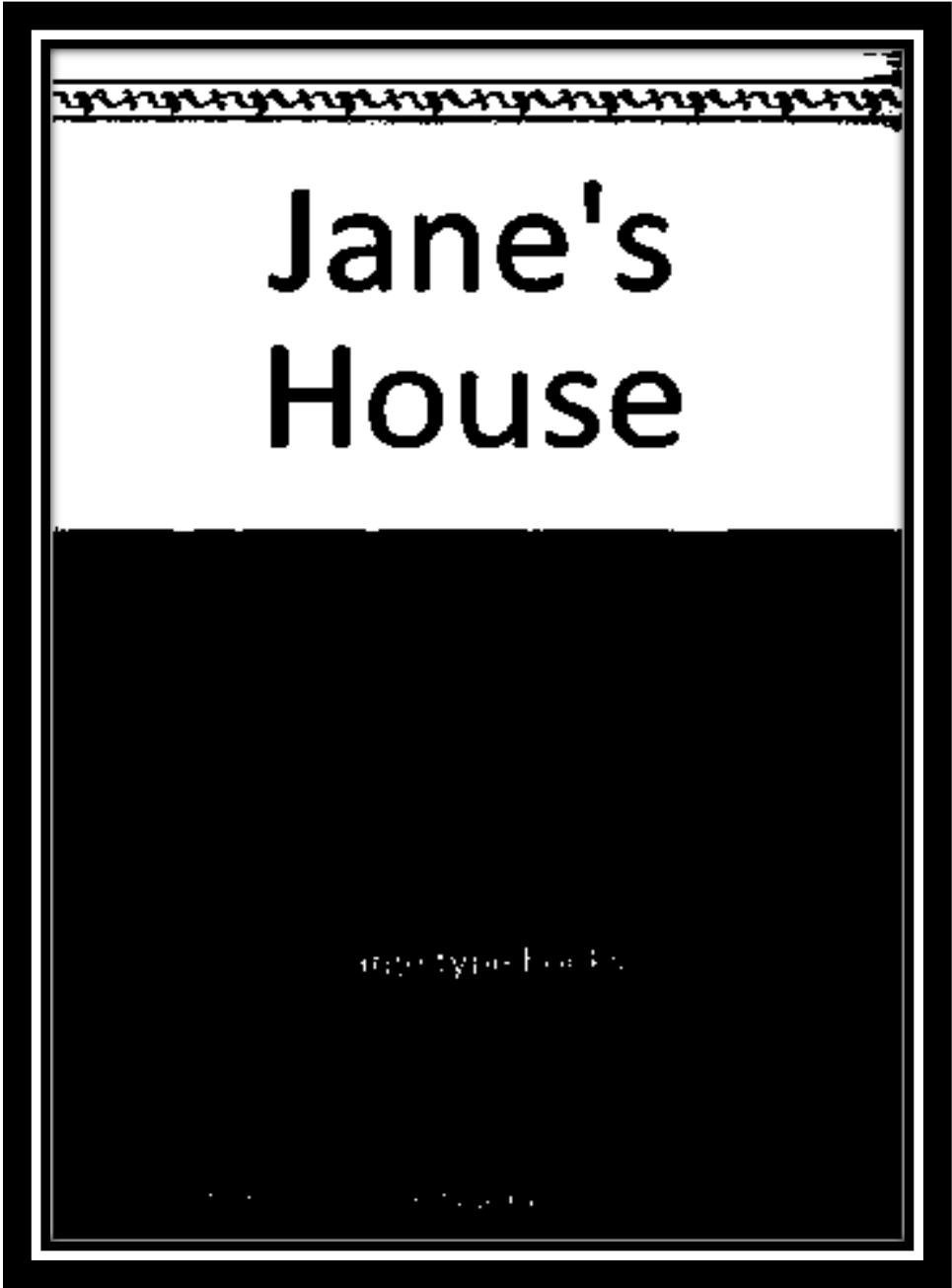
### *Routine is not boring*

Upamanyu is one writer who has succeeded in building a character with a brilliant thought process. The realism, the humor, the satire- are all so interesting to read in this book. A story about an average Indian boy with high aspirations in life that clash with realities blended with a perfect dash of humor.

Agastya's dreams dash when as a fresh IAS qualifier he gets a posting in the remote town of Madna, where life is so dull otherwise, that he has to excite his imagination to build interesting anecdotes around insignificant activities, people or things. Women, literature, sex and intoxications crowd Agastya's imagination.

Here Agastya's hilarious one-liners are a pleasure to read when he explains the simplest of situations of life in a most erratic, mocking, funny and bizarre manner.

The book is very much relatable, except for the absence of a powerful female character.



## **JANE'S HOUSE BY ROBERT KUMMEL**

***Live with the living. Do not die with the dead.***

In this spectacular novel, Ruth starts a new life with Paul and his children in the same house, where Paul lived with his ex-wife, Jane, now dead.

Jane's House is a house echoing with memories- where every day is difficult for Ruth, as she tries to pick up the broken pieces and put them together – only to be shattered again.

Paul and Ruth love each other, but Ruth is not able to match to Jane, the perfect wife and mother and thus struggles to keep her place in the house.

Life ultimately, wins over death as Ruth manages to change things with time and her sheer determination and love.

The book brings out feelings of heartbreak, love, loss and pain in all of us, as it touches the core of our hearts with its beauty and simplicity.

# DAPHNE DU MAURIER

— INTRODUCTION BY SALLY BEAUMAN —

## REBECCA



# REBECCA BY DAPHNE DU MAURIER

## *A Simple Story in Complex Circumstances*

**Phase 1:** Charlotte develops an inferiority complex; constantly compared to her husband's ex-wife Rebecca.

Charlotte despises herself and begins to believe that her husband, Max still loves Rebecca and that she is no good for him, (according to the housekeeper, Mrs. Danver).

**Phase 2:** However, the truth comes out soon. Actually Max had always hated Rebecca because of her liaisons with other men.

Max was also responsible for killing her. This revelation brings Max and Charlotte closer, inspite of Mrs. Danver's efforts to create a rift between them.

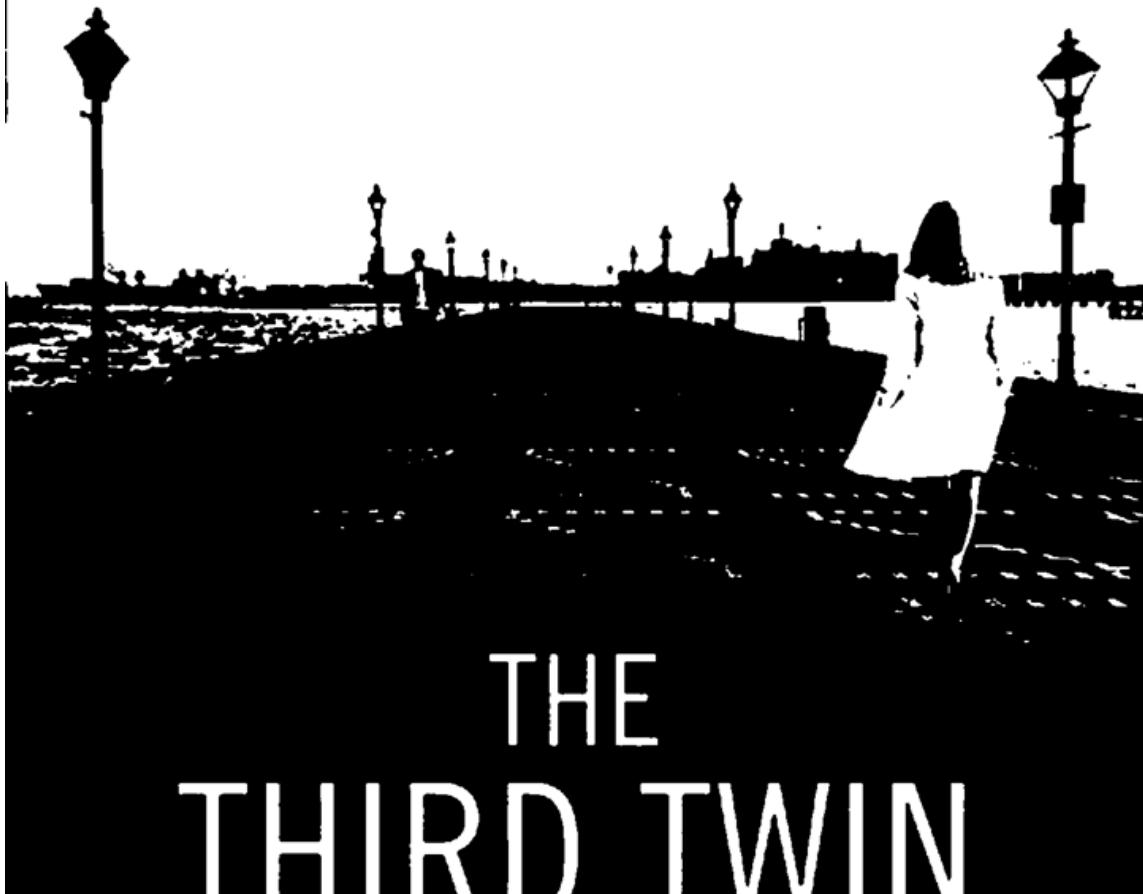
**Phase 3:** The climax is actually an anti-climax.

Rebecca's lover, Farewell tries to frame Max for her murder, but with many twists and turns, Max comes out clean.

Rebecca is a legendary classic, which will charm generations to come.

THE NO. 1 BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
THE PILLARS OF THE EARTH

# KEN FOLLETT



THE  
THIRD TWIN



## **THE THIRD TWIN BY KEN FOLLET**

*Chilling, Thrilling, Compelling*

Steve- accused for a rape he did not commit. Cathy is determined to find out the truth, because she loves Steve.

The novel works on a premise of genetic implants & cloning – where the products are sexually violent males, much on the lines of X-Files.

Jeanie Ferrami, genetic researcher is able to locate identical twins born to different mothers, hence uncovering a horrible truth.

What is worse is that one of the conspirators is Jeanie's boss, Dr. Ferrami.

Frightened and threatened, Jeanie continues to fight to bring the truth to the surface.

The entire novel is a one go read – simply irresistible.

A must read for Thriller Fans.

Believe in Happy Endings

# DANIELLE STEEL

Mirror Image



## **MIRROR IMAGE BY DANIELLE STEEL**

### ***A Touching Tale of Sisterhood***

Olivia and Victoria are identical twins – who are exactly the mirror image of each other, but they have contrasting personas.

Olivia is the perfect woman, while Victoria is the wild muse.

Victoria goes through a disastrous relationship and has to marry her father's lawyer, Charles (a widower with a son) to save her reputation. This is a loveless marriage, rather a compromise. There is one more side to the story - no one is aware that Olivia is secretly in love with Charles.

Soon, Victoria pursues Olivia to switch roles while she flees to join the warring zones as a nurse.

In the course of time, Victoria begins to love Officer Eduard and Olivia finally wins the love of her life, Charles.

The war kills Eduard and Victoria, but their son survives, whom Olivia and Charles, bring up along with their twin daughters.

EMILY BRONTË

# WUTHERING HEIGHTS



# THE WUTHERING HEIGHTS BY EMILY BRONTE

## *A Saga of Passionate Love & Passionate Hate*

Heathcliff is an orphan, brought up in a wealthy family, where he falls in love with his master's daughter, Cathy.

After his master's death, Cathy's brother, Hinley, who hates Heathcliff, turns him into a slave and mistreats him.

Heathcliff continues to tolerate all the bad treatment for the sake of Cathy, but his life shatters when Cathy too decides to marry Edward because they are socially equal.

Heathcliff goes away and comes back after many years, filthy rich, and ready to destroy all his enemies. He first devastates Hinley and makes his son a slave.

Heathcliff then marries Edward's sister and begins mistreating her.

His revenge is not satisfied, even after the death of Cathy and Hinley.

He continues to torture the next generation too, until his last breath.

SUE MILLER



THE GOOD  
MOTHER

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

## **THE GOOD MOTHER BY SUE MILLER**

*Think, Reflect, Cry*

The dilemma every mother faces.

Anna is a divorcee, trying to lead an independent and fulfilling life with her daughter, Molly.

She never treats Molly like a kid and tells her all that life offers (even about sex).

Anna falls in love with Leo, who also loves Molly a lot. Their life is perfect, but things turn ugly when her ex-husband sues for custody, citing sexual activities that put his child at risk.

Anna has to fight for the custody of Molly in a court case that requires her to prove herself as a good mother.

The book is truly a stunner, nicely written with a very effective narration.

Every mother can relate to the emotions defined herein.

# **1**

**BESTSELLER**

by the author of

**Once Is Not Enough**

**Jacqueline  
Susann**

**The Love  
Machine**





# THE LOVE MACHINE BY JACQUELINE SUSAN

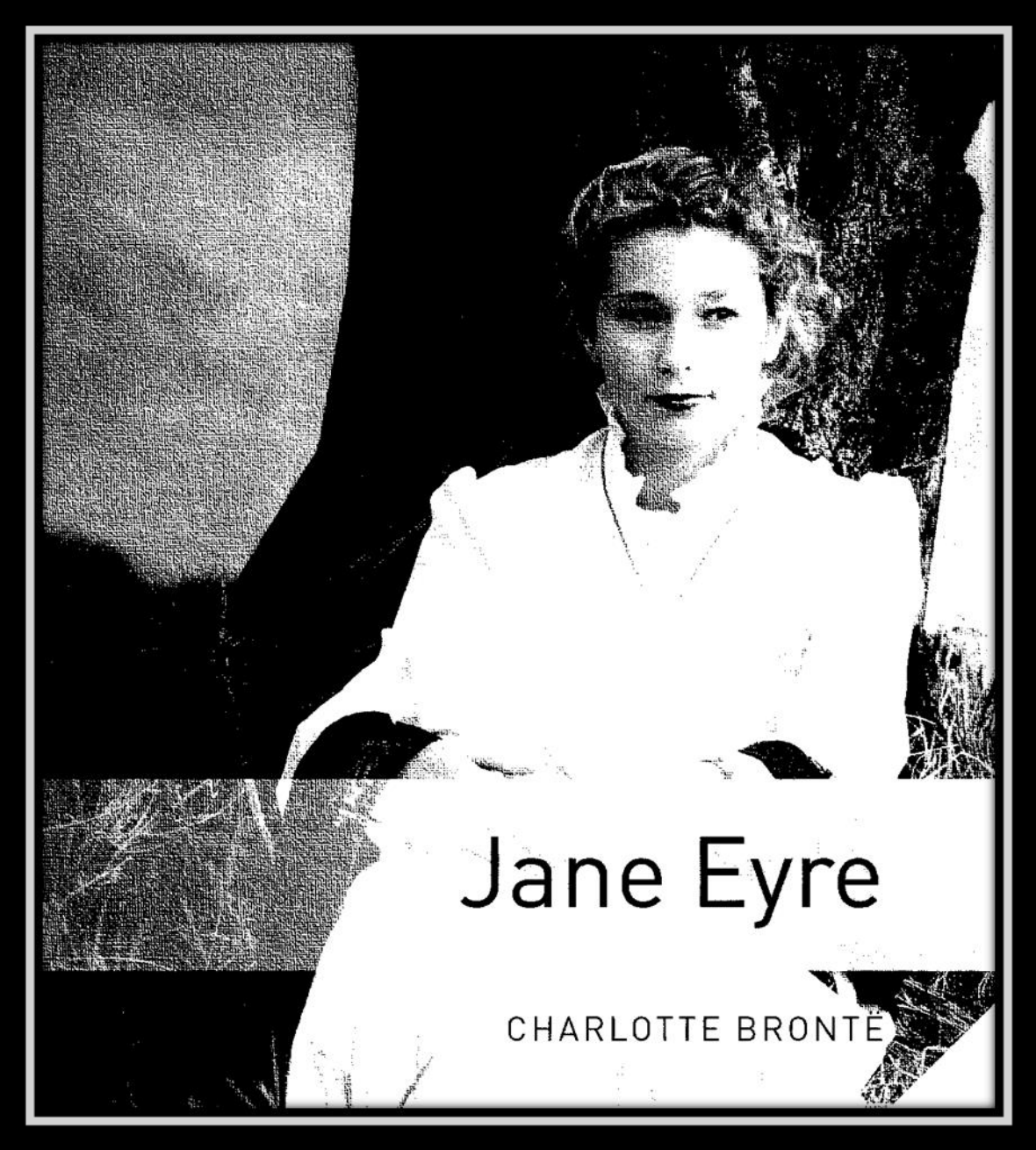
## *An encyclopedia of human relationships.*

Amanda has three choices going for her:

- 1) **Christie** - Quite a dull fellow, who offers her a future in marriage, but Amanda pukes after sleeping with him. Yet she cannot leave him for the fear of being alone as she suffers from a weak heart.
- 2) **Robin Stone, the Love Machine:** whom Amanda loves deeply, but Robin's bad past (a prostitute mother) has made him unemotional. He only uses women for his physical needs. He loves Amanda, but will not commit.
- 3) **Ike Ryan** – Initially Ike Ryan for Amanda is only a physical attraction, but she decides to marry him to enjoy matrimonial bliss.

Ike & Robin clash over Amanda when they discover that she has cancer and cannot live. That is how Ryan ends up marrying her.

On the other hand, Robin marries Hudson – a relationship disastrous from the start. Robin also gets involved with Judith – a woman twice his age. After all these emotional traumas, **Maggie** enters Robin's life. Maggie is a strong willed woman, who loves Robin, but does not let him take advantage of her feelings (unlike Amanda). She asks Robin to marry her only if he needs her. With time, Robin realizes that he too loves Maggie. The book ends beautifully with Robin sending Maggie a note, which says, *"I Need You."*



# Jane Eyre

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

## **JANE EYRE BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE**

### *Classic All The Way*

Jane Eyre is an orphan- plain, simple and innocent, mistreated first by her cruel aunt and then brought up in a dreaded home, with most of her childhood spent in the daily chores of the orphanage. She studies hard to make herself capable and grows up with integrity and wisdom, to become a Governess at Thornfield Hall.

As a Governess, she falls for her master, Mr. Rochester whose missing wife is a mystery for the entire family.

The mystery is resolved when Jane herself discovers a room at the top of the house, which has clues to the missing woman. However, this discovery leaves her helpless and poor all over again.

A tale that has lived through the years and is still fresh for every generation, Jane Eyre is one of the most loved classics of all times.

# JENNIFER WILDE

Bestselling author of  
**ONCE MORE**  
**MIRANDA** and  
**THE SLIPPER**

## They Call Her Dana

The glorious story of  
Dana O'Malley, who rises from  
poverty to become the host  
of 1830s New Orleans.

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## **THEY CALL HER DANA BY JENNIFER WILDE**

### ***A Very Unconventional Story***

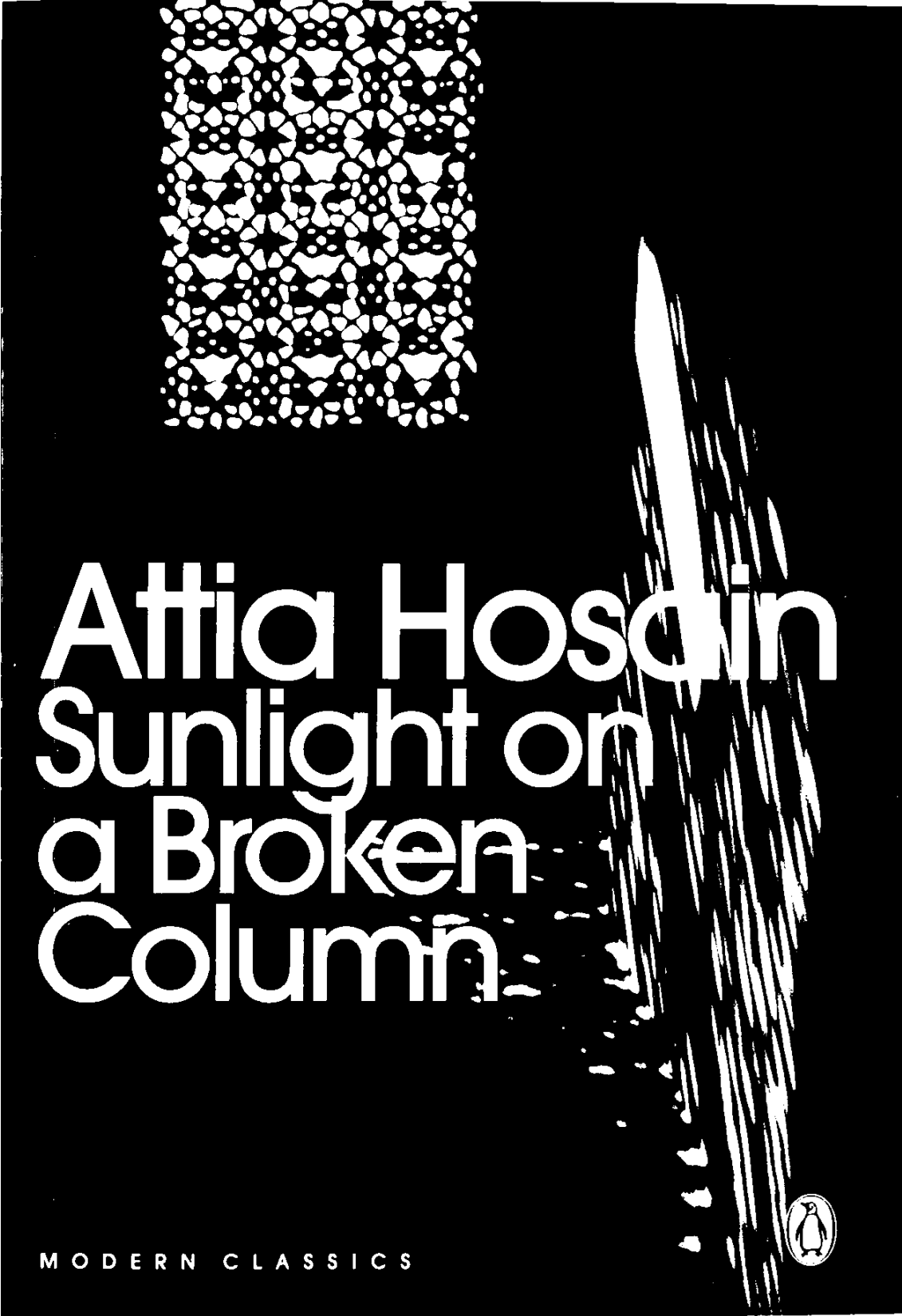
The unconventional story of a beautiful girl named Dana.

The book links her with four men, who come and go in her life, leaving behind memories, experiences and heartbreaks.

The first man who loves her is gem of a person, willing to marry her against all odds of the society, but Dana falls in love with his younger brother instead – who is only physically attracted to her.

Heartbroken with these circumstances, Dana travels to another country to fall in love with a mysterious man, twice her age, who shockingly turns out to be her lost father.

Towards the end, Dana joins a theatre group to become a successful artist and meet the man she has been pursuing all her life - her director- her dream man.



Attia Hosain  
Sunlight on  
a Broken  
Column

MODERN CLASSICS



## **SUNLIGHT ON A BROKEN COLUMN BY ATTIA HOSSAIN**

### ***A Heartfelt & Heartwarming Story***

A Novel, closest to my heart. The background of Lucknow is so realistic, as is the story.

This book is set in the era of India's freedom struggle, somewhere around the end of 1930's. Laila, the main protagonist, brought up in a conservative environment at her aunt's place, is an orphan with very strong principles and convictions. Her orthodox relatives are not able to crush her spirit (unlike her cousin sister, who sacrifices her love due to family pressures).

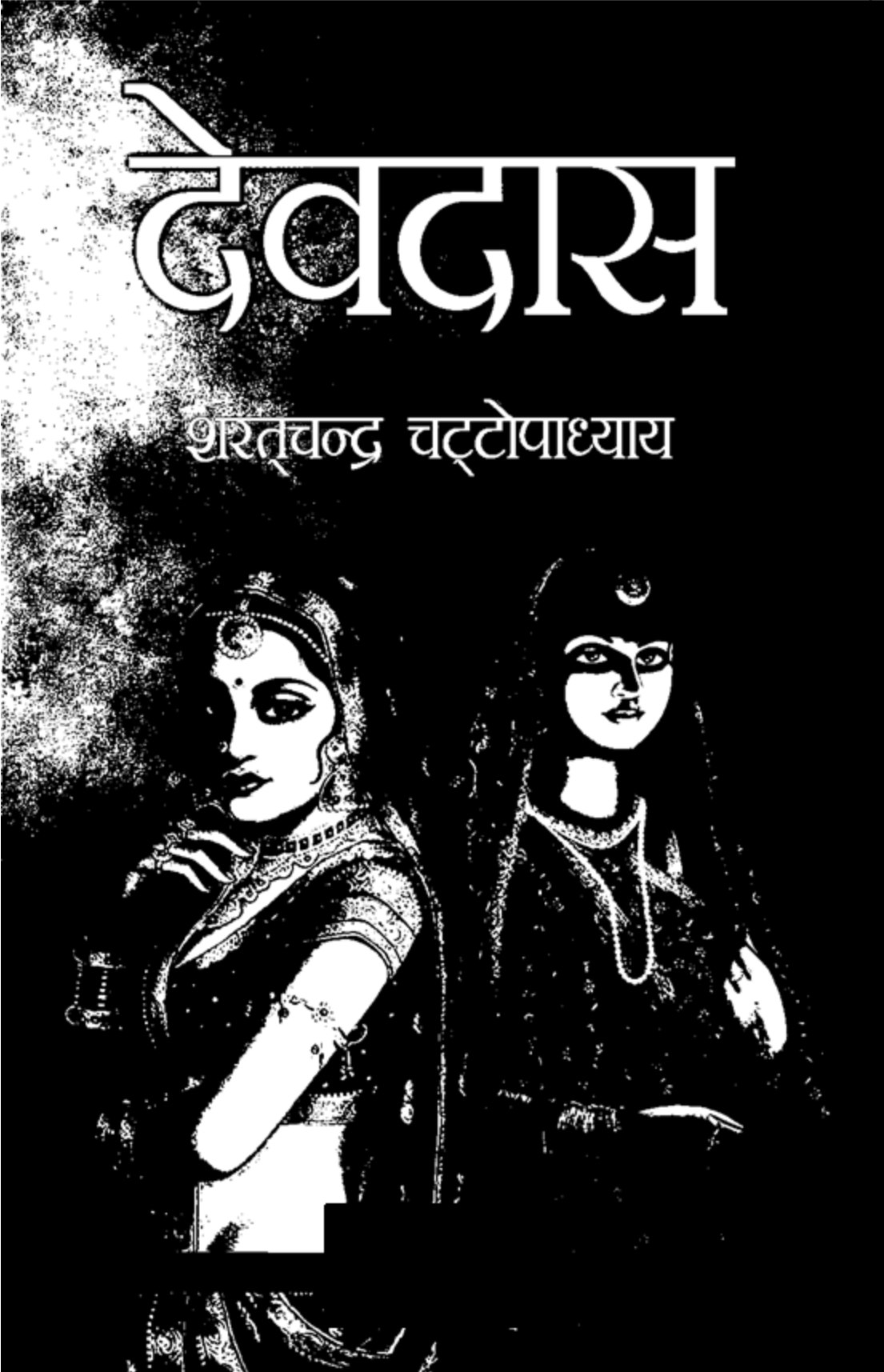
Circumstances change and Laila lands up at her uncle's house; who has an English lifestyle and British friends. His two sons (educated abroad) party, drink and date.

Amidst the vastly contrasting set-ups, Laila keeps her values intact. Soon, she meets her man, Ameen, at Baradari in a wedding party. He is a freedom fighter. Marriage happens, but Ameen dies in the freedom revolt.

The book ends with Laila getting close to her cousin (whose love was unreciprocated by her cousin, earlier in the story) and continuing to live life on her own terms.

# देवदास

शुभचन्द्र चट्टोपाध्याय





## **DEVIDAS BY SARATCHANDRA**

### *Life Changing Lessons*

Everyone knows the story of Devdas.

Devdas is a young man in love with his childhood sweetheart, Paro.

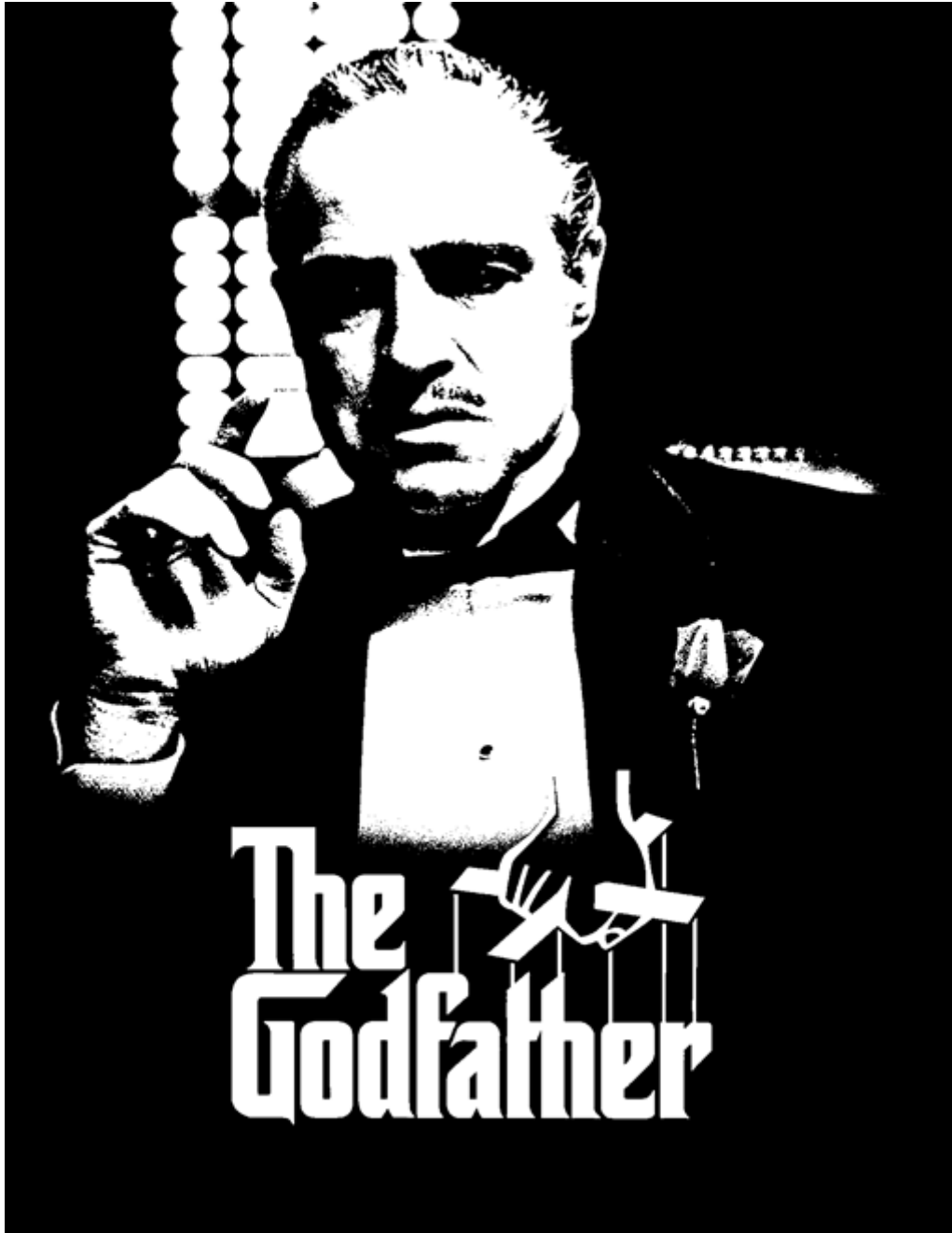
However, the families do not agree to this match and get Paro married to another man (twice her age).

Paro's marriage is doom for Devdas.

Devdas, the epitome of romance – a jilted lover, becomes an alcoholic in the memory of his beloved and continues to love her until his very last breath. The story also has Chandramukhi, a courtesan in love with Devdas.

This masterpiece has many admirers. If we introspect closely, then this book gives us some life changing lessons, like

- Never create a fuss over trivial issues in life.
- Love unconditionally – do not be judgemental.
- Life is simple. Listen to your heart for the answers
- Enjoy the present. Do not live in the past.
- Society norms can make life hell, so live for yourself



# THE GOD FATHER BY MARIO PUZO

## *An Unbeatable Masterpiece*

Godfather, is the life story of two Dons- Veto Corleone (the Godfather) and his most worthy son, Michael.

The story begins with how Veto becomes a don and then how he helps the under-privileged all his life. He has three sons – Sonny, Freddie & Michael. The rivals kill Sonny, being the hot-tempered & impulsive one.

Freddie is practical and intelligent, but refuses to join the business.

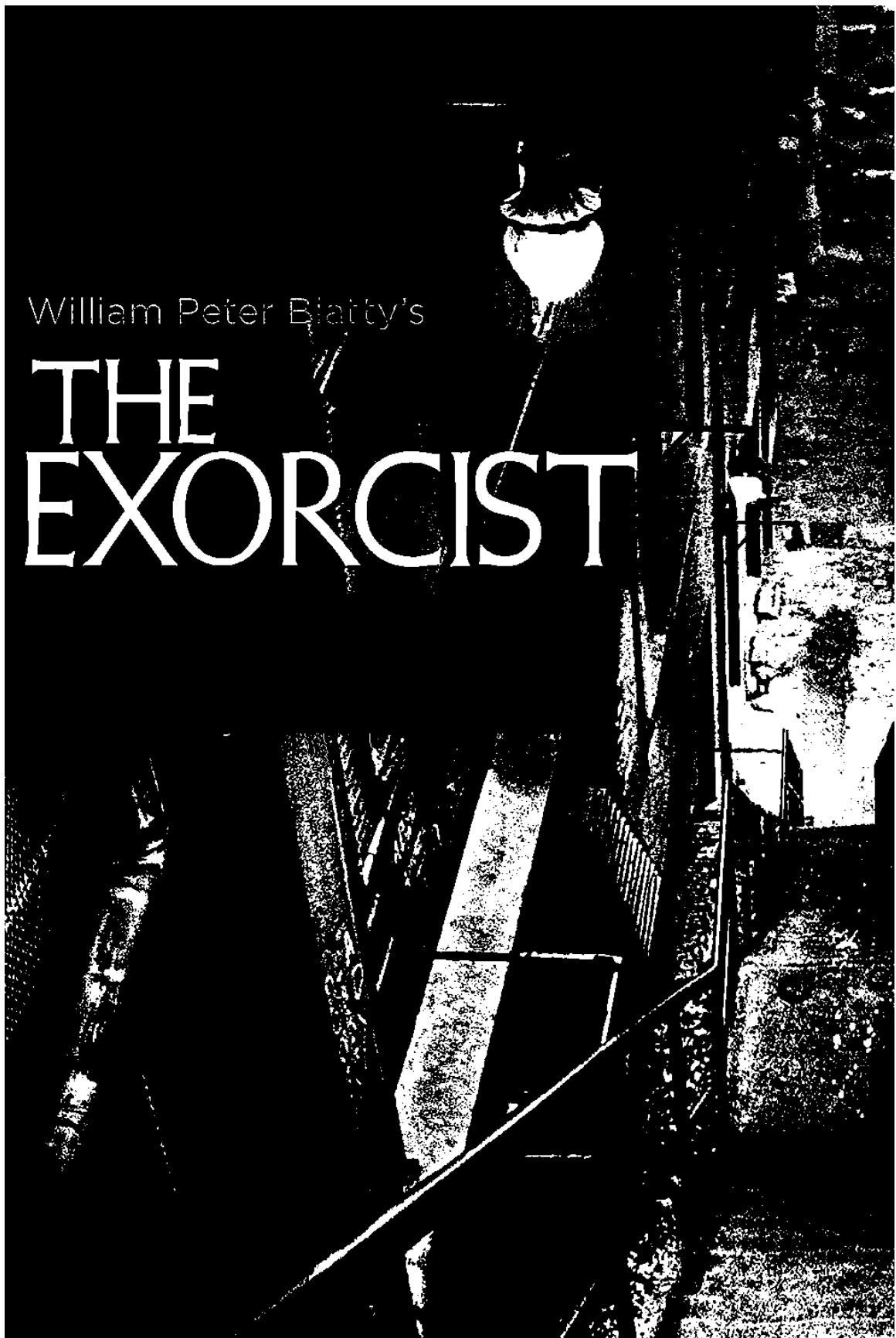
Michael saves his father from an attack and slowly succeeds him in the business to become an equally loved, successful and powerful don.

The novel also unshars Michaels' love life with Kay and Allonena.

“Go to the Mattresses” (a call for war) &” Struck by Thunderbolt” (struck by love) are the two famous lines from the book – that find a mention at many occasions and stick to your mind.

Many blockbuster movies made on this book in both Hollywood and Bollywood.

The Godfather has always been an inspiration and continues to be so.



William Peter Blatty's

# THE EXORCIST

# THE EXORCIST BY WILLIAM P. BLATTY

## *A Fearful Read*

My first horror novel and the experience was really exciting and intriguing.

Does anybody in today's hi-tech and medically advanced world believe in devils and possession by spirits?

That's exactly the thought process of all the doctors (and Regan's atheist family) who treat Regan for all psychological ailments, but when frightening changes begin to appear in the eleven-year-old's body, and Medical tests fail to shed any light on her symptoms, the only cure left is exorcism.

Father Merrin, is experienced to do the exorcism, but it is actually Father Karras who defeats the devil.

No movie ever based on this story matches to the fear evoked by the book.

The book will forever remain a favorite, for its sheer power to shock, petrify, scare, chill and thrill.



CHARLES DICKENS

GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS

CLASSICS  
VINTAGE

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS BY CHARLES DICKENS

## *A Delightful Read*

The story of Pip and his passionate love for Estella, brought up by Miss Havisham to destroy men by breaking their hearts.

Pip lives with his bullying older sister and her kind husband

A gentle, convict secretly helps Pip financially whom he met in the graveyard on one cold Christmas evening.

The character of Pip's lawyer Mr. Jaggers is very interesting. Even his friend, Hebert is a well-drawn character.

Pip's descriptions of the other characters in the novel are very convincing, intense, realistic, saddening and humorous.

On the other hand, Miss Havisham's life and persona is very daunting and strange.

No wonder this remains to be Dickens' most popular novel.

# WE THE LIVING



**AYN RAND**



## **WE, THE LIVING BY AYN RAND**

### *Makes the Heart Cry*

**Kira**, loves Leo, more than she loves herself. Andrei is her best friend (who also loves her), but she never cares for his feelings and loses the only man who could have kept her happy.

**Andrei**, is the most loyal and dedicated friend. He worships Kira and accepts her even after she tells him that she had all through taken advantage of his feelings. What a man!

**Leo**, the handsome guy, whom all women fall for. He loves Kira, but is very egoistic. Gets frustrated after facing Russian discrimination for being a native. Resorts to drinking, gambling and other vices. Leaves Kira when he finds out about Andrei.

A love triangle, with the backdrop of the Russia revolution. Full of hard-hitting realities, pain and heartbreak.

Another Masterpiece by Ayn Rand after the Fountainhead.

# GONE WITH the WIND



*by* MARGARET MITCHELL

## **GONE WITH THE WIND BY MARGARET MITCHELL**

### ***Tomorrow Is Another New Day!***

*“If she had known him – truly she would have never loved him. If she had known him truly she would have never lost him.”*

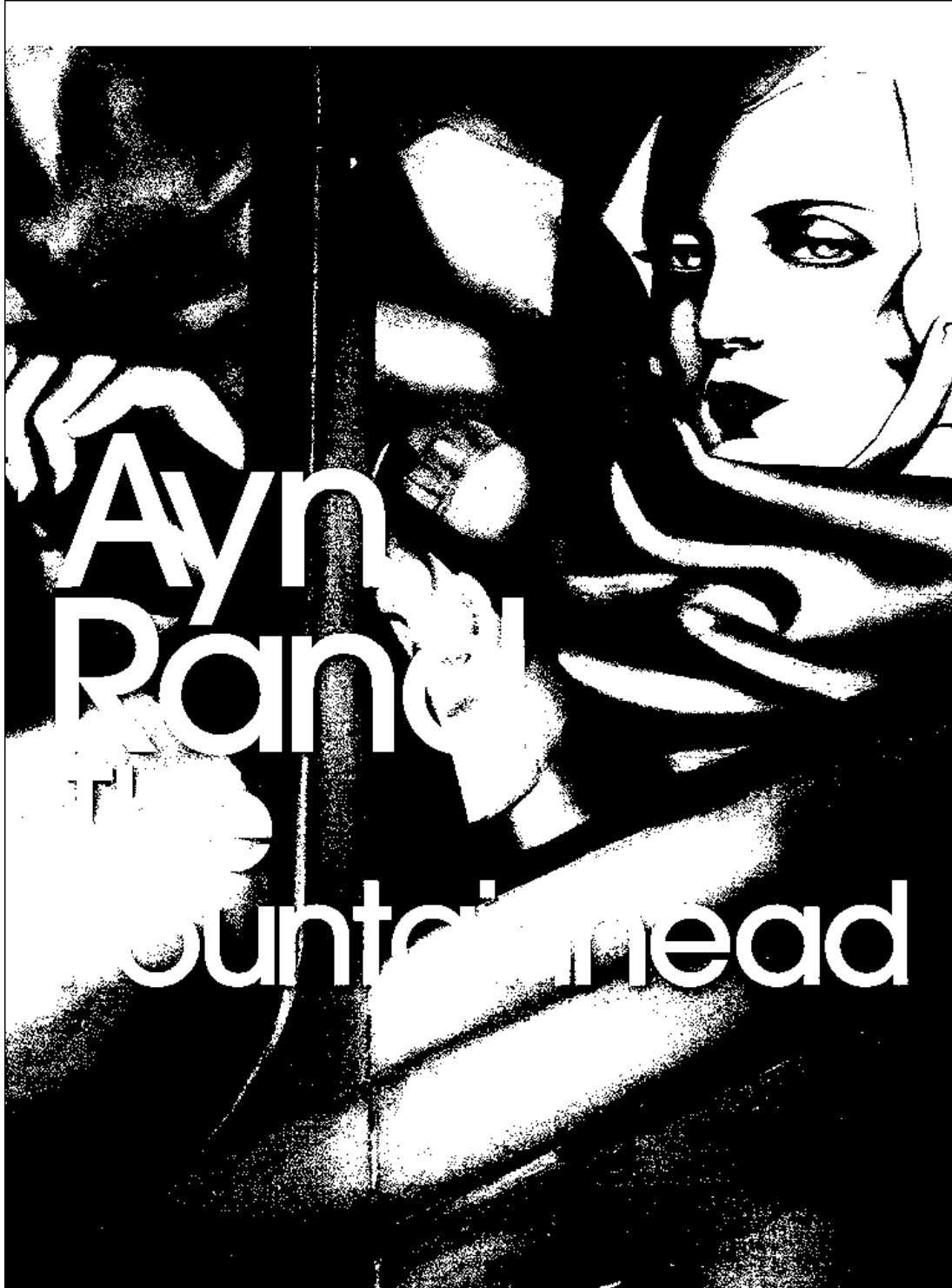
The above two lines sum up the entire book.

Choices in life and relationships are tough to make. There is just a thin line between love and infatuation – and sometimes it is impossible for the heart to decipher.

The book is set against the backdrop of the Civil War in America, and portrays how political circumstances often influence human relationships.

The character of Scarlett is excellently drawn. Rhett Butler too has a mystery around him, which is very intriguing. Their love affair is equally fervid.

A patient and long read which leave you wanting for more at the end, as tomorrow is another new day for Scarlett, a woman full of grit, courage and passion!



## THE FOUNTAINHEAD BY AYN RAND

*One of the most impactful novels ever written*

*Howard Roark- Dominique Franco- Gail Waynand – Peter Keating – Catherine – Ellsworth Tooney-* fascinating, philosophical, mesmerizing, shocking, powerful characters in an equally awesome novel. One, which influences your psyche as well as senses.

The main characters are as follows:

**Roark** is straight, frank, genuine, determined, wise, anti- social & anti emotional, except for his love for Dominique and friendship with Gail. He faces the entire world's criticism without being affected and moves on in life, with sheer strong will power.

**Dominique** – independent, hates losing her freedom (which she does when she falls in love with Roark), unemotional, possessive, unsocial, and bluntly straight.

**Gail** – a duplicate of Roark, Dominique's second husband, the powerful owner of newspaper, The Banner. An art lover.

**Peter** – a commoner. Chasing money and fame. Helped by Dominique, Roark, and Tooney, to reach heights of success only to fall flat soon. Cheats Catherine to marry Dominique.

**Catherine** – the girl next door. Simple, Romantic, Dedicated. Learns that life is not all mushy through the rough path. Very emotional.

**Tooney**- the villain. Power hungry. Tries to pull down all talented people. Hates Roark and Gail.

The Plot in a nutshell:

Roark is a brilliant architect with poor PR. Gets expelled from college, while Peter tops the batch, even though Peter was always helped/guided by Roark.

All through life, Roark faces opposition because he dares to be different.

Dominique & Roark's love for each other is indescribable. They are quite alike yet dominate each other. Roark rapes Dominique, because she wanted him to. She wants to destroy Roark, as she cannot get over her emotions for him. To prove her point further she first marries Peter (who ditches Catherine for money and fame to marry Dominique) and then Gail. However, is never able to forget her passion for Roark. She is also hell bent on destroying Roark's career, because she knows that the world will never understand his talent.

Gail is like Roark. They become best of friends. Roark designs Gail's house. Nevertheless, a scandal destroys both of them.

This is when Dominique comes open about her feelings for Roark and is able to settle all scores.

Dominique and Roark get married eventually & Gail continues to be their best friend.



**SIDNEY  
SHELDON**

**TELL  
ME YOUR  
DREAMS**

# TELL ME YOUR DREAMS BY SIDNEY SHELDON

## *A Shocking Thriller*

Ashely, the main protagonist suffers from Multiple Personality Disorder.

She has two alter Egos – Toni (the extrovert singer) & Alette (the introvert painter).

Toni is the dominating Ego.

Due to this disease, Ashley commits five brutal murders (she castrates all men who have sex with her). Her attorney David succeeds in exposing her disease in front of the jury to save her from imprisonment.

Ashely is the sent to an asylum where Dr. Kinley treats her.

She had developed this problem (MPD), due to a traumatic childhood, which comes out open during her hypnosis sessions.

Initially the reader is not able to guess the concept of MPD, which makes the novel a very exciting read.



DANIEL STARR



THE GHOST

## **THE GHOST BY DANIELLE STEEL**

*A beautiful amalgamation of the past and present*

No one explores relationships the way Danielle does in her books.

Charles is nurturing a broken heart, because his wife Carole divorces him to marry Simon.

Charles turns bitter towards life, until he comes to Shellbourne hills to Gladys, who is like a mother to him.

He becomes her tenant, only to fall in love with the house and the people who owned it in the past (Sarah & Francois), by reading Sarah's journal.

Sarah was a very courageous woman who fled a bad marriage to take a long journey, by sea, from England to America. There she met the brave French warrior, Francious and married him to lead a beautiful life together.

Through Sarah's inspiring story, Charles is able to gather his broken life and start afresh.

He soon finds a partner in Francesca and life is beautiful once again.

# JACKIE COLLINS

When men  
cheat,  
women make  
them pay...

*The World  
is full of  
Divorced  
Women*



THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

## THE WORLD IS FULL OF DIVORCED WOMEN BY JACKIE COLLINS

### *Ladies, Take Hold of Your Life*

**Cleo**, abandons her husband Mike James after she catches him with “her good friend”. Mike loves Cleo, but can’t give up his urge to sleep around. Hence, the marriage ends in a divorce. Cleo then has two relationships with actors, Butch and Daniel, but realizes that her work is her priority. Her friend, Russell helps her reach new heights of success as a TV Anchor.

**Muffin**, is young & inexperienced – a big name in nude modeling. Her boyfriend, Jon uses her for material gains. In the midst of all this, she marries a popstar Maryty Pearl – just out of desperation. The marriage ends in two hours. Muffin comes back to Jon and they get married. This marriage is also a disaster. Jon leaves Muffin for a successful starlet. Her life is in a mess, when her lesbian friend, Karmen helps her out. Muffin finally takes control of herself and does a successful porn film with Karmen. She rejects Jon when he comes back to her.

The book is all about understanding your true colors and coming out of the closet to claim your destiny.

81824 • \$2.50 • POCKET



NOW THE SENSATIONAL NBC-TV SERIES!  
FROM THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING NOVELIST

# HAROLD ROBBINS

# 79 PARK

# AVENUE

HIS  
8 MILLION  
COPY  
BESTSELLER!



## **79, PARK AVENUE BY HAROLD ROBBINS**

### ***The Dirty Face of the Society***

Marja Flood, is a headstrong girl. After her mother's death, her stepfather rapes her. She stabs him and goes to a home, only to lose her childhood. Poverty and circumstances force her to join a club and sleep around. In the club, she meets Ross, who is rich, powerful and dominating. She becomes his mistress but falls in love with his best friend, Mike Keys who is gentle, soft and affectionate.

Mike wants to take her away from all this but she feels that she is not worthy enough for him. .

Ross gets himself involved with the mafia, while Marja carries Mike's child.

Ross is killed, leaving behind Marja in a big mess. This is when Mike helps her out to expose the entire flesh trade racket.

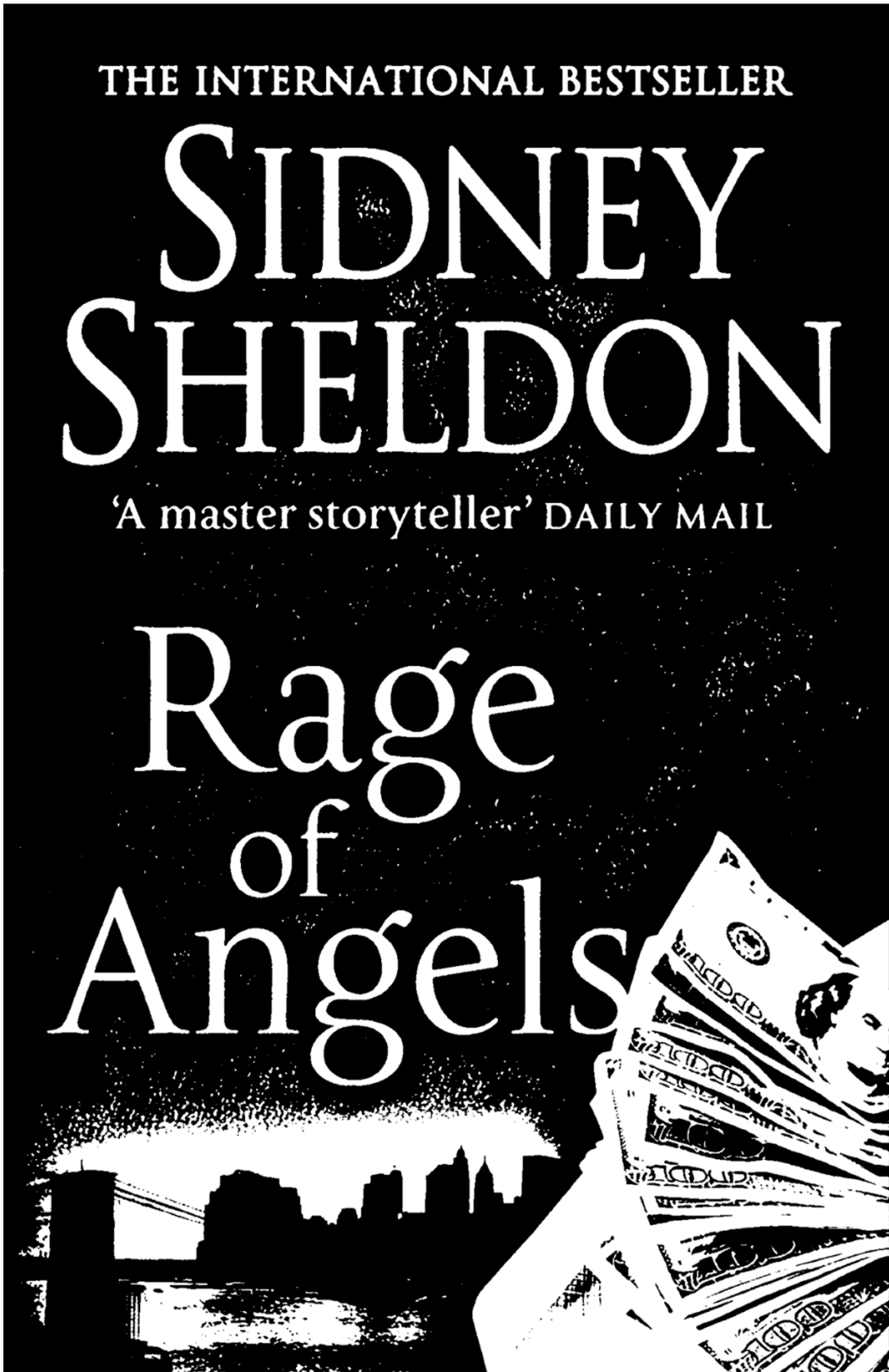
Marja surrenders and is imprisoned for two years. She accepts this punishment happily, with the hope to start a new life soon, with Mike and her daughter.

THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

# SIDNEY SHELDON

'A master storyteller' DAILY MAIL

# Rage of Angels



## **RAGE OF ANGELS BY SIDNEY SHELDON**

### *Engrossing, Emotional and Empathetic*

Attorney, Jennifer Parker, loses her first court case because of a conspiracy by Mafia Don, Michael Moretti (Mike).

Adam Warner, another successful lawyer, supports her during this crisis and fall in love with her.


Jennifer becomes a successful attorney (solving the toughest of cases with brilliance) while Adam runs for the Senate and becomes the President.

Jennifer and Adam have a son, Joshua but he dies and thus ends their relationship.

Mike re-enters a vulnerable Jennifer's life and they get involved romantically, but Adam and Mike's enmity destroys Jennifer and the end is tragic.

Jennifer is most certainly one of the best female protagonist ever featured in a book by a male author.





# BRIDE OF PENDORRIC

VICTORIA HOLT

*AUTHOR OF Mistress of Mellyn AND Kirkland Revels*

## **BRIDE OF PENDORRIC BY VICTORIA HOLT**

### *Even the Walls Have Eyes and Ears*

One of the best books by Victoria Holt. An engulfing combination of mystery, thrill, romance and drama

The book unfolds the story of Favel Farrington who lives on the idyllic Mediterranean island of Capri, with her father.

Roc Pendorruc sweeps her off her feet, taking her to the ancient family home of the Pendorrucs, in Cornwall.

She is the much-anticipated Bride of Pendorruc, a name that gives her pride and respect.

The castle is beautiful but the vibes are very negative. It seems that every action of Favel is watched and noted by some anonymous person.

On the walls of the castle hang portraits of two other Brides of Pendorruc—one of them Roc's mother—who died both young and tragically.

Favel's fear increases, as Roc seems to be growing more and more distant.

Soon Favel anticipates that someone is trying to kill her and she must confront the very real dangers that surround her.

# परिणीता



## **PARINEETA BY SARATCHAND**

### ***A Heart Rending Love log***

A heart-rending, simple and sweet story that stays in your mind forever.

Shekhar and Lalita share a special bond since childhood. They are not aware that this bond is actually love.

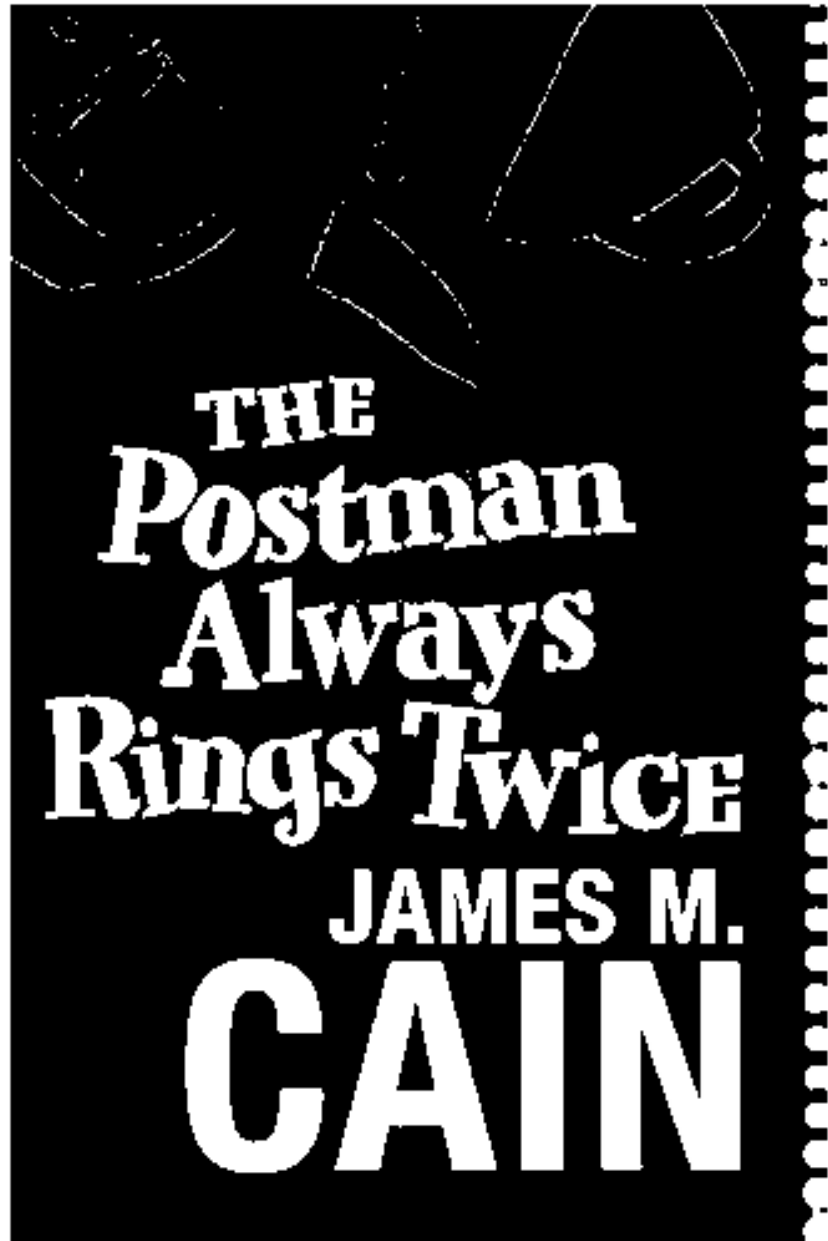
Girinder, walks in their life - falls for Lalita – only to make the couple realize their true feelings for each other and take a big decision.

Shekhar and Lalita secretly get married to protect their love – but it is tough for them to disclose it to the world (namely their families).

It is Girinder again who comes to their rescue.

Girinder marries Lalita's sister, so that Lalita's marriage with Shekhar is intact and accepted by the families.

What a well-crafted Masterpiece!



## **THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE BY JAMES CAIN**

### *All Sins Get Their Due In Life!*

A book that re-affirms your faith in God and his strange ways to punish the wrong doers.

Cora and her lover, Frank Chambers plan to kill Coral's husband Nick.

Their plan is successful but their relationship is compromised, as post this incident both become suspicious of each other.

Frank however manages to stabilize things by convincing Cora of his true love for her.

They get married.

However, soon after, Frank dies in a car accident, very similar to Nick.

Published in 1947, this book still gives you the goosebumps and you continue think about it long after reading!



10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR

KHALED HOSSEINI

Author of A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

# The Kite Runner



'Devastating'  
*Daily Telegraph*

'Unforgettable'  
Isabel Allende

'Heartbreaking'  
*The Times*



## **KITE RUNNER BY KHALED HOSSEINI**

### ***A beautiful story of friendship and redemption***

The friendship of Amir and Hassan stands the test of time and circumstances.

Amir is the curious and shy boy who can do anything to win the affection and praise of his father.

Hassan is his loyal friend and aid, who can do anything for Amir.

However, in the 1970s, Afghanistan had its own issues and people from the lower caste (Hazara) like Hassan had a tough life.

The day of the Kite competition was the day that changed Amir's life forever.

When the family is forced to leave Afghanistan and settle in a foreign land Amir, can never get over of what Hassan had done for him. No amount of redemption was enough for that kind of sacrifice. Amir's conscience continued to pinch him for being a selfish coward.

Finally, these feelings are the ones that take Amir back to Afghanistan in search of Hassan's son, who now needs him.

Truly, an unforgettable, extraordinary modern classic.



**#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER**

**"A brave, honorable, big-hearted book."**

*—The Washington Post*

# A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS

A NOVEL BY THE AUTHOR OF

THE KITE RUNNER



**KHALED HOSSEINI**

# THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS BY KHALED HOSSEINI

## *A Splendid Masterpiece*

Another marvelous and gripping novel by Khaled Hosseini set in Afghanistan of the early 1960s.

From 1960-2000 Afghanistan, witnessed an ugly era of the Russian invasion, Taliban rule and American intervention.

This book is the story of two women, Mariam and Laila, who are quite different from each other, yet brought together by unfortunate circumstances.

How their friendship develops and how they support each other makes the crux of this book.

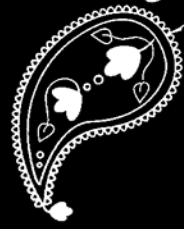
The two brave women fight a common enemy who is also closely related to them.

Rasheed, the rigid and orthodox Pashtun, who mistreats women, is another character in the book that stands out.

This book is an exceptional story of the courage and determination of two women, who are able to change their destiny.

The book is also an example of the state of women in Afghanistan and this realism makes it all the more splendid.

'A terrific page-turner... An utter treat...  
that might... supply more unashamed  
reader-transporting enjoyment than  
any other fiction of the year.' *Independent*



# Chowringhee



## **CHOWRINGEE BY SANKAR**

*Many Lives, Many Tales - all in one!*

Set in Calcutta, of the mid-1950s, Chowringhee is an admirable amalgamation of many lives, relationships, the good and the evil, seen from the eyes of the narrator, Shankar.

Shankar, a charismatic and dynamic young man, falls into the web of unemployment after the sudden demise of his Barrister boss. While selling wastepaper baskets door to door, Shankar meets his friend, Byron, by chance, who helps him find a job at the city's oldest and most distinguished hotels, Shahjahan Mahal.

At the hotel, Shankar starts working as the typist but soon becomes a close confidant of the hotels' chief receptionist, Sata Bose. The manager, Marco Polo also appreciates him and gives him additional responsibilities.

It is through Shankar's eyes that we get to see of the lives and relationships, the fears and passions of the guests of Shahjahan Mahal. The lives of the hotel staff also find an equal part in the narration of this story.

Greed, shame, guilt and shock – all the lives have a different tale to tell. Woven in a delicate thread of disgust and dilapidation. These stories are appalling as well as exciting and hard core realistic too.

THE No.1 BESTSELLER

You don't  
know her.

But she  
knows you.



THE  
GIRL  
ON THE  
TRAIN

PAULA  
HAWKINS

NOW A MAJOR FILM

## **GIRL ON THE TRAIN BY PAULA HAWKINS**

### ***A Pandora box of revelations***

Rachel Watson becomes an alcoholic, pained by a broken marriage to Tom, who left her for another woman, Anna Watson. Tom and Anna have a daughter, Evie, whereas Rachel was unable to conceive during the marriage (which became a trigger point for her self-destructive tendencies). Rachel's alcoholism has made her lose her job and memory with frequent blackout phases. She continues to harass Tom in her drunken state for leaving her, but forgets about it when she sobers.

Every day, Rachel takes a train to London, which slowly passes through her old house, where she sees Tom, Anna, and Evie. She also watches from the train a loving couple, who live a few houses away from Toms. She starts calling them "Jason" and "Jess". Rachel is unaware that this couple has a far from perfect life and that the wife, Megan sleeps around to escape a troubled past.

One day, Rachel is shocked to see Megan kissing another man. The next day, after a drinking bout, Rachel awakens to find herself injured and covered with blood, with no memories of what happened to her. Soon, she learns that Megan is missing. The police questions her after Anna reports of her staggering drunkenly around, the night of Megan's disappearance.

This leads to a Pandora box of revelations as the story progresses.

The reader finds the book tough to put down, even though the end is predictable...

"MORE GRIPPING THAN DRAGON TATTOO"

Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



STIEG LARSSON'S

THE GIRL WHO  
PLAYED WITH FIRE

# THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE BY LARSEN TRACY

## *Keeps you on your toes*

A long book, divided into a prologue and 4 parts. A story of revenge told in a unique way. Salander is one character, the readers will never forget.

**Prologue:** Salander, captured and confined in a dark room by an unnamed man, begins to recap her story.

**Part 1:** Salander is on a tour of Europe. She is into mathematics and a sexual relationship with a teenage boy. She also observes from her hotel window, the bankrupt Dr Forbes physically abusing his wife, who is the heir to huge finances. During a hurricane, Dr Forbes tries to kill his wife, but Salander saves her and kills him instead. Dr Forbes becomes the only fatality of the storm. This part establishes Salander's expertise, sharp mind and courage.

**Part 2** – This part for the first time mentions the incident "All the Evil". Lisbeth Salander returns to Stockholm and moves into a well-furnished apartment, along with her lesbian mate, Wu. Nils only motive in life is to capture Salander and destroy the video tape she had made to blackmail him. Blomkvists magazine is approached by a couple to publish a report about sex trafficking and abuse of young girls in Sweden. The report has recurring mentions of "Zala". Salander, hacks Mikael Blomkvist's computer and is shocked to see the name of Zala there.

**Part 3** – The same night, the couple who had given the report, is shot dead in their apartment. Also murdered is Nils and Salander becomes the prime suspect for all three murders.



**Part 4** - Blomkvist's team digs into- "All the Evil" phase of Salander's life which links her to Zala.

Zala, whose real name is Alexander Zalachenko is actually Salanders' father, who traffics sex slaves. He had twin daughters, Lisbeth and Camilla and abused Salander's mother, forcing Salander to set Zala's car on fire, where he lost one leg. Declared insane, Salander is imprisoned for this crime. Salander also has a half-brother who had earlier attacked her and kidnapped Wu.

Salander confronts Zala, who tries to kill her in return by burying her alive. Battling for life, Salander digs herself out and again attempts to kill Zala with an axe.

The book ends with Blomkvist finding the wounded Salander and calling emergency services.

A complete on the edge of your seat kind of novel.

the **CATCHER**  
in the **RYE**



*a novel by* **J. D. SALINGER**

# CATCHER IN THE RYE BY J.D. SALINGER

## *A Roller Coaster Ride*

Holden Caulfield, the main protagonist of this book is a teen icon, a rebel who criticizes the superficial ways of the society with his sarcasm and humour.

Holden, 16, is expelled from Pencey Preparatory Academy, due to poor performance. His best friends are Mal Brossard and Ackley and he has romantic feelings for Jane, who is dating his roommate - Ward.

The book takes you on a roller coaster ride with Holden's adventures from when he leaves Pencey, to his journey home. During this period,

- Holden fights with Ward,
- Meets the mother of a wealthy, obnoxious Pencey student and lies to her about her son and himself
- Spends an evening dancing with three tourist women
- Agrees to a prostitute, but when he learns that she is the same age as him, he does not want to do anything. However, her pimp beats him for not paying enough.
- Out of depression calls, Sally Hayes, to go out for a play but they fight & part ways angrily.
- Meets Carl Luce, his old classmate, and goes skating before heading home.

Holden's bond with his 10-year-old sister, Phoebe, is the strongest, as she is the only person who understands him the best. Holden also briefly plans to run away from home, but Phoebe's intervention discourages him and he agrees to get himself admitted in a new school.

# YASMEEN

A NOVEL

# SOPHIA

# KHAN



## YASMEEN BY SOPHIA KHAN

### ***Obsessive Love can be both shattering and uplifting***

Yasmeen Khalil, elegant, charming, very attractive, is equally unpredictable, enigmatic, mysterious and tragic.

One fine day, she just vanishes – leaving behind her daughter, Irenie and husband James, in a state of shock and despair.

Irenie refuses to accept the fact that her mother has gone. She lives in an illusion, with her mother's scent and sounds filling the vacuum of the house and her life.

Five years later, Irenie comes across a box of Yasmeen, full of passionate and intimate love letters to Ahmed, a man she had loved all her life.

Irenie has a mind full of questions and a saddened heart. *Where was Yasmeen? Why she did not marry Ahmed? What happened to their affair?*

This prompts her to go on a quest for answers to Islamabad, a trip that her father James had long tried to suppress.

This journey helps her uncovers a trove of secrets for which she was not ready, but brings her closer to her father as both try to move on in life without Yasmeen.

Truly a beautiful and touching story.

THE DEFINITIVE EDITION

THE DIARY OF A  
YOUNG GIRL

ANNE FRANK



EDITED BY  
OTTO H. FRANK AND MIRJAM PRESSLER

Includes previously unpublished material

# THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL BY ANNE FRANK

## *A Realistic Tale of Courage, Hope & Optimism*

This is the only book where the reader knows what will exactly happen in the end, but still wants to read, because of the touching narration.

Anne Frank wrote this diary, while she was in hiding for two years with her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. This diary was retrieved and published by Otto Frank, Anne's father and the family's only survivor from the war.

The diary touches the inner most chord of your heart, as Anne tells about her close relationship with her father. With her mother, she had nothing much in common, but she loved and admired her sister for her intelligence and sweetness.

Annie, was a self-admired chatterbox, but was attracted to a quiet and sober Peter, with whom she develops an unnamed relationship.

Annie wanted her truest friend to re-write the introduction of this book, but all through the book, she is unable to find that one person.

The book continues to inspire writers even today.

A must read for all generations!



**TONI  
ANDERSON**

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

A COLD  
DARK  
PLACE



# **A COLD DARK PLACE BY TONI ANDERSON**

## ***A Heart Racing Romantic Thriller***

Alex Parker does not enjoy killing (though he has the expertise in it), but being a Former CIA assassin and working for the clandestine government organization, he has to kill the serial killers and pedophiles before they enter the justice system.

Mallory Rooney is a FBI Special Agent who has spent many years of her life, searching for her abducted twin sister. Now, during an on-going serial killer investigation, Mallory begins to suspect there is a vigilante operating outside the law.

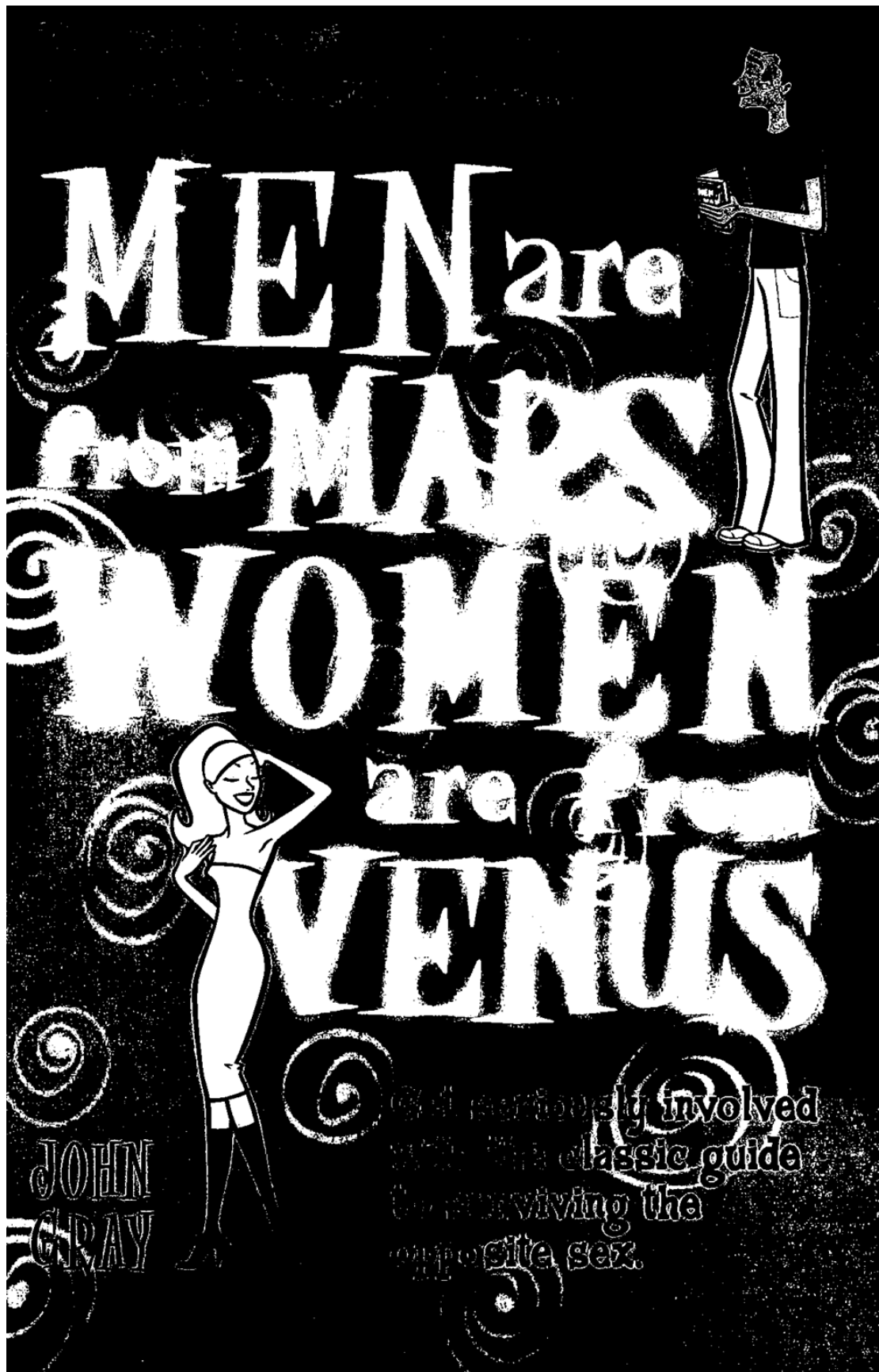
Alex has to watch Mallory (as per order), for she is trying to extract information.

As soon as they meet, the two fall in love, but find themselves in a tough situation because the man who stole Mallory's sister years ago now makes Mallory his next target and Alex has to protect her.

One of my favourite books on Kindle.

Increases your heartbeat as you read through.

A beautiful and passionate romance full of exciting twists and turns.



# **MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS,**

**BY JOHN GRAY**

*You Can't Live with Them, You Can't Live without Them*

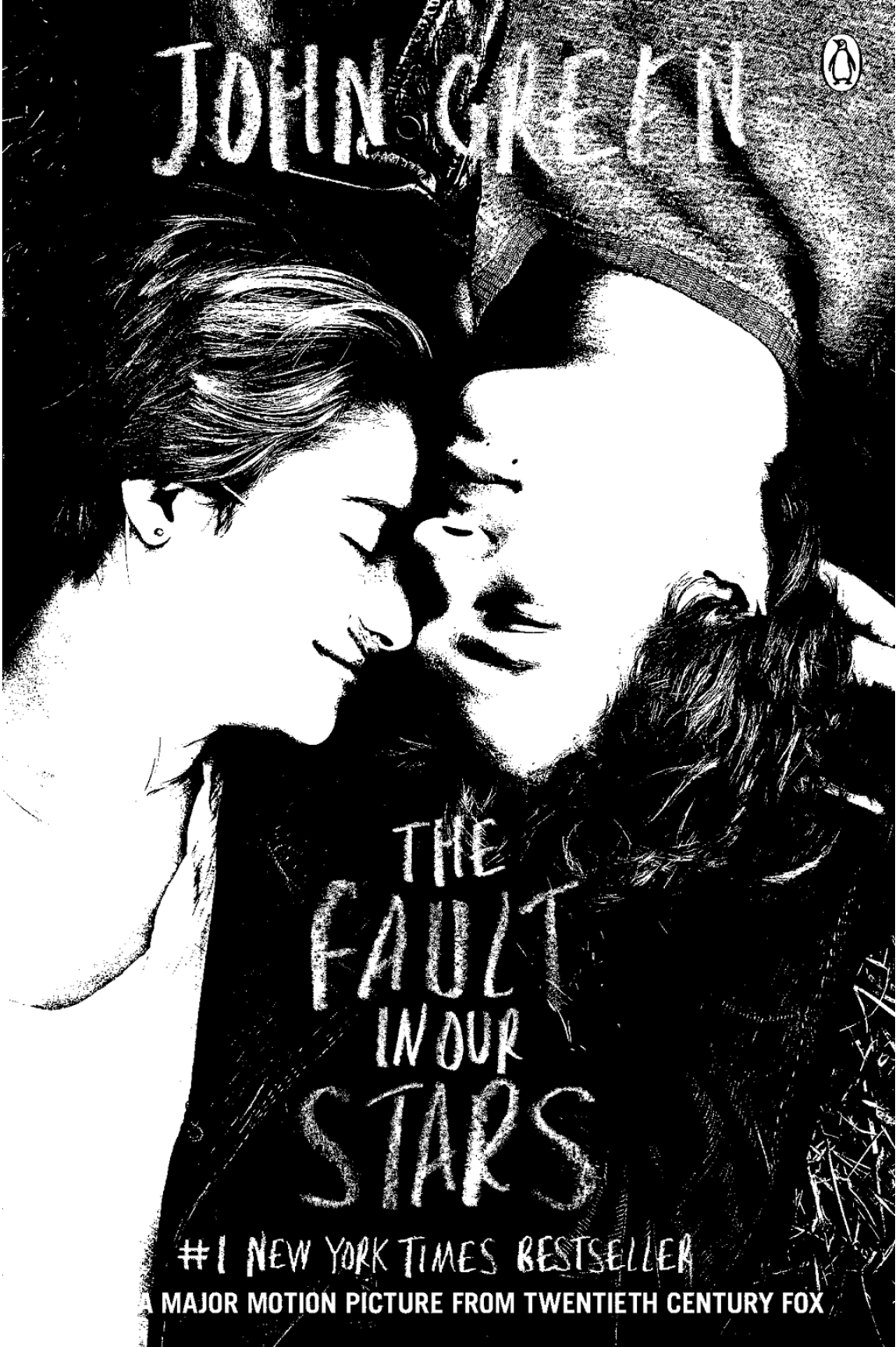
Truly, a Classic Guide to surviving the Opposite Sex. A bible on relationships. If you are finding problems in your relationship, reading this book might be helpful.

Men and Women are different from each other- their emotions, expressions and reactions- everything about them. This is how they are composed.

Women resolve their problems differently, whereas men have their own ways of dealing with them.

The book is such an accurate explanation to this phenomenon, no wonder it is an international bestseller.

The book further elaborates on: What makes members of the opposite sex tick, their verbal and non-verbal language, How to motivate the opposite sex and get what you want, How to avoid arguments and have enriching communication, emotional needs and behaviors of both the sexes and what's the mantra for staying together, happily.



# THE FAULT IN OUR STARS BY JOHN GREEN

## *Make Your Choices*

Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old suffers from cancer that has spread to her lungs. She lives a routine life. Her mother and doctor are afraid that she might get into depression and hence her mother convinces her to join a support group.

At the group she meets, the 17-year-old Augustus Waters, whose osteosarcoma caused him to lose his right leg. Augustus is there to support his friend Isaac, suffering from eye cancer.

Hazel and Gus, meet after the support group and begin to talk. They become good friends, soon and exchange their favorite novels.

When Gus reads *An Imperial Affliction*, Hazel's favourite book, by author, Peter Van Houten, he gets frustrated about the book ending in the middle of a sentence without any proper conclusion. This book is also about a cancer-stricken girl named Anna. Both Hazel and Gus want to know what happened after the last sentence and hence their curiosity takes them to Amsterdam to know the end by meeting the author, Peter.

The meeting with Peter is a big disappointment, as he is an arrogant & mean drunkard. However, the Amsterdam trip brings Gus and Hazel closer to each other and they fall in love.

Soon, Gus confesses to Hazel that his cancer has returned. The two continue to love and support each other during the hard times.

Gus dies, leaving Hazel heartbroken. Peter Van Houten comes at Gus's funeral to apologize, but Hazel does not forgive him.

Isaac later tells Hazel that Gus had written an obituary for her (just as she had written his eulogy). The obituary says that getting hurt in this world is inevitable. However, we get to choose who will hurt us. Gus was happy with his choice and hopes that Hazel feels the same way.

The book ends with a happy Hazel for the choice she made.

What stands out in the book is the power of this couple, to love, let go, accept fate and move on. Like Gus tells Hazel with an unlit cigarette in his mouth - "*You put an object of death right between your lips, but you don't give it the power to kill you.*"

Impressive.

2

# Twilight

## in Delhi

'*Twilight in Delhi* is not only a very fine novel, it is also an irreplaceable record of the vanished life and culture of pre-war Delhi.'

— WILLIAM DALRYMPLE in *City of Djinns*

# AHMED ALI

## **TWILIGHT IN DELHI BY AHMED ALI**

### ***A Good Shot of Nostalgia***

Set in Delhi of 1911 – 1919, this book is like a vividly drawn picture of old Delhi and its Muslim inhabitants of that era.

The book is the story of Mir Nihal and his life of conflicts, contrasting standards, and disintegration as the Mughal rule is on a downfall and the effects of imperialism can be seen on the Muslims of Delhi.

The novel impressively uses a palm tree, the henna plant, dogs, cats and pigeons to refer to the behaviors of characters in a typical Muslim society.

Twilight is symbolic of the protagonist Mir Nihal's falling living standards.

One of the very first novels to call for the freedom of India from British rule. It delves into history, to bring the past alive. The book is so realistic that it reminisces the reader to what it would have been like living in such an era.

A moving portrayal of the slow and steady decay of an entire culture and way of life, which was oh so wonderful.



**A National Bestseller**

# **THAT THING CALLED LOVE**

**Tuhin A. Sinha**

## **THE THING CALLED LOVE BY TUHIN SINHA**

### ***A Dangerous and Complicated Love Story***

Tuhin Sinha's novel initially looks like one in a many on the shelf nowadays, but when you read it, you understand that it clearly stands out from the crowd.

Mayank lives in disillusionment, trying to find that one perfect woman who could love him unconditionally and make his dreams come true.

The twist in the tale is when Mayank finds his woman in Revathi, married and much older than him.

What follows is complicated and dangerous.

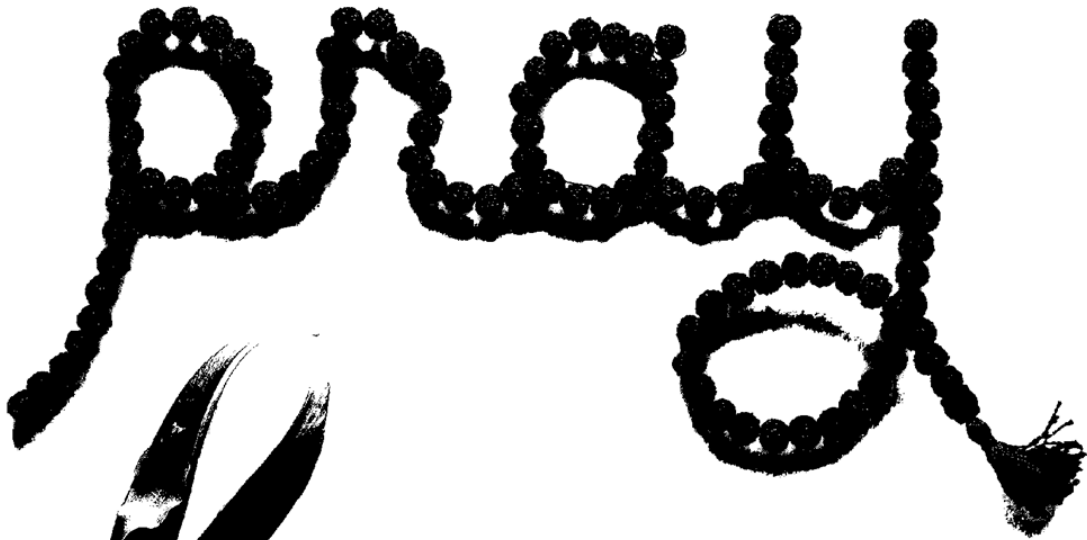
The book becomes more interesting by the other strange stories and even stranger characters, who work in Mayank's office.

Like a male chauvinist cheating on his wife without guilt, a dutiful husband waiting for his wife to come to terms with their marriage and a receptionist who is also a call girl.

Amidst all this, Mayank continues with his job as a Sales Manager, handling the advertisement department in a Matrimony portal and trying to strike a balance between fantasy and reality.

Mayank's plight and his quest is very relatable – making this book one of its kind!

ELIZABETH GILBERT



10th-Anniversary Edition

# EAT, PRAY & LOVE BY ELIZABETH GILBERT

## *A Journey of Self Discovery*

Elizabeth Gilbert at 34 has a comfortable home, husband and career as a writer.

However, she feels unhappy and decides to get divorced.

After the divorce she continues to feel unhappy (as an after effect of a broken relationship) and is alone and depressed.

To come out of this situation, she plans to travel the world for an entire year.

On this tour, she spends four months in Italy, eating and enjoying life (EAT), three months in India, finding her spiritual side (PRAY), and ends the journey in Bali, Indonesia, looking for "balance" to the two sides of life, to finally fall in love with a Brazilian businessman (LOVE).

Being a memoir by Elizabeth – the book is able to create a fine mix of humor, pain, joy, longing, self-discovery and romance.

Julia Roberts as Elizabeth in the movie adaptation is also a delight to watch.

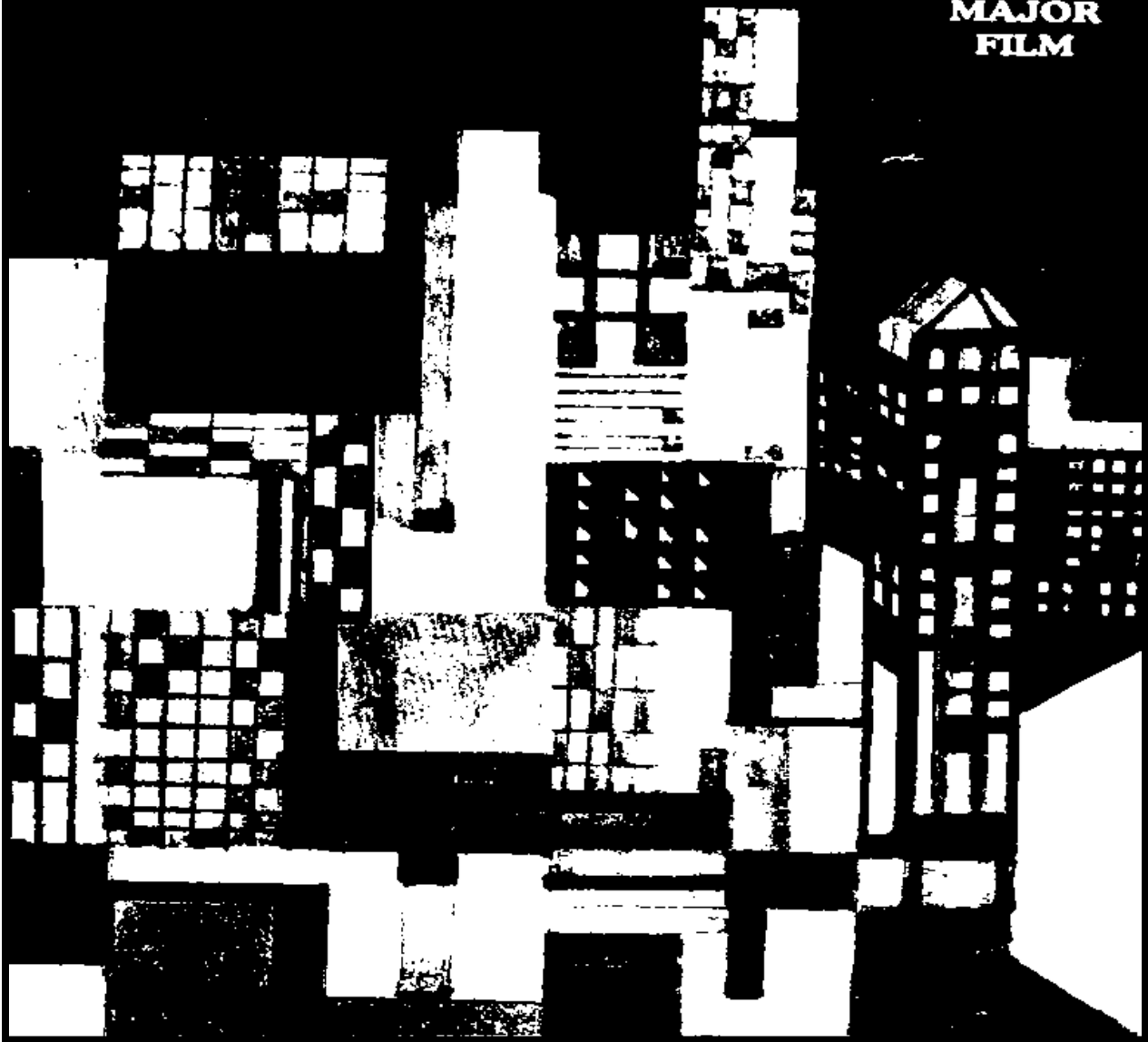
Liked the book so much that read the sequel, *Committed*, as well. However, that was disappointing.

So stick to Eat, Pray and Love!

# *The Inscrutable Americans*

Anurag Mathur

NOW  
A  
MAJOR  
FILM



## **INSCRUTABLE AMERICANS BY ANURAG MATHUR**

### ***Humour at its best***

Gopal is the son of a hair oil tycoon from Madhya Pradesh, India. He goes to America to study chemical engineering in Eversville.

In America he meets, Randy, Sunil and Sushant and they together go on a comic exploration of America, starting from American girls, to new gadgets, to naked billboards, vegetarian cats, telephone, multi channeled color TV etc etc.

Each thing adds to Gopal's bewilderment, as he explains in the letters, he writes to his brother in a funny "English" language.

Gopal's inability to understand the language, results in humorous as well as embarrassing situations, which the reader thoroughly enjoys.

Soon Gopal also comes across the ugly realities of America. How there is poverty in the rich land and how the American students are not competent enough to make the most of the opportunities given to them.

With time, Gopal's thought process changes as he is exposed to the American way of life.

The book also focuses a lot on Gopal's quest to lose his virginity, which adds to the humour, every time Gopal fails.

The narration ends with Gopal becoming successful in his quest, on his way back to India in an airplane at 30,000 feet above ground level!

Mitch Albom

Author of  
*Tuesdays with Morrie*



for one more day

## **FOR ONE MORE DAY BY MITCH ALBOM**

### *If Only Life Could Give a Second Chance*

This book made me a fan of Mitch Albom.

Charles is a former baseball player now struggling with a failed career, bad finances, disturbed family life and alcoholism.

Depressed and devastated, Charles decides to end his life. He goes out on a drunken driving rampage that results in an accident.

This accident takes him back to his mother – (who died eight years ago), to spend one more day with her where she guides him about life, tells him many unknown facts about his troubled childhood and his relationship with his father. She also helps him resolve his problems and get his life back on track. These interactions are the most beautiful moments of the book.

Charles, regains consciousness at the scene of the accident and the interactions end there.

Charles dies five years later.

Maria, Charles's daughter is the narrator of this story.

The book's epilogue tells us how Charles is able to quit drinking and reconcile with his life after the accident. If only life could give us all, one more chance to be with our close ones...before they leave us forever!



KHUSHWANT SINGH

# Delhi

*a novel*



## **DELHI BY KHUSHWANT SINGH**

### ***Disgusting, Shocking, Empathetic and Immortal***

Khushwant Singh was a writer par excellence. From Train to Pakistan to Sunset Club all his books have made their mark. Somehow, Delhi is one book that arises varied emotions in you and that is the reason it remains in your mind for long.

Khushwant Singh himself narrates the story. He came back to Delhi after much sexual indulgences in life. Here he meets Bhagmati again – his eunuch partner (a character that remains in your mind forever). Bhagmati intrigues the readers as a half man, half woman with sexual inventiveness and energy of both the sexes (a typical Hijra). This part of the book is quite disgusting, but soon you begin to empathize with the characters.

Through this book, Khushwant Singh takes us on a discovery of Delhi. Its culture, the people, its history - everything

A city, which has had myriad inhabitants – from poets to princes, saints to sultans, temptresses to traitors, and emperors to eunuchs. All these people in their own way have shaped the city's mystique story.

This immortal book continues to inspire many authors even today from Arunadhathi Roy to William Dalrymple to Rana Safwi. Delhi is a favorite of all.

## ***A few Words of Thank You***

Books are a big blessing for human souls. They help us understand life. They help heal and cleanse our spirit. They assist in inspiring and motivating. No words can describe the role they play. My first Thank you is to all the Authors for penning down such inspiring creations.

Just to close, I would like to thank my family, friends, colleagues and all my fellow readers for Touchpoints.

Special thanks to Kindle and my designer Hi Fi.

*“To all books old and new,*

*To all books forgotten and all books waiting to get their due.*

*To all books yet to be born and all books which have long gone,*

*May your tribe increase...”*

Amen!

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## BOOK REVIEWER'S PROFILE



With more than a decade's experience in the fields of Human Resources, Training, Recruitment, Consulting, Engagement, Communications and CSR, Sherin Ashraf, a Lucknowite, is an alumna of La Martiniere Girls' College. Currently working in the automobile sector, she has previously been associated with telecom and consulting industries.

Sherin has a passion for writing, travelling and listening to music.

Her first book, *Dreadful Desires & More*, published in 2017 with rave reviews. *Soul's Secret Story*, her second compilation launched online last year. *Touchpoints* is her third book.

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