



2023

**FILM BAZAAR
BOOK TO BOX OFFICE**

Book to Box Office

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Book to Box Office

This year, 'Book to Box-Office' has joined forces with 'The Story Ink' for the event, featuring curated meet-and-greets, networking sessions, panel discussions, open pitch sessions, and beachside chats led by industry experts. Massive submissions including manuscripts, short stories, and books, have been received this year.

The Story Ink, formed in 2018, is now India's Largest Book to Screen Adaptation Company, having set up 200+ books across 50+ Production Houses. The Story Ink represents 250+ Authors and exclusively controls the screen rights of more than 500 books.

Out of these submissions, the jury handpicked 30 titles to be showcased at the event and an additional 6 titles for the 'Open Pitch' session.

Schedule

Panel Discussion

Speaker – Ms. Mrinalini Khanna, Mr. Ranjib Mazumder, Mr. Sidharth Jain, Ms. Harini Lakshminarayan, Ms. Radhika Gopal, Ms. Atika Chohan
Moderator – Ms. Smriti Kiran
Date – 21st November | Time: 5:30 – 6:30 PM
Topic – [Book to Box Office: Faithful Adaptations vs Cinematic Liberty](#)

Open Pitch

Speakers – Ms. Tejaswini Apte-Rahm, Mr. Vijay Sharma, Ms. Balakarthiga M, Mr. Sparsh Srivastava, Mr. Vishak Shakti, Mr. Saurabh Dev
Moderator – Mr. Jitin Hingorani
Date – 24th November | Time: 3:30 – 4:30 PM
Event – 'Open Pitch': All six Jury Pick

Beachside Chat

Speaker – Ms. Priyanka Khimani
Moderator – Ms. Smriti Kiran
Date – 22nd November | Time: 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM
Topic – [Strategies: How to close your Book Deal?](#)

Speaker – Ms. Nayanika Mahtani
Moderator – Ms. Ekta Bhandari
Date – 23rd November | Time: 12:00 – 12:45 PM
Topic – [From Screenplay to Book: Creating the Magic in Reverse](#)

Speaker – Mr. Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Moderator – Ms. Vani Tripathi Tikoo
Date – 23rd November | Time: 3:15 – 4:00 PM
Topic – [Nawazuddin's Process: Creating characters from the written word \(Black Friday, Manto, Sacred Games, Serious Men\)](#)

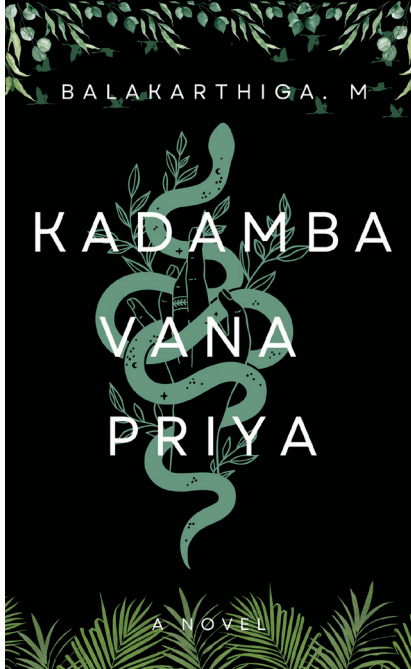
Speaker – Ms. Utkarshini Vashishtha
Moderator – Mr. Jitin Hingorani
Date – 24th November | Time: 12:00 – 12:45 PM
Topic – [The Journey of Gangubai Kathiawadi: From a Chapter to Screen](#)

Kadamba Vana Priya

Balakarthiga. M

Agency– Exclusively Repped By The Story Ink

English | Female-Driven, Fantasy, Love Story, Young Adult, Drama, Historical, Queer Cinema, Supernatural



Synopsis

Kadamba Vana Priya, an 818-year-old teenage witch, has been concealing her true identity by posing as a student in a highly competitive engineering college. She's been hiding from a curse she cast long ago.

However, the descendant of the king she once cursed has returned for revenge, this time as the Head of her Department. As she endeavors to reawaken her dormant powers, an unexpected young man named Dayakar enters her life, disrupting her world. Now, Kadamba finds herself torn between her age-old grudge and the newfound emotions she's experiencing. She must confront her past and make challenging decisions about her future.

Immerse yourself in a world where magic intersects with modern life, where ancient conflicts collide with teenage romance, and where the choices of one witch could alter the course of everything.

This novel delves into themes of ancient magic, forbidden forests, the trials of modern adolescence, proud witches, and tender mortal men. **Kadamba Vana Priya** is a literary creation born from a cosmic collision of imagination, caffeine, and the delightful madness of the writer.

Author Biography

Balakarthiga, a Madurai native, is a versatile author who has expertly blended her love for her hometown with her passion for storytelling. She is the creative force behind novels such as **Kadamba Vana Priya**, **Mathurapuri Chronicles**, and **Butterfly Met Hurricane**. With a master's degree in management from NIT Trichy, she skillfully combines the worlds of technology and literature, resulting in her captivating magical realism books. Her debut work, **The Tales and Musings of a Small Town Girl**, exemplifies her ability to infuse her writing with the timeless charm and enigmatic aura of Madurai.

During the day, Balakarthiga excels in the fast-paced SaaS marketing scene in Bangalore, where she crafts content that resonates with audiences and converts clicks into customers. By night, she immerses herself in the world of myths and musings, weaving tales of love, enchantment, and the echoes of history. Her unique ability to inject authenticity and soul into her stories allows her to connect with readers and clients on a profound and heartfelt level.



Balakarthiga. M
Author

(+91) 9840758261
balakarthiga@gmail.com

Madhur Mishra

Sparsh Srivastava

Unpublished | Agency- The Story Ink

Hindi | Murder Mystery, Suspense, Detective



Synopsis

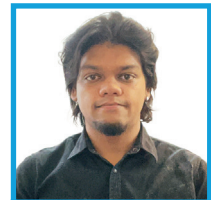
Madhur Mishra, a brilliant superintendent of police, becomes embroiled in a heart-pounding investigation when his old friend, Officer Kumar Ojha, urgently seeks his expertise. What starts as a routine B&E robbery soon reveals a chilling enigma as Madhur unravels the truth behind Nisha Kothari's pre-orchestrated murder. Nisha, a respected professor at Banaras Hindu University, is discovered dead in her home, sending shockwaves through the community.

As Madhur delves deeper in relentless pursuit of justice, his personal life undergoes a seismic shift, deepening his bond with his daughter, Ananya, and offering moments of solace amidst the chaos. The investigation takes unexpected turns as it becomes a case of double homicide, leading Madhur to confront his own past and navigate treacherous waters of power and influence. With puzzle pieces falling into place, Madhur races against time to unveil the truth behind Nisha's murder. **Madhur Mishra** is a heart-pounding thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the final revelation.

Author Biography

Sparsh, a Mumbai-based independent writer and director, excels in crafting captivating narratives. Over nine years, he embarked on a cinematic journey, producing short films that gained international acclaim at global film festivals. In 2021, Sparsh extended his creative horizons by establishing a small production company, Spaw!TV Productions LLP. The result was a breathtaking coming-of-age road drama set against the picturesque backdrop of Kashmir.

In his latest venture, **Madhur Mishra**, he transports readers to the mystical, ancient city of Varanasi, setting the stage for a classic whodunit that promises to keep you on the edge of your seat. Sparsh Srivastava's journey embodies passion, innovation, and a relentless pursuit of artistic excellence, ensuring an exciting adventure with every turn of the page or frame of the film.



Sparsh Srivastava
Author

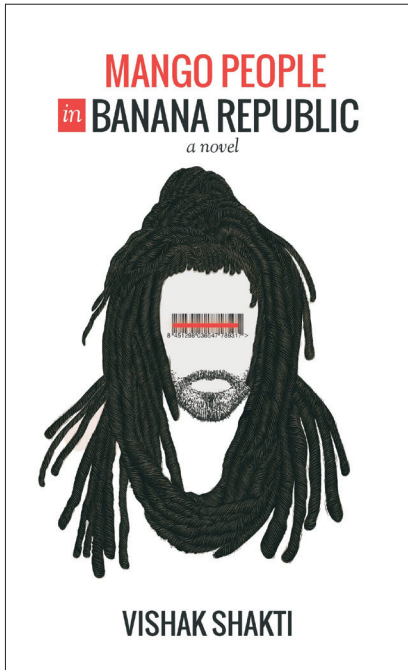
(+91) 9517433091
sparshmohak@gmail.com
com

Mango People in Banana Republic (Autobiography of a Bhogi)

Vishak Shakti

Publisher – Crossword Books

English | Drama, Comedy, Contemporary, Supernatural



Synopsis

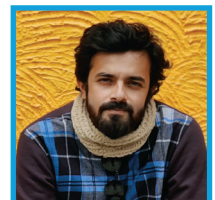
Ravi Kant is an irreverent, angst-ridden techie at the India office of a Big Tech firm. He is on the verge of a burnout with a high-stress career, a festering condition in his bowel, and a manager named Devang who has sold his soul to the bosses and unbeknownst to Ravi, is sleeping with his girlfriend Gunjan. After a public outburst, Ravi is fired, sending him into a depressive spiral.

Years later, Devang, now adrift on the hippie trails of Parvati valley, discovers Ravi leading a spiritual movement. He suspects fraud. Together with Gunjan, they journey into Ravi's secluded past, discovering his transformation from a depressed recluse to a spiritual leader. Ravi persuades them to join his quest to establish a utopian society. As Ravi gains national attention, their intertwined pasts, ambitions, and notions of reality, all collide as Sri. R.K.'s ashram ascends to a billion-dollar spiritual conglomerate.

Author Biography

Vishak Shakti is the author of the English novel **Mango People in Banana Republic**, published by Crossword Books in 2018. In his day job, Vishak is a Principal Product Manager at Amazon. He is also a screenwriter.

His debut feature in Malayalam, *Ithiri Neram* (A Little While), is in post-production and is slated for theatrical release in early 2024. The film is produced by the makers of *The Great Indian Kitchen* and *Purusha Pretham*, directed by Prasanth Vijay, and stars Roshan Mathew and Zarin Shihab in the lead.



Vishak Shakti
Author

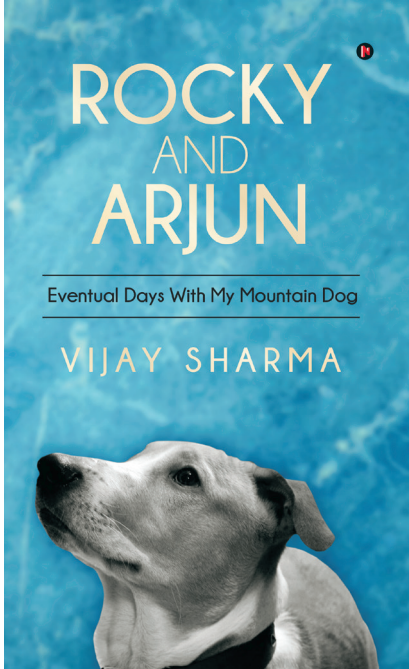
(+91) 9000197363
visakhs@gmail.com

Rocky and Arjun - Eventual Days With My Mountain Dog

Vijay Sharma

Publisher – Notion Press India

English | Young Adult



Synopsis

Rocky And Arjun – Eventual Days With My Mountain Dog is an evocative chronicle of the profound connection between Rocky, a dog, and his human companion, Arjun. Rocky, in the twilight of his life and grappling with age-related health issues, reveals a poignant final wish to Arjun – to journey to Palampur, a mountain city in North India.

Over seven days, the last week of Rocky's life, they encounter a series of characters, each sharing memorable moments with the duo.

This vibrant journey of Rocky and Arjun unfolds in seven beautifully crafted chapters.

Author Biography

Vijay Sharma, born in Punjab, is known by the pen name VijayKrishna. His upbringing occurred in a middle-class family in Delhi, where he completed his education. His expertise lies in the realm of writing, encompassing short stories, fictional tales, travelogues, and professional articles, all of which grace the digital pages of various online blogging platforms. His favorite authors are Guru Rabindranath Tagore, Gulzar Sir, Mahatma Gandhi, Leo Tolstoy, and Anton Chekhov.

In his published work, aside from short stories, his first book, titled **Rocky and Arjun**, a fictional narrative that unveils the emotional journey of a dog named Rocky and his human brother, Arjun.

Through his writing, Vijay Sharma, or VijayKrishna, as he is known, continues to share his passion for storytelling and his deep connection with the human experience.



Vijay Sharma
Author

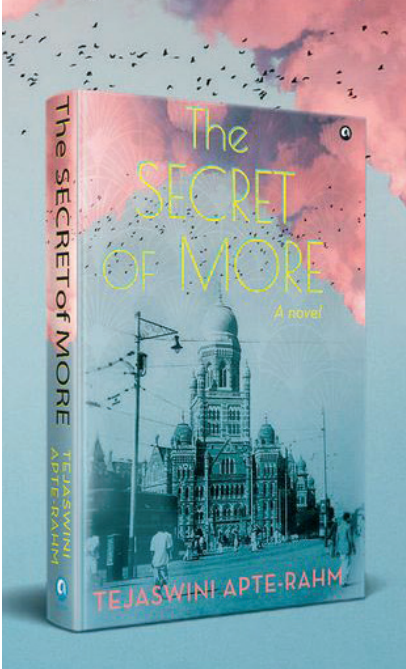
(+91) 9971107884
vijay.sharma.delhi@gmail.com

The Secret of More

Tejaswini Apte-Rahm

Publisher – Aleph Book Company

English | Historical



Synopsis

A young man, Tatya, arrives in colonial-era Bombay and finds success in the city's famed textile market. Meanwhile, his new bride, Radha, raises their family in the rapidly modernizing, often bewildering city. Tatya then invests in an emerging industry – silent films. His success seems unstoppable—the films he produces draw in the crowds, but his attraction to an actress, Kamal, threatens to shake his world.

The Secret of More is a journey of relentless ambition, steadfast love, and grim betrayal, as Tatya strives to unlock the secret of more—of having more and being more. In a story that travels from the clatter of textile mills to the glamour of the silent film industry, from the crowded chawls of Girgaon to the luxury of sea-facing mansions, one man and his family learn that in the city of Bombay, you can fly—but if you fall, it is a long way down.

Author Biography

Tejaswini Apte-Rahm is a writer from Mumbai. Her novel, **The Secret of More**, won the Fiction Book of the Year Award at the Tata Literature Live! Festival 2023. It has also been shortlisted in 2023 for the JCB Prize for Literature and longlisted for the Atta Galatta-Bangalore Literature Festival award.

Her short story collection, **These Circuses That Sweep Through the Landscape**, was shortlisted for two awards in 2017. She co-authored an environmental education book for children, **The Poop Book!**, nominated for the Jarul Book Award 2021-22 and translated into Tibetan. Her fiction has appeared in various publications, including *Blink*, *Himal Southasian*, and *Helter Skelter*.

She has worked as a journalist and environmental researcher, written for *Screen*, *Hindustan Times*, *Asian Age*, and *Times of India*. She studied in Singapore and the UK, and has lived in Serbia, Israel, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Fiji, and Azerbaijan. She currently resides in Germany.



Tejaswini Apte-Rahm

Author

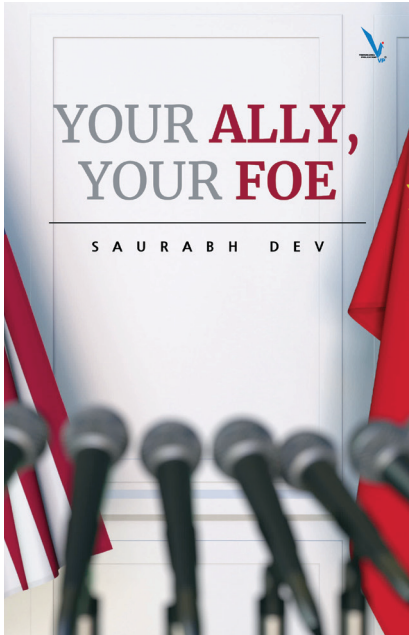
(+91) 9763618314
tejaswiniapte@gmail.com

Your Ally, your foe

Saurabh Dev

Publisher – Vishwakarma Publications

English | Contemporary



Synopsis

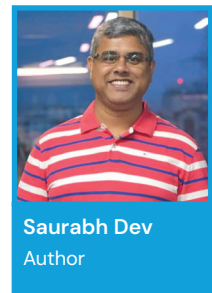
Polash Mukherji, India's Ambassador to the United States, is arrested in Delhi on charges of espionage. Subsequently, his daughter, Kaya Mukherji, is arrested in the US. Kaya is an engineer with NASA and is accused of compromising data on sensitive space projects. The twin arrests were orchestrated to deceive China. Polash was arrested at R&AW's behest to assist Vietnamese authorities in identifying a Chinese mole in Hanoi. The CIA planned Kaya's arrest to apprehend a Chinese spy within NASA. This deal was part of a covert plan between India and the US to wage psychological warfare against China as part of an ongoing geopolitical struggle for the South China Sea.

The story takes a flashback to three decades back, wherein a woman named Roohi Singh Shekhawat was emotionally manipulated by Polash, leading to her suicide. Her uncle, Mahendra Singh Shekhawat, is now India's Prime Minister.

Author Biography

Saurabh Dev is a banker by profession and holds a postgraduate degree in business management. His debut novel, **Your Ally, Your Foe**, was published in September 2022 and has received positive reviews since its release. The novel has won the prestigious Golden Book Award 2022 and is available at various reputable bookstores, including Mumbai's Title Waves, Oxford, and Bahrison, among others. It has also been recommended as a must-read by prestigious newspapers like the Daily Guardian and Deccan Herald, among others. The book has received encouraging reviews on platforms like Goodreads and Amazon.

Since his college days, Saurabh has aimed to make the best use of his creative talents. With a career to pursue, he found that writing books was the best way to channel his creative abilities, and this book is the result of that literary pursuit.



(+91) 9654124775
saurabh.k.dev@gmail.com
com

Ballebaaz

Akash Patil

Publisher – Clever Fox

English | Drama, Love Story, Fantasy



Synopsis

In the heart of a local slum, Aryan, an arrogant slum cricketer, dreams of hitting a last-ball six at the iconic Wankhede stadium, challenging his father's belief that cricket is a curse. Following his mother's passing, Aryan attributes his misfortunes to the absence of lady luck. Aryan's encounter with Sakshi turns his luck around, making him believe she's his lucky charm. However, she declines any connection due to her idiosyncratic beliefs, fearing that her presence might bring bad luck to those around her. In the midst of chaos, Aryan finds hope in Siddharth Roy, a ground caretaker and a former Ranji player, who challenges Aryan's understanding of what makes a real Ballebaaz.

Amidst inter-state riots, Siddharth's sudden disappearance is followed by a series of events, including match-fixing, personal revelations, and a tragic accident. Aryan confronts his inner demons and eventually triumphs in a high-stakes cricket championship, reshaping Sakshi's beliefs and transforming himself into a true Ballebaaz.

Author Biography

Akash Patil, a filmmaker based in Mumbai, made a remarkable entry into the industry with his debut short film, *Mishti*, in which he served as both the writer and director. This marked the beginning of his journey into crafting several short films, including *Bhool* and *The Waiting* which featured acclaimed actors such as Rajit Kapur and Zarina Wahab.

Taking a significant step forward, Akash was entrusted with the task of writing the screenplay for the 2022 drama feature film, *Unfinished Story*. His book, **Ballebaaz** delves into the transformation of a local slum player into a master of the game, exploring the themes of self-transformation, overcoming adversity, and a touch of serendipity. Akash's work seamlessly blends sports, creativity, drama, and a profound appreciation for the arts.



Akash Patil
Author

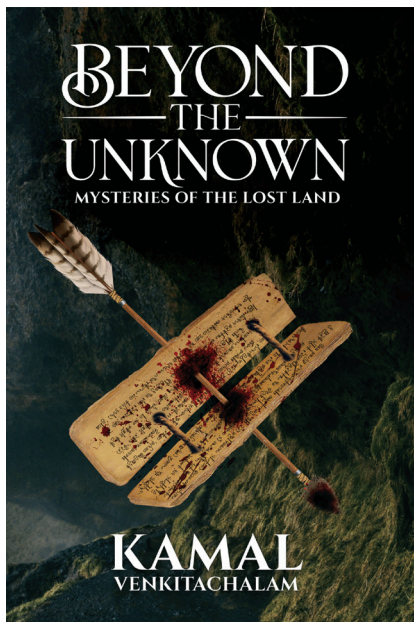
(+91) 9960128076
akash161094@gmail.com

Beyond the Unknown - Mysteries of the Lost Land

Kamal Venkitachalam

Self published - Buuks - later taken over by Cleverfox Agency- The Story Ink

English | Action, Adventure, Crime, Drama, Female-Driven, Fantasy, Historical, Memoir, Thriller, Slice of Life, Mythology, Suspense, War, Travel, Paranomal



Synopsis

The spiel follows the incredible journey of Revathi, an intrepid archaeology student from Mumbai. Her life takes a thrilling turn when she uncovers a hidden tunnel near Revdanda Fort, leading her on a quest to unravel the enigmatic tale of a lost ancient civilization.

Embark on a journey through South-East Asian landscapes as Revathi deciphers cryptic clues within prehistoric relics, forming unbreakable bonds with fellow travelers, and guided by the wisdom of Ramaswamy and Parvathi. What begins as a personal curiosity quickly turns into a dangerous and profoundly enlightening journey that changes lives.

Revathi and Karthi explore Vietnam's Son Doong Cave and Cambodia's Angkor Wat, uncovering buried secrets and facing perilous challenges. Their quest intensifies when the true value of their artifacts is revealed, entwining their journey with Sri Lanka's tumultuous history. The story delves into espionage, hidden agendas, double-crosses, and intelligence agency involvement.

Author Biography

Kamal Venkitachalam, an Indian science educator with 25 years of experience, is an author and global explorer. With dual Masters in Science from Annamalai University and the University of Quebec, he shares his expertise on YouTube.

Kamal, an expert in science, travels, and loves film, shares his experiences in classrooms and his writing, showcasing his diverse cultural knowledge.

Kamal's exceptional storytelling abilities have earned him recognition at prestigious film festivals, including the Goa Short Film Festival, Indie Motion Club, Athens International Monthly Film Festival, Pune, and Web series Festival for the novel - **Beyond the Unknown: Mysteries of the Lost Land.**

Kamal Venkitachalam, an author whose words invite exploration and enchantment, is honored to be selected for this esteemed film festival. Discover his story, filled with wonder and wanderlust, and embark on a journey through the lens of a true global storyteller.



Kamal Venkitachalam
Author

(+91) 6282636180
kvkamal120@gmail.com

Bhang Milkha Bhang: Cannabis Saves Lives

Tejaswi Priyadarshi

Self-Published | Represented for Screen by The Story Ink

English | Suspense, Action, Dark Comedy, Crime, Queer Cinema, Thriller



Synopsis

In the heart of Mumbai's drug underbelly, a mysterious cannabis strain that reverses biological processes emerges, entwining the lives of a diverse group. Paras Rastogi, a drug lord, is compelled to obtain the rare Chirasthayi Bhang. Milkha Dev, a man grappling with his sexual orientation, finds love and intrigue with his college lover, Palash, who plans to sell the rare plant on the dark web.

Shamshad Batterywala, a suspended NCB Deputy Commissioner with dark secrets, crosses paths with Paras and is lured into a quest to procure Chirasthayi Bhang. Meanwhile, Soorya Pratap Kashyap, an educational consultant and a balding hitman, becomes entangled with Nandika, an intelligent woman seeking to escape her abusive husband.

Their fates converge in a fateful, blood-soaked encounter in Mumbai, leading to a gripping battle for survival. As the dust settles in a desolate basement, the mystery of Chirasthayi Bhang and its life-altering power remains shrouded in uncertainty.

Author Biography

Tejaswi Priyadarshi is a dreamer in the splatter-noir genre. He draws inspiration from Michael Crichton, Takashi Miike, Alexandre Aja, Eli Roth, and Quentin Tarantino. He is the only Indian author to have received the Diversity Grant from the Horror Writers Association. His first book, **The Psychopath**, **The Cannibal**, **The Lover**, was a slasher horror released in 2020, and his second book, **Bhang Milkha Bhang**, a noir horror with elements of splatter and fantasy, was released in 2021. Both of his books have ranked among the Amazon bestsellers and are represented by The Story Ink for potential screen adaptations.

Tejaswi's work focuses on blending splatterpunk with local genres and geographic influences. His upcoming projects include a collection of 26 episodic splatter-noir stories set in 26 Indian states and a horror novel centered around Multiple Personality Disorder.



Tejaswi
Priyadarshi
Author

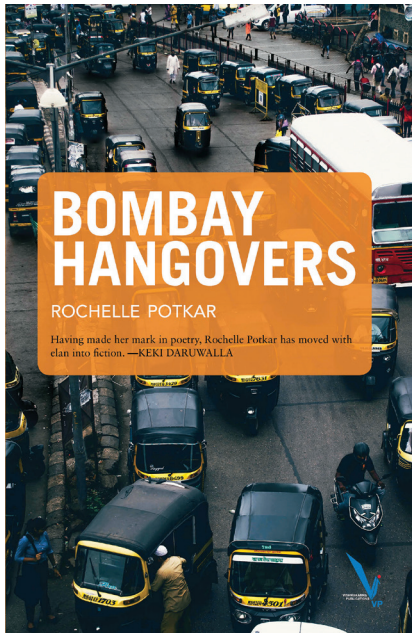
(+91) 8928749846
tejaswi.priyadarshi@
gmail.com

Bombay Heights

Rochelle Potkar

Unpublished

English | Coming of Age, Ensemble, Contemporary, Drama, Slice of Life, Love Story



Synopsis

Through the eyes of a washerwoman, we delve into the lives of four families residing in Bombay Heights (Mahalaxmi) and their staff. These families pursue dreams, ambitions, but most importantly, the eternal essence of Love in a crowded city that often leaves you feeling lonely. The Narains confront Munika's cancer, while daughters Divya and Sneha navigate different approaches to love, from recklessness to sacrifice. Naina Tivan challenges the glass ceiling both at home and in her family business, contending with the three men in her life: husband, son, and father-in-law.

The Saldanahs experience not just a miscarriage but death, and Dr. Luv, a widower, struggles to find healthy coping mechanisms as he performs surgery on Sneha Narain. Perfumer Russi Cowasjee discovers the quintessential aroma of love in his assistant but not in his long loveless marriage. This limited web series is based on prize-winning stories from the book: **Bombay Hangovers**.

Author Biography

Rochelle Potkar is a prize-winning poet and an international creative writing faculty member with 15 years of writing experience. She is the author of six books and an alumna of two writing residencies: IWP-Iowa and Charles Wallace. Her first screenplay, **A Brown Coat**, was selected for the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2018 and reached the quarterfinals (top 130) at the Atlanta Film Festival 2020. Her sixth screenplay, **Ranjani**, was selected at the Writers INK Screenwriting Lab 2023. Her ninth screenplay, **The D'Costa Family**, was chosen for the Rewrite 2.0 screenwriting retreat for further development.

She is currently outlining several film and web series ideas across various themes, genres, and archetypes, with the hope of connecting with directors, producers, cast, and crew, while realizing that Life's a Pitch! **The D'Costa Family** is a caper/black comedy depicting the madcap familial clashes between Anglo-Indian and Goan goons in a small town, revolving around life, love, and property.



Rochelle Potkar
Author

(+91) 9820408749
rochellepotkar@
gmail.com

Butterfly In A Bind

Sheba Ghosh

Publisher - Ukiyoto

English | Crime, Coming of Age, Drama, Female-Driven, Ensemble, Investigation, Queer Cinema, Murder Mystery



Synopsis

An idol of Maa Durga washes ashore, which is not unusual for Kolkata, except for the discovery of a trans woman's body inside. ACP Shyama learns to overcome her prejudices as she travels across the country in search of the victim's truth. A unique tattoo on the victim's leg is her only clue.

During the investigation, ACP Shyama crosses paths with a brothel owner, an elderly zamindar's wife, and a troubled teenager. All of them had connections with the victim at some point in her life, until the unfortunate death of her husband in a fire. ACP Shyama's instincts tell her that the events that unfolded after that fateful day led to the victim's murder. However, she's running out of suspects as the trail starts to grow cold.

Will ACP Shyama be able to see beyond the obvious and apprehend the killer?

Author Biography

Sheba Ghosh is an Indian Air Force veteran, independent filmmaker, and author. Her debut feature film, *Kazi*, has won several awards and is still making waves on the festival circuit. **Butterfly in a Bind**, her debut novel, delves into the underbelly of Kolkata and Jodhpur through a deceased protagonist and ACP Shyama, her avenger.

Born in Kolkata, Sheba attended various schools across the country. She graduated with honors from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. She served in the Indian Air Force as an air traffic controller until December 2021. Within a month of leaving the Air Force, she began shooting her debut film in the heart of North Bengal. She is also the author of **Womanhood - from bare-knuckle angst to bare-bottom babies**, a book of poems available on Amazon. Her short story, **Magenta walls are ugly**, has been published by The Bombay Review.



Sheba Ghosh
Author

(+91) 9821654473
shebaavi98@gmail.com
com

Unpublished

Hindi, English | Drama, Urban, Queer Cinema, Entrepreneur, Ensemble, Dark Comedy



Synopsis

CLICK is a reflection of the modern media landscape, with a focus on the rise of new digital platforms like YouTube and Instagram, and the world of content creators and influencers. It delves into the fleeting nature of online fame and the relentless pursuit of wealth and success.

Set against the backdrop of 2011 and extending into the present, the narrative revolves around three determined individuals: Apple, a school dropout; Jimmy, a computer and data engineer; and Rumi, a singer. They form Click, a content company that initially thrives, becoming a prestigious brand and a hub for content creators.

However, beneath their success lies a darker side, including exploitation, bullying, and unethical practices. As their actions face public scrutiny and legal consequences, the trio's unity crumbles, leading to internal conflicts. The story explores themes of ambition, greed, and the price of success in the digital age.

Author Biography

Vatsala, a versatile Director–Writer–Producer with a rich background in theatre and television, has an impressive track record of producing over 200 hours of diverse content across multiple fiction genres. Her experience as a broadcast executive at renowned channels like ZeeTV and Star TV led to the creation of successful shows, including *Paanch*, *The Buddy Project*, *D3*, *D4*, and *Gumrah* (season 5). Focusing on young adult content, she has gained profound insights into the evolving psyche of the emerging generation, exploring themes of groupthink, othering, and discrimination that continue to intrigue her.

Vatsala's series **CLICK** captures the spirit of our times, delving into the world of content creators and the internet. Her debut short film, *God and the Blind*, addresses the complex dynamics of violence and abuse within a family, earning recognition at various international film festivals. In addition to her work in the entertainment industry, Vatsala is a self-taught visual artist, trained as a sculptor, painter, and ceramicist, and holds a Master's in Direction & Design from the National School of Drama, New Delhi.



(+91) 9892716401
vatsala.g.patel@
icloud.com

Hell-uc-Nation

Abhimanyu Jamwal

Publisher – Vishwakarma Publications

English | Apocalyptic, Fantasy, Sci-Fi



Synopsis

In the barren, dystopian Delhi of 2040, a young woman named Gulab is fed up with her life as a slave. She has no clue that her rebellious actions will soon lead her to a deadly tournament where slaves fight for freedom. This tournament isn't even real; it takes place within the realm of dreams and goes by the name Hell-uc-Nation.

Author Biography

Abhimanyu was born in Jammu and writing chose him when he was 22. Beyond three words is his first novel, **Saat** is his first short story collection, and **Model Town** is his work-in-progress novel.



Abhimanyu
Jamwal

Author

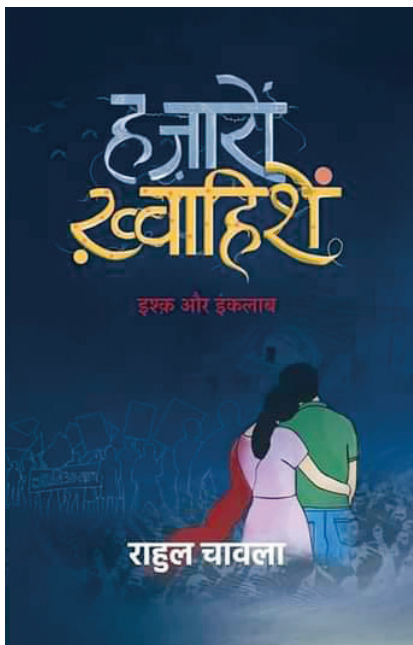
(+91) 9419901799
aintstitution@gmail.
com

Hazaaron Khwahishein

Dr. Rahul Chawla

Publisher – HIND YUGM

Hindi | Drama, Bollywood, Young Adult, Romance, Tragedy



Synopsis

Hazaaron Khwahishein, a fascinating tale of romance and revolution, is a modern epic that tells the story of an IAS aspirant from Mukherjee Nagar who falls in love with a girl of a different caste and opposite political ideology. He aspires to be a student leader in JNU. It is filled with nonchalant love, the fires of revolution, nostalgia for the 90s, the left-right divide, and the haunting menace of caste politics.

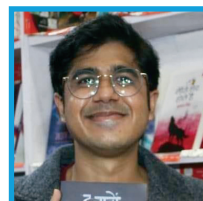
Set in Mukherjee Nagar, it is not just a tale of three friends preparing for IAS but also reveals the motivations behind this arduous journey, the sacrifices they have to make, and the frustrations they have to bear.

These characters are influenced by events happening in the country over a decade from 2006 to 2016, and the story continuously takes new turns alongside those events that will go on to change the history of the nation forever.

Author Biography

Dr. Rahul Chawla is the author of multiple academic books and a novelist. He is a Neurologist by profession, trained at India's apex institution, AIIMS, New Delhi. He is also an avid blogger and has mentored over 10,000 medical aspirants through his blog, PMT Gurumantra. He qualified for the 1st round of Mumbai Mantra Script Lab 2013 with his script **Ankahee** and was selected as one of the 100 storytellers in the Mumbai Mantra Cinerise 2016 Script Lab for his script **Panchkanya**.

His debut novel, **Hazaaron Khwahishein: Ishq aur Inqilab**, is an epic tale of romance and revolution based on the life of an IAS aspirant who falls in love with a girl from JNU, battling ideological tussles and caste barriers. It has been listed as an Amazon bestseller and has been well-received by readers and critics alike. An English translation and a sequel to the novel are in the works.



Dr. Rahul Chawla
Author

(+91) 7000080576
rahulchawla001@
gmail.com

Her Majesty's Social Media Manager

Rishikesh Meena

Unpublished

English | Female-Driven, Family Drama



Synopsis

Her Majesty's Social Media Manager is a delightful and quirky coming-of-age novel set in London. The story revolves around Rani Kaur Singh, who has been consistently underestimated by her family due to her perceived lack of academic brilliance.

Growing up, she yearns for love and respect, while her parents and sibling excel in their careers. Although her grandparents and great-grandfather offer support in their own ways, Rani still struggles to earn respect within her own home. Rani secretly prepares for a royal job opportunity, but when she secures it, she realizes it's not what she had envisioned.

The story unfolds as she strives to prove her worth, win the respect and love of her family, find true love, and discover her own self-worth.

Author Biography

Rishikesh Meena is a seasoned banker and the creative mind behind **Her Majesty's Social Media Manager**. In this whimsical tale, readers embark on a journey through the adventures of an NRI girl chosen to be **Her Majesty's Social Media Manager**, set against the vibrant backdrop of London. This enchanting story of Rani and her escapades in London was a semi-finalist in the Penmancy PitchFest Season 1 in 2021.

When he's not engrossed in storytelling, Rishikesh discovers solace in the harmonies of music, enjoys crafting innovative apps, indulges in eclectic films, and loses himself in the captivating narratives of books. His diverse pursuits inspire a dynamic outlook on life and fuel his passion for creative expression.



Rishikesh Meena
Author

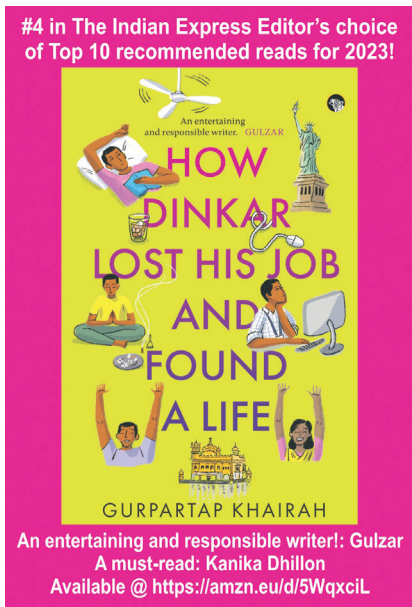
(+91) 8826476615
rishikesh.meena89@
gmail.com

How Dinkar Lost his Job and Found a Life

Gurpartap Khairah

Publisher – Speaking Tiger | Agent– Preeti Gill

English | Comedy, Coming of Age, Family Drama, Rom-Com



Synopsis

How Dinkar Lost his Job and Found a Life is a humorous account of Dinkar Sharma, who loses his job, falls in love with Kirti, an independent young woman. However, he discovers that she is not only a divorcee but also a mother. Dinkar's deeply ingrained middle-class values lead him to accept being Just Good Friends. While his mother searches for suitable girls, Dinkar is tormented by thoughts of Kirti. To escape his predicament, he agrees to visit his cousin in America.

This journey becomes a turning point in Dinkar's life. But is he prepared to challenge his family and society to be with the woman he loves? Will he return to the dreaded 9-to-5 routine?

Can he find his true path in life? Filled with wit and humor, Dinkar's story is entertaining and highly relatable.

Author Biography

Gurpartap Khairah is an Associate Professor of English at Hindu College, Amritsar. He has been an enthusiastic reader since his childhood and holds deep admiration for literary figures such as Gulzar, Graham Greene, and Ghalib. His poems and stories have garnered significant recognition in both print and online media, receiving acclaim from notable figures like Gulzar and Shabana Azmi. In 2014, he published his debut collection of short stories, **Obsession: eternal stories of Life and Death**, which received critical acclaim.

His novel, **How Dinkar Lost his Job and Found a Life**, has earned praise from Gulzar and Kanika Dhillon, and was ranked #4 in the Limca List of Recommended Reads (2023). Gurpartap has a strong passion for cinema, and his stories exhibit a visual cinematic quality, making them ideal candidates for adaptation to the screen. **How Dinkar Lost his Job and Found a Life** is a coming-of-age story filled with humor and relatable elements.



Gurpartap Khairah

Author

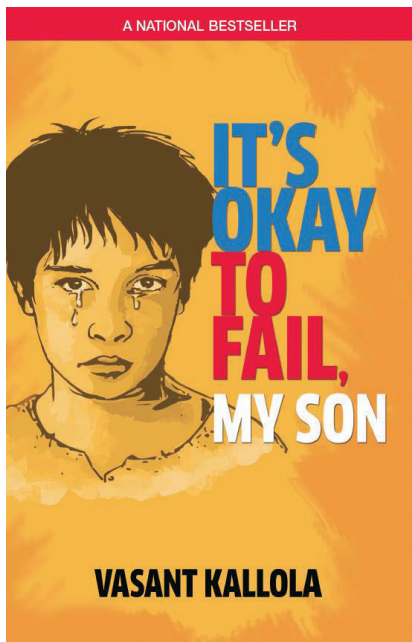
(+91) 8427102033
gurpartap_gulzar@
yahoo.com

IT'S OKAY TO FAIL MY SON

Vasant Kallola

Publisher – Times Group Books, a division of Times of India

English | Family Drama



Synopsis

It's okay to fail, my son tells the story of a successful father and his only son. A victim of his parents' fractured relationship and the high pressure of performance, the son attempts suicide. While his life is saved, this incident opens the father's eyes to the underlying issues. Upon inquiry, the father discovers that his son took such a drastic step due to the fear of failure.

Deeply affected, the father takes a job as a teacher in his son's school. His innovative teaching methods make him popular within the school, except for one person who doubts the validity of his approaches. Through a competition, the naysayers challenge the father to transform consistently failing students into top performers. Despite all odds, he accepts the challenge and proves that "Everyone's innate potential is equal; it's the environment and nurture that set us apart."

Author Biography

Born on December 13, 1959, Vasant Kallola has authored two books, including the national bestseller **It's Okay to Fail, My Son** and **Chiranjivi - The Beginning**. Both of these books have been published by India's reputed publishing house, The Times Group Books.

It's Okay to Fail, My Son has garnered widespread appreciation and has been among the top 5 selling books in India, as reported in an article in ET. Vasant has also written a short film titled *Justice*, which received four awards. He has also written the story and script for an under-production Gujarati film called *Lakda Na Ladu*.

In terms of qualifications, Vasant is an Engineer and holds two diplomas in business management from reputed institutes in India, including NMIMS and IIM Calcutta. In addition to his writing, he manages a business that provides Solar Renewable Power to manufacturing companies. During his free time, Vasant enjoys swimming, reading, listening to music, and traveling to new destinations. Vasant resides in Thane, near Mumbai, and is supported by his wife and son.



Vasant Kallola
Author

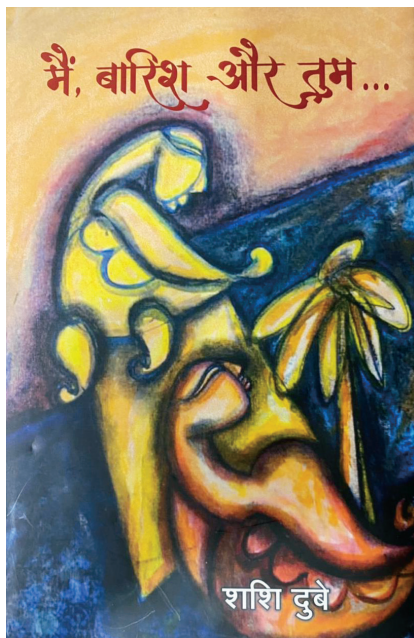
(+91) 9820001154
vasant@savearthps.com
vkallola@gmail.com

Main, Baarish Aur Tum

Shashi Dubey

Publisher – Shilpayan Publications

Hindi, Devnagri | Slice of Life, Contemporary, Love Story



Synopsis

Abhay, a small-town dreamer, sets off for Mumbai. The city overwhelms him with a series of hilarious and unfortunate events, leaving him struggling to find accommodation. He ends up on Tanuja's doorstep, a Bengali girl with her own hidden world.

A silent, unspoken bond flourishes between them. Their friendship deepens, and their affection grows, yet the fear of expressing their feelings keeps them at bay. Abhay's presence becomes a catalyst for change in the lives of those around him.

As Abhay faces a professional promotion and a transfer to Pune, he must confront the possibility of leaving Mumbai and, more importantly, Tanuja behind. Both grapple with the void left by their separation, realizing that material success can never replace the love they've found.

Months pass, and then, in a heartwarming twist of fate, one rainy night, Tanuja stands at Abhay's door, reaffirming that love can conquer even the toughest trials in the heart of Mumbai's monsoon.

Author Biography

Shashi Dubey is an acclaimed novelist, writer, and producer with over 20 years of experience in the Indian film industry. He has played pivotal roles in the core creative and production teams for various acclaimed projects in both Bollywood and Hollywood.

Some of the projects he has been involved with as a creative producer, executive producer, and co-producer include *Torbaaz*, *Dhiskiyaoon*, *The Desire: A Journey of a Woman*, *Aroni Tokhon*, *Footprints on Water*, *Bobby aur Rishi ki Love Story*, *Aseq*, *Kaboom*, *A Scandall*, *Rat on Highway*, *Blue Gold*, and *Awasthi vs Awasthi*, to name just a few.

In addition to his work in the film industry, Shashi has authored three published novels: **Main Baarish aur Tum**, **Ichhamrityu**, and **Pratibimb**. He possesses a unique gift for evoking profound emotions through the simplicity of his words. Shashi excels in delving deep into the intricate web of human relationships, revealing their complexities and joys. His uncanny ability lies in transforming everyday moments into extraordinary slices of life.



Shashi Dubey
Author

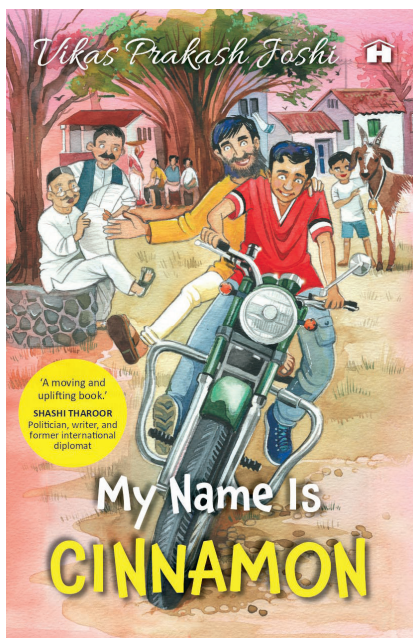
(+91) 9967711141
shashid21@gmail.com

My Name is Cinnamon

Vikas Prakash Joshi

Publisher – Hay House Publishers India | Agency – Story Ink

English | Children, Coming of Age, Family Drama



Synopsis

My Name Is Cinnamon is both a captivating chronicle and an endeavor of remarkable depth and ambition. It provides a richly textured narrative of a boy on a journey to find his roots and place in the world. At each step of his adventure, he encounters new people, new cuisines, and new experiences, leading to self-discovery and a deeper understanding of the world.

While offering a lighthearted and heartwarming read, the book delves into rarely explored difficult themes within children's and young adult literature. It serves as a moving testament to the unending quest for self-awareness, the enduring strength of familial bonds, and the transformative power of hope, sacrifice, and love.

With his perceptive observations, vivid descriptions, and an authentic voice, the author, Vikas Prakash Joshi, creates an immersive narrative populated by fully realized environments and characters that will linger in your memory. Ultimately, **My Name Is Cinnamon** is a tale of discovering your own identity and embracing who you truly are.

Author Biography

Vikas Prakash Joshi is an award-winning writer, editor, translator, podcaster, public speaker, novelist, and amateur cook in Pune, India. His first book for children, **My Name Cinnamon** (Hay House India), was published in November 2022, and it has been lauded worldwide, in over 30+ countries. It received endorsements from many top Indian writers and received 8 publishing offers. Story Ink, a Mumbai-based production company, has acquired the book for screen adaptation. It was illustrated by the award-winning children's book illustrator Niloufer Wadia.

My Name is Cinnamon is now in its second print run. This work has received 12 prestigious recognitions and nominations so far. His articles, book excerpts, and short stories have been translated into 30 languages, both foreign and Indian languages, and published offline and online in 24 countries.



Vikas Prakash
Joshi

Author

(+91) 9730546664
Joshi.vikas500@
gmail.com

Nine Lives of Anandi

Sapna Manoj

Publisher – Ukiyoto | Agency- Lalitha Ravindran, First Forays

English | Family Drama



Synopsis

Anandi awakens to find a crowd mourning over her lifeless body. Her father, Ramakrishna, holds her husband responsible for her demise. Yama arrives on his talking buffalo, and Anandi is informed that she can return to life. Her friend, Sumathi, and sister, Hemalatha, realize that someone in the house knew that Anandi was going to die.

Taruni, who lost her biological mother at the age of four and was raised by Anandi, is shattered. Jeevan, Anandi's husband, believes that she took her own life. The couple became lovers after enduring eighteen years of a forced marriage. Her mother-in-law, Madhavi, recollects a prophecy made five years earlier about Anandi's death. Anandi had helped Jeevan's brother-in-law, Subhash, overcome his trauma, and he recalls a passionate encounter they had once.

In her final moments, Anandi decides that she wants to live. She pleads with Yama, but it is too late. She transforms into light.

Author Biography

Sapna Manoj, a selective introvert, grew up in a house filled with books. She graduated with the university's first rank in English Literature and chose a career in copywriting. After working in agencies in Trivandrum, Hyderabad, and Dubai, she took a forced sabbatical that set her free to experiment with creative writing in all its forms. Her work has been featured in publications such as Chicken Soup for the Soul, The Sunday Observer, and The Family Magazine.

Her first book, **A Tangible God**, which delves into the themes of losing and finding faith and friendship, was published in 2022 and received great reviews. Her second novel, **Nine Lives of Anandi**, hit the stands in 2023. Her book of poetry is currently with her agent, a third novel is in the editing stage, and a movie script is nearing completion. She resides in Dubai with her husband and two grown-up children.



Sapna Manoj
Author

(+97) 1503013023
sapumanoj1969@
gmail.com

One Day at a Time

Dr. Vasundhra Atre

Publisher – Vishwakarma Publications

English | Thriller



Synopsis

One Day at a Time is an engaging medical thriller set in Mumbai and Mauritius, focusing on Dr. Anita Sood, a 35-year-old single liver intensivist in search of a serious relationship.

The story takes an unexpected turn as she suddenly becomes the focal point of her disjointed family. Her life becomes more complicated when she encounters two intriguing men, Dr. Harsh Chopra, a gastrointestinal surgeon, and Dr. Akhil Sharma, an orthopedic surgeon turned administrator, both joining her hospital. Unbeknownst to her, she becomes embroiled in a crime investigation, facing scrutiny for events she knows nothing about, leading her into a world of intrigue, love-hate relationships, family drama, a missing lover, and a possible murder.

Can she handle what is coming her way? Will she be able to get back in control?

You never know what is coming..

The twists and turns, interlaced with family and hospital drama, will keep you on the edge.

Author Biography

Dr. Vasundhra Atre is a versatile professional with extensive experience in the medical field. Her career spans over three decades as an anesthetist for cardiothoracic surgery and liver transplants. As a bestselling author, she draws inspiration from real-life medical experiences, resulting in books like **Heartbeat: Attack the Heart Attack, On The Inside**, and the Kindle bestseller **One Day at a Time**, which weaves a gripping narrative involving intrigue, complex relationships, family drama, and mysteries.

Recognized for her contributions, Dr. Atre has received the Healthcare Leadership Award and earned distinctions as one of the Top 8 Emerging Indian Personalities in India Today and 20 Most Inspiring Business Women to Follow in 2023 by CEO Magazine. Currently, she holds a leadership role at Manipal Hospitals in Bangalore.



Dr. Vasundhra Atre
Author

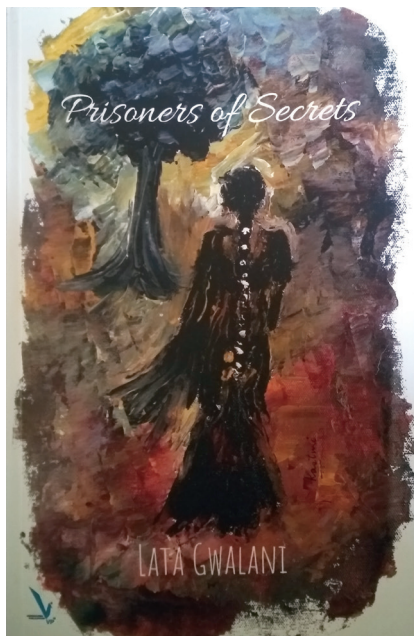
(+91) 9820871724
vasundhra009@gmail.com

Prisoners of Secrets

Lata Gwalani

Publisher – Vishwakarma Publications | Agency– First Forays Literary Agency

English | Family Drama



Synopsis

Prisoners of Secrets unfolds in 1950s Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, intertwining the lives of Meera, Manuel, and Shankar. Meera, a spirited young woman, defies a patriarchal household. Manuel, a Christian fisher boy turned English professor, undergoes a challenging transformation. Shankar, a typical middle-class Tamilian, aspires to a good job and a loving wife.

Meera and Manuel share a passionate love affair just before her arranged marriage to Shankar, concealing this secret from him. Meanwhile, Shankar harbors his own secret – infertility. Together, they raise their daughter, Saranya, preserving their individual secrets.

Years later, Saranya unravels the pasts of her parents, discovering her mother's forbidden love and the shocking truth about her father. The narrative delves into profound themes of love, secrecy, family dynamics, and the impact of buried histories. As the story unfolds, the characters confront their long-held secrets, leading to unforeseen revelations and a deeper understanding of their complex relationships.

Author Biography

Lata has a knack for uncovering captivating tales in the mundane. Her writing skillfully weaves compelling narratives around resilient characters with charming imperfections, entwining them in captivating plots. With an illustrious career spanning three decades in journalism and corporate training, she's a versatile talent. In her leisure moments, you'll often find Lata engrossed in reading, penning her thoughts, or fiercely competing in a badminton match. To experience her adventurous side, whisk her away to the mountains, where her spirit truly soars.

A renowned speaker on Emotional Intelligence and Leadership, Lata has three published works to her name: **Incognito**, a psychological thriller; **Prisoners of Secrets**, a gripping relationship drama; and **Road to Abana**, an enthralling historical thriller. Another literary masterpiece is on the horizon.

Beyond her literary pursuits, Lata is an active member of the Inner Wheel Club of Rotary, passionately advocating for child sexual abuse awareness. Her boundless energy finds its wellspring in her loving family: husband Sunil, son Sagar, and the cherished pet Monk.



Lata Gwalani
Author

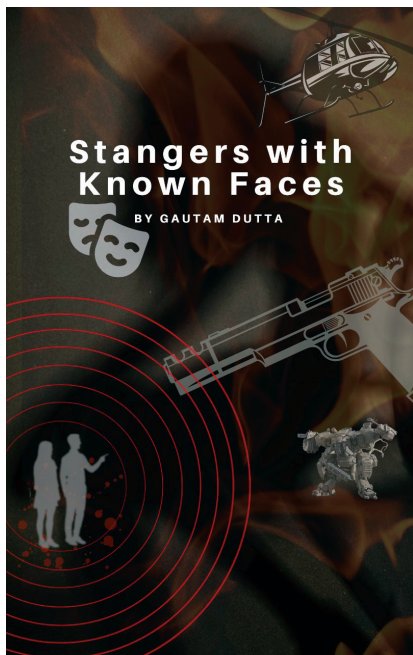
(+91) 9820102213
lata@
thehumanimpact.in

Strangers With Known Faces

Saugata Dutta

Publisher – Invincible Publishers

English | Action, Coming of Age, Feminist, Investigation, Journalism, Legal, Murder Mystery, Political, Psychological, Thriller



Synopsis

Rajat, Meenakshi, Sadaaf, Amol, and Shanaya, five unrelated university students, initially met through a lucky draw prize, leading to an enduring friendship. However, their bond soured due to ego and misunderstandings. Two decades later, Shanaya is murdered, and the others become suspects. Despite their estrangement, they discover hidden connections rooted in treachery and deceit, compelling them to reunite. An unfinished puzzle from their past resurfaces, challenging their trust and pushing them to clear their names in a mystery that threatens their lives and the democratic fabric of India.

As they navigate this perilous journey, they unearth concealed facets of themselves and those around them. Can they solve the puzzle this time, or is history doomed to repeat itself? The narrative peels back the layers of human complexity, revealing that appearances can be deceiving. In a world of **Strangers With Known Faces**, the truth remains elusive.

Author Biography

Saugata Dutta, who authors fiction under the pseudonym Gautam Dutta, boasts a diverse background, having delved into both the realms of industry and academia. He began his journey as a researcher and faculty member in Electronics and later obtained an e-mode PGP degree from IIM Ahmedabad. Saugata's interests span a broad spectrum, including psychology, sociology, and international geopolitics. He endeavors to weave this multifaceted knowledge into the tapestry of his storytelling. A lover of action thrillers, he admires films that excite and provoke thought.

Saugata has authored a novel, numerous short stories, and many non-fiction works, which have found homes in personal and official blogs and class assignments. Presently, Saugata is a valued member of a life insurance company, contributing to its Learning & Development team. He aspires to continue crafting captivating narratives that resonate with both the masses and the intellectually inclined.



Saugata Dutta
Author

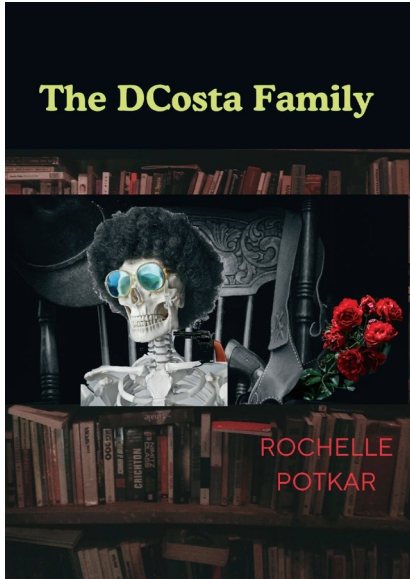
(+91) 9911826819
gautamdutta5678@
gmail.com

The D'Costa Family

Rochelle Potkar

Unpublished

English/Hindi | Dark Comedy, Family Drama



Synopsis

Before the next madcap gang war erupts in their small town between the Josephs and the D'Costas, Mrs. Rita D'Costa and her daughter-in-law Annette scheme to take over everything that belongs to them: black money, jewelry, property, goon-gangs, shady businesses, and real estate from Don Pedro. However, the meek tenants have also risen against their corrupt landlords and landladies.

When Callian was a small town in the 1960s, the Anglo-Indian Josephs set up front shops and shady businesses. Soon, the Goans, the D'Costas, arrived as well, leading to territorial and turf wars. Both the Josephs and the D'Costas were street thugs but acted like the Portuguese mafia. One fateful night, the D'Costas wiped out the Josephs' clan, and their surviving daughter, Rita Joseph, married the enemy, Theodore D'Costa. Throughout the years, she harboured one vengeful thought: to bring back the Josephs' glory.

Author Biography

Rochelle Potkar is a prize-winning poet and an international creative writing faculty member with 15 years of writing experience. She is the author of six books and an alumna of two writing residencies: IWP-Iowa and Charles Wallace. Her first screenplay, **A Brown Coat**, was selected for the NFDC Screenwriters' Lab 2018 and reached the quarterfinals (top 130) at the Atlanta Film Festival 2020. Her sixth screenplay, **Ranjani**, was selected at the Writers INK Screenwriting Lab 2023. Her ninth screenplay, **The D'Costa Family**, was chosen for the Rewrite 2.0 screenwriting retreat for further development.

She is currently outlining several film and web series ideas across various themes, genres, and archetypes, with the hope of connecting with directors, producers, cast, and crew, while realizing that Life's a Pitch! **The D'Costa Family** is a caper/black comedy depicting the madcap familial clashes between Anglo-Indian and Goan goons in a small town, revolving around life, love, and property.



Rochelle Potkar
Author

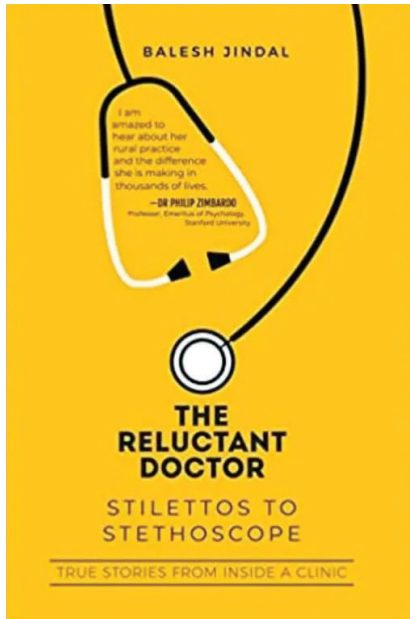
(+91) 9820408749
rochellepotkar@
gmail.com

The Reluctant Doctor

Dr. Balesh Jindal

Publisher – Vitasta

English | Drama



Synopsis

In **The Reluctant Doctor**, we delve into the intriguing transformation of a young, attractive, brilliant, and affluent medical graduate who unexpectedly ends up in a remote village. She faces a critical decision: whether to pursue her father's dream and abandon her stylish, modern lifestyle to embrace the unfamiliar rural life or follow the path of her colleagues by going abroad.

This poignant tale unfolds her journey from an urban existence to managing a rural clinic, where she is placed on a pedestal akin to a deity. As she grapples with this dramatic shift, she must contend with the contrast between her previous life of parties and fashionable attire and the new, humbler surroundings. In a twist of fate, she goes from being envied to pitied and faces mockery from colleagues, friends, and family who ridicule her choice of simple cotton sarees. They show no respect for her due to her role as a doctor in a small village. This leads to the pivotal question: Will she decide to leave her practice?

Author Biography

Balesh Jindal, a Lady Hardinge Medical College graduate with four decades of medical practice, initially aspired to study in London and become a pediatrician but ultimately found herself practicing in a village. Her essay, **The Day of Compassion**, received the Award for Compassion from Stanford University, and BBC.com featured an article titled **The Most Compassionate Day in the World**.

Balesh is not only a medical professional but also a professional artist, and her artworks adorn the walls of art collectors in India and abroad. In the realm of publications, she has contributed to the **Dear Father Anthology**. Furthermore, her award-winning bestseller book, **The Reluctant Doctor**, presents honest and vulnerable chronicles of grit and perseverance, sharing true stories from a doctor's chamber. Additionally, she authored **A Hundred Dreams**, a coffee table book featuring pictures of benches from around the world taken over a decade. Balesh Jindal extends her services to schools, counseling children on issues related to sexual abuse.



Dr. Balesh Jindal
Author

(+91) 9811086718
jindalbalesh@yahoo.
co.in

The Thug

Ajitesh Sharma

Publisher – ATIKSH ENTERTAINMENT PVT. LTD. (CINEMICS)

English | Murder Mystery, Thriller, Suspense, Psychological



Synopsis

The Thug is a psychological thriller graphic novel based on an ancient Indian cult responsible for killing millions – the thugs.

The story is set in modern times when a murder streak begins on a college campus, reminiscent of the way the thugs used to operate. The clues point to an eccentric professor, his mysterious new student, and an aspiring writer, all of whom are obsessed with the thugs.

The mystery unfolds through multiple perspectives, taking readers on a thrilling whodunnit journey until the very last pages.

Author Biography

Ajitesh Sharma has a background as a Rocket Scientist and Corporate Professional. He holds triple postgraduate degrees in Media, Business, and Technology. Over the years, he has directed internationally acclaimed films across the globe. His film projects have garnered more than 350 international official selections and awards at various events in over 55 countries.

Ajitesh has also served as a curator and jury member for many international events. He holds international certifications as a fire and safety auditor and a life and business coach. Additionally, he is the designer of the award-winning board game 'Squarace', a combination of Ludo and chess, set to launch in collaboration with Amar Chitra Katha.

Ajitesh is the writer, editor, and owner of Cinemics, a comic publishing company. He is the founding president of the Indian Comics Association, and **The Thug** is his first Graphic Novel.



Ajitesh Sharma
Author

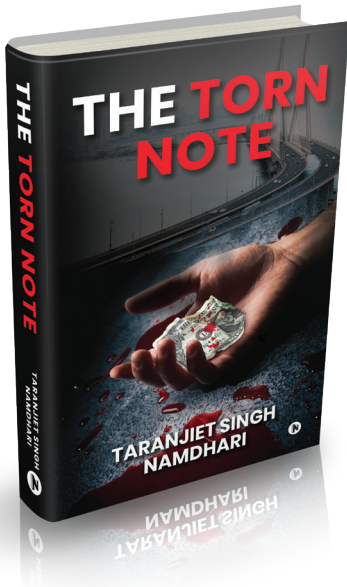
(+91) 9685085200
projects@
atikshentertainment.
com

The Torn Note

Taranjiet Singh Namdhari

Publisher - NOTION PRESS

English | Thriller, Love Story, Bollywood



Synopsis

Jia, a home cook, lives with her boyfriend, Nandu, a YouTube musician, after separating from her estranged husband, Gaurav, who is currently unemployed. When an old business associate, Sanket, calls and asks her to come and collect a mysterious parcel in exchange for a torn note, Jia is thrown into a race against time to find the note. Things become more complicated when Sanket tragically dies in a freak road accident.

With Nandu following them, Jia and Nandu attempt to uncover the truth behind the torn note. Along the way, they confront the complexities of their relationships, unsure of where they stand with each other. The torn note holds the key to a potential windfall of money that could solve the financial problems of all three of them, but as they get closer to the truth, they realize that the stakes are much higher than they ever could have imagined.

Author Biography

Taranjiet Singh Namdhari is a seasoned filmmaker with over two and a half decades of experience in the industry. He has worked on feature films, television shows, documentaries, and advertisements, bringing stories to life on both the big and small screens.

Namdhari made his feature film directorial debut with the British Asian film *It Could Be You*, which was an official selection at the Osian's International Film Festival in Delhi. His second film as a director, *The Great Indian Escape*, received critical acclaim upon its release in 2019 and is included in the list of recommended films for students at the National Defence Academy in Pune.

With a diverse range of projects under his belt and several awards and accolades to his name, Namdhari continues to captivate audiences with his unique vision and storytelling abilities. **The Torn Note** is his first book as an author.



Taranjiet Singh Namdhari

Author

(+91) 9820054210
taranjiet Singh Namdhari
@gmail.com

The Year That Changed Everything

Krusha Sahjwani

Publisher – Locksley Hall Publishing LLP | Agency– The Story Ink + The Book Bakers

English | Contemporary, Family Drama, Coming of Age



Synopsis

Twenty-two-year-old Kinjal is excited about her very first date. That is until one phone call changes her life as she knows it. The father she shared a dysfunctional relationship with is no more. To make matters more complicated (or better), she discovers her late father's personal diary, and with it, many secrets unfold, including a Big one. Her chauvinist father was gay?

This book immerses you in Kinjal's world as she comes of age and comes to terms with changing relationship dynamics in her evolving family, navigating her love life, and finding her way with her own career and identity.

Author Biography

Krusha is a multi-passionate professional from Mumbai. She is an ICF coach, dedicated to helping women unleash their highest potential. She also holds the position of Director of Asia at a global SaaS company, is recognized as a LinkedIn top voice, and is a published author. Prior to her debut novel that you see today, she wrote for 'Thought Catalog', and her short stories have been published in anthologies by Writer's Pocket & Half Baked Beans.

She self-published a novella for the Pen to Publish contest by Kindle. In 2020, her short story was chosen and published in an anthology by Penguin India. Shortly after, a chapter authored by her was selected and published in a crowd-sourced novel by Harper Collins, India. However, the role closest to her heart is being a mother to her 8-month-old son. Her favorite book is **Big Magic**, and that probably tells you more about her than this bio does!



Krusha Sahjwani
Author

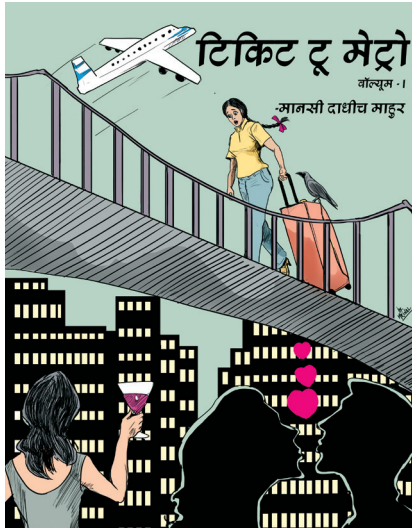
(+91) 9167736586
coachkrusha@gmail.com
com

Ticket to Metro

Mansi Dadhich Mahur

Self-Published

Hindi | Social Drama



Synopsis

The storyline of **Ticket to Metro, Volume 1** revolves around three protagonists whose lives intersect as they transition from rural to urban settings, a central theme throughout the book. Each of these stories is inspired by real-life events and is brimming with humor, childlike wonder, and moments of tension.

In the initial three parts of the book, we follow the characters as they pursue their dreams, whether it's moving to the big city or mastering the complexities of metropolitan life. They find themselves at a crossroads, faced with the dilemma of whether to remain in the city or return to their village amidst increasing tension and confusion about how to tackle their challenges. This pivotal decision must be made even when the path forward is unclear. Chapter 4 draws from Ramayan lines emphasizing the significance of a mentor, providing a common thread that connects all the narratives.

Author Biography

Mansi is a seasoned corporate leader who has excelled in the corporate world, connecting with people from over 100 nationalities across 18 countries. Her journey has been a blend of technology, business, and culture. After 2019, her focus shifted towards understanding humanity and emotions. Mansi is an accomplished author and filmmaker, with a passion for exploring how people think, behave, and perceive the world. She believes in the power of narrative across different channels to make a lasting impact.

She has authored three best-sellers, one of which won the Amazon P2P 2019 award and inspired the critically acclaimed film *Kanhaji*. This film received 16 Filmfare awards and gained international recognition. In her social drama novel **Ticket to Metro**, Mansi weaves together the lives of three protagonists as they transition from rural to metropolitan areas, creating stories filled with humor, wit, innocence, and excitement.



Mansi Dadhich Mahur

Author

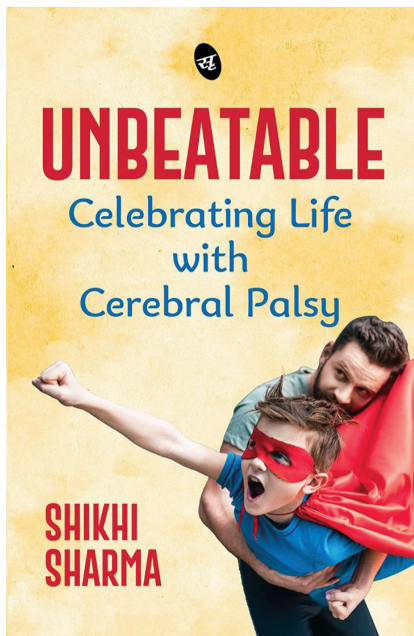
(+91) 9845285149
mansidadhichmahur@gmail.com

Unbeatable...celebrating life with cerebral palsy

Shikhi Sharma

Publisher – Srishti Publishers & Distributors | Agent– Dipti Patel

English | Slice of Life



Synopsis

When one of Ajay's twin sons, Tapasvi, is diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, he is perplexed. Even though his path is filled with obstacles, he is determined to go to the ends of the world to make Tapasvi's dreams come true.

Thus begins a journey where Ajay and his family go through a series of experiences that equip them to understand the intricacies of cerebral palsy and support Tapasvi through thick and thin.

It is a real story about a 22-year journey during which the whole family has traveled together through aspiration and despair, glee and melancholy, and trial and truce.

Unbeatable captures the life experiences of a young dreamer and a devoted father as they navigate their way through a highly skeptical society. The book also shares anecdotes from medical professionals, special educators, and many others.

Author Biography

Shikhi Sharma is an engineer-turned banker who is passionate about writing about life. She is the author of two books, **Life... As it comes** and **Unbeatable**, and is currently working on her third book. In March 2021, she was awarded Women of Rajasthan and many other awards.

Her recent book, **Unbeatable**, is inspired by the true story of an amazing boy named Tapasvi. Shikhi was motivated to share this inspirational story with millions of children and parents who are struggling with cerebral palsy. Through her book, she aims to convey a crucial message to society about accepting disabled and differently-abled individuals.

Shikhi Sharma is a strong advocate for education, especially for women. She has been a national-level debater and championed the rights of differently-abled women as a speaker at the Ahmedabad Literature Festival (2021). She began her career with the Indian Bank as a probationary officer in 2012 and was promoted to senior manager in 2022.



Shikhi Sharma
Author

(+91) 7023211091
shikhi160388@gmail.com

Book to Box Office Jury

Atika Chohan



Atika Chohan, widely recognized for her contribution to some of the most progressive, inclusive, and unflinching Indian films, garnered immense critical acclaim for her co-writing of *Chhapaak* (2020), a film based on the life of an acid attack survivor, Laxmi. Her outstanding body of work extends to include films such as *Margarita with a Straw*, *Waiting* and *Guilty*, a Netflix Original produced by Karan Johar.

Among her recent projects, *Agra*, which had its premiere at the prestigious Quinzaine (Director's Fortnight) during Cannes 2023, and *Sahela*, an Indo-Australian co-production executive-produced by Hollywood actor Dev Patel and featured at SXSW Sydney. Upcoming films associated with her work encompass *Ulajh* starring Janhvi Kapoor, and an unannounced project in collaboration with Alia Bhatt's production house, Eternal Sunshine.

Harini Lakshminarayan



Harini Lakshminarayan is a driven creative and strategic partner to writers, directors, and production teams. Having been a producer on films like *Tumbbad* and *An Insignificant Man*, she has a proven track record in taking ambitious projects through to completion.

Harini believes in robust development and audience-centric storytelling that challenges conventions. Her keen eye for emerging talent and understanding of market trends drive her commitment to pushing the boundaries of long-form entertainment, format and language notwithstanding. She currently leads premium scripted initiatives at EndemolShine India.

Mrinalini Khanna



Mrinalini Khanna embarked on her career in Delhi with NDTV and Miditech before moving to Mumbai. In 2007, she joined Endemol as a script supervisor. During her 14-year tenure at EndemolShine, she produced notable shows such as *The Test Cas* and *M.O.M* (Mission Over Mars) for ALT Balaji, and *Bombay Begums*, *Trial by Fire* and *Toothpari* for Netflix. In 2021, she left her role as VP of Business Development.

Currently, Mrinalini serves as the head of Originals for Play and the Studio at Lionsgate India. Her impressive portfolio includes productions like *Feels Like Home*, *Minus One S2* and the inaugural slate from Lionsgate Studios in India. This slate features projects like *Thank You, Mr. Khanna* by Milind Dhaimade, *Nausikhiye* in collaboration with Ellipsis Entertainment and directed by Santosh Singh, and the series *Zero Day* with EndemolShine and Hypaethral Media, directed by Rohan Khambati.

Book to Box Office Jury

Radhika Gopal



Radhika Gopal serves as the Head of Writers and Directors at Tulsea, a prominent talent and content management company based in Mumbai and LA. Tulsea is known for its representation of content creators across various platforms on a global scale. Radhika became a part of the Tulsea team in 2014 and played a pivotal role in its growth and development in India. Her responsibilities have included packaging series for OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon, talent scouting for Indian producers and studios, and fostering collaboration between the entertainment industries of LA and Mumbai. Furthermore, Radhika offered valuable strategic consultation to Saregama India Ltd. during the launch of Yoodlee Films in 2017. With a background that includes experience at Ogilvy & Mather and a degree in Mass Media from the University of Mumbai, Radhika skillfully leverages her extensive industry connections to guide talent towards achieving creative and strategic success.

Ranjib Mazumder



Ranjib Mazumder has dedicated nearly two decades to the media industry, encompassing roles in journalism, screenwriting, publishing, teaching, and content development. During his tenure as a Commissioning Editor and Creative Director at Applause Entertainment, he contributed to the success of well-received series such as *Iru Dhuruvam* and *Humble Politiciann Nograj* as well as critically acclaimed films including *The Rapist* and *Zwigato*. His involvement extended to the recent Tamil blockbuster *Por Thozhil*, among other projects.

Sidharth Jain



Sidharth has been working as a producer in the Indian Entertainment Industry for over 15 years. He founded The Story Ink in 2018, which is now India's largest Book to Screen Adaptation Company, having facilitated adaptations of 200+ books across 50+ production houses. Story Ink represents over 250 authors, emerging screenwriters, and exclusively controls the screen rights of more than 500 books. Story Ink's new tech platform, Access, is launching soon.

In 2022, Sidharth founded a film and series production company, House of Talkies, which made its debut with the critically acclaimed series, *Trial by Fire* on Netflix, released in January 2023. Currently, House of Talkies has 3 series and 2 films in production for release in 2024.

His most recent corporate stint (2015–17) was at Hotstar.com. In the past, from 2008 to 2014, Sidharth founded India's first script-factory, iRock Films, where he worked with over 75 writers and developed more than 35 scripts and 100+ stories over five years.

Beachside Chat – Industry Experts

Nawazuddin Siddiqui



Nawazuddin Siddiqui, an internationally acclaimed Indian actor and National School of Drama alumnus, gained recognition with his debut film *Patang: The Kite* at prestigious festivals like Berlin and Tribeca. He holds the unique distinction of having 8 films officially selected at the Cannes Film Festival and starring in two International Emmy-nominated series, *Sacred Games* and *McMafia*. Awarded the National Film Award for Best Actor in 2012, he continued to shine with accolades like the Fancine Malaga Award for *Raman Raghav 2.0* and Best Actor at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards for *Manto* and *Roam Rome Mein*. His film *Photograph* was officially premiered at the Berlin International film festival and Sundance Film Festival. He also went on to win the Best Actor Award at the Filmfare Awards twice for his performances in *Raat Akeli Hai* 2020 and *Serious Men* 2021. Nawazuddin Siddiqui is the only Indian actor to have won most International Awards and recognition in the field of Art and Cinema. Recently, Nawazuddin Siddiqui's film *No Land's Man* is nominated in the competition category for the Kim Jiseok Award at Busan Film Festival.

Nawazuddin's commitment to agriculture reflects in his farming activities and initiatives like introducing French technology for water conservation in his hometown. He also serves as the brand ambassador for water conservation and promotes social causes through his NGO, focusing on women empowerment, education, and societal awareness.

Beachside Chat – Industry Experts

Utkarshini Vashishtha



Utkarshini Vashishtha, a National Award-winning Indian-origin Screenwriter, has made her mark in Los Angeles as a rare talent achieving both critical acclaim and commercial success. Her recent work on *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022) achieved remarkable success, earning numerous accolades and revitalizing the Indian Box Office with over Rs 100 crores in earnings. The film also garnered international recognition as the closing feature at Berlinale 2022 and a prominent place on Netflix's Top 10 for weeks. Utkarshini's accolades include Filmfare, IIFA, Zee Cine Award, and the prestigious National Award for her outstanding writing.

Her earlier work on *Sarbjit* (2016) received critical acclaim and premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival. Her creative partnership with renowned director Sanjay Leela Bhansali also included her role as Associate Director on *Ramleela* (2013).

With a career spanning the global film and television industry since 2005, starting with Zee TV in the Middle East, North Africa, and Pakistan, Utkarshini's experience has transcended continents, languages, and cultures, enriching her craft as a Writer and Artist. Presently, she is engaged in multiple projects across India, Europe, and the USA.

Nayanika Mahtani



Nayanika Mahtani, initially drawn to stage acting, redirected her path, earning an MBA at the IIM, leading to a career in investment banking. Today, she resides in London as an acclaimed author and screenwriter with a strong presence in the literary world.

Her works, published by Penguin Random House, span various genres, from historical fiction to multi-generational family sagas, gaining critical acclaim, bestseller status, and prestigious accolades such as the South Asia Book Award in 2020.

Nayanika's versatility extends to screenwriting, notably co-writing the biopic drama *Shakuntala Devi* starring Vidya Balan. The film's success on Amazon Prime Video worldwide is a testament to her storytelling prowess.

Her latest young adult novel, **Across the Line**, delves into the Partition of the subcontinent and is currently in development as a film, with Nayanika herself adapting the story for the screen. She has also adapted a published memoir for a web series.

Beachside Chat – Industry Experts

Priyanka Khimani



Priyanka Khimani is a leading global expert in entertainment and music rights, especially for India and the South Asian diaspora. She is the founder of Khimani & Associates, an India-based law firm known for its prestigious and star-studded clientele. Her legal expertise, coupled with a sharp commercial sense, places her in a unique position to help clients navigate new markets. Priyanka has led several strategic partnerships on behalf of global stakeholders and India, being the force behind some of the most talked-about deals in entertainment and music.

Priyanka's profound knowledge and understanding of intellectual property rights, coupled with her ability to help clients adapt to local practices, is her most distinguishing quality. She has consistently proven her ability to respond to crises and media trials in several high-profile disputes and controversies. Priyanka ranks among the top legal names in entertainment globally, consistently recognized by prestigious publications such as Forbes, Billboard, and Entrepreneur for her outstanding body of work.

Beachside Chat – Moderators

Vani Tripathi Tikoo



Actor and Producer Vani Tripathi Tikoo is one of the youngest ever members of the Central Board of Film Certification. She's been a socio-political activist, focusing on encouraging women's participation in politics and bringing youth to a universal platform addressing issues including education, empowerment, and employment. Vani has been closely involved in theatre, films, and television.

She founded the country's first state-run drama school, Madhya Pradesh Natya Vidyalaya, in Bhopal in 2011. Currently, she writes on issues related to broadcasting and content creation and has been part of the Core steering committee for the International Film Festival of India, Goa (IFFI) for the past eight years. Her first book as an author, **Why Can't Elephants Be Red?** is making waves globally.

Smriti Kiran



Smriti Kiran is an independent creator, media consultant, and thought leader with over 25 years of experience in the Indian film industry. She is the founder of Polka Dots Lightbox, a company dedicated to developing and creatively steering narratives for film and series. Smriti's expertise includes shaping concepts for broadcast and digital, discovering and spotlighting talent, building festivals, marketing, and social media strategy for film projects.

Additionally, she excels in putting together creative and organizational blueprints for cultural institutions, film events, and providing content and creative strategy for production houses. Smriti worked as the Artistic Director of Mumbai Film Festival and Mumbai Academy Of Moving Image. Previously, she was the Creative Director on *The Front Row* and *Star Verdict* and co-founded *Film Companion* in 2014.

Ekta Bhandari



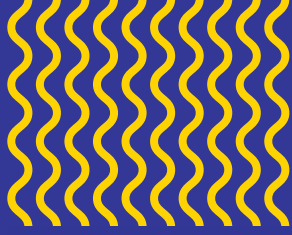
Ekta Bhandari is the founder of Read A Kitaab, a reading community for Adults & Children. Her short stories & poems have been published in the *Chicken Soup Series*, *Sisters in Rhyme*, & *Our Common Saxophone*. She is an avid reader, believing reading is the gateway to everything in life. Ekta spends her weekends hosting meetups with readers and film enthusiasts. Read A Kitaab is a calm & safe space for readers/artists/writers/filmmakers alike with 16,000+ members globally. Alongside her passion for creating a reading community, Ekta is an MBA Alumni from NMIMS, Mumbai, and a Gold medallist in Engineering. She works for one of India's leading Consulting Firms as a Vice President, heading the India & South Asia Market.

Jitin Hingorani



Jitin Hingorani is the Head of Programming for Asia's largest distribution and co-production market for Indian independent cinema, NFDC's Film Bazaar. For the 2023 installation, Jitin curated and managed the following prominent verticals: *Work-In-Progress Lab*, *Viewing Room* (Film Bazaar Recommends), *Screenwriters' Lab*, *Knowledge Series*, *Book to Box Office*, and the *VFX & Tech Pavilion*. He is also the Executive Producer and Associate Producer of the feature documentaries, *Call Me Dancer* and *Zende – The Supercop*, respectively.

Before moving to India, he split his time between New York City and Texas, where he co-produced the *South Asian House* for Tribeca and SXSW, curated the Indian programming for the first installation of SXSW Sydney, and managed his own startup, *Dallas/Fort Worth South Asian Film Festival*, honored as the "Most Innovative Small Business in Texas" by the Governor.



NFDC
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