

The Immortals Amit Chaudhuri

This Short Introduction analyses the nuts-and-bolts of affirmative action in India, while sketching out the larger context of and debates around this issue. It covers the 'why' and 'how' of affirmative action, and provides a perspective on where India stands today in terms of group disparities and the proposed remedies.

Ten-year-old Sandeep, an only child in a Bombay high-rise, visits his extended family in Calcutta during the school holidays—leaving the smooth silence of his parents' modern flat for a world of enchantment in his uncle's home. Everything is different here. In a short novel filled with indelible characters, we witness the beautiful ordinariness of daily life in a middle-class family dependent on a failing business. Whether they are push-starting a stubborn Ambassador, combating heatwaves and thunderstorms or saying their prayers, the young narrator's keen eye misses nothing. Widely hailed as a poet of the mundane, the renowned Amit Chaudhuri gives us contemporary India as you never see it. In this 25th anniversary edition of his exquisite debut, comprising a novel and nine stories, revisit this acute portrait of Calcutta from one of our finest novelists: a small masterpiece.

Offers an exploration of what it means to be a modern Indian in relation to the West. This work features essays about Indian popular culture and high culture, travel and location in Paris, Bombay, Dublin, Calcutta and Berlin, empire and nationalism, Indian and Western cinema, music, art and literature, politics, race, and cosmopolitanism.

To the many admirers of his fiction, Amit Chaudhuri seems all the more remarkable because of the excellence of his non-fiction. *Clearing a Space* is a landmark in Indian criticism, and brings together many of Chaudhuri's best essays, written over the past decade in journals such as the *London Review of Books* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. This body of his work has been widely praised and reveals a literary project of great value in understanding Indian and global modernity.

Selected Writings, 1993-2013

The Oath of the Vayuputras

Nobody Does the Right Thing

Telling Tales

Clearing a Space

In 1980s Bombay, a highly regarded voice teacher and his affluent sixteen-year-old student enter into a relationship that will have unexpected and lasting consequences in their lives, and the lives of their families. With exquisitely sensuous detail, quiet humor, and unsentimental poignancy, Amit Chaudhuri paints a luminous portrait of the spiritual and emotional force behind a revered Indian tradition; of two fundamentally different but intricately intertwined families; and of a society choosing between the old and the new.

Chaudhuri's extravagant and discerning collection unfurls the full diversity of Indian writing from the 1850s to the present in

English, and in elegant new translations from Bengali, Hindi, and Urdu. Among the 38 authors represented are contemporary superstars such as Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, and Pankaj Mishra.

In these three novellas, Yoshimoto spins the stories of three young women bewitched into a spiritual sleep. Sly and mystical as a ghost story, with a touch of Kafkaesque surrealism, "Asleep"--now in paperback--is an enchanting book from one of the best writers in contemporary international fiction.

"A lush, beguiling beauty, like the Ireland of its setting"* about a family losing grip of its legacy: a castle estate on the cliffs of Donegal. *Elisa Albert, author of *The Book of Dahlia* The Campbells have lived happily at Dulough, an idyllic, rambling estate on the Irish coast, for generations. But upkeep has drained the family coffers. Faced with the heartbreaking possibility of having to sell, John Campbell makes a difficult decision; to keep Dulough he will turn the estate into a tourist attraction. He and his wife, daughter and son move from the luxury of the big house to a caretaker's cottage. The upheaval strains the already tenuous threads that bind the family, and when a tragic accident befalls them, long-simmering resentments and unanswered yearnings are forced to the surface. As each character is given a turn to speak, their voices tell a complex and fascinating story about what happens when the upstairs becomes the downstairs, and the legacy that remains when family secrets are revealed.

Reflections on India, Literature and Culture

Night Dancer

Real Time

A New World

Finding The Raga

DIVA novel of dauntless love, corruption, and the bitterness of the ancient caste system that prevails in contemporary India/div

India's Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian Nobel Laureate and possibly the most prolific and diverse serious writer ever known. The largest single volume of his work available in English, this collection includes poetry, songs, autobiographical works, letters, travel writings, prose, novels, short stories, humorous pieces, and plays.

The award-winning author Amit Chaudhuri has been widely praised for the beauty and subtle power of his writing and for the ways in which he makes "place" as complex a character as his men and women. Now he brings these gifts to a spellbinding amalgam of memoir, reportage, and history in this intimate, luminous portrait of Calcutta. Chaudhuri guides us through the city where he was born, the home he loved as a child, the setting of his acclaimed novels—a place he now finds captivating for all the ways it has, and, perhaps more powerfully, has not, changed. He shows us a city relatively untouched by the currents of globalization but possessed of a "self-renewing way of seeing, of inhabiting space, of apprehending life." He takes us along vibrant avenues and derelict alleyways; introduces us to intellectuals, Marxists, members of the declining haute bourgeoisie, street vendors, domestic workers; brings to life the city's sounds and smells, its architecture, its traditional shops and restaurants, new malls and hotels. And, using the historic elections of 2011 as a fulcrum, Chaudhuri looks back to the nineteenth century, when the city burst with a new vitality, and toward the politics of the present, finding a city "still not recovered from history" yet possessed of a singular modernity. Chaudhuri observes and writes about Calcutta with rare candor and clarity, making graspable the complex, ultimately ineluctable reasons for his passionate attachment to the place and its people.

At 18, musical prodigy Janaki Venkatakrisnan escapes her father's plans for an arranged marriage, fleeing her village for the bright lights of

Bombay. She leaves behind a gaggle of gossip-mongering old women, but also her younger sister Mallika, who is forced to take care of their increasingly unhinged father. But ten years later, when Janaki announces her return and demands a meeting with Mallika, the buried past is once again excavated. In a span of seven days, memories and misgivings, innocence and wisdom, everyday truths and family secrets are laid bare as the two sisters prepare to face each other, and their childhood experiences, once and for all. Ameen Merchant's poignant and ambitious debut novel, at once intensely imagined and sensitively nuanced, shines an unsparing light on the complex subject of family obligations and sibling relationships.

A Novel

Untold Stories from India

What Ever Happened to Modernism?

The Essential Tagore

Red Earth and Pouring Rain

Mma has just buried her mother, and now she is alone. She has been left everything. But she has also inherited her mother's bad name. A bold, brash woman, the only thing her mother refused to discuss was her past. Why did she flee her family and bring her daughter to a new town when she was a baby? What was she escaping from? Abandoned now, Mma has no knowledge of her father or her family - but she is desperate to find out.

A tall, yellow-haired young European traveller calling himself “ Mogor dell ’ Amore, ” the Mughal of Love, arrives at the court of the real Grand Mughal, the Emperor Akbar, with a tale to tell that begins to obsess the whole imperial capital. The stranger claims to be the child of a lost Mughal princess, the youngest sister of Akbar ’ s grandfather Babar: Qara K ö z, ‘ Lady Black Eyes ’ , a great beauty believed to possess powers of enchantment and sorcery, who is taken captive first by an Uzbek warlord, then by the Shah of Persia, and finally becomes the lover of a certain Argalia, a Florentine soldier of fortune, commander of the armies of the Ottoman Sultan. When Argalia returns home with his Mughal mistress the city is mesmerised by her presence, and much trouble ensues. The Enchantress of Florence is a love story and a mystery — the story of a woman attempting to command her own destiny in a man ’ s world. It brings together two cities that barely know each other — the hedonistic Mughal capital, in which the brilliant emperor wrestles daily with questions of belief, desire and the treachery of sons, and the equally sensual Florentine world of powerful courtesans, humanist philosophy and inhuman torture, where Argalia ’ s boyhood friend ‘ il Machia ’ — Niccol ò Machiavelli — is learning, the hard way, about the true brutality of power. These two worlds, so far apart, turn out to be uncannily alike, and the enchantments of women hold sway over them both. But is Mogor ’ s story true? And if so, then what happened to the lost princess? And if he ’ s a liar, must he die?

In this groundbreaking anthology, sixteen renowned writers tell the hidden story of the AIDS crisis, illuminating the complex nature of one of the major problems facing the developing world. India is home to almost 3 million HIV cases, but AIDS is still stigmatized and shrouded in denial. Discrimination against HIV-affected individuals in hospitals, schools, and even among families is common, just as discussion

about HIV and participation in prevention or treatment programs are not. In this riveting book, sixteen of India's most well-known writers go on the road to uncover the reality of AIDS in India and tell the human stories behind the epidemic. Kiran Desai travels to the coast of Andhra Pradesh, where the sex workers are considered the most desirable; Salman Rushdie meets members of Mumbai's transgender community; William Dalrymple encounters the devadasis, women who have been "married" to a temple goddess and thus are deemed acceptable for transactional sex. Eye-opening, hard-hitting, and moving, *AIDS Sutra* presents a side of India rarely seen before.

Infosys Prize for outstanding contribution to the Humanities in Literary Studies Rabintranath Tagore is widely regarded as a romantic poet, speaking of beauty and truth; as a transcendentalist; a believer in the absolute; a propagandist for universal man; and as a national icon. But, as Amit Chaudhuri shows in these remarkable and widely admired essays about the poet and his milieu, his secret concern was really with life, play, and contingency, with the momentary as much as it was with the eternal. It is this strain of unacknowledged modernism, as well as a revolutionary life-affirming vision, that gives his work, Chaudhuri argues, its immense power. Acute, challenging, and path-breaking, Amit Chaudhuri's collection will become a classic reading of Rabintranath Tagore and the way he is perceived today. On Tagore was awarded the Rabindra Puraskar, the West Bengal government's highest literary honour, in 2012 in recognition of the 'significance, in the English language, of its critical analysis of Tagore's works'.

St. Cyril Road and Other Poems

The Enchantress of Florence

Two Years in the City

An Improvisation on Indian Music

Affirmative Action in India

DIV In 1999, Amit Chaudhuri moved back to Calcutta, the city in which he was born. It was a place he had loved in his youth and the place he had made his name writing about. But upon his return he discovered that the Calcutta of his imagination had receded and another had taken its place. Lyrical, observant and profound, Calcutta is a personal account of two years (2009-2011) spent in one of the least known - yet greatest - cities of our time by one of our leading novelists. Using the historic elections of 2011 as a fulcrum, Chaudhuri looks back to the nineteenth century, when the city burst with a new vitality, and towards the twenty-first, when - utterly changed - it seems to be on the verge of another turn. Along the way he evokes all that is most particular and extraordinary. From the homeless and the working class to the old, declining haute bourgeois; from the new malls and hotels to old houses being destroyed by developers; from politicians on their way out to the city's fitful attempts to embrace globalisation, Calcutta brings a multifarious universe to life. /div

The children of Colombia's drug lords face a rude awakening in a "supremely well-crafted" novel by one of "the best Latin American writers at work today" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review). After twelve years

away, Larry comes home to Colombia when his father, an old associate of Pablo Escobar, is murdered. Larry plans to collect his father's remains and give him a proper burial . . . but his childhood friend Pedro has other plans. Picking him up at the airport, Pedro takes him directly to the Alborada celebration in Medellín—where Larry's long-awaited homecoming takes an increasingly grim turn. The years of luxury living in bodyguard-surrounded mansions are over. Larry watches his family—including his ex-beauty queen mother and troubled brother—fall deeper into depression, drug addiction, and the traps of the family business. Now Larry must confront his family's turbulent history while protecting himself from the dark remnants of a lost and struggling city. Unflinching and remarkably controlled, Jorge Franco's *Shooting Down Heaven* is a stunning portrait of a generation wounded by their parents' mistakes. James Gunn's masterpiece about a human fountain of youth collects the author's classic short stories that ran in elite science-fiction magazines throughout the 1950s. New material accompanies this updated edition, including an introduction from renowned science-fiction writer Greg Bear, a preface from Gunn himself, and "Elixer," Gunn's short story that introduced Dr. Pearce to another Immortal. What is the price for immortality? For nomad Marshall Cartwright, the price is knowing that he will never grow old. That he will never contract a disease, an infection, or even a cold. That because he will never die, he must surrender the right to live. For Dr. Russell Pearce, the price is eternal suspicion. He appreciates what synthesizing the elixir vitae from the Immortal's genetic makeup could mean for humankind. He also fears what will happen should Cartwright's miraculous blood fall into the wrong hands. For the wealthy and powerful, no price is too great. Immortality is now a fact rather than a dream. But the only way to achieve it is to own it exclusively. And that means hunting down and caging the elusive Cartwright, or one of his offspring.

Indian English Literature today has its own place in the world literature. Begun as an imitation of British literature, it has now its own identity and a large number of readers all over the world. Indian English Novel, to be more specific, has reached to a height where it is seen on the same line of world novels. It has gone through many evolutions such as style, subject matter, point of view, color, language etc. Indian English novel today boasts its newness through the hands of Amit Chaudhary. He is one of the contemporary Indian English novelists whose work leaves an impression of being new in its presentation, in style and in subject matter. The present research is an attempt to explore Amit Chaudhary's novels as new novels. This study undertakes five novels by him in order to see in what sense or the extent to which they are 'new novels'.

Freedom Song

The Silent Raga

The Vintage Book of Modern Indian Literature

The Girl with the Golden Parasol

Afternoon Raag

The gods of poetry and death descend on a house in India to vie for the soul of a wounded monkey. A bargain is struck: the monkey must tell a story, and if he can keep his audience entertained, he shall live. The result is *Red Earth and Pouring Rain*, Vikram Chandra's astonishing, vibrant novel. Interweaving tales of nineteenth-century India with modern America, it stands in the tradition of *The Thousand and One Nights*, a work of vivid imagination and a celebration of the power of storytelling itself. 'A dazzling first novel written with such originality and intensity as to be not merely drawing on myth but making it.' *Sunday Times*

The quality of today's literary writing arouses the strongest opinions. For novelist and critic Gabriel Josipovici, the contemporary novel in English is profoundly disappointing--a poor relation of its groundbreaking Modernist forebears. This agile and passionate book asks why. Modernism, Josipovici suggests, is only superficially a reaction to industrialization of a revolution in diction and form; essentially, it is art arriving at a consciousness of its own limits and responsibilities. And its origins are to be sought not in 1850 or even 1800, but in the early 1500s, with the crisis of society and perception that also led to the rise of Protestantism. With sophistication and persuasiveness, Josipovici charts some of Modernism's key stages, from Dürer, Rabelais, and Cervantes to the present, bringing together a rich array of artists, musicians, and writers both familiar and unexpected--including Beckett, Borges, Friedrich, Cézanne, Stevens, Robbe-Grillet, Beethoven, and Wordsworth. He concludes with a stinging attack on the current literary scene in Britain and America, which raises questions not only about national taste, but about contemporary culture itself. Gabriel Josipovici has spent a lifetime writing and writing about other writers. This book is a strident call to arms and a tour de force of literary, artistic, and philosophical explication that will stimulate anyone interested in art in the twentieth century and today.

An intensely personal novel about childhood, memory, and history by one of today's most celebrated authors, now available in the US for the first time. *Friend of My Youth* begins with the novelist Amit Chaudhuri returning to Bombay, the city in which he grew up, to give a reading. Ramu, the friend of his youth, with whom he likes to get together when he comes back, is not there: after years of disabling drug addiction, Ramu has signed up for an intensive rehab program. But Amit Chaudhuri has errands to run in Bombay for his mother and wife, which take him back to the Taj Mahal Hotel, the site, not that long before, of a brutal terrorist attack. Amit

Chaudhuri writes novels the way an extraordinary instrumentalist makes music, stating and restating his themes, trying them out in different keys and to various effect, developing and dropping them, only to pick them up again and turn them completely around. He engages both our minds and our hearts. He makes us marvel. Friend of My Youth, his deceptively casual and continually observant and inventive new novel, makes us see and feel the great city of Bombay while bringing us into the quizzical, tender, rueful, and reflective sensibility of its central character, Amit Chaudhuri, not to be confused, we are told, with the novelist who wrote this book. Friend of My Youth reflects on the nature of identity, the passage of time, the experience of friendship, the indignities of youth and middle age, the lives of parents and children, and, for all the humor that seasons its pages, terror, the terror that can strike from nowhere, the terror that is a fact of daily life. Friend of My Youth is fearfully and wonderfully made. Amit Chaudhuri's stories range across the astonishing face of the modern Indian subcontinent. From divorcées about to enter into an arranged marriage to the teenaged poet who develops a relationship with a lonely widower, from singing teachers to housewives to white-collar businessmen, Real Time deftly explores the juxtaposition of the new and old worlds in his native India. Here are stories as sweet and ironic as they are deft and revealing.

Shooting Down Heaven

Amit Chaudhuri Novelist and Musician

The Shiva Trilogy Book 3

On Tagore

The Immortals

A National Book Critics Circle Award-winner elevates the ordinary events that occur to a man on his lunch hour into "a constant delight" of a novel (The Boston Globe). In this startling, witty, and inexhaustibly inventive novel, New York Times–bestselling author Nicholson Baker uses a one-story escalator ride as the occasion for a dazzling reappraisal of everyday objects and rituals. From the humble milk carton to the act of tying one's shoes, The Mezzanine at once defamiliarizes the familiar world and endows it with loopy and euphoric poetry. Baker's accounts of the ordinary become extraordinary through his sharp storytelling and his unconventional, conversational style. At first glance, The Mezzanine appears to be a book about nothing. In reality, it is a brilliant celebration of things, simultaneously demonstrating the value of reflection and the importance of everyday human experiences. "A very funny book . . . Its 135 pages probably contain more insight into life as we live it today than anything currently on the best-seller list."—The New York Times "Captures the spirit of

American corporate life and invests it with a passion and sympathy that is entirely unexpected." –The Seattle Times "Among the year's best." –The Boston Globe "Baker writes with appealing charm . . . [He] clowns and shows off . . . rambles and pounces hard; he says acute things, extravagant things, terribly funny things." –Los Angeles Times Book Review "Wonderfully readable, in fact gripping, with surprising bursts of recognition, humor and wonder." –The Washington Post Book World

In *St Cyril Road And Other Poems*, His First Collection Of Verse, Amit Chaudhuri Brings Together Many Of The Poems He Has Written Over The Last Two Decades. The Early Poems Are Permeated With A Sense Of Place And An Understated But Powerful Belief In The Capacity Of Language To Renovate Our Perceptions Of The Everyday Qualities We Have Now Come To Associate With Chaudhuri S Fiction. The Later Poems Might Be Said To Be About The Heterogeneity And Unpredictability Of Inspiration A Walk To The Local Medical Store, A Whiff Of Old Spice Aftershave, War In Iraq, Voices Overheard In A Multi-Storeyed Building, A Seasonal Downpour, A Kashmiri Apple & Luminous And Redolent, These Poems Magnify Our Sense Of The Many Worlds That Form Our Past And Present.

"Pankaj Mishra transforms a visceral, intimate story of one man's humble origins into a kaleidoscopic portrait of a society bedazzled by power and wealth—what it means on a human level, and what it costs. *Run and Hide* is a spectacular, illuminating work of fiction." –Jennifer Egan, author of *Manhattan Beach*

Growing up in a small railway town, Arun always dreamed of escape. His acceptance to the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, enabled through great sacrifice by his low-caste parents, is seemingly his golden ticket out of a life plagued by everyday cruelties and deprivations. At the predominantly male campus, he meets two students from similar backgrounds. Unlike Arun—scarred by his childhood, and an uneasy interloper among go-getters—they possess the sheer will and confidence to break through merciless social barriers. The alumni of IIT eventually go on to become the financial wizards of their generation, working hard and playing hard from East Hampton to Tuscany—the beneficiaries of unprecedented financial and sexual freedom. But while his friends play out Gatsby-style fantasies, Arun fails to leverage his elite education for social capital. He decides to pursue the writerly life, retreating to a small village in the Himalayas with his aging mother. Arun's modest idyll is one day disrupted by the arrival of a young woman named Alia, who is writing an exposé of his former classmates. Alia, beautiful and sophisticated, draws Arun back to the prospering world where he must be someone else if he is to belong. When he is implicated in a terrible act of violence committed by his closest friend from IIT, Arun will have to reckon with the person he has become. *Run and Hide* is Pankaj Mishra's powerful story of achieving material progress at great moral and emotional cost. It is also the story of a changing country and global order, and the inequities of class and gender that map onto our most intimate relationships.

In Tokyo—one of the world's largest megacities—a stray cat is wending her way through the back alleys.

And, with each detour, she brushes up against the seemingly disparate lives of the city-dwellers, connecting them in unexpected ways. But the city is changing. As it does, it pushes her to the margins where she chances upon a series of apparent strangers—from a homeless man squatting in an abandoned hotel, to a shut-in hermit afraid to leave his house, to a convenience store worker searching for love. The cat orbits Tokyo's denizens, drawing them ever closer. In a series of spellbinding, interlocking narratives—with styles ranging from manga to footnotes—Nick Bradley has hewn a novel of interplay and estrangement; of survival and self-destruction; of the desire to belong and the need to escape. Formally inventive and slyly political, *The Cat and The City* is a lithe thrill-ride through the less-glimpsed streets of Tokyo.

Oxford India Short Introductions

Run and Hide

Black Lake

Calcutta

Stories and a Reminiscence

A year after his divorce, Jayojit Chatterjee, an economics professor in the American Midwest, travels to his native Calcutta with his young son, Bonny, to spend the summer holidays with his parents. Jayojit is no more accustomed to spending time alone with Bonny—who lives with his mother in California—than he is with the Admiral and his wife, whose daily rhythms have become so synchronized as to become completely foreign to their son. Together, the unlikely foursome struggles to pass the protracted hours of summer, each in his or her own way mourning Jayojit's failed marriage. And as Jayojit walks the bustling streets of Calcutta, he finds himself not only caught between clashing memories of India and America, but also between different versions of his life, revisiting lost opportunity, realized potential, and lingering desire. As he did in his acclaimed trilogy *Freedom Song*, Amit Chaudhuri lovingly captures life's every detail on the page while infusing the quiet interactions of daily existence with depth and compassion.

Annotation This volume surveys 200 years of Indian literature in English. Written by Indian scholars and critics, many of the 24 contributions examine the work of individual authors, such as Rabindranath Tagore, R.K. Narayan, and Salman Rushdie. Others consider a particular genre, such as post-independence poetry or drama. The volume is illustrated with b&w photographs of writers along with drawings and popular prints. Annotation

(c)2003 Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (booknews.com).

A sensual, wonderfully engaging debut about a woman's passionate affair with her father's protégé, a poet. David Freeman, the charismatic and renowned director of the Broughton Poetry Foundation, has always been more interested in his work than his family, and his daughter Katherine feels the wound of his neglect. Having abandoned her creative life as a dancer, muffled by motherhood and a conventional marriage, she embarks on an intense affair with a poet, one of her father's protégés. As she falls in love and her marriage starts to come apart, she begins to question the depth of the romance. Her emotional journey leads her back to the north of England where she was brought up, to her father, and to her younger self, the passionate dancer. Powerful, wise, and beautifully written, *The Whole Wide Beauty* is an unforgettable debut novel about searching for fulfillment in love, art, and life.

Khuku, a housewife, is irritated with the Muslims because their call to prayer wakes her up early every morning; her husband, a retired businessman, has been hired to cure a 'sick' sweet factory that doesn't particularly want to be cured. Across town, Khuku's brother worries about his son's affiliations with the Communist Party, but only because they may affect his ever-so-gradually coalescing marriage prospects. *Freedom Song* is a work of fiction that plays with big ideas while evoking the smallest aspects of everyday life with acute tenderness and extraordinary beauty.

Reading the Poet Today

The Mezzanine

AIDS Sutra

Song of the Water Saints

A History of Indian Literature in English

By turns essay, memoir and cultural study, *Finding the Raga* is Amit Chaudhuri's singular account of his discovery of, and enduring passion for, North Indian music: an ancient, evolving tradition whose principles and practices will alter the reader's notion of what music might - and can - be. Tracing the music's development, *Finding the Raga* dwells on its most distinctive and mysterious characteristics: its extraordinary approach to time,

language and silence; its embrace of confoundment, and its ethos of evocation over representation. The result is a strange gift of a book, for musicians and music lovers, and for any creative mind in search of diverse and transforming inspiration.

"Steeped in the tradition of the Indian epic, yet modern and vastly entertaining." –The Times (London) In her fiction debut, Alice Albinia weaves a multithreaded epic tale that encompasses divine saga and familial discord and introduces an unforgettable heroine. Leela—alluring, taciturn, haunted—is moving from New York back to Delhi. Worldly and accomplished, she has been in self-imposed exile from India and her family for decades; twenty-two years earlier, her sister was seduced by the egotistical Vyasa, and the fallout from their relationship drove Leela away. Now an eminent Sanskrit scholar, Vyasa is preparing for his son's marriage. But when Leela arrives for the wedding, she disrupts the careful choreography of the weekend, with its myriad attendees and their conflicting desires. Gleefully presiding over the drama is Ganesh—divine, elephant-headed scribe of the Mahabharata, India's great epic. The family may think they have arranged the wedding for their own selfish ends, but according to Ganesh it is he who is directing events—in a bid to save Leela, his beloved heroine, from Vyasa. As the weekend progresses, secret online personas, maternal identities, and poetic authorships are all revealed; boundaries both religious and continental are crossed; and families are ripped apart and brought back together in this vibrant and brilliant celebration of family, love, and storytelling.

This vibrant, provocative début novel explores the dreams and struggles of three generations of Dominican women. Graciela, born on the outskirts of Santo Domingo at the turn of the century, is a headstrong adventuress who comes of age during the U.S. occupation. Too poor to travel beyond her imagination, she is frustrated by the monotony of her life, which erodes her love affairs and her relationship with Mercedes, her daughter. Mercedes, abandoned by Graciela at thirteen, turns to religion for solace and, after managing to keep a shop alive during the Trujillo dictatorship, emigrates to New York with her husband and granddaughter, Leila. Leila inherits her great-grandmother Graciela's passion-driven recklessness. But, caught as she is between cultures, her

freedom arrives with its own set of obligations and dangers.

A beguiling, short and yet sweeping prose-poem, *Afternoon Raag* is the account of a young Bengali man studying at Oxford University and caught in complicated love triangle. His loneliness and melancholy sharpen his memories of home, which come back to haunt him in vivid, sensory detail. Intensely moving, superbly written, *Afternoon Raag* is a testimony to the clash of the old and the new; arrivals and departures. With an introduction by James Wood

A Strange and Sublime Address

Asleep

Leela's Book: A Novel

Friend of My Youth

The Whole Wide Beauty: A Novel

A young poet is killed by her lover, a politician, in the eastern Indian state of Bihar. Soon afterward, across India in Bombay, an idealistic journalist is hired by a movie director to write a Bollywood screenplay about the murdered poet. Research for the script takes the writer, Binod, back to Bihar, where he and his cousin Rabinder were raised. While the high-minded Binod struggles to turn the poet's murder into a steamy tale about small towns, desire, and intrigue, Rabinder sits in a Bihari jail cell, having been arrested for distributing pornography through a cybercafé. Rabinder dreams of a career in Bollywood filmmaking, and, unlike his cousin, he is not burdened by ethical scruples. *Nobody Does the Right Thing* is the story of these two cousins and the ways that their lives unexpectedly intertwine. Set in the rural villages of Bihar and the metropolises of Bombay and Delhi, the novel is packed with telling details and anecdotes about life in contemporary India. At the same time, it is a fictional investigation into how narratives circulate and vie for supremacy through gossip, cinema, popular fiction, sensational journalism, and the global media.

Spanning a writing career of over twenty years, acclaimed novelist and author of *Calcutta: Two Years in the City*, Amit Chaudhuri, is also one of the most gifted essayists and critics writing today, whose work has appeared in the pages of many of the most

prestigious newspapers and journals in the world, including The London Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, Granta, the Guardian, and the Dublin Review. Collected here for the first time, Mere Writing is a selection of Chaudhuri's most enduring short non-fiction that showcases his sense of humour, his idiosyncratic capacity to transform the mundane, his political engagement, and his mastery of words. From playing 'Cowboys and Indians' as a child in India to an outsider's perspective on the British class system to a plane that was hijacked by Pakistani men and taken to Afghanistan at the turn of the millennium to the works of V. S Naipaul and to the humble Indian savoury, the chanachur, these essays display Chaudhuri's ability to find meaning in every aspect of the physical and intellectual world and will consolidate his reputation as one of most original and elegant writers publishing in English today.

Shiva has accepted his destiny, but it has brought him to despair. Can he heal himself and the people who look to him as a god? Today, Shiva is a god. But four thousand years ago, he was just a man - until he brought his people to Meluha, a near-perfect empire founded by the great king Lord Ram. There he realised he was the Neelkanth, a barbarian long prophesied to be Meluha's saviour. But in his hour of victory fighting the Chandravanshis - Meluha's enemy - he discovered they had their own prophecy. Now he must fight to uncover the treachery within his inner circle, and unmask those who are about to destroy all that he has fought for. Shiva is about to learn that good and evil are two sides of the same coin . . .

The Cat and The City