

# **ACCESS I AM AN EXECUTIONER LOVE STORIES BY RAJESH PARAMESWARAN 2013 05 09**

## **I Am an Executioner**

A vivid, glittering, savage collection of stories from an astonishing literary talent.

## **I Seem to Be a Verb**

Buckminster Fullers explorations as an architect, engineer, philosopher and futurist are extended into experimental book form through his collaboration with producer Jerome Agel and designer Quentin Fiore. *I Seem to Be A Verbs* utopian plans, clever insights and light-hearted musings rub elbows with revelatory and often jolting reminders that we are in motion, full of impulsive nerves, flowing blood and constant thought. This fun and challenging book is packed with images, dense layouts and narratives reading both front to back and in reverse. All this to remind us that we are verbs, not nouns! Buckminster Fuller was awarded 25 patents, invented the geodesic dome, the dymaxion car and was expelled from Harvard twice. *I Seem to Be a Verb* was originally published in 1970. I am convinced that creativity is a priori to the integrity of the universe and that life is regenerative and conformity meaningless. R. Buckminster Fuller.

## **Wisconsin Death Trip**

First published in 1973, this remarkable book about life in a small turn-of-the-century Wisconsin town has become a cult classic. Lesy has collected and arranged photographs taken between 1890 and 1910 by a Black River Falls photographer, Charles Van Schaik.

## **Truck Stop**

Early each morning, before the sun is even up, the Truck Stop opens for breakfast, and the trucks start pulling in. Eighteen wheeler, milk tank, moving van, and flatbed! Their drivers order eggs and bacon, pancakes with syrup, and a blueberry muffin. For the boy who helps his parents at the counter, there is nothing better than seeing all the trucks roll in; he knows every single one . . . and can tell when one is missing! Here is a story for very young truck lovers, worth stopping for again and again.

## **In the Country**

In these nine globe-trotting tales, Mia Alvar gives voice to the women and men of the Philippines and its diaspora. From teachers to housemaids, from mothers to sons, Alvar's stories explore the universal experiences of loss, displacement, and the longing to connect across borders both real and imagined. *In the Country* speaks to the heart of everyone who has ever searched for a place to call home—and marks the arrival of a formidable new voice in literature.

## **The Frangipani Hotel**

An extraordinarily compelling debut—ghost stories that grapple with the legacy of the Vietnam War A

beautiful young woman appears fully dressed in an overflowing bathtub at the Frangipani Hotel in Hanoi. A jaded teenage girl in Houston befriends an older Vietnamese gentleman she discovers naked behind a dumpster. A trucker in Saigon is asked to drive a dying young man home to his village. A plump Vietnamese-American teenager is sent to her elderly grandmother in Ho Chi Minh City to lose weight, only to be lured out of the house by the wafting aroma of freshly baked bread. In these evocative and always surprising stories, the supernatural coexists with the mundane lives of characters who struggle against the burdens of the past. Based on traditional Vietnamese folk tales told to Kupersmith by her grandmother, these fantastical, chilling, and thoroughly contemporary stories are a boldly original exploration of Vietnamese culture, addressing both the immigrant experience and the lives of those who remained behind. Lurking in the background of them all is a larger ghost—that of the Vietnam War, whose legacy continues to haunt us. Violet Kupersmith's voice is an exciting addition to the landscape of American fiction. With tremendous depth and range, her stories transcend their genre to make a wholly original statement about the postwar experience. Praise for *The Frangipani Hotel* “[A] subversively clever debut collection . . . These stories—playful, angry, at times legitimately scary—demonstrate a subtlety of purpose that belies [Kupersmith's] youth.”—*The New York Times Book Review* “Magical, beautiful, modern stories, all based on traditional Vietnamese folktales, [The Frangipani Hotel] invokes the ghosts of the land that was left behind.”—*San Francisco Chronicle* “[A] sparkling debut . . . playful and wise, an astonishing feat for a young writer.”—*Chicago Tribune* “A series of short stories that are as fresh as they are mesmerizing, *The Frangipani Hotel* will haunt you long after the last words have drifted off the page.”—Lisa See “Auspicious . . . wildly energetic.”—*Elle* “Enthralling stories . . . teeming with detail and personality.”—*Asian Review of Books* “Chilling and lovely . . . Kupersmith has combined traditional storytelling with a post-modern sense of anxiety and darkness, and the result is captivating.”—*Bookreporter* “The stories shimmer with life. . . . Kupersmith [is] one to watch.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

## **Five Days at Memorial**

In the tradition of the best writing on human behaviour and moral choices in the face of disaster, physician and reporter Sheri Fink reconstructs five days at New Orleans' Memorial Medical Center during Hurricane Katrina and draws the reader into the lives of those who struggled mightily to survive and to maintain life amidst chaos. After Katrina struck and the floodwaters rose, the power failed, and the heat climbed, exhausted caregivers chose to designate certain patients last for rescue. Months later, several health professionals faced criminal allegations that they deliberately injected numerous patients with drugs to hasten their deaths. *Five Days at Memorial*, the culmination of six years of reporting, unspools the mystery of what happened in those days, bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life and into a conversation about the most terrifying form of health care rationing. In a voice at once involving and fair, masterful and intimate, Fink exposes the hidden dilemmas of end-of-life care and reveals just how ill-prepared we are for the impact of large-scale disasters - and how we can do better. A remarkable book, engrossing from start to finish, *Five Days at Memorial* radically transforms our understanding of human nature in crisis.

## **50 Years of Indian Community in Singapore**

From Tamils to Malayalees, from Bengalis to Punjabis, the diverse Indian community in Singapore has played a large part in building the country. To understand the Indian community, one must know certain basic facts about them. First is their love for culture which transcends religious and linguistic differences. Some of the best classical Hindustani singers are Muslims. The best Malayalam singer of Hindu religious songs is a Christian. Second is their love of debates. Argument is part of Indian tradition because of the belief that truth can only be arrived at vigorous debate. The third characteristic is the community's respect for education. Indians, across castes and religions have always venerated knowledge and learning as being a value in itself. The fourth characteristic of the Indians is their devoutness: they take their religious duties seriously and perform them regularly. This celebratory volume highlights the progress, contributions and challenges of the community for the past 50 years since Singapore's independence in 1965.

Contents:Foreword (S R Nathan)A Place in the Sun (Gopinath Pillai)Indians in the Modelling of the Global

Metropolis (Rajesh Rai) Singapore's Indian Heritage Centre: Curating and Negotiating Heritage, Diversity and Identity (Gauri Parimoo Krishnan) Little India: 50 Years of Being and Doing 'Indian' in Singapore (Nirmala Srirekam Puru Shotam) Indian Contribution to Visual and Performing Arts in Singapore (Jaya Mohideen) Fifty Years of Singapore Tamil Literature (A Mani) 'Rising from the Ashes': The Development of Hindi in Independent Singapore (Rajesh Rai) Indian Writing in English (Meira Chand) Indian Political Participation in Singapore (Asad Latif) The Indian Contribution to Singapore's Economic Development (Manu Bhaskaran) Less Remembered Spaces and Interactions in a Changing Singapore: Indian Business Communities in the Post-independence Period (Jayati Bhattacharya) Newly Arrived Indian Professionals — Contributing to a Globalising Singapore (Girija Pande) To Singapore with Love... (Uma Rajan) Pakistanis in Singapore (Sajjad Ashraf) The History of Parsis in Singapore (Pesi B Chacha) The Singapore Indian Community towards SG100 (K Kesavapany & Asad Latif) Readership: General.

## **Burnt Tongues**

Transgressive fiction authors write stories some are afraid to tell. Stories with taboo subjects, unique voices, shocking images—nothing safe or dry. *Burnt Tongues* is a collection of transgressive stories selected by a rigorous nomination and vetting process and hand-selected by Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club*, as the best of The Cult workshop. These stories run the gamut from horrific and fantastic to humorous and touching, but each leaves a lasting impression. Some may say even a scar.

## **The Best American Magazine Writing 2007**

Showcases articles written by a variety of journalists judged as finalists or winners in a contest sponsored by the American Society of Magazine Editors, and addresses topics ranging from reporting to feature writing.

## **The Image Trap**

The *Image Trap* analyses the phenomenon of M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), the legendary film star-cum-politician of Tamil Nadu, as a modern-day political myth. This book offers fascinating details about the extent to which MGR was successful in creating a stereotypical cinematic persona, and what repercussions it had on Tamil Nadu. Delineating the cultural elements that were meticulously mobilised to constitute MGR's on-screen image, it analyses the popularity he enjoyed among the poor whose interests he constantly violated. This is done by means of what Pandian termed as constructed biographies which are popular narratives that ingeniously present the cinematic as real. It brings out the interface and interplay between the media and political processes. A blend of essay writing, political rhetoric and scholarship, the book features the complete filmography of MGR and is a must for understanding the contemporary politics of the state.

## **Guardian of the Republic**

The inspiring life and uncensored views of a veteran, patriot, former Congressman, conservative icon, and warrior for personal liberty... Over the course of the past few decades, Allen West has had many titles bestowed on him, among them Lt. Colonel, U.S. Representative, "Dad," and Scourge of the Far Left. He rose from humble beginnings in Atlanta where his father instilled in him a code of conduct that would inform his life ever after. Throughout his years leading troops, raising a loving family, serving as Congressman in Florida's 22nd district, and emerging as one of the most authentic voices in conservative politics, West has never compromised the core values on which he was raised: family, faith, tradition, service, honor, fiscal responsibility, courage, freedom. Today, these values are under attack as never before, and as the far Left intensifies its assaults, few have been as vigorous as West in pushing back. He refuses to let up, calling out an Obama administration that cares more about big government than following the Constitution, so-called black "leaders" who sell out their communities in exchange for pats on the head, and a segment of the media that sees vocal black conservatives as threats to be silenced. Now more than ever, the American republic needs a guardian: a principled, informed conservative who understands where we came from, who can trace

the philosophical roots of our faith and freedom, and who has a plan to get America back on track. West isn't afraid to speak truth to power, and in this book he'll share the experiences that shaped him and the beliefs he would die to defend.

## **How I Killed Margaret Thatcher**

'Judas Iscariot's here, look. Here comes Judas Iscariot...' Nine-year old Sean has never seen anything like what happens on the day Margaret Thatcher takes power and his grandad discovers his uncle voted for her. So begins the start of a family secret and the end of Sean's idyllic childhood in the industrial Midlands—until, one day, deciding that someone's got to stop the train of destruction, he sets out for revenge. A heartbreaking and timely story of a moment of national crisis as felt by one family, *How I Killed Margaret Thatcher* delivers a devastating English twist on the dictator novel.

## **From Coast to Coast with Jack London**

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## **Telegraph Pa**

This debut collection from the man Malcolm Gladwell described as a genius took readers by storm. From the slums of Haiti to a golf course in Myanmar, and from the Colombian jungle to the diamond mines of Sierra Leone, Ben Fountain's impeccable and devastatingly funny stories describe a world in political and social upheaval, and the lives caught in the balance.

## **Brief Encounters with Che Guevara**

A fun exploration of the darker side of the natural world reveals the fascinating, weird, often perverted ways that Mother Nature feeds only for herself. It may be a wonderful world, but as Dan Riskin (cohost of Discovery Canada's *Daily Planet*) explains, it's also a dangerous, disturbing, and disgusting one. At every turn, it seems, living things are trying to eat us, poison us, use our bodies as their homes, or have us spread their eggs. In *Mother Nature Is Trying to Kill You*, Riskin is our guide through the natural world at its most gloriously ruthless. Using the seven deadly sins as a road map, Riskin offers dozens of jaw-dropping examples that illuminate how brutal nature can truly be. From slothful worms that hide in your body for up to thirty years to wrathful snails with poisonous harpoons that can kill you in less than five minutes to lustful ducks that have orgasms faster than you can blink, these fascinating accounts reveal the candid truth about "gentle" Mother Nature's true colors. Riskin's passion for the strange and his enthusiastic expertise bring Earth's most fascinating flora and fauna into vivid focus. Through his adventures—which include sliding on his back through a thick soup of bat guano just to get face-to-face with a vampire bat, befriending a parasitic maggot that has taken root on his head, and coming to grips with having offspring of his own—Riskin makes unexpected discoveries not just about the world all around us but also about the ways this brutal world has shaped us as humans and what our responsibilities are to this terrible, wonderful planet we call home.

## **Mother Nature Is Trying to Kill You**

On June 27, 1844, a mob stormed the jail in the dusty frontier town of Carthage, Illinois. Clamorous and angry, they were hunting down a man they saw as a grave threat to their otherwise quiet lives: the founding prophet of Mormonism, Joseph Smith. They wanted blood. At thirty-nine years old, Smith had already lived an outsized life. In addition to starting the Church of Latter-day Saints and creating his own “Golden Bible” – the Book of Mormon – he had worked as a water-dowser and treasure hunter. He’d led his people to Ohio, then Missouri, then Illinois, where he founded a city larger than fledgling Chicago. He was running for President. And, secretly, he had married more than thirty women. In *American Crucifixion*, Alex Beam tells how Smith went from charismatic leader to public enemy: how his most seismic revelation – the doctrine of polygamy – created a rift among his people; how that schism turned to violence; and how, ultimately, Smith could not escape the consequences of his ambition and pride. Mormonism is America’s largest and most enduring native religion, and the “martyrdom” of Joseph Smith is one of its transformational events. Smith’s brutal assassination propelled the Mormons to colonize the American West and claim their place in the mainstream of American history. *American Crucifixion* is a gripping story of scandal and violence, with deep roots in our national identity.

## **American Crucifixion**

Perform incredible vanishing tricks in front of an astonished audience  
Create potions that fizz, hiss, bubble, and bang  
Amaze friends with your astounding mind-reading powers  
Conjure up an enchanted bag  
A bewitching brew of extraordinary illusions and magical marvels

## **The Magic Book**

Part of the pleasure of poetry is unravelling the mysteries and difficulties it contains and solving the puzzles that lie within. Who, for instance, is Ozymandias? What is the Snark? Who is the Emperor of Ice-Cream? Or indeed, who is 'you' in a poem? In this perceptive and playful new book, acclaimed poet John Fuller looks at some of our greatest poems and considers the number of individual puzzles at their heart, casting light on how we should approach these conundrums as readers. From riddling to double entendres, mysterious titles to red herrings, Fuller unpicks the puzzles in works that range from Browning to Bishop, Empson to Eliot, Shelley to Stevens, to help us reach the rewards and revelations that lie at the centre of some of our best-loved poems.

## **Who Is Ozymandias?**

For many young women, the 1920s felt like a promise of liberty. It was a period when they dared to shorten their skirts and shingle their hair, to smoke, drink, take drugs and to claim sexual freedoms. In an era of soaring stock markets, consumer expansion, urbanization and fast travel, women were reimagining both the small detail and the large ambitions of their lives. In *Flappers*, acclaimed biographer Judith Mackrell follows a group of six women - Diana Cooper, Nancy Cunard, Tallulah Bankhead, Zelda Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker and Tamara de Lempicka - who, between them, exemplified the range and daring of that generation's spirit. For them, the pursuit of experience was not just about dancing the Charleston and wearing fashionable clothes. They made themselves prominent among the artists, icons, and heroines of their age, pursuing experience in ways that their mothers could never have imagined, seeking to define what it was to be young and a woman in an age where the smashing of old certainties had thrown the world wide open. Talented, reckless and wilful, with personalities that transcended their class and background, they re-wrote their destinies in remarkable, entertaining and sometimes tragic ways. And between them they blazed the trail of the New Woman around the world.

## **Flappers**

Forty-five and single, Akhila has never been allowed to live her own life-always the daughter, the sister, the aunt, the provider-until the day she gets herself a one-way train ticket to the seaside town of Kanyakumari. In the intimate atmosphere of the ladies coupé, she gets to know her five fellow travellers. Riveted by their personal stories, Akhila begins to seek answers to the question that has been haunting her all her life: can a woman stay single and be happy, or does she need a man to feel complete?

## **Ladies Coupe**

A sensational classic: this chilling tale of Siberian espionage is 'the best thriller I've ever read' (Philip Pullman) ranking with 'The Silence of the Lambs, Casino Royale and Smiley's People' (Spectator). 'Hugely thrilling, brilliantly written, perfect ... I didn't want this book to end.' (Anthony Horowitz) WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY PHILIP PULLMAN Kolymisky Heights. A Siberian hell lost in endless night: the perfect setting for an underground Russian research station. It's a place so secret it doesn't officially exist; once there, the scientists are forbidden to leave. But one scientist is desperate to get a message to the outside world. So desperate, he sends a plea across the wilderness to the West in order to summon the one man alive capable of achieving the impossible ... 'Sensationally good ... One of the great thrillers of the last century.' (Charles Cumming) 'As significant as ... *le Carré* in bringing a gritty new realism to the thriller.' (Sunday Telegraph) 'A breathless story of fear and courage.' (Daily Telegraph)

## **Kolymisky Heights**

"Sekiranya kita sanggup bersusah payah menolak lapan kilogram tembikai melalui bukaan sebesar lapan inci, kita boleh melakukan apa sahaja yang kita mahukan. Apa sahaja." Kita akan belajar 10 tabiat baru yang membawa keseronokan, ketertiban, dan ketenangan dalam hidup kita semula.

## **The 10 Habits of Happy Mothers**

It's 1996, and Chris Kraus is in Berlin, seeking a distributor for her film *Gravity & Grace*, described alternately as 'an experimental 16mm film about hope, despair, religious feeling and conviction' and 'an amateur intellectual's home video expanded to bulimic lengths' ... It's 1942 in Marseille, and Simone Weil is waiting for the US entry visa that will save her from the Holocaust, while writing work described alternately as a 'radical philosophy of sadness' and 'immoral, trite, irrelevant and paradoxical' ... It's the late 90s, the millennium is approaching, and Chris Kraus is in Los Angeles, not eating, waiting for her s/m partner to reply to her emails ... It's 1943, and Simone Weil is in London, completing her project of transcendence by dying of starvation ... Filled with Chris Kraus' trademark wit and frankness, unfolding to reveal the lives of ecstatic visionaries and failed artists, *Aliens & Anorexia* is an audacious novel about failure, empathy and sadness.

## **Aliens & Anorexia**

The latest novel from the author of cult super-hit *I LOVE DICK* *It's Summer*, 1991, the dawning of the New World Order; a post-MTV, pre-AOL generation. Jerome Shafir and Sylvie Green, two former New Yorkers who can no longer afford an East Village apartment, set off on a journey across the entire former Soviet Bloc with the intention of adopting a Romanian orphan. Unflinchingly dark, hilarious and moving, *Torpor* is at once a satire and philosophy of cultural history, social identity and failing relationships. Dipping into the trajectory of a life at different moments, Kraus interrogates convention and emotion, creating characters that are flawed, witty, and altogether true to life. Part prequel, part sequel, *Torpor* continues a project of life-writing: personal, unsparing, and triumphant. If *I Love Dick* is the book of your 20s, *Torpor* is the book of your 30s.

## **Torpor**

When Chris Kraus, an unsuccessful artist pushing 40, spends an evening with a rogue academic named Dick, she falls madly and inexplicably in love, enlisting her husband in her haunted pursuit. Dick proposes a kind of game between them, but when he fails to answer their letters Chris continues alone, transforming an adolescent infatuation into a new form of philosophy. Blurring the lines of fiction, essay and memoir, Chris Kraus's novel was a literary sensation when it was first published in 1997. Widely considered to be the most important feminist novel of the past two decades, *I Love Dick* is still essential reading; as relevant, fierce and funny as ever.

## **I Love Dick**

Jobs in the media, media diversity, and identifying fake news are all explored in this unique look at the role of the media in our lives. A handy timeline makes it easy to track historical change and important innovations in media.

## **Media and the News**

Nineteen compelling and varied short stories by writers born or living in Wales. With widely differing approaches to form and style, this is a confident selection of superb new stories from up-and-coming, established, and award-winning writers.

## **New Welsh Short Stories**

Examining how war has positively changed our society, a renowned historian and archaeologist tells the riveting story of 15,000 years of war, going beyond the battles and brutality to reveal what war has really done to and for the world. 50,000 first printing.

## **War! What Is It Good For?**

From the day Cobb and Mary meet kayaking on Maine's Allagash River and fall deeply in love, the two approach life with the same sense of adventure they use to conquer the river's treacherous rapids. But rivers do not let go so easily...and neither does their love. So when Mary's life takes the cruelest turn, she vows to face those rough waters on her own terms and asks Cobb to promise, when the time comes, to help her return to their beloved river for one final journey. Set against the rugged wilderness of Maine, the exotic islands of Indonesia, the sweeping panoramas of Yellowstone National Park, and the tranquil villages of rural New England, *Eternal on the Water* is at once heartbreaking and uplifting -- a timeless, beautifully rendered story of true love's power.

## **Eternal on the Water**

A debut novella that explores identity and childhood in a politically charged city. In her debut novella, Daribha Lyndem gently lifts the curtain on the coming of age of a young Khasi woman and the politically charged city of Shillong in which she lives. Like the beloved school game from which it takes its name, the story meanders through ages, lives, and places. The interconnected stories build on each other to cover the breadth of childhood and move into the precarious awareness of adulthood. The book's child narrator grows up navigating issues of race, social class, and gender in the city, using innocent eyes to see the world afresh. A shining debut, *Name Place Animal Thing* is an elegant examination of the porous boundaries between the adult world and that of a child. It has been shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature 2021, one of India's most valuable literature prizes.

## **Name Place Animal Thing**

Baudrillard meets Breaking Bad in this stark and bleakly hilarious novel about a descent into an underclass world of born-again Christianity, self-help, and crack. “In his journal, Paul liked to make lists: What he ordered from Commissary (shaving cream, toothpaste, deodorant, the transistor radio he had for a week before the guards took it away). The books he picked off the cart (The Bible, Dean Koontz, Stephen King, Codependent No More.) What phone calls he made and received; also, Bible Study certificates, letters and cards, his workout routines and his moods (Anxious, Nervous, Trusting in God, but mostly Depressed). Paul has a record of every push-up he did while he was in prison but he cannot remember shit about what happened before his arrest.” —from *Summer of Hate* Waking up from the chilling high of a near-death sex game, Catt Dunlop travels to Albuquerque in 2005 to reinvest some windfall real-estate gains and reengage with something approximating “real life.” Aware that the critical discourse she has used to build her career as a visiting professor and art critic is really a cipher for something else, she hopes that buying and fixing slum buildings will bring her more closely in touch with American life than the essays she writes. In Albuquerque, she becomes romantically involved with Paul Garcia, a recently sober ex-con who has just served sixteen months in state prison for defrauding Halliburton Industries, his former employer, of \$873. Almost forty years old, Paul is highly intelligent but has only been out of New Mexico twice. He has no information. With Catt's help, he makes plans to attend UCLA, only to be arrested on a ten-year-old bench warrant en route. Caught in the nightmarish Byzantine world of the legal system, Catt and Paul's empathic attempts to save each other's lives seems doomed to dissolve. *Summer of Hate* is a novel about flawed reciprocity and American justice, recording recent events through the prism of a beleaguered romance. As lucid and trenchant as ever, Kraus in her newest novel reminds us that the writer can be a first responder of sorts when power becomes invisible, or merely banal.

## **Summer of Hate**

Just after dawn, Caren walks the grounds of Belle Vie, the historic plantation house in Louisiana that she has managed for the past four years. Today she sees nothing unusual, apart from some ground that has been dug up by the fence bordering the sugar cane fields. Assuming an animal has been out after dark, she asks the gardener to tidy it up. Not long afterwards, he calls her to say it's something else. Something terrible. At a distance, Caren missed her. The body, the dirt and the blood. Now she has police on site, an investigation in progress, and a member of staff no one can track down. And Caren keeps uncovering things she will wish she didn't know. As she's drawn into the dead woman's story, she makes shattering discoveries about the plantation's past, its future, and a killer who may be a lot closer than she thinks ...A magnificent, sweeping story of the south, *The Cutting Season* brings history face-to-face with modern America. Attica Locke once again provides an unblinking commentary on politics, race, the law, family and love, all within a thriller every bit as gripping and tragic as her first novel, *Black Water Rising*.

## **The Cutting Season**

From acclaimed science author Jim Baggot, a lively, provocative, and “intellectually gratifying” critique of modern theoretical physics (*The Economist*). Where does one draw the line between solid science and fairy-tale physics? Jim Baggott argues that there is no observational or experimental evidence for many of the ideas of modern theoretical physics: super-symmetric particles, super strings, the multiverse, the holographic principle, or the anthropic cosmological principle. Unafraid to challenge prominent theorists, Baggott offers engaging portraits of many central figures of modern physics, including Stephen Hawking, Paul Davies, John D. Barrow, Brian Greene, and Leonard Susskind. Informed, comprehensive, and balanced, *Farewell to Reality* discusses the latest ideas about the nature of physical reality while clearly distinguishing between fact and fantasy, providing essential and entertaining reading for everyone interested in what we know and don't know about the nature of the universe and reality itself.



## Farewell to Reality

Sixteen-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life. However, his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a strange and disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching ... and murder.

## Sawbones

This is a collage presentation of south Asian feminist novelist Sarojini Sahoo's novel *The Dark Abode* and American poet painter Ed Baker's sketch book *Uma*. It is the English translation of Sahoo's much-acclaimed Oriya novel, *Gambhiri Ghara*, which was first published in a magazine in 2005. The same year, it also appeared in book form and proved to be a best seller. A Bengali translation has also been published from Bangladesh as *Mithya Gerosthali* by Anupam Prakashani Dhaka, and has gained a great response from Bengali readers. The novel deals with the terrorism that people often face from the micro to the macro sphere. It begins with questioning the mere physicality of the man-woman relationship and then transports the reader into the higher planes of platonic love. Kuki, the central character of the novel, is a Hindu woman from India who falls (and then rises) in love with a Muslim artist from Pakistan. The unusualness of the socio-cultural background of these two characters is portrayed by Sahoo in a sensitive and convincing manner. The reader becomes familiar with two sets of roles that Kuki plays; that of a lover and that of a wife. She subtly balances these two roles and at the same time, highlights the superiority of a wife in a pragmatic world. But the novel is not merely a love story. Though love is a part of the novel, it deals with a much broader topic: the providence of a woman in India. At the same time, it also portrays a story of how a perverted man, over time, becomes a perfect man. It also delves into the relationship between the "state" and the "individual" and comes to the conclusion that "the state" represents the moods and wishes of a ruler and hence, "the state" actually becomes a form of "an individual." Additionally, it takes a broader look at terrorism and state-sponsored anarchism. *The Dark Abode* is as powerful as any of Sarojini Sahoo's most popular creations. Like in all her other masterpieces, this novel will not betray her characteristic of being a feminist writer and is sure to peak the interests of both new and old readers alike. Ed Baker tries to paint *Uma*, the Hindu goddess, also known for feminine power. It is said in the *SAIMDARUA LAHIRI* that she is the source of all power in the universe and because of her; Lord Shiva gets all of his powers. She is often depicted as half of Lord Shiva: the supreme God and also a major symbol of female sexuality.

## The Dark Abode

Perfect for fans of Mark Haddon, David Almond and Jacqueline Wilson How do you begin to tell your story when you can't speak? Ethan lives on the canal. He likes it there. He can go to the pond and catch newts and minnows. He can learn everything he needs to know from books and from his mum. No one there laughs at him because he doesn't talk. Ethan can't remember exactly when he stopped talking or why. It is only when he meets Polly, a girl who has recently moved to the canal, that he begins to wish things were different.

## Ethan's Voice

Set in the cities and islands of the Mediterranean, and linked thematically, the eight stories in *The Foxes Come At Night* read more like a novel, a meditation on memory, life and death. Their protagonists collect and reconstruct fragments of lives lived intensely, and now lost, crystallized in memory or in the detail of a photograph. In 'Paula', the narrator evokes the mysterious, brief life of a woman he once loved; in 'Paula II', the same woman is aware of the man thinking of her. No longer a body, she is slowly fading into the distance, remembering the time they spent together, and his fear of the black night when the foxes appear. And yet the tone of these stories is far from pessimistic: it seems that death is nothing to be afraid of. Nooteboom is a superb stylist who observes the world with a combination of melancholy and astonishment.

These stories are textured with humour, pathos and vast knowledge, the hallmarks of this outstanding and highly respected European writer.

## **The Foxes Come at Night**

‘In times like these, truth is perhaps the only justice we can have, the only vengeance we can wreak.’ Blood drips from the pellet-stricken eyes of young Kashmiri men as Oubaid watches insurgency and violence rip through the streets of his homeland. A voice in his head tells him he knows who brought this plague upon them. But acknowledging it would mean that he must relive the horrors that have been inflicted on those he loves... Yet the voice will not leave Oubaid alone, and as he reluctantly confronts his past, there emerge four echoes of a story, narrated by four childhood friends – a youth caught in conflict, the daughter of a social climber, the son of a moneyed landlord and a militant. As their tales diverge and coalesce, they unravel a truth that is not always the sum of its parts – one that reveals the full tragedy of a people buffeted by circumstance and desperately seeking salvation. A taut, searing reflection of our times, *The Plague upon Us* announces the arrival of an arresting new voice in contemporary fiction.

## **The Plague Upon Us**

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