

*The*

A MONTHLY LITERARY E-MAGAZINE

# Literary Mirror

A Venture of LITERIA INSIGHT

**Cover Story**  
Sabarna Roy

**Featured**  
Priyanka Das

**Interview**  
Anandajit Goswami

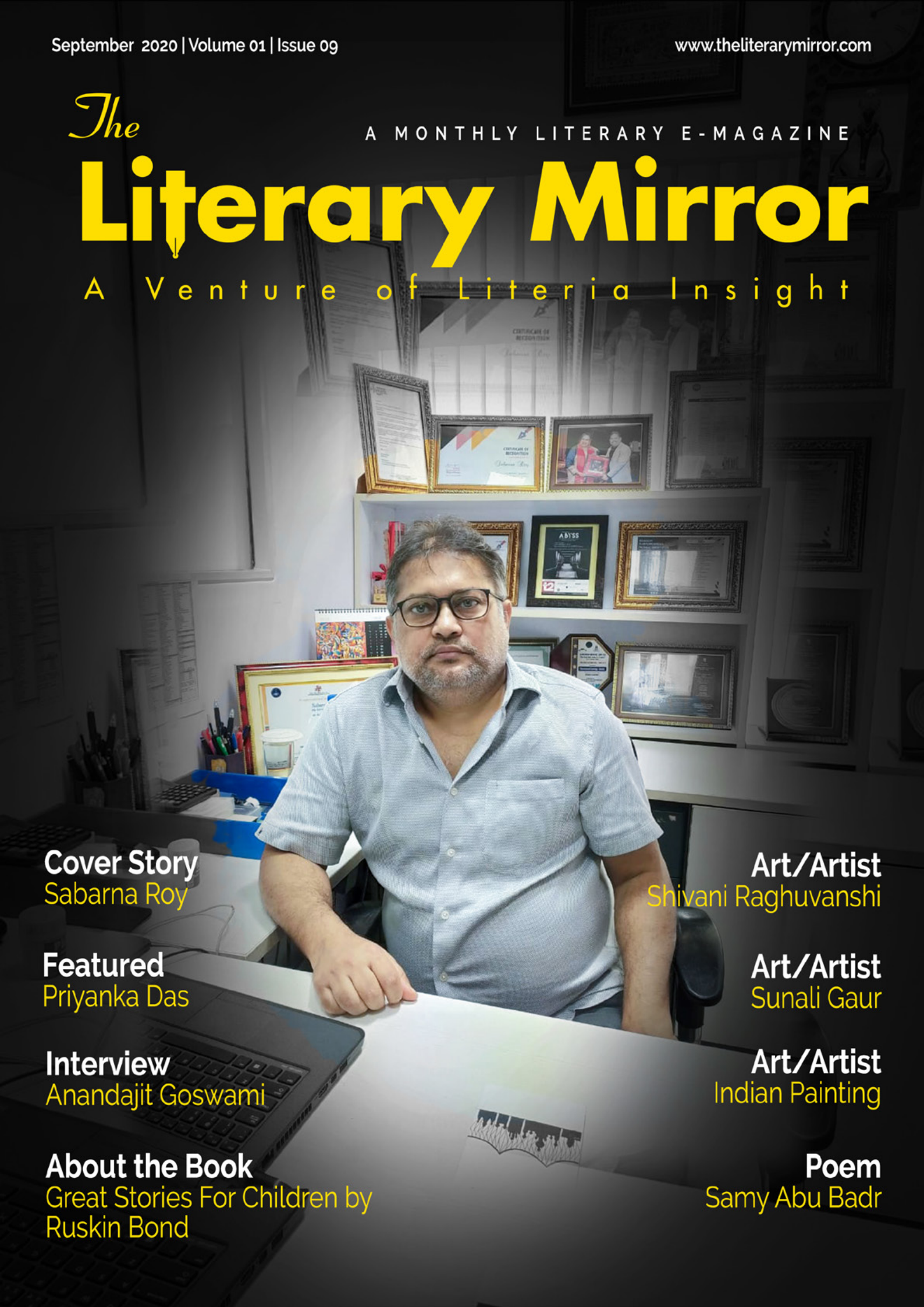
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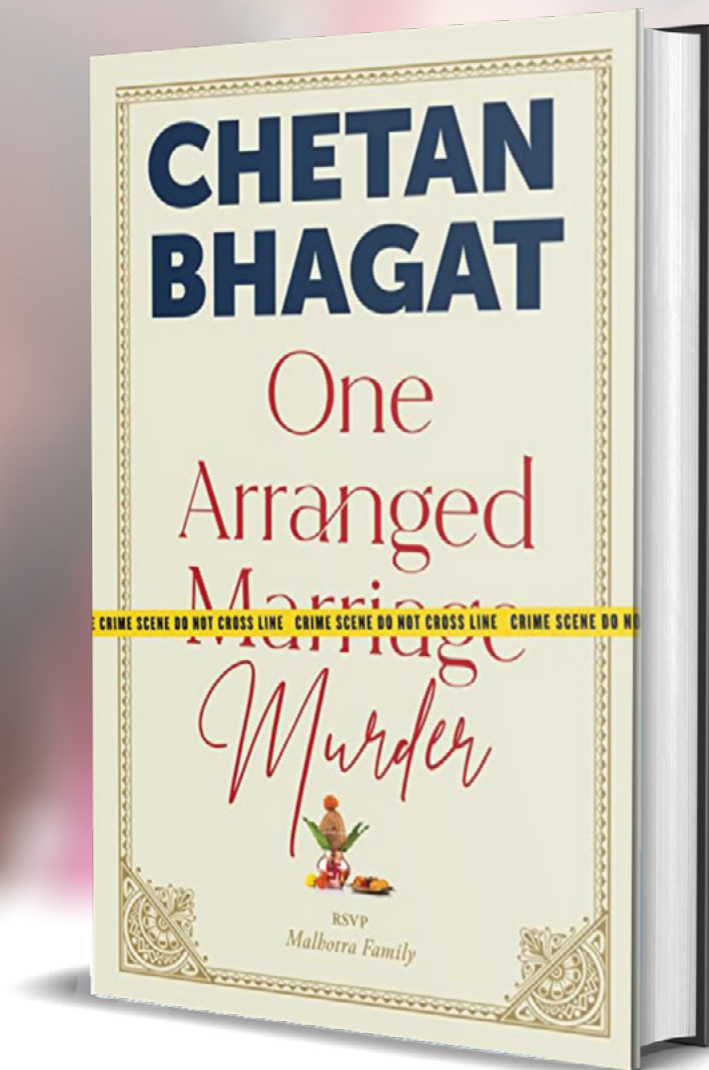
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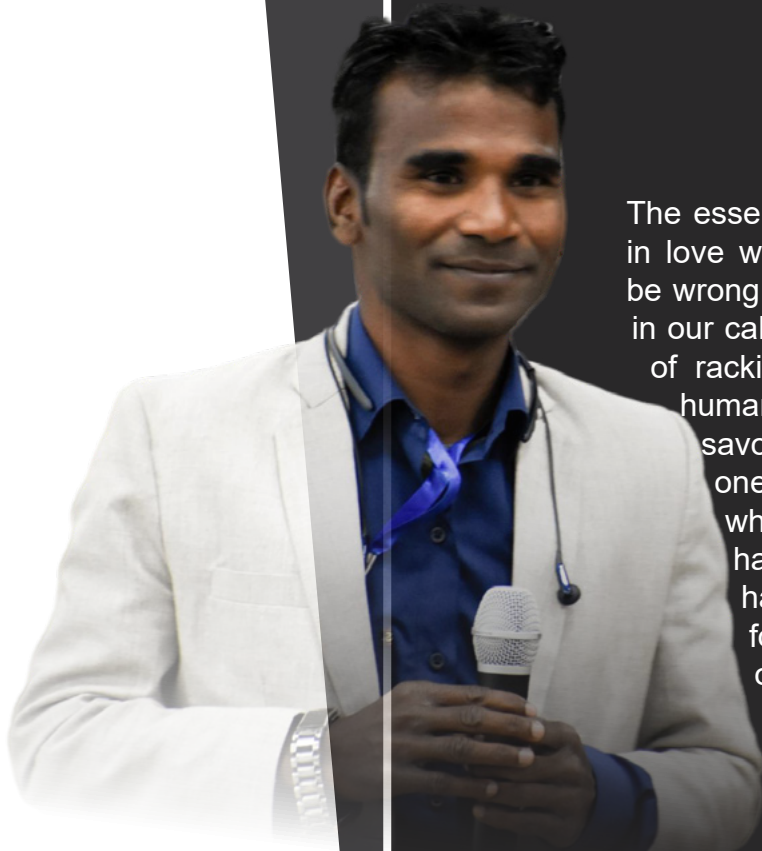
# ONE ARRANGED MURDER

*Chetan Bhagat*

Welcome to One Arranged Murder, an unputdownable thriller from India's highest-selling author. A story about love, friendship, family and crime, it will keep you entertained and hooked right till the end.

Available on   

From the  
**EDITOR'S  
DESK**



The essence of a book lies till the time we are in love with that book. Otherwise it would not be wrong to say that it just lies like a slush pile in our cabinet which used to have the privilege of racking up the best brains of the entire humanity. Indeed! The books are meant to savour and inculcate the knowledge by one of the most knowledgeable mortals who walked on earth. But sadly the books have been losing their true meaning and have got different connotations in the form of adding a line in your already overcrowded CV or just a method to show off your intellect in your so-called high society which is already scarce of humanity.

Today when the whole world is reeling under the insensitivity of emotions and fragile relations, we need to once again heed ourselves to books which have the potential to be magical panacea. The Literary Mirror presents its September Issue with a hope of maintaining the serenity of the books.

**Nitish Raj**  
**Editor-in-Chief**



*The*  
**Literary Mirror**  
A Venture of LITERIA INSIGHT

## Management

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# FEATURED

"LIFE WILL SWING YOU UP AND DOWN  
BUT STICK TO IT AND NEVER QUIT"

– says the budding author Priyanka Das

Writing has always been an enchanting journey and without a shred of doubt, gives us a vibe of solemn serenity. And that holds true for the budding author, Priyanka Das. Ms. Das who is a teacher by profession has completed her Masters in HR from **Assam University**, Silchar. Her hectic work schedule and an upbringing in a middle class didn't deter her dreams to be an author. Being an early bloomer, Ms. Das is a firm believer of the fact that writing helps us to portray those emotions which gets unnoticed in the wake of elaboration.

Even though she has been maintaining a diary for her thoughts, she hit the jackpot in 2019 when she got her credentials as a published author as she co-authored, **'Zeal'**. As one brings two, she has been a part of more than 15 anthologies which includes masterpieces like **You Are Exceptional, Gender Is Just A Tag, Lockdown Experiences** apart from others. She has been practising her writing crafts with various writing platforms and also performing in various open mic sessions. A firm believer in residing in the present Ms. Das is an author to look for in the coming times.



**Priyanka Das**  
Author, India



# INTERVIEW

## Chit-Chat with Indian Author Anandajit Goswami



**Anandajit Goswami**  
Author, India

### Q.1 How has been your journey from an academician to a bestselling author?

Answer: It has been a journey like when I would look unto the stars and moon at night as a child and would imagine myself as sitting on a place which was cloistered with a dark blanket with a small hole in it. So if being an academician (if I am at all an academician which I am not I guess as I am constantly doubtful of my various existences) was that cloistering, the burning star and the moon at night during my childhood has been like a best selling author for me.

### Q.2 You have been a person with multiple attributes ranging from a faculty to a musician. How had it influenced your writing?

Answer: Yes. All my identities are always in an existential turmoil and they are constantly acting as a centripetal and centrifugal fuel of fire to give birth to words and sentences which are always imperfect and incomplete in form and nature.

### Q.3 You have dared to write on social taboos like transgenders. Why still authors in our country take a safer route when it comes to selecting the theme?

Answer: I really can't comment on others as I have not done or achieved anything to comment on others. Every one writes from their perspectives and every perspective has value and importance. It is just that a society has to be malleable, flu-

id, contextualised, reflexive to accommodate, see through all values and assign their places with no extrinsic comparability. Comparison is a big enemy of value creation and that should stop. With time, routes change and are bound to change but to give a judgement on a route will mean that I am actually creating an oxymoron to the act which I dared for.

### Q.4 You are one of the selected authors in the country to write in Dystopia genre. Why still we are not able to find it as a popular genre in our country?

Answer: So the question is why and when does a dystopia genre writing happen. The answer to this question is much deeper and anchored to the sociological, cultural, political, anthropological, religious, economical, political and commercial interests of a society and a world which is constantly changing. If you read a book called - "History of Science Fiction" by Adam Roberts you will get some answers to the question you are asking. But there are no complete answers to this question. For a country like India it is far more complex, because the more are the social layers, greater is the maze of sociological, cultural, political, anthropological, religious, economical, political and commercial interests of a society and more difficult it is to answer. At any point of time in the past, present and future, all such factors will play a role towards the degree of creation of dystopic genre of work in India. However, I feel that the future of dystopia will someday will have to be of "Afrofuturism".



### Q.5 Is the concept of Dystopian World applicable in practical world or is it just a literary genre?

Answer: Let me answer this with a counter question - "Is Coronavirus pandemic a dystopia?"

If you asked this question in 1980 to anyone who does not know of Spanish Flu during the World War I in which even Mahatma Gandhi was impacted, to that person, the answer will be in 1980 - "Yes Coronavirus pandemic is a dystopia and not applicable in a practical world and only a possibility of literary genre" ..

But history has shown us in numerous events and cases that there is often a thin thread line between dystopia, practicality and just a literary genre.

History is a continuum with no beginning and end and no biases of practicality and impracticality showing the thin lines between dystopia, reality and practicality.

### Q.6 What are your upcoming books and other projects?

Answer: Lucy 3 after Lucy 1 (Lucy and The Train Tryst with Sustainability), Lucy 2 (Lucy Meets Artificial Intelligence co-authored with Debashis Chakraborty). In Lucy 3, I am co-authoring with Dr. Debashis Chakraborty. I am grateful to the agency - "The Book Bakers" for showing constant faith in my manuscripts and in my ideas.

The other novel/nonfiction/fiction book (the genre is a mix of all 3 identities) in which I am working on is dealing with issues of - "Identity, Culture, Violence, Patriotism and Nationalism."

### Q.7 What would be your suggestion to the aspiring authors?

Answer: Just read and write everyday. Try to be monstrously brutal to yourself and to this discipline of reading, writing everyday even if it just means reading a few chapters and just writing 200 pure, raw honest words. While you do this, it will be good to be completely off from the world of the internet, connectivity for sometime.



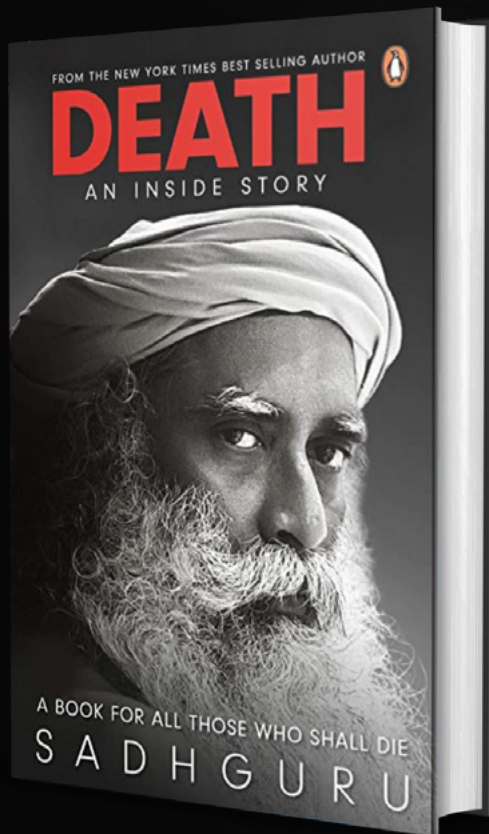
Book : Pink Gender: The Extended



**F**EATURED

## About the Book

# DEATH : AN INSIDE STORY - SADHGURU



**Book:** Death; An Inside Story: A book for all those who shall die

**Author:** Sadhguru

**Publisher:** Penguin Ananda

**Price:** INR 269 (Paperback)

**Pages:** 376

**D**eath is a taboo in most societies in the world. But what if we have got this completely wrong? What if death was not the catastrophe it is made out to be but an essential aspect of life, rife with spiritual possibilities for transcendence? For the first time, someone is saying just that.

In this unique treatise-like exposition, Sadhguru dwells extensively upon his inner experience as he expounds on the more profound aspects of death that are rarely spoken about. From a practical standpoint, he elaborates on what preparations one can make for one's death, how best we can assist someone who is dying and how we can continue to support their journey even after death.

Whether a believer or not, a devotee or an agnostic, an accomplished seeker or a simpleton, this is truly a book for all those who shall die!



**Sadhguru**  
Author, India



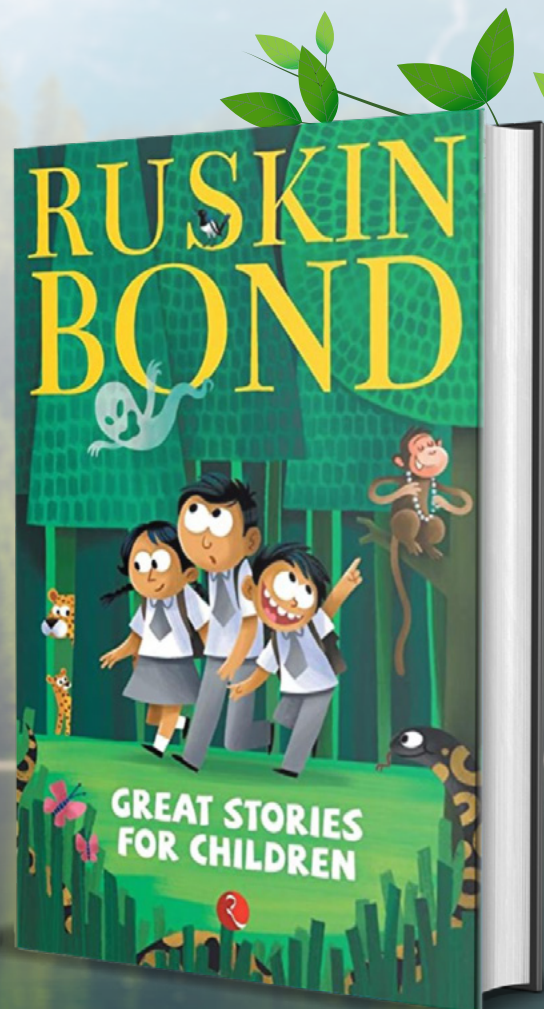
## About the Book

# Great Stories for Children

- Ruskin Bond

**G**reat Stories for Children is a collection of some of Ruskin Bond's most delightful children's stories. It stars Toto, the monkey, who takes a fancy to the narrator's aunt, much to her dismay, a python besotted by his own appearance, a mischievous ghost who enjoys stirring up the house when things get dull, three young children stranded in a storm on the Haunted Hilland Ruskin Bond himself, who happens to make the acquaintance of a ghost at a resort late one night.

Book: Great Stories for Children  
Author: Ruskin Bond  
Publisher: Rupa Publications  
Price: INR 165  
Pages: 200  
Customer Reviews: 4.5/5





## The Ruins Of Aurangabad Gates, reminiscing year old tales -Sheeba Vinay

**A** Mughal prince who later would rule as the sixth Mughal emperor, when appointed as the viceroy of Deccan, Maharashtra, no one fathom that history of the land is going to be written in red, the 52 gates of Aurangabad would witness the bloodshed!

Of late, when I visited Aurangabad, I was keen to visit the 52 gates that I heard a lot about rather than the usual Bibi ka Maqbara and Panchakki, which I had already visited before. Bibi ka Maqbara a replica of the Taj Mahal and Panchakki are major attractions of the city. Indeed! The gates of Aurangabad have a different story altogether.

Back in 1653, when Aurangzeb arrived at Khaḍki, the land was potent and thriving. In no time, the prince shifted his military base to Khaḍki and renamed the city, Aurangabad as expected. On the other side of the land, relatively young ruler Sambhaji Bhosale remained an integral threat to the new military base and Aurangzeb's regime.

It was then he decided to raise giant fortification walls surrounding the land to prevent enemy's incursion. Four main gates were erected with poignant architectural designs inspired by Islamic stature. The Delhi gate, Jalna gate, Paithan Gate, and Mecca gate, but the biggest of all is the Bhadkal Gate. The Bhadkal gate however was constructed way back even before Aurangzeb landed on this land. Bhadkal gate has the history of standing witnessed to the fall of Mughal before Aurangzeb's arrival. Aptly it is also called the victory gate! Along with these gates, major numerously significant big and small gates, were pierced in the wall over the years. A total of 52 gates!

Nevertheless, the tall walls and impetus gates could not shackle Sambhaji's ambition to overthrow the rule of Mughals from Maharashtra bhoomi. He struck with a vengeance at every possible opportunity. But the young ruler was undignifiedly captured and brutalized to death which, later history quoted as " the cruelest execution of all time". It was known that people gathered his body parts, sewed together for his last rites.

My trip to take a glimpse of Aurangabad Gates did not end well as I had imagined. I was flabbergasted to know that only 13 gates are standing intact for now. Rest have either succumbed to the harsh weather due to prolonged years or became victim to the wrath of religious intolerance. As of now, the rulers have changed, new leaders emerged. When some of the leaders relentlessly suggested renaming Aurangabad to Sambhaji Nagar, the history remains silent and the enduring gates that witnessed the bloodshed ordeal are standing still, waiting for the fate to kick in.



**Sheeba Vinay**  
Author, India

# BOOK REVIEW: ' ESSENTIAL IRRATIONALITY BY M.A. ALAM '

**E**ssential Irrationality by MA Alam was recently brought out by Blue Rose Publishers. This book discusses how irrationalities affect our lives, and how to cope with them. Irrationalities in our behaviour have been observed to be essential aspects of human nature.

Most of the irrationalities have their origin in the adaptive strategies developed by millions of years of evolution to cope with the harsh environmental conditions of the ancient past of humans.

Consequently, people developed quick response systems to meet successfully the challenges of their ancestral environment. They were essential for human survival, but a few have now become redundant in the modern conditions, and are looked down as ridiculous biases. Some irrationalities have actually been found to be essential and beneficial for the well being and growth of the species.

During the last few thousand years of human development, people additionally acquired a large number of belief systems, superstitions and faiths. Some of these beliefs are not quite rational and reasonable. They mould the human personality by affecting opinions, decisions, actions and behaviours. According to author, "When you hold beliefs without ascertaining their validity, you start losing your ability to doubt and question your beliefs. Fortunately, along with these developments we also created a reservoir of verifiable knowledge by using rational methods during last few hundred years of our existence. We have a responsibility to familiarise ourselves with these techniques to avoid pitfalls of assuming all beliefs to be true." This book is currently available at Amazon bookstore.

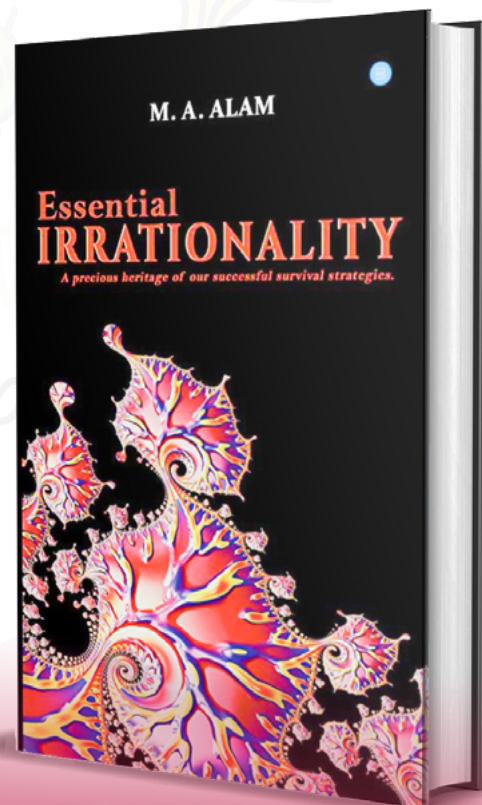
**Book:** Essential Irrationality

**Author:** M.A. Alam

**Publisher:** Blue Rose Publishers

**Price:** INR 350

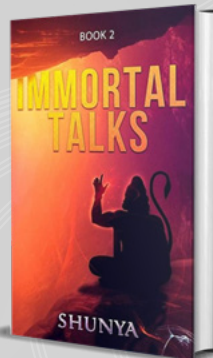
**Pages:** 277



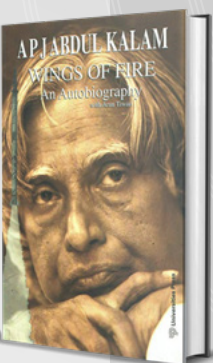
# books of the month



**Book:** Soul Selfie  
**Author:** Sadguru Rameshji  
**Publisher:** Fingerprint Publishing  
**Price:** INR 219  
**Pages:** 232  
**Language:** English



**Book:** Immortal Talks  
**Author:** Shunya  
**Publisher:** Seer Books  
**Price:** INR 250  
**Pages:** 158  
**Language:** English



**Book:** Wings of Fire: An Autobiography of Abdul Kalam  
**Author:** Arun Tiwari And A.P.J. Abdul Kalam  
**Publisher:** Universities Press  
**Price:** INR 200  
**Pages:** 180  
**Language:** English



**Book:** The Journey of Unexplored Love: Second Chance of Falling in Love for the First Time  
**Author:** Shalu Thakur  
**Publisher:** Notion Press  
**Price:** INR 199  
**Pages:** 174

Meet the Indian best-selling Author

# Sabarna Roy

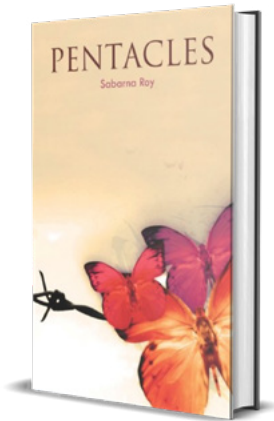
**S**abarna Roy is a trained Civil Engineer and passed out with a First Class Honours Civil Engineering Degree from Jadavpur University in 1988. He is presently working as Senior Vice President and is in the 25th year of his employment with Electrosteel Group. Sabarna Roy is engaged in giving leadership to Business Development, Application Technology and certain key Strategies in the Electrosteel Group. He has a technical book, titled: Articles on Ductile Iron Pipelines and Framework Agreement Contracting Methodology published by Scholars' Press in European Union with two of his Co-authors, which have been translated into 8 major European languages. He has been visiting national and international conferences to talk on various matters concerning ecology and environment. He is a firm believer in Paris Climate Accord and believes in lowering the Carbon Footprint in the industry to reverse the climate change effects on the planet. He is an active participant in the multifarious activities of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, and Confederation of Indian Industries. Sabarna Roy is an author of literary fiction of six published books. They are: Pentacles; Frosted Glass; Abyss; Winter Poems; Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012–2018, and Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020. All his five earlier books have been critically acclaimed best-sellers and presently, Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020 is Bestseller#1 on Amazon. He has been covered by all prestigious national media including Forbes India and he is on Wikipedia.



He was an invited speaker on the opening day at the Noida International Literary Festival 2019 and a panelist at the Tata Steel Literary Meet on the opening day at a session, which discussed the Dark Side of the Mind. He has been awarded the Literoma Laureate Award in 2019, Literoma Star Achiever Award 2020 and Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 – 2018 won the best book of the year 2019 from SALISMANIA.com.



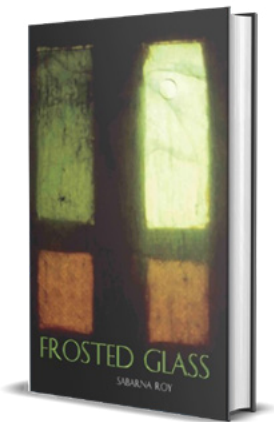
## **SABARNA ROY'S PUBLICATIONS**



### **Pentacles by Frog Books Publication**

Pentacles comprises one long story and four short poems by Sabarna Roy. The work delightfully bridges the gap between the mundane and arcane writings of today and provides an interesting, yet intellectually stimulating, treat for the discerning reader.

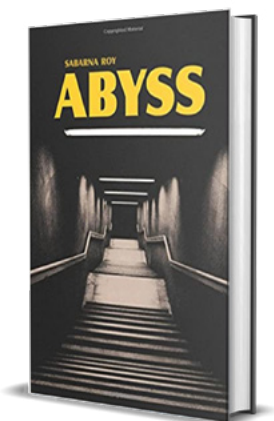
New Life is a long story written from the perspective of a successful adult whose mother had deserted the family for another man. The teenage angst and the scars it has left behind on the psyche of the protagonist are subtly reflected in the character. The different elements and characters of the story are beautifully interwoven to produce an intense and compelling story of an adult haunted by the trauma of being deserted by his mother. The work is interspersed with thought-provoking views on issues like love and socio-economic conditions in India.



### **Frosted Glass by Frog Books Publication**

Frosted Glass comprises one story cycle consisting of 14 stories and one poem cycle consisting of 21 poems.

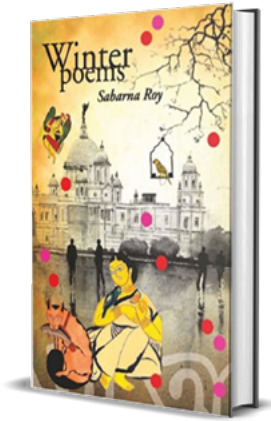
The stories, set in Calcutta, bring to the fore the darkness lurking in the human psyche and bare the baser instincts. The stories, compactly written and marked by insightful dialogues that raise contemporary issues like man-woman relationships and its strains, morals and ethics, environmental degradation, class inequality, rapid and mass-scale unmindful urbanization, are devoid of sentimentalisation. The result is they remain focused and move around the central character who is named Rahul in all the stories. We encounter the events that shape, mar, guide Rahul's life and also the lives of those around him, making us question the very essence of existence. Rahul symbolizes modern man; he is not just one character, but all of us rolled into one. The story cycle stands out for two reasons – its brilliant narrative and the dispassionate style with which betrayal in personal relationships and resultant loneliness has been handled.



### **ABYSS by Frog Books Publication**

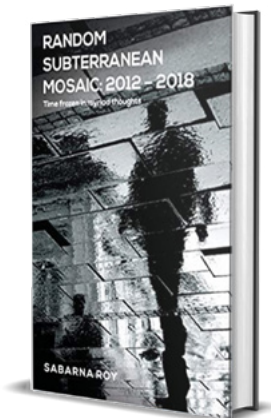
Abys is a full length play in two acts with an interval in between. It is essentially a racy crime thriller full of gritty suspense. Act one builds up slowly to result in a crescendo of conflicts between personalities and ideas finally to end with an unnatural death before the interval. Is it a suicide or a murder? Act two evolves through a series of incisive interrogations to unravel the truth, which is deeply disturbing and affecting. As the play unfolds into a very well-crafted situational thriller, underneath is the debate about using land for agriculture or for industry, the ethics of a working author and the nexus of a modern state all wonderfully enmeshed into its storyline and the personal lives of its subtly etched out characters. The highpoints of the play are its central conflict between a mother and her daughter and its female sleuth – Renuka.

## Winter Poems by Leadstart Publishing



The poems contained in this collection, *Winter Poems*, by Sabarna Roy were inspired by the relatively mild season that prevails in Kolkata following the season of festivities, the Durga and Kali Puja, and portray myriad shades of human life. Some of them deal with the imaginations of death and home while still others the idea of loss and coming to terms with gradual wasting of life. Many aspects of human life and commonplace human impulses are examined and brought to life through a range of imaginations and varied metaphorical associations. The poems are sure to delight the readers and generate a whole range of emotions among them.

## Random Subterranean Mosaic 2012 – 2018 by Leadstart Publishing



Roy's *Frosted Glass* did very well in the market. His *Pentacles* and *Winter Poems*, did so well that Amazon Audible converted them into Audio books by the Australian young jazz singer, Colin Newcomer. *Abyss* was on the bestseller list at the Oxford Bookstore at the Kolkata Book Fair in 2014.

*Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012–2018* is a kaleidoscope of random, yet mysteriously structured to a pattern, fiction, semi-autobiographical, and autobiographical pieces, covering poems, short-shorts, opinions, observations, and conversations.

Roy says: "All my life I have struggled to achieve an optimal lucidity in language and expression that is required to demystify the hidden self and selves and agendas. I hope I have achieved this in a large measure in this fifth book of mine!"

## Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020 by Leadstart Publishing



*Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020* comprises a novella and a poem cycle.

The novella, in the background is a sweetly evolving dialogue between a step-father and a step-daughter, and in the foreground it is a dissection of ideas pivoted around dualism of human life by discussing literary characters like, *Lolita*, *Humbert Humbert*, *Anna Karenina*, and *Nikhilesh*; thought-leaders like *Hegel*, *Marx*, and *Heisenberg*; political phenomena like, the *Bolshevik Revolution*; *schizophrenia*, *love as an idea*, and the secret love story of *T S Eliot*; and ecological phenomena like, *marine conservation*, and all of this is done in a unique way, almost as if we are engaged in a conversation with the author, to make us realize the plurality of life and accepting it to find peace and harmony in life.

**F** ICTION

*Poem*

# "A Hymn"

Have me been for you.  
 And play me a tune  
 The morning sings it  
 Over the green Knolls.  
 Do not you know?  
 You are my heartbeat,  
 My blood remembrances,  
 And my soul uprising  
 Whatever the unseen world  
 is clear up to me.  
 And our rides are too far away  
 Eventually,  
 our memories  
 will remind you of me.  
 Without any mourn!

--- **Samy Abu Badr, Poet & Writer, Egypt**

## About the Poet



Samy Abu Badr An Egyptian poet, born on January 3rd 1975 in Kafr El-sheikh, the coastal city near Al-alexandria.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Education from AL Azhar University in Cairo 1998.

Academic teacher of Arabic Language and Literature in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He was honored by several of Arab and international Cultural and media institutions.

He Won the poetry award for the Emad Qatari Center for Creativity and cultural development in 2015.



# “TO LIVE FOR OTHERS IS LIFE”

-Sunali Gaur, Social Activist, India

**S**oul -Stirrings by Sunali is an initiative to make a Positive difference in the lives of a people, which Sunali cherishes as her biggest reward. Sunali believes in capturing real life stories about Honesty, Hope, Optimism and Initiative that need to be seen, heard and drawn inspiration from. She has been featured by “The Better India” and “She the People” two highly acclaimed digital portals. Two of her stories on this indomitable human spirit of spreading goodness, compassion and altruism were selected for the United Nations SDG Action Digital Campaign in 2017 and she also was awarded Gurugram Achievers Award 2019 for her real life positive stories.



• Sunali Gaur, Social Activist, India



Sunali Gaur, Social Activist, India

The advent of Covid-19 has been an exceptionally tough event in the lives of people, Sunali realized that a dose of positivity, a small measure of help and a simple gesture of care goes a long way in wading through these tough times and as such it is important to applaud the efforts of those individuals who were selflessly taking steps and initiative in their individual capacity to help those in need.

Appreciating people who care to make a difference in the lives of others in any which way and appreciating their effort has the power to, heal, Inspire and encourage each Individual to do their bit in overcoming this crisis.

With such thoughts Soul -Stirrings by Sunali started a video series - #LifeinthedaysofCorona ! Aimed at highlighting the efforts those individuals who despite the odds of the Pandemic were using this time to help others around them.

**Ms. Sunali Gaur**, a lawyer by education and now an educator by vocation is nurturing the minds of toddlers and runs a Play School. The innocence and purity of children has always struck a deep connect with Sunali and made her more perceptive towards the positivity and goodness around her. In a way it has been a transformational and has made her look for and spread all that is affirmative and optimistic in and around our daily lives. Encouraged by her thought and thinking Sunali strongly believed in the motto "Be The Change You Wish To See in This World ". This led to the Foundation of her Social Blog - Soul -Stirrings by Sunali. Soul -Stirrings by Sunali is a platform to put the constructive issues and strengths of the Common People in the mainstream.



# MEET SHIVANI RAGHUVANSHI

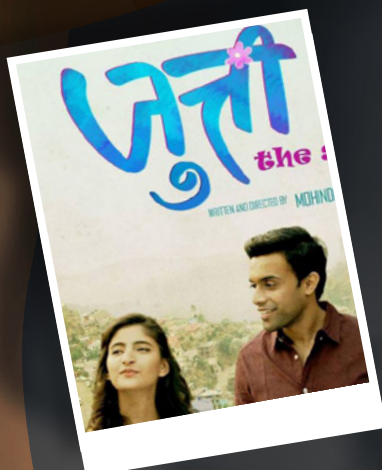


Shivani Raghuvanshi

Shivani Raghuvanshi is an Indian actress, known for playing Jaspreet Kaur in Prime Video series Made in Heaven. Her debut as a lead actor in movie Titli, produced by Yash Raj Films, earned her industry and critical acclaim. Shivani was enthused by Films after watching Hum Aapke Hain Kaun on the big screen and worked towards becoming a professional actor, and landed her first break with a Vodafone TV commercial.

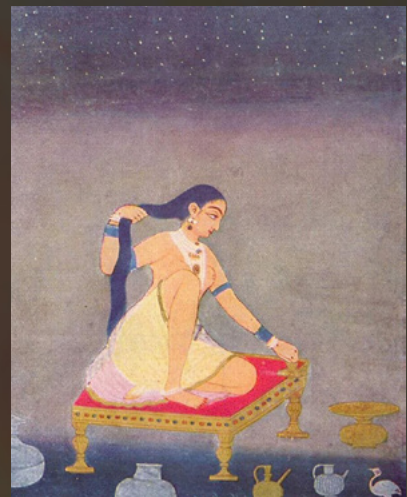
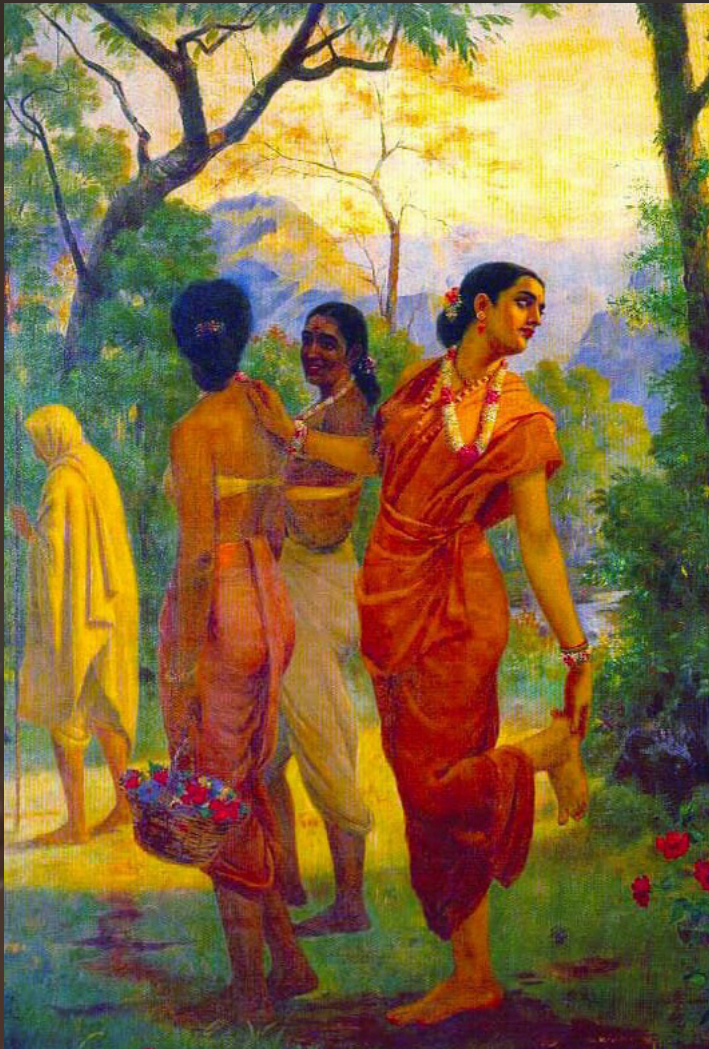


Shivani has also appeared in the short film "Jutti"



She well known for film Titli. Where she will be the lead opposite Shashank Arora. Shivani is inspired by Deepika Padukone's journey to stardom and wants to follow her footprints.

# Indian Painting



**Indian painting** has a very long tradition and history in Indian art, though because of the climatic conditions very few early examples survive. The earliest Indian paintings were the rock paintings of pre-historic times, such as the petroglyphs found in places like Bhimbetka rock shelters. Some of the Stone Age rock paintings found among the Bhimbetka rock shelters are approximately 10,000 years old.

EVENT

# The Literary Mirror Inviting Book/ Story for Web Series Adaptation



Priyanka Tiwari



Amar Shah



Cheshta Mehta



Shirsh Srivastava



Rakesh Chaturvedi



Kapil Gahuri

Gone are those days when we had limited access to make our characters alive being an author. Those characters which were a byproduct of our imagination and fantasy used to get alive in the form of dramas, street plays and some other forms. As the time progressed, these paved the way for movies. But the improvement in technology and further digitization, authors get access to something called Web Series which were not bound to a specific time frame. The content became the prime factor and more authors started to live their dreams. Being an author always brings a secret fascination to spectacle our work on to the screen. And at this juncture when literary fraternity is blessed with multiple mediums to make their story alive, The Literary Mirror has gone an extra mile. The Literary Mirror have announced a Web Series adaptation by organizing the coveted Story To Screen 2020. The coveted event is accepting Book/Story in the form of nomination.

In the words of Nitish Raj, Editor-in-Chief, The Literary Mirror; "This coveted event aims to bring the best work (Book/Story) on to screen picked up from the grassroot level". He firmly believes that this will provide the deserving authors' new avenues.

Story To Screen 2020 is graced by the presence of eminent jury members, which include the popular Tv actresses; Cheshta Mehta & Priyanka Tiwari; Bollywood actor & director, Rakesh Chaturvedi. It has also been honored by the presence of fashion director, Kapil Gauhri; the popular artist, Vishal Chaubey along with the director, Amar Sah and eminent author, Shirsh Srivastava.

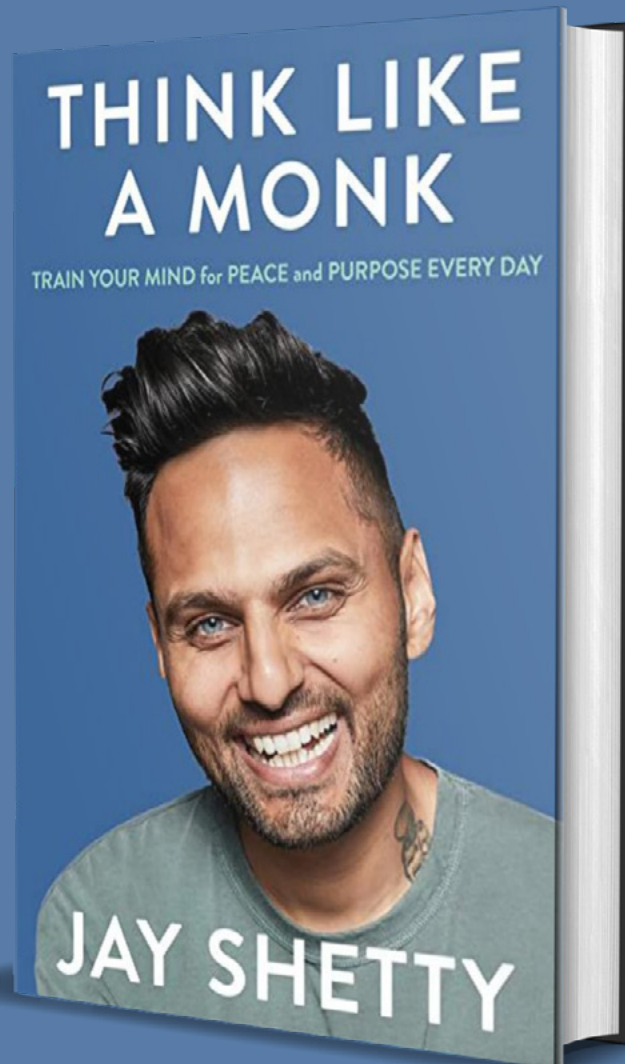
Story To Screen 2020 is inviting Book/Story for nomination where after the evaluation from esteemed jury members, the Winning Book/Story will be adapted into a Web Series.

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POSTMAN NEWS



# THINK LIKE A MONK

Jay Shetty

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