

**THURSDAY  
LEARNING HOUR**  
TOP 10 BOOKS OF  
2021

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By Sravan Mudumbi



# A Quick Chat

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Are you a reader? If yes, how many books do you read in a month?

What is your favourite book ?

Are you a fiction or a non-fiction person?

# AGENDA

What is the Booker Prize?

What it takes to get shortlisted?

Top 10 Booker Prize Shortlist & Longlist

Non-Fiction Books worth the mention

Indian Fiction in 2021

Tips to inculcate a reading habit

# The Booker Prize

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- The **Booker Prize**, formerly known as the **Booker Prize for Fiction** (1969–2001) and the **Man Booker Prize** (2002–2019), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.
- The winner of the Booker Prize receives international publicity which usually leads to a sales boost.

What it  
takes to get  
shortlisted  
for the  
coveted  
prize?

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Eligibility : Novel published in English

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Geography : UK & Ireland

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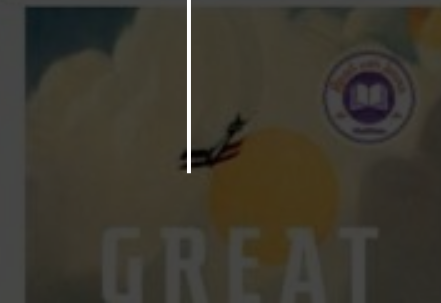
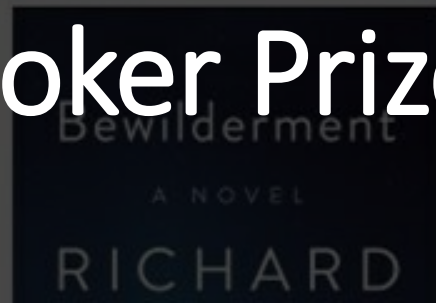
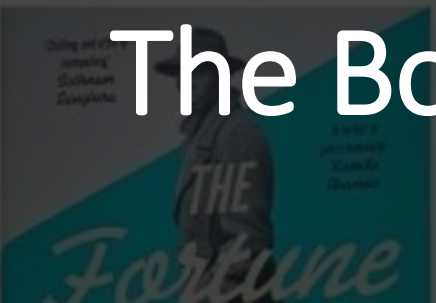
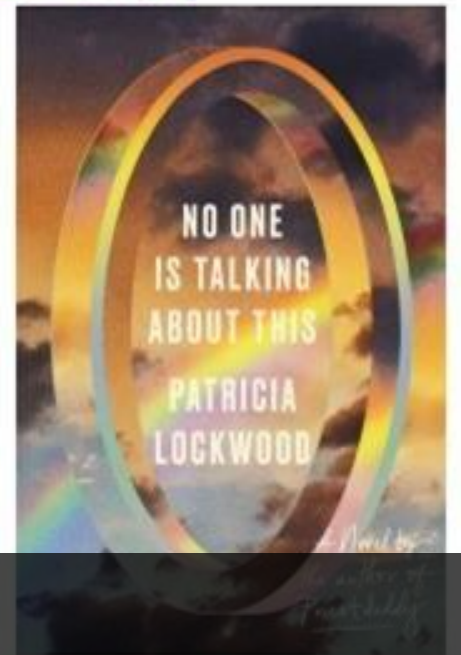
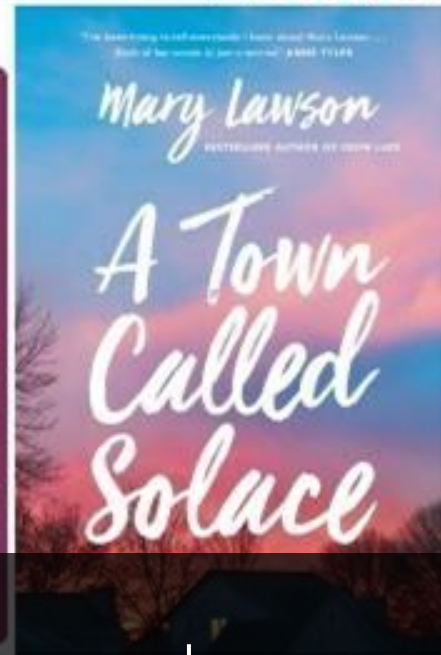
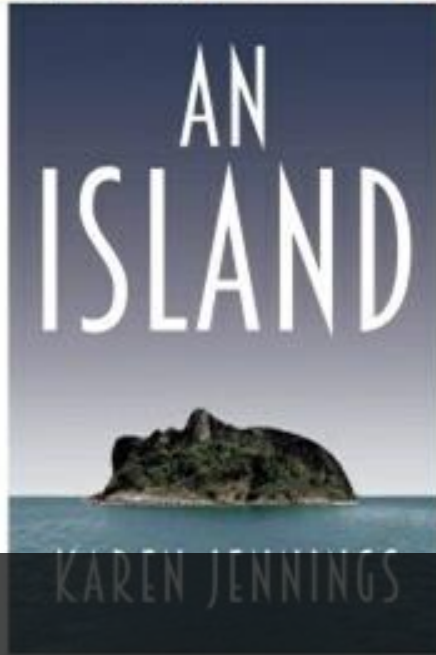
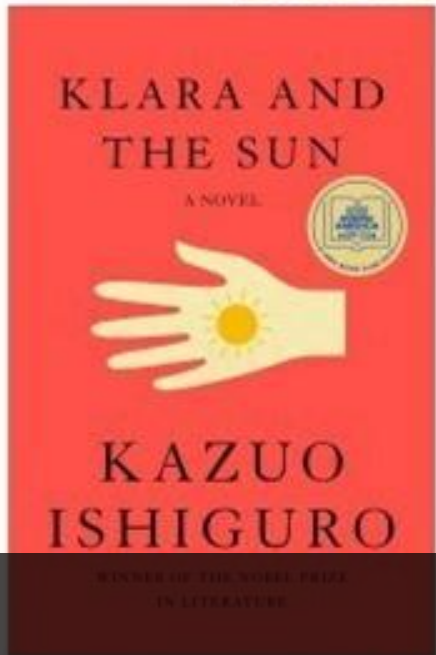
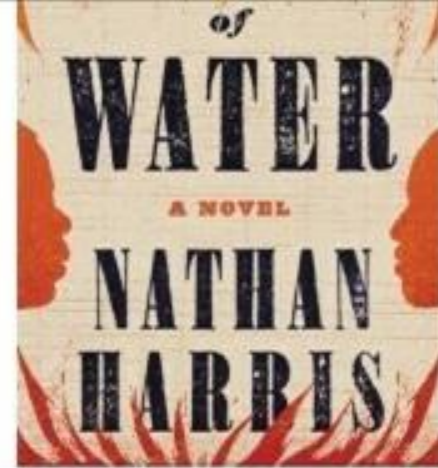
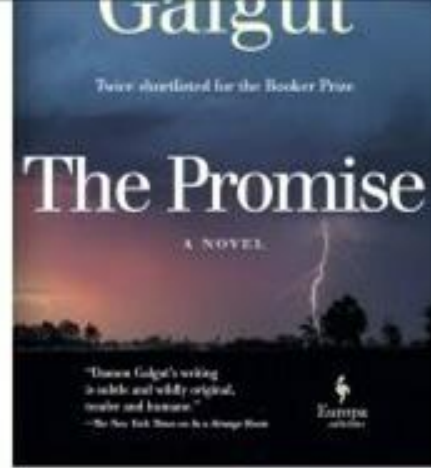
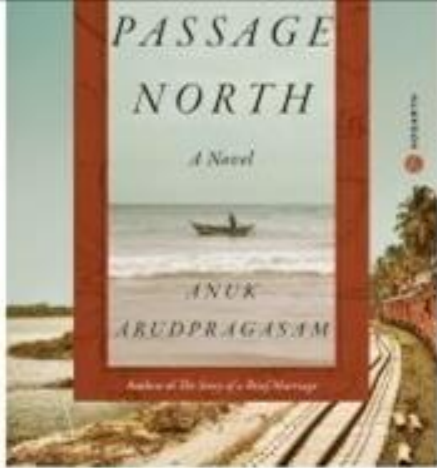
Genre : Fiction

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A seven -person panel constituted by authors, librarians, literary agents, publishers, and booksellers is appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation.

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Content & Writing style



# The Booker Prize 2021

# Shortlist

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The  
2021  
shortlist  
is as  
follows:

*A Passage North* by Anuk Arudpragasam

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*The Promise* by Damon Galgut

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*No One is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood

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*The Fortune Men* by Nadifa Mohamed

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*Bewilderment* by Richard Powers

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*Great Circle* by Maggie Shipstead

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# Longlist

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*China Room* by  
Sanjeev Sahota

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*Second Place*  
by Rachel Cusk

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*Light Perpetual*  
by Francis Spufford

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*A Town Called Solace*  
by Mary Lawson



'One of the  
world's great  
writers'  
EDMUND  
WHITE

THE  
PROMISE

DAMON GALGUT

Winner  
The  
2021  
Booker  
Prize

# The Promise by Damon Galgut



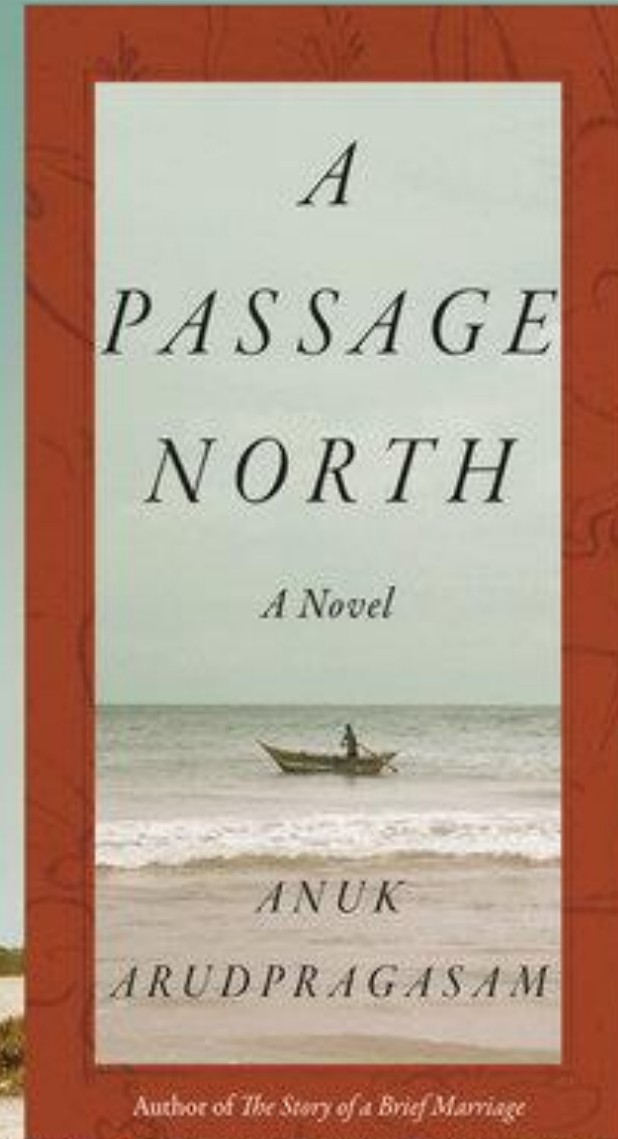
- *The Promise*, published in 2021, is South African writer Damon Galgut's eighth novel. Galgut's fiction frequently explores the complicated world of South African society and politics, particularly the legacy of apartheid.
- *The Promise* tells the story of the Swarts, a white family descended from Dutch settlers who came to South Africa in the 17th century.
- The three Swart children come of age as the country undergoes the abolition of apartheid, a system that formally segregated South Africans on the basis of race.
- Each of the novel's four parts revolves around one family member's death, tracing the Swarts' decline.
- Stylistically, *The Promise* aligns with classic works of literary modernism from the early 20th century in the tradition of William Faulkner or Virginia Woolf, thanks to its wandering, fluid point of view

# A Passage North by Anuk Arudpragasam

***'Anuk Arudpragasam's masterful novel is an attempt to come to terms with life in the wake of the devastation of Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war'***

- As Krishan makes the long journey by train from Colombo into the war-torn Northern Province to attend a family funeral, so begins an astonishing passage into the innermost reaches of a country.
- At once a powerful meditation on absence and longing, and an unsparing account of the legacy of Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war, this procession to a pyre 'at the end of the earth' lays bare the imprints of an island's past, the unattainable distances between who we are and what we seek.

"A novel of tragic power and uncommon beauty." —ANTHONY MARRA



no  
one is  
talking  
about  
this

Patricia  
Lockwood

# No One is Talking About This

by Patricia Lockwood

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*'Patricia Lockwood's sincere and delightfully profane love letter to the infinite scroll, and a meditation on love, language and human connection'*

- A social media guru travels the world, her entire existence overwhelmed by the internet or what she terms 'the portal'. 'Are we in hell?' The people of the portal ask themselves. 'Are we all just going to keep doing this until we die?'
- Two urgent texts from her mother pierce the guru's bubble. As real life collides with the absurdity of the portal, she confronts a world that seems to suggest there is goodness, empathy and justice in the universe - and a deluge of evidence to the contrary.



# The Fortune Men

## Written by Nadifa Mohamed

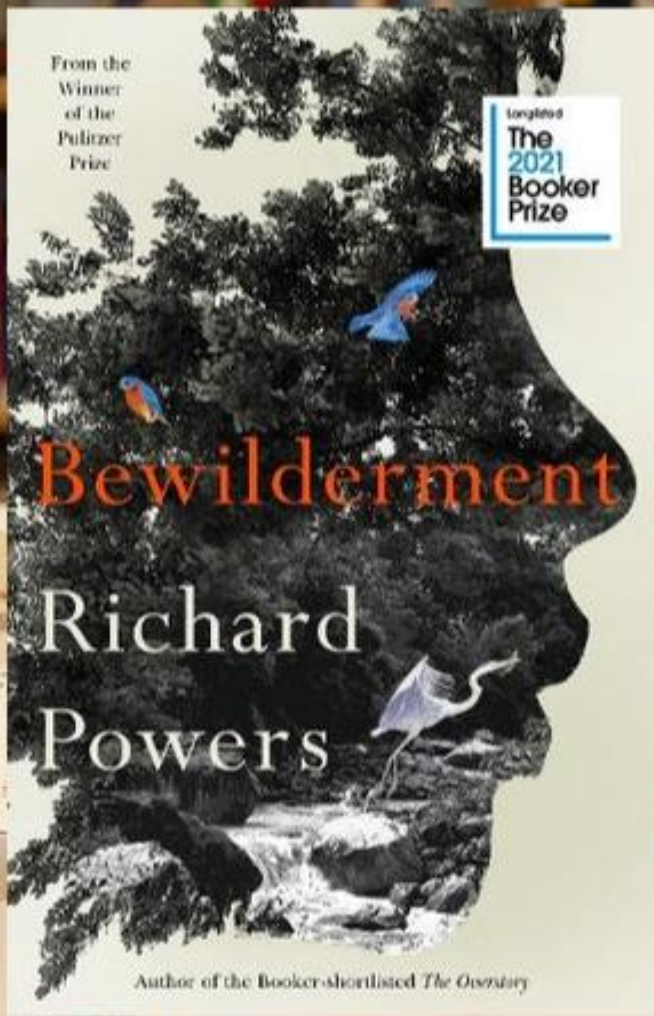
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***'Nadifa Mohamed's gripping novel about a petty criminal in Cardiff who becomes the last man to be hanged there, wrongfully convicted of murder in 1952'***

- Mahmood Mattan is a father, a chancer, a petty thief. Many things, in fact, but he is not a murderer.
- So when a shopkeeper is brutally killed and all eyes fall on him, Mahmood isn't too worried - secure in his innocence in a country where justice is served.
- But as the trial nears, it starts to dawn on him that he is in a fight for his life - against conspiracy, prejudice and the ultimate punishment. In the shadow of the hangman's noose, he realises that the truth may not be enough to save him.

# Bewilderment by Richard Powers (W. W. Norton)

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*'An astrobiologist thinks of a creative way to help his rare and troubled son in Richard Powers' deeply moving and brilliantly original novel.'*

- Theo Byrne is an astrobiologist. He is also the widowed father of a most unusual nine-year-old.
- Robin is loving, funny and full of plans to save the world. He is also about to be expelled, for smashing his friend's face in with a metal thermos.
- What can a father do, when the only solution offered is to put his boy on psychoactive drugs?
- What can he say, when his boy asks why we are destroying the world? The only thing to do is to take the boy to other planets, while helping him to save this one.



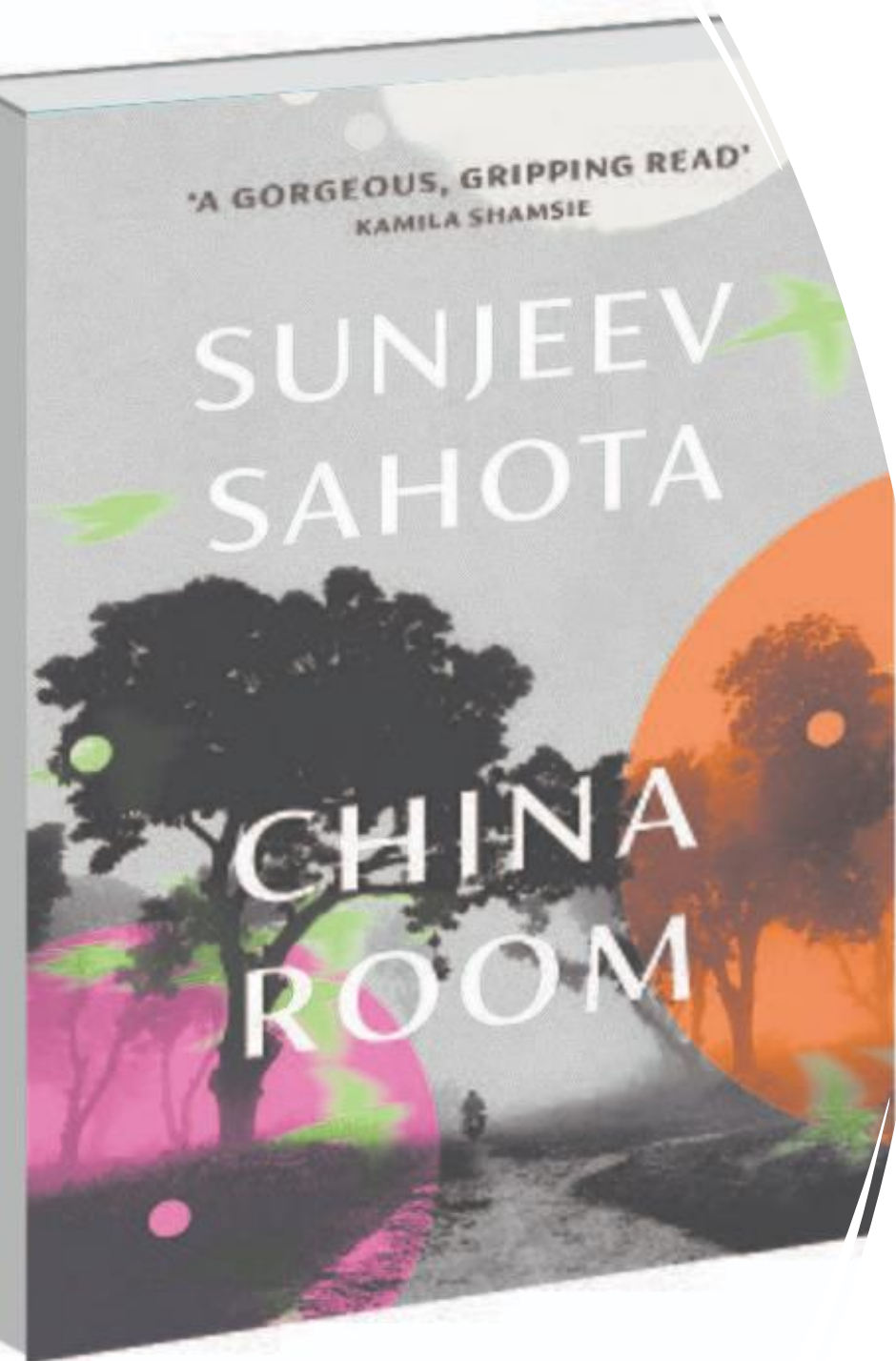
# Great Circle

by Maggie Shipstead

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*'The lives of a fearless female aviator and the actress who portrays her on screen decades later intersect in Maggie Shipstead's vivid, soaring novel'*

- Marian Graves was a daredevil all her life, from her wild childhood in the forests of Montana to her daring wartime Spitfire missions.
- In 1950, she sets off on her ultimate adventure, the Great Circle - a flight around the globe. She is never seen again.
- Half a century later, Hadley Baxter, a scandal-ridden Hollywood actress, whose own parents perished in a plane crash, is irresistibly drawn to play Marian Graves.
- This role will lead her to uncover the real mystery behind the vanished pilot.



# China Room

by

## Sunjeev Sahota

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*'Punjab, 1929: a bride marries a man she is not allowed to see. Curiosity grows, with far-reaching consequences in Sunjeev Sahota's absorbing novel'*

- Mehar is one of three women in arranged marriages to three brothers.
- The women, who live together in a room that houses the family china, are veiled in all their dealings with the men – except when they see them at appointed times in total darkness.
- Mehar thinks she knows which brother is hers, a belief that awakens a dangerous passion, and a quest for freedom that will have lasting consequences in another continent.

# Second Place by Rachel Cusk

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*'Can art both save and destroy us? Rachel Cusk offers a deep affirmation of the human soul, while grappling with its darkest demons'*

- A woman invites a famed artist to visit the remote coastal region where she lives, in the belief that his vision will penetrate the mystery of her life and landscape.
- Over the course of one hot summer, his provocative presence provides the frame for a study of female fate and male privilege, of the geometries of human relationships, and of the struggle to live morally between our internal and external worlds.



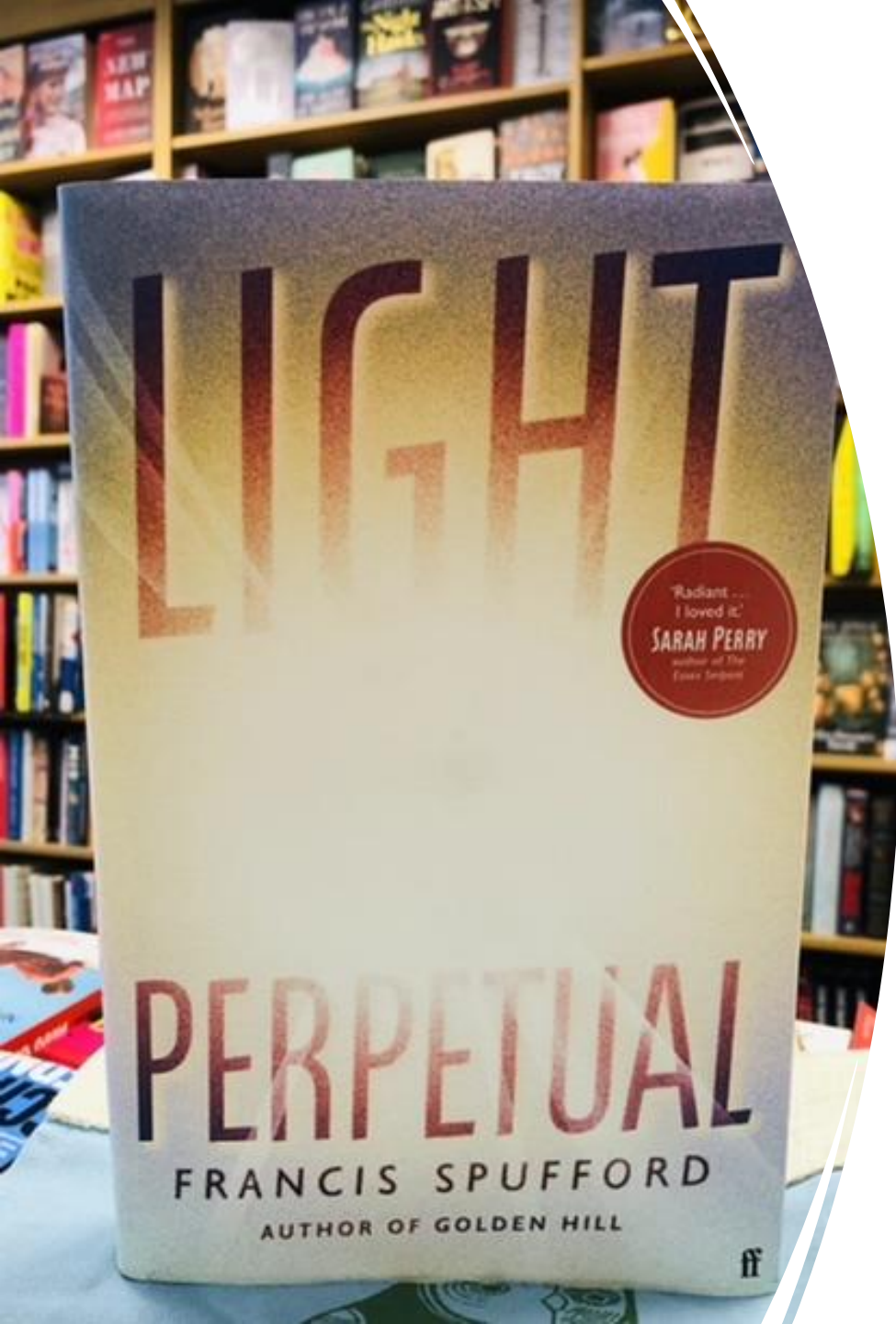


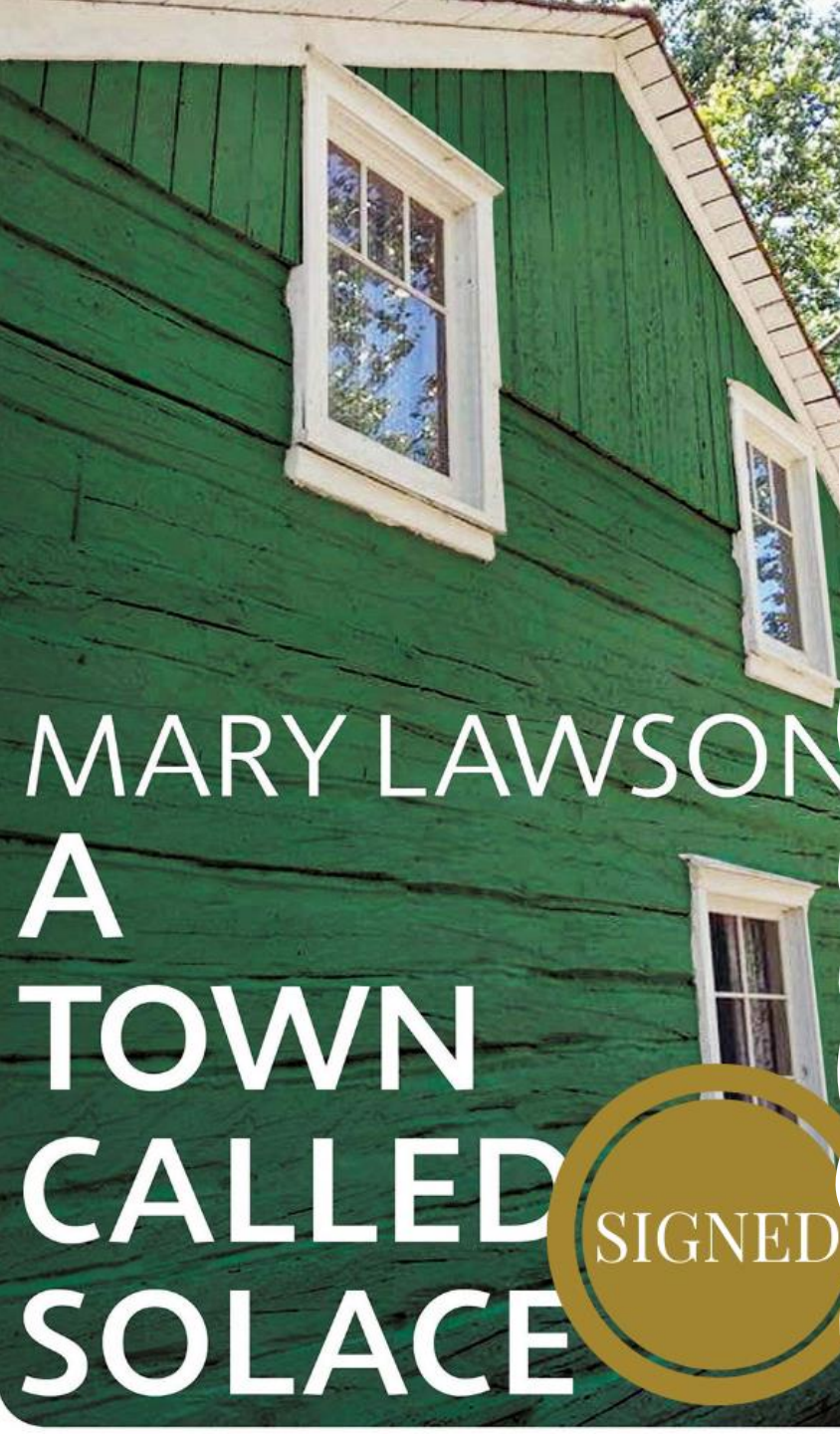
# Light Perpetual by Francis Spufford

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*'Francis Spufford's ingenious and miraculously tender novel reimagines the lives of five London children killed in a rocket attack in World War Two.'*

- November 1944. A German rocket strikes London, and five lives are atomised in an instant.
- A single second in time is altered, and five young lives go on to experience all the unimaginable changes of the 20th century. Because maybe there are always other futures. Other chances.





# A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawson

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***“Mary Lawson explores the relationships of three people brought together by fate and the mistakes of the past in this gripping, darkly domestic tale.”***

- Ontario, 1972. Clara’s sister is missing. Rose had a row with their mother, stormed out of the house and simply disappeared.
- Eight-year-old Clara is grief-stricken and bewildered. Within hours, Liam Kane, newly divorced, newly unemployed, newly arrived in town, gets a visit from the police.
- What crime has he committed? Elizabeth Orchard is thinking about a crime, too, one that happened 30 years ago. It had tragic consequences, in particular for one small child. She needs to make amends.

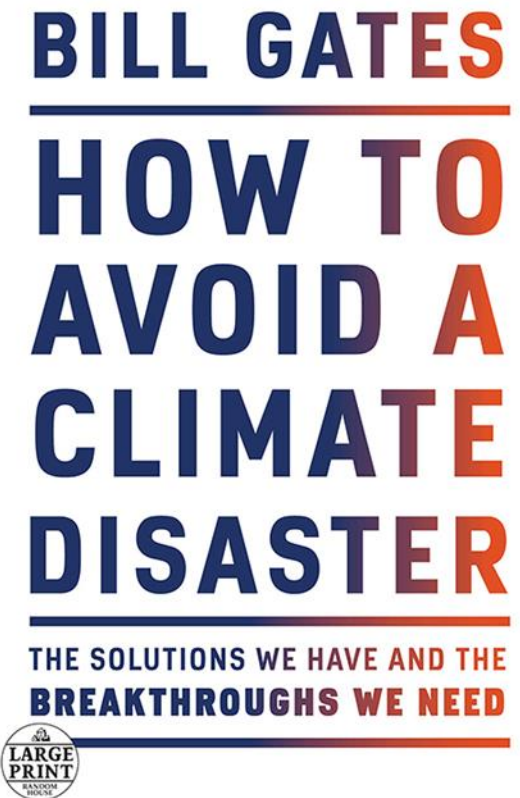
# Non-Fiction Books

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# How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need By Bill Gates

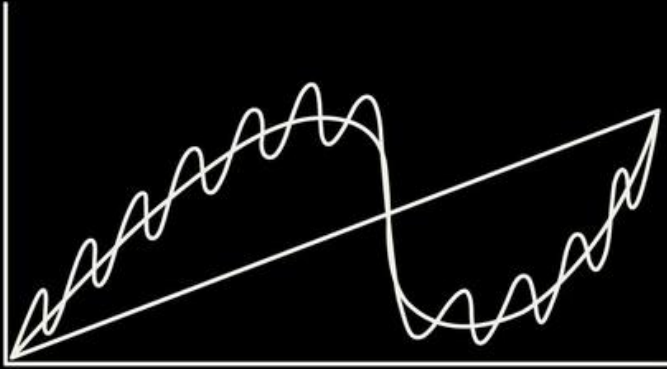
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- Bill Gates has spent a decade investigating the causes and effects of climate change.
- With the help of experts in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, political science, and finance, he has focused on what must be done in order to stop the planet's slide to certain environmental disaster.
- In this book, he not only explains why we need to work toward net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases, but also details what we need to do to achieve this profoundly important goal.



Principles for Dealing with

# THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER



Why Nations  
Succeed and Fail

RAY DALIO

AUTHOR OF THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER *PRINCIPLES*  
AND FOUNDER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST HEDGE FUND

## The Changing World Order: Why Nations Succeed and Fail

by Ray Dalio

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*The Changing World Order* examines history's most turbulent economic and political periods to reveal why the times ahead will likely be radically different from those we've experienced in our lifetimes.

A portrait of Indra Nooyi, a woman with short dark hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand. She is wearing a dark sweater. The background is a dark, textured grey.

INDRA  
NOOYI

Former Chairman  
& CEO, PepsiCo

MY LIFE IN FULL

WORK, FAMILY, AND OUR FUTURE

# My Life In Full by Indra Nooyi

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- For a dozen years as one of the world's most admired CEOs, Indra Nooyi redefined what it means to be an exceptional leader.
- The first woman of color and immigrant to run a Fortune 50 company — and one of the foremost strategic thinkers of our time — she transformed PepsiCo with a unique vision, a vigorous pursuit of excellence, and a deep sense of purpose.
- Now, in a rich memoir brimming with grace, grit, and good humor, *My Life in Full* offers a firsthand view of Indra's legendary career and the sacrifices it so often demanded.

#1 WORLDWIDE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF  
*THE MONK WHO SOLD HIS FERRARI AND THE 5AM CLUB*

ROBIN SHARMA

# The Everyday Hero Manifesto by Robin Sharma

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In The Everyday Hero Manifesto you will discover:

- The hidden habits used by many of the world's most creative and successful people to realize their visionary ambitions ·
- Original techniques to turn fear into fuel, problems into power and past troubles into triumphs ·
- A breakthrough blueprint to battle-proof yourself against distraction and procrastination so that you produce magic that dominates your domain ·  
Pioneering insights on adopting world-class routines that will lead you to achieve superhuman fitness and become the most disciplined person you know ·
- Unusual wisdom to operate with far more simplicity, beauty and peace

THE  
EVERYDAY  
HERO  
MANIFESTO

ACTIVATE YOUR POSITIVITY  
MAXIMIZE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY  
SERVE THE WORLD



QUIZ



The  
celebrated  
Novel 'The  
Godfather'  
was authored  
by?

A) John Milton

B) Victor Hugo

C) Mario Puzo

D) Harold Robbins

# Answer

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C) Mario Puzo

'Alice in Wonderland' the famous TV Serial is based on a book written by?'

A) Charles Dickens

B) Thomas Hardy

C) Lewis Carroll

D) Victor Hugo

# Answer

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C) Lewis Carroll

Who is the author of the famous 'Shiva Trilogy' series?

A) Amish Tripathi

B) Chetan Bhagat

C) Raveender singh

D) Preeti Shenoy

Answer

A) Amish Tripathi

'The Hungry Tide' which won the Crossword book award was authored by?

A) Arundhati Roy

B) Jhumpa Lahiri

C) Twinkle Khanna

D) Amitav Ghosh

# Answer

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D) Amitav Ghosh



'Robert Galbraith' is the pen name of which Children's Author?

A) J K Rowling

B) Enid Blyton

C) Roald Dahl

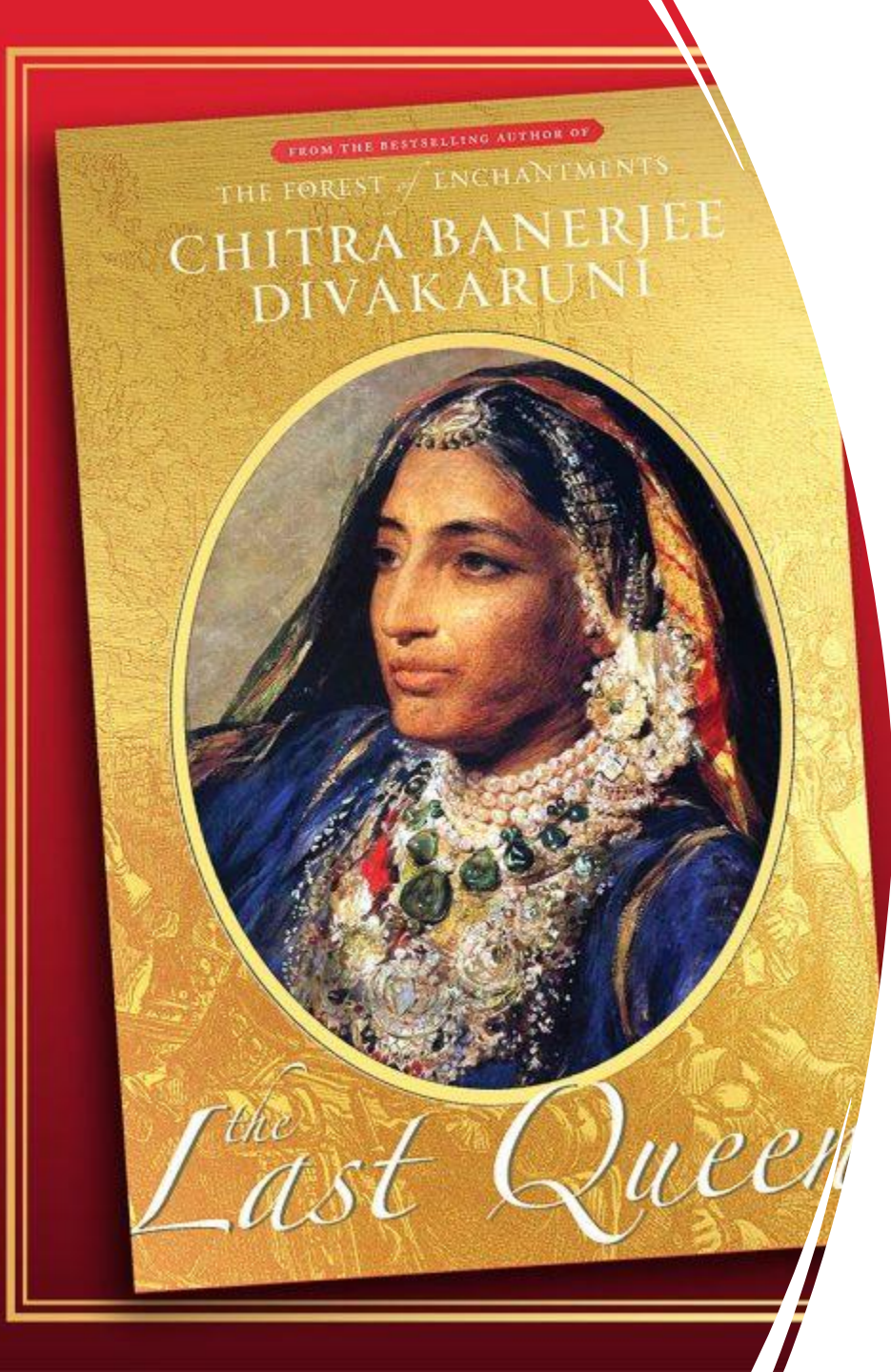
D) Cathy Cassidy

Answer

A) J K Rowling

# Top Picks of Indian Fiction in 2021

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# The Last Queen

by

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

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*'She rose from commoner to become the last reigning queen of India's Sikh Empire.'*

In this dazzling novel, based on true-life events, bestselling author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni presents the unforgettable story of Jindan, who transformed herself from daughter of the royal kennel keeper to powerful monarch.

The book cover for 'The Illuminated' by Anindita Ghose features a black background with a pattern of overlapping circles in shades of gray and white. The title 'THE ILLUMINATED' is written in a large, white, serif font at the top, with 'a novel' in a smaller, cursive font below it. The author's name 'ANINDITA GHOSE' is written in a large, white, serif font at the bottom.

THE  
ILLUMINATED

*a novel*

ANINDITA  
GHOSE

# The Illuminated by Anindita Ghose

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*'When the light shifts , you see the world differently'*

- A superbly nuanced work of fiction, Anindita Ghose's first novel *The Illuminated* revolves around two women: Shashi and Tara.
- After the sudden death of her celebrated husband, Shashi is alarmed to realize that overnight, she has lost her life's moorings.
- Meanwhile, their fiercely independent daughter Tara, a Sanskrit scholar, has been drawn into a passionate involvement with an older man, which threatens to consume her in ways she did not imagine possible

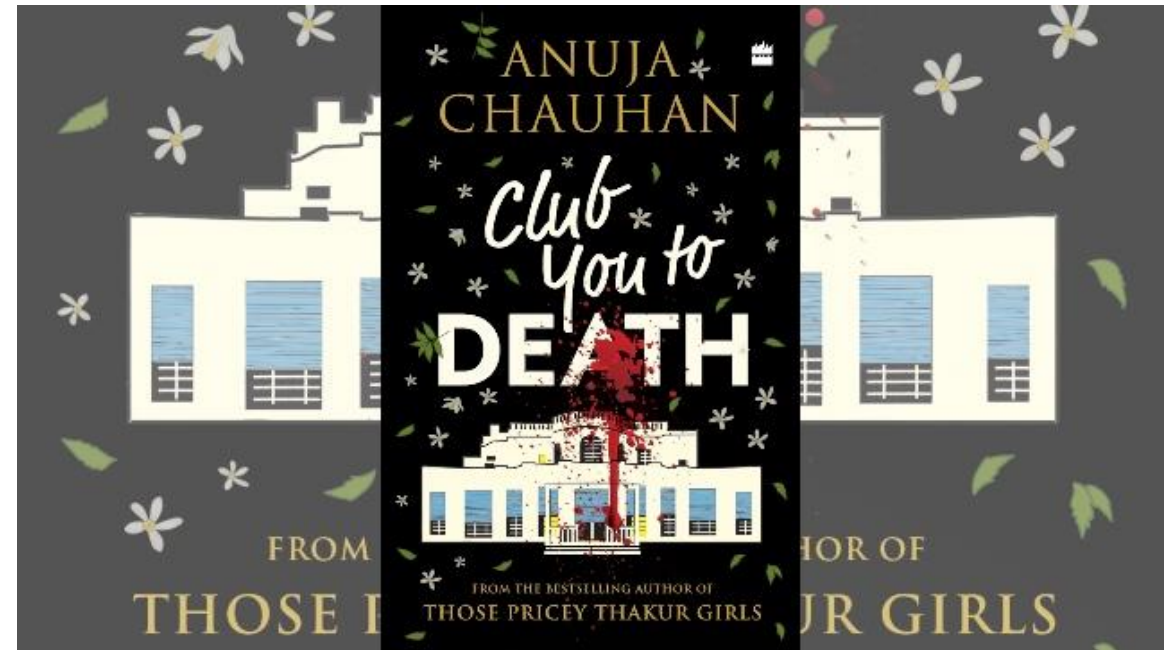
# Club You to Death

by

## Anuja Chauhan

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- When a personal trainer is found asphyxiated to death under an overloaded barbell at the posh Delhi Turf Club, on the eve of the club elections, it is first thought to be a freak accident.
- But soon, it becomes clear that one of the members of the DTC - all pickled-in-privilege Dilliwallahs - is a cold-blooded killer.
- As the capital bristles with speculation and conspiracy theories, Crime Branch veteran ACP Bhavani Singh is appointed to investigate the case.
- Together with his able deputies-Akash 'Kashi' Dogra, and Bambi Todi, wealthy girl-about-town - ACP Bhavani sets out to solve a crime that seems simple enough at the surface, but turns out to have roots as deep and spreading as those of New Delhi's famous Neem trees...
- Anuja Chauhan returns with a good crime and romance novel set in the pulsating heart of Lutyen's Delhi.



# How to cultivate a reading habit?

1

Create a reading list

2

Set a goal

3

Schedule a time for reading

4

Find a good place to read

5

Eliminate distractions

6

Read actively

7

Keep a reading journal

8

Carry a book everywhere you go

Questions





Thank You

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