**Custody Novel By Manju Kapur**

Novels of Manju Kapur
Difficult Daughters
Small Remedies
Indian Literature and the World
Home
The Binding
Vine
Custody
Novels of Manju Kapur
Roots and shadows
That Long Silence
The Loom of Time
Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard
Those Pricey Thakur Girls
The Strange Case of Billy Biswas
Haunting Bombay
Post-colonial Women Writers
Custody
The Immigrant
The Lost Sisterhood
Difficult Daughters
Custody
Homel
Hate My Curly Hair
Shaping the World
I Think I am in Love
Tradition and Modernity. Changing the Images of Women in Selected Fiction by Manju Kapur and Anita Nair
Afterwards
A Married Woman
Tradition and Modernity. Changing the Images of Women in Selected Fiction by Manju Kapur and Anita Nair
The Pagoda Tree
In Custody
Critical Responses to Anita Desai
A Place in the Country
Socialite Evenings
Fasting, Feasting
Brothers
Aapravasi
The Shadow Lines
Indian Women Writing in English
Feminism and Recent Fiction in English

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**Novels of Manju Kapur**

Raman is a fast rising marketing executive at a global drinks company; Shagun is his extraordinarily beautiful wife. With his glittering future, her vivid beauty, and their two adorable children—eight year old Arjun who looks just like her and two year old Roohi who looks just like him—the pair appear to have everything. Then Shagun meets Raman’s dynamic new boss Ashok and everything changes. Once lovers and companions, husband and wife become enemies locked in an ugly legal battle over their two children. Caught in their midst is the childless Ishita who is in love with the idea of motherhood. Custody is the riveting story of how family-love can disintegrate into an obsession to possess children, body and soul, as well as a chilling critique of the Indian judicial system. Told with nuance, sympathy, and clear-sightedness, it confirms Manju Kapur’s reputation as the great chronicler of the modern Indian family.

**Difficult Daughters**

There Is Always, If Not Exactly A Happily Ever After, At Least An Afterwards To Every Story & When Rahul Tiwari Arrives In Kerala For A Short Break From London, He Has No Premonition Of A Life-Changing Moment. But One Glance Over The Fence At His Lovely But Reticent Neighbour Maya Is Enough To Launch Him On A Path Of No Return. He Finds Himself Playing Friend, Partner, Co-Conspirator, And Finally The Entirely Unexpected Role Of Saviour As Maya, Suffocating Under The Weight Of A Loveless Marriage And A Suspicious Husband, Turns To Him For Help. Together, They Flee India With Maya S One-Year-Old Daughter Anjali And Life Seems To Hold All The Promise Of A New Beginning, Until Destiny Strikes & With Characteristic Ease And Insight, Jaishree Misra Writes In Her New Novel Of The Transforming Power Of Love And Of The Joy And Heartbreak Of Giving Yourself To Another, For Better Or For Worse.
**Small Remedies**

Opening in Calcutta in the 1960s, Amitav Ghosh's radiant second novel follows two families -- one English, one Bengali -- as their lives intertwine in tragic and comic ways. The narrator, Indian born and English educated, traces events back and forth in time, from the outbreak of World War II to the late twentieth century, through years of Bengali partition and violence, observing the ways in which political events invade private lives.

**Indian Literature and the World**

The bond that is forged in an ice skating rink and made stronger over many tea and coffee breaks at work, eventually turns crazy when love sneaks in. Meera, the carefree and successful fashion blogger, falls in love with her khadoos best friend, Ishaan. Walking together, falling together, getting up together - somewhere they find their destination, only to realise that the journey itself was far better. *I Think I am in Love* is a story of finding friendship, chasing love, nurturing dreams, and striking a balance between all of them. A story of true love trying to find a way, narrated straight from the heart.

**Home**

In a sprawling bungalow on New Delhi's posh Hailey Road, Justice Laxmi Narayan Thakur and his wife Mamta spend their days watching anxiously over their five beautiful (but troublesome) alphabetically named daughters. Anjini, married but an incorrigible flirt; Binodini, very worried about her children's hissa in the family property; Chandrakanta, who eloped with a foreigner on the eve of her wedding; Eshwari, who is just a little too popular at Modern School, Barakhamba Road; and the Judge's favourite (though fathers shouldn't have favourites): the quietly fiery Debjani, champion of all the stray animals on Hailey Road, who reads the English news on DD and clashes constantly with crusading journalist Dylan Singh Shekhawat, he of shining professional credentials but tarnished personal reputation, crushingly dismissive of her 'state-sponsored propaganda', but always seeking her out with half-sarcastic, half-intrigued dark eyes. Spot-on funny and toe-curlingly sexy, *Those Pricey Thakur Girls* is rom-com specialist Anuja Chauhan writing at her sparkling best.

**The Binding Vine**

Anita Desai And Her Novels Have Been An Enigma For Decades. Scholars, Critics, Researchers And Students Have Never Stopped Marvelling About Supremacy Of Idea Over Matter In The Works Of This Gifted Novelist. The Philosophical Mood, The Realization Of A Grand Design, The Presence Of Unsaid, Unarticulated Realities All These Have Forever Teased The Mind Of The Discerning Reader. In The Present Volume, Anita Desai Has Been Extensively And Intensely Probed. As The Reader Will...
See, The Thrust Has Been More On Psychological And Intellectual Facets Of Her Fiction, Rather Than Social, Cultural Or Physical Areas. This Is The Trend Of Criticism These Days And It Is Rightly So. The Fine Subtleties, The Small But Significant Turn Of Events, The Role Of Place In The Formation Of Mental Scene, The Vitality Of Characters, The Force Of Their Personalities, The Intricate Web Of Relationships All These Have Been Examined And Expressed In Words That Are At Once Easy To Understand As Well As Graceful To Aesthetic Sense.

Custody

Shashi Deshpande's latest novel explores the lives of two women, one obsessed with music and the other a passionate believer in Communism, who break away from their families to seek fulfilment in public life. Savitribai Indorekar, born into an orthodox Hindu family, elopes with her Muslim lover and accompanist, Ghulaam Saab, to pursue a career in music. Gentle, strong-willed Leela, on the other hand, gives her life to the Party, and to working with the factory workers of Bombay. Fifty years after these events have been set in motion, Madhu, Leela's niece, travels to Bhavanipur, Savitribai's home in her last years, to write a biography of Bai. Caught in her own despair over the loss of her only son. Madhu tries to make sense of the lives of Bai and those around her, and in doing so, seeks to find a way out of her own grief.

Novels of Manju Kapur

This book is about the most vibrant yet under-studied aspects of Indian writing today. It examines multilingualism, current debates on postcolonial versus world literature, the impact of translation on an “Indian” literary canon, and Indian authors’ engagement with the public sphere. The essays cover political activism and the North-East Tribal novel; the role of work in the contemporary Indian fictional imaginary; history as felt and reconceived by the acclaimed Hindi author Krishna Sobti; Bombay fictions; the Dalit autobiography in translation and its problematic international success; development, ecocriticism and activist literature; casteism and access to literacy in the South; and gender and diaspora as dominant themes in writing from and about the subcontinent. Troubling Eurocentric genre distinctions and the split between citizen and subject, the collection approaches Indian literature from the perspective of its constant interactions between private and public narratives, thereby proposing a method of reading Indian texts that goes beyond their habitual postcolonial identifications as “national allegories”.

Roots and shadows

A #1 bestseller in India: Three generations of Delhi shopkeepers confront a changing world Home tells the story of Banwari Lal and his family, merchants in one of the oldest districts of Delhi. An immigrant from Pakistan, Banwari Lal believes in...
fate, faith, and hard work. He comes to India after the Partition and opens a sari business. His daughter is given away into an arranged marriage, with tragic consequences. His eldest son is determined to marry for love. He soon sets his sights on beautiful seventeen-year-old Sona, who walks into the family shop one fine day in May of 1965. But it is Banwari Lal’s granddaughter Nisha who will become the family’s heart as they move from sorrow to prosperity. Spanning thirty years, Home is an extraordinary novel about tradition, change, and finding a place in which to belong.

**That Long Silence**

Jay’S Life Comes Apart At The Seams When Her Husband Is Asked To Leave His Job While Allegations Of Business Malpractice Against Him Are Investigated. Her Familiar Existence Disrupted, Her Husband’S Reputation In Question And Their Future As A Family In Jeopardy, Jaya, A Failed Writer, Is Haunted By Memories Of The Past. Differences With Her Husband, Frustrations In Their Seventeen-Year-Old Marriage, Disappointment In Her Two Teenage Children, The Claustrophia Of Her Childhood;&mdash;All Begin To Surface. In Her Small Suburban Bombay Flat, Jaya Grapples With These And Other Truths About Herself;&mdash;Among Them Her Failure At Writing And Her Fear Of Anger. Shashi Deshpande Gives Us An Exceptionally Accomplished Portrayal Of A Woman Trying To Erase A 'Long Silence' Begun In Childhood And Rooted In Herself And In The Constraints Of Her Life.

**The Loom of Time**

**Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard**

Sampath Chawla, a young postal worker who never feels as though he fits into the small Indian town into which he is born, one day climbs up a tree, only to become a famous holy man.

**Those Pricey Thakur Girls**

In a novel set in Bombay in the 1960s, teenager Pinky Mittal, who is being raised by her grandmother, opens a door that has been bolted all her life and frees the ghost of a stillborn infant that totally disrupts the household.

**The Strange Case of Billy Biswas**

Contributed articles presented at a seminar hosted by Andhra University on 20th century women authors from India.
Haunting Bombay

“There can be no vaulting over time,” thinks Urmila, the narrator of Shashi Deshpande’s profound and soul-stirring novel. “We have to walk every step of the way, however difficult or painful it is; we can avoid nothing.” After the death of her baby, Urmila finds her own path difficult to endure. But through her grief, she is drawn into the lives of two very different women—one her long-dead mother-in-law, a thwarted writer, the other a young woman who lies unconscious in a hospital bed. And it is through these quiet, unexpected connections that Urmila begins her journey toward healing. The miracle of The Binding Vine, and of Shashi Deshpande’s deeply compassionate vision, is that out of this web of loss and despair emerge strand of life and hope—a binding vine of love, concern, and connection that spreads across chasms of time, social class, and even death. In moving and exquisitely understated prose, Deshpande renders visible the extraordinary endurance and grace concealed in women’s everyday lives.

Post-colonial Women Writers

The story of Tapti Gaina is intimately linked with the lives of two men, her husband and his brother. Exploring caste, student politics, the freedom struggle and the Emergency, Brothers traces the history of the Gaina family, beginning with their village origins across the emerging metropolis of Ajmer and ending at the height of political power in Jaipur. It is a masterful portrayal of ambition, desire, betrayal and anguish, enacted against the shifting terrain of family dynamics.

Custody

SHORTLISTED FOR THE 1999 BOOKER PRIZE Uma, the plain, spinster daughter of a close-knit Indian family, is trapped at home, smothered by her overbearing parents and their traditions, unlike her ambitious younger sister Aruna, who brings off a ‘good’ marriage, and brother Arun, the disappointing son and heir who is studying in America. Across the world in Massachusetts, life with the Patton family is bewildering for Arun in the alien culture of freedom, freezers and paradoxically self-denying self-indulgence.

The Immigrant

Weaving together the uneasy meeting of two cultures, The Pagoda Tree is a captivating story of love, loss and fate. Tanjore, 1765. Maya plays among the towering granite temples of this ancient city in the heart of southern India. Like her mother before her, she is destined to become a devadasi, a dancer for the temple. She is instructed in dance, the mystical arts and lovemaking. It is expected she will be chosen as a courtesan for the prince himself. But as Maya comes of age, India is on
the cusp of change and British dominance has risen to new heights. The prince is losing his power and the city is sliding into war. Maya is forced to flee her ancestral home, and heads to the bustling port city of Madras, where East and West collide. Maya captivates all who watch her dance. Thomas Pearce, an ambitious young Englishman who has travelled to India to make his fortune, is entranced from the moment he first sees her. But their love is forbidden, and comes at enormous cost.

'Claire Scobie's seductive prose and immaculate layering of period detail capture India at her most exotic.' Susan Kurosawa

'Women's stories are rarely told in history, nor particularly honoured. The Pagoda Tree offers a powerful, sensual perspective on a time of great transformation in India.' Sarah Macdonald, author of Holy Cow

'A rich and enthralling story handled with great skill by someone with a profound understanding of her material.' David Roach, screenwriter and film director

'A richly textured tale full of the sights, sounds and smells of India, with all its complex beauty and troubled history ...' Sydney Morning Herald

'A novel to be savoured ... Its layering, the unravelling of the story, the subtext of the fortunes made and lost on cotton and silk, the evocative descriptions of saris themselves are all part of [its] tapestry.' The Age

'[The Pagoda Tree] offers new ways of seeing the past.' Canberra Times

'Scobie's prose is eloquent ... a fascinating, unique plot representing an interesting era in [India's] history.' The Mercury

'A story told with great panache.' Country Style

'Claire Scobie travels a vast and exotic terrain in her first novel.' Weekly Review

'This first novel by Claire Scobie would make a spectacular film.' Goodreading Magazine

'A nuanced and sophisticated exploration of the socio-historical realities that are inevitable when cultures collide.' The Hoopla

The Lost Sisterhood

Aims To Review The Key Issues Related To The Discipline Of Feminism And Its Application In The Reading Of Recent Fiction In English-Indian-English, British, American (Including Black American) And Canadian Fiction.

Difficult Daughters

A woman in an arranged marriage is liberated by a desire that threatens her family and future An only child raised to become a dutiful wife, Astha is filled with unnamed longings and untapped potential. In the privacy of her middle-class Indian home, she dreams of the lover who will touch her soul. But her future was mapped out long ago: betrothal to a man with impeccable credentials, with motherhood to follow. At first, Astha’s arranged union with handsome, worldly Hemant brings her great joy and passion. But even after bearing him a son and daughter, she remains unfulfilled. Her search for meaning takes her into a world of art and activism . . . and a relationship that could bring her the love and freedom she desires. But at what cost to her marriage and family?

Custody
An unforgettable novel about what happens when a marriage collapses. Shagun is a woman of unassailable social standing, married to a man chosen for her—a rising executive. Her lover is her husband’s boss. She asks for a divorce, and all hell breaks loose. Locked in a venomous legal battle for custody of their eight-year-old son and two-year-old daughter, Shagun and Raman begin a journey that will have unforetold consequences. Set against the backdrop of upper-middle-class South Delhi, Custody is both a searing indictment of India’s judicial system and an intimate portrait of a failing marriage and a family.

I Hate My Curly Hair

From the author of the New York Times bestseller Juliet comes a mesmerizing novel about a young scholar who risks her reputation—and her life—on a thrilling journey to prove that the legendary warrior women known as the Amazons actually existed. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader’s Circle for author chats and more. Oxford lecturer Diana Morgan is an expert on Greek mythology. Her obsession with the Amazons started in childhood when her eccentric grandmother claimed to be one herself—before vanishing without a trace. Diana’s colleagues shake their heads at her Amazon fixation. But then a mysterious, well-financed foundation makes Diana an offer she cannot refuse. Traveling to North Africa, Diana teams up with Nick Barran, an enigmatic Middle Eastern guide, and begins deciphering an unusual inscription on the wall of a recently unearthed temple. There she discovers the name of the first Amazon queen, Myrina, who crossed the Mediterranean in a heroic attempt to liberate her kidnapped sisters from Greek pirates, only to become embroiled in the most famous conflict of the ancient world—the Trojan War. Taking their cue from the inscription, Diana and Nick set out to find the fabled treasure that Myrina and her Amazon sisters salvaged from the embattled city of Troy so long ago. Diana doesn’t know the nature of the treasure, but she does know that someone is shadowing her, and that Nick has a sinister agenda of his own. With danger lurking at every turn, and unsure of whom to trust, Diana finds herself on a daring and dangerous quest for truth that will forever change her world. Sweeping from England to North Africa to Greece and the ruins of ancient Troy, and navigating between present and past, The Lost Sisterhood is a breathtaking, passionate adventure of two women on parallel journeys, separated by time, who must fight to keep the lives and legacy of the Amazons from being lost forever. Praise for The Lost Sisterhood “Impossible to put down . . . Meticulous research, a delicious mystery, and characters that leap from the story make this brilliant book a Perfect 10.”—Romance Reviews Today

“Anne Fortier tells two tales of adventure, mystery and romance . . . reminiscent of The Da Vinci Code with a hint of A Discovery of Witches.”—Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star “Boldly original . . . will intrigue lovers of ancient worlds as well as those who are just fans of a good story.”—Bookreporter “A gorgeous journey from England to North Africa to Greece,
thrilling readers with beautiful settings, courageous women and breathtaking adventure.”—BookPage “Grounded in a thorough knowledge of classical literature, this skillful interweaving of plausible archaeological speculation, ancient mythology, and exciting modern adventure will delight fans of such authors as Kate Mosse and Katherine Neville.”—Library Journal (starred review) “The Lost Sisterhood is a spellbinding adventure, a tale of two courageous women separated by millennia but pursuing interwoven quests: one to protect and lead her sisters through a dangerous ancient world, the other to prove that the legendary tribe of women truly existed, and that their legacy endures.”—Jennifer Chiaverini, author of Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker and The Spymistress

**Shaping the World**

Banwari Lal, the family patriarch, is a survivor of India’s partition who reinvented the family business destroyed in Lahore. He is a firm believer in the continuity of time-honoured customs. With each generation, however, the tradition he embodies is questioned. His sons Yashpal and Pyarelal are the uncertain bearers of the family’s future, the reluctant witnesses to their children’s struggle with aspirations that are unique from their own. Nisha, Yashpal’s daughter, becomes the first woman in the family to acquire higher education. She comes to represent the uneasy coexistence of tradition and modernity that defines this extraordinary novel.

**I Think I am in Love**

The reformist fervour Virmati’s family lives by is shattered when she falls in love with a married professor. Ironically, she only met him because earlier generations had fought to unlock the echelons of higher education for the women of the Punjab.

**Tradition and Modernity. Changing the Images of Women in Selected Fiction by Manju Kapur and Anita Nair**

In this sensitive portrayal of human nature, Anita Desai, one of India’s foremost writers, paints an intimate portrait of lives impacted by the quest for identity and purpose. Deven, a Hindi lecturer in small-town Mirpore, lives a humdrum existence. A chance to interview Nur—India’s greatest living Urdu poet—offers him an escape from his dreary life. But the Nur he meets is an enfeebled man, surrounded by clashing wives and preying sycophants. Deven’s decision to be the custodian of Nur’s verse gives birth to an unusual alliance between the two. Stimulating and thought provoking, In Custody is a brilliant parable lamenting the gradual corrosion of culture and tradition in the face of modernity, and a dazzling study of the complexity of human relationships.
Afterwards

A Married Woman

This is Hindi Translation of English Book 'The Immigrant' written by Manju Kapur. Nina, at thirty, sees herself as increasingly off the shelf. But then unexpectedly, a proposal arrives. Ananda is a dentist in Halifax, Canada. The two marry and she leaves her home and her country to build a new life with him. But there is always more to marriage than courtship. And as Nina discovers truths about her husband – both sexual and emotional – her fragile new life in Canada begins to unravel. The Immigrant is another mesmerizing saga about the complexities of arranged marriage and NRI life from this most beloved of novelists.

Tradition and Modernity. Changing the Images of Women in Selected Fiction by Manju Kapur and Anita Nair

Shaping the World: Women Writers on Themselves addresses these very questions. The array of formidable writers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – acclaimed both nationally and internationally – share their insecurities and triumphs that occurred on their journeys to becoming writers. Was it easy? The answer is No. Many of them were closet writers, not sharing their writings with the world. Writing was no career, they were told. But they persevered. And they wrote. Because they had to. Because it was their calling. The writers reveal their inspirations: be it another writer, a personal tragedy, or triumph, a fascination with the English language, or a passion for putting pen to paper and finding wings. Shaping the World: Women Writers on Themselves is an anthology of intimate, honest and brave accounts that will provide the reader with an insight into the realm of writing: its adventurous terrain of highs and lows and how it continues to shape these 24 women and the world we all inhabit. The contributors are: Ameena Hussein (www.ameenahussein.com), Amruta Patil (www.amrutapatil.blogspot.in), Anita Nair (www.anitanair.net), Anjum Hasan (www.anjumhasan.com), Anuradha Marwah, Bapsi Sidhwa (www.bapsisidhwa.com), Bina Shah (www.binashah.net), Jaishree Misra (www.jaishreemisra.com), Janice Pariat (www.janicepariat.com), Kavery Nambisan (https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kavery-Nambisan/671608229544955), Lavanya Sankaran (www.lavanyasankaran.com), Maniza Naqvi, Manju Kapur (www.manjukapur.com), Meira Chand (www.meirachand.com), Mishi Saran (www.mishisaran.com), Moni Mohsin (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moni_Mohsin), Namita Devidayal, Ru Freeman (www.rufreeman.com), Shashi Deshpande (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shashi_Deshpande), Shinie Antony, Susan Visvanathan (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Visvanathan), Tania James (www.taniajames.com), Tishani Doshi (www.tishanidoshi.com)
The Pagoda Tree

Kalidasa is the major poet and dramatist of classical Sanskrit literature - a many-sided talent of extraordinary scope and exquisite language. His great poem, Meghadutam (The Cloud Messenger), tells of a divine being, punished for failing in his sacred duties with a years' separation from his beloved. A work of subtle emotional nuances, it is a haunting depiction of longing and separation. The play Sakuntala describes the troubled love between a Lady of Nature and King Duhsanta. This beautiful blend of romance and comedy, transports its audience into an enchanted world in which mortals mingle with gods. And Kalidasa's poem Rtusamharam (The Gathering of the Seasons) is an exuberant observation of the sheer variety of the natural world, as it teems with the energies of the great god Siva.

In Custody

Critical Responses to Anita Desai

In a world of rapidly changing values and traditions, an Indian woman enters into an arranged marriage to a man she barely knows and moves to distant Canada Thirty-year-old Nina is an English teacher living alone in Jangpura, India. With diminishing prospects, she agrees to an arranged union. Her groom is the Indian-born Ananda, who lives in Canada. He once dreamed of becoming a doctor but settled for dentistry. He is lonely, and also in want of a spouse. Their life together is not what either expected. Unable to find work teaching in Nova Scotia, Nina takes a job at the local library. Ananda is troubled by his own response to the sexual aspects of their relationship. Assimilating into a new culture pales in comparison to the trials of marriage—its ups and downs, its inevitable compromises . . . and the temptations of illicit passion.

A Place in the Country

A Place in the Country is W. G. Sebald’s meditation on the six artists and writers who shaped his creative mind—and the last of this great writer's major works to be translated into English. This edition includes more than 40 pieces of art, all originally selected by W. G. Sebald. This extraordinary collection of interlinked essays about place, memory, and creativity captures the inner worlds of five authors and one painter. In his masterly and mysterious style—part critical essay, part memoir—Sebald weaves their lives and art with his own migrations and rise in the literary world. Here are people gifted with talent and courage yet in some cases cursed by fragile and unstable natures, working in countries inhospitable or even hostile to them. Jean-Jacques Rousseau is conjured on the verge of physical and mental exhaustion, hiding from his detractors on the island of St. Pierre, where two centuries later Sebald took rooms adjacent to his. Eighteenth-century
author Johann Peter Hebel is remembered for his exquisite and delicate nature writing, expressing the eternal balance of both the outside world and human emotions. Writer Gottfried Keller, best known for his 1850 novel Green Henry, is praised for his prescient insights into a Germany where “the gap between self-interest and the common good was growing ever wider.” Sebald compassionately re-creates the ordeals of Eduard Mörike, the nineteenth-century German poet beset by mood swings, depression, and fainting spells in an increasingly shallow society, and Robert Walser, the institutionalized author whose nearly indecipherable scrawls seemed an attempt to “duck down below the level of language and obliterate himself” (and whose physical appearance and year of death mirrored those of Sebald’s grandfather). Finally, Sebald spies a cognizance of death’s inevitability in painter Jan Peter Tripp’s lovingly exact reproductions of life. Featuring the same kinds of suggestive and unexplained illustrations that appear in his masterworks Austerlitz and The Rings of Saturn, and translated by Sebald’s colleague Jo Catling, A Place in the Country is Sebald’s unforgettable self-portrait as seen through the experiences of others, a glimpse of his own ghosts alongside those of the men who influenced him. It is an essential addition to his stunning body of work. Praise for A Place in the Country “Measured, solemn, sardonic . . . hypnotic . . . [W. G. Sebald’s] books, which he made out of classics, remain classics for now.”—Joshua Cohen, The New York Times Book Review “In Sebald’s writing, everything is connected, everything webbed together by the unseen threads of history, or chance, or fate, or death. The scholarly craft of gathering scattered sources and weaving them into a coherent whole is transformed here into something beautiful and unsettling, elevated into an art of the uncanny—an art that was, in the end, Sebald’s strange and inscrutable gift.”—Slate “Magnificent . . . The multiple layers surrounding each essay are seamless to the point of imperceptibility.”—New York Daily News “Sebald’s most tender and jovial book.”—The Nation “Reading [A Place in the Country is] like going for a walk with a beautifully talented, deeply passionate novelist from Mars.”—New York Socialite Evenings

Along with a range of socio-cultural, political and economic concerns, the focus on ‘self’ has been an inevitable assertion of writers during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Individualistic in tone, the contemporary women novelists are trying to portray realistically the predicament of modern women torn between the forces of tradition and modernity, their sense of frustration and alienation, the emotional and psychological turmoil and complexities of man-women relationships and subtleties of feminine consciousness against the persistent patriarchal social set-up. Cognizant of the evils originating from patriarchy, a positive sense of feminine identity has been recognized by them and the result is the emergence of a new woman in Indian society and its concept in the Indian English novel which has assumed a strident posture in the contemporary writings by women. The shift from submission to assertion, acquiescence to resistance and obedience to rebellion, however, has not been abrupt and effortless. Women are still in the process of negotiation with different limiting factors and thresholds of patriarchy to claim their due space and affirm their identity. The present study is an attempt to critically investigate the negotiations with cultural norms by the women characters in the selected novels by the
contemporary novelists, namely Manju Kapur and Anita Nair. Almost all the women characters, major and minor, from the selected novels have been considered and positioned as per their ideological leanings and convictions under two thematic chapters namely “Women in the Clutches of Traditional Norms,” and “Tradition to Modernity.” The major issues around which the novels move – education, marriage, gendered space and mother-daughter relationships – are taken up to put them within the contemporary social conditions in which women characters live. The present book is divided into five chapters to make a critical and analytical study of the select novels of these contemporary Indian women writers in English. The present work is focused on five selected novels: Manju Kapur’s “Difficult Daughters”, “Home” and “Custody” and Anita Nair’s “Ladies Coupé” and “Mistress”.

**Fasting, Feasting**

Along with a range of socio-cultural, political and economic concerns, the focus on ‘self’ has been an inevitable assertion of writers during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Individualistic in tone, the contemporary women novelists are trying to portray realistically the predicament of modern women torn between the forces of tradition and modernity, their sense of frustration and alienation, the emotional and psychological turmoil and complexities of man-women relationships and subtleties of feminine consciousness against the persistent patriarchal social set-up. Cognizant of the evils originating from patriarchy, a positive sense of feminine identity has been recognized by them and the result is the emergence of a new woman in Indian society and its concept in the Indian English novel which has assumed a strident posture in the contemporary writings by women. The shift from submission to assertion, acquiescence to resistance and obedience to rebellion, however, has not been abrupt and effortless. Women are still in the process of negotiation with different limiting factors and thresholds of patriarchy to claim their due space and affirm their identity. The present study is an attempt to critically investigate the negotiations with cultural norms by the women characters in the selected novels by the contemporary novelists, namely Manju Kapur and Anita Nair. Almost all the women characters, major and minor, from the selected novels have been considered and positioned as per their ideological leanings and convictions under two thematic chapters namely “Women in the Clutches of Traditional Norms,” and “Tradition to Modernity.” The major issues around which the novels move – education, marriage, gendered space and mother-daughter relationships – are taken up to put them within the contemporary social conditions in which women characters live. The present book is divided into five chapters to make a critical and analytical study of the select novels of these contemporary Indian women writers in English. The present work is focused on five selected novels: Manju Kapur’s “Difficult Daughters”, “Home” and “Custody” and Anita Nair’s “Ladies Coupé” and “Mistress”.

**Brothers**
Set against the tumult of the 1947 Partition, Manju Kapur’s acclaimed first novel captures a life torn between family, desire, and love. The one thing I had wanted was not to be like my mother. Virmati is the eldest of eleven children, born to a respectable family in Amritsar. Her world is shaken when she falls in love with a married man. Charismatic Harish is a respected professor and her family’s tenant. Virmati takes up with Harish and finds herself living alongside his first wife. Set in Amritsar and Lahore and narrated by Virmati and her daughter, Ida, a divorcée on a quest to understand and connect with her departed mother, Difficult Daughters is a stunning tale of motherhood, love, and finding one’s identity in a nation struggling to discover its own. Winner of the 1999 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize for best first book (Eurasia Region) and shortlisted for the Crossword Book Award in India.

**Aapravasi**

**The Shadow Lines**

When Shagun leaves Raman for another man, a bitter legal battle ensues. The custody of their two young children is thrown into question and Shagun must decide what price she will pay for freedom. Meanwhile, Ishita, a failed marriage behind her, finds another chance at happiness with Raman. But when the courts threaten the security of her new family, she decides to fight for it - whatever the cost. From prize-winning author Manju Kapur, Custody is an intimate portrait of marriages that disintegrate and intertwine, with heart-rending consequences.

**Indian Women Writing in English**

I tug till my head's black and blue! But nothing can tame This wild, curly mane! Curly haired girl does everything she can to straighten her stubborn curls-after all, everywhere she looks she sees heroines with smooth, silky hair. Then one day, a big bully comes along and everything changes! A humorous tale of self-acceptance. And of hair, lots and lots of glorious curly hair!

**Feminism and Recent Fiction in English**

A divorce and a succession of sordid affairs have left prominent Bombay socialite Karuna feeling battered, empty and melancholic. She looks back upon her life and the friends and enemies who surround her—neurotic, man-hungry Anjali; gorgeous, vivacious Ritu; high-profile editor Varun, with a penchant for young boys; Krish, the pretentious adman, whose wife actively helps him in his extramarital affairs. Scandalous, astute and utterly riveting, Shobhaa Dé’s first novel, Socialite
Evenings, laid bare the world of high-society India and changed the face of the Indian novel forever.