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From “ a major new talent ” come short stories set in modern Nepal, about arranged marriages, forbidden desires, and the universal yearning for human connection (Amitav Ghosh). Set in a city where gods are omnipresent, privacy is elusive, and family defines identity, these are stories of men and women caught between their own needs and the demands of their society and culture. Psychologically rich and astonishingly acute, with “ a masterful narrative style ” (Ian MacMillan), *Arresting God in Kathmandu* introduces a potent new voice in contemporary fiction. “ Upadhyay brings to readers the flavor of Nepal and its culture in this impressive collection of nine short stories. Like Ha Jin ’ s *Bridegroom*, Upadhyay ’ s stories portray the lives of simple yet psychologically complex characters and reveal much about the universal human condition in us all. . . . Upadhyay ’ s stories leave the reader with much food for thought and will make a good choice for book discussion groups. ” —Library Journal

A New York Times Notable Book: “ A ravishingly seductive novel . . . set in contemporary Kathmandu ” (Elle). Ramchandra is a math teacher earning a low wage and living in a small apartment with his wife and two children. Moonlighting as a tutor, he engages in an illicit affair with one of his tutees, Malati, a beautiful, impoverished teenager, who is also a new mother. She provides for him what his wife, who comes from a privileged background, does not: desire, mystery, and a simpler life. Just as this Nepalese city struggles with the conflicts of change, Ramchandra must also learn to accommodate both tradition and his very modern desires, in this “ gripping ” novel by the Whiting Award – winning author of *Buddha ’ s Orphans* (The New York Times Book Review). “ Utterly absorbing . . . Upadhyay ’ s lucent and tender storytelling gently unveils the strange interplay between self and family, the private and the political, and most mysteriously, the erotic and the spiritual. ” —Booklist
“ Poignant . . . The *Guru of Love* effectively weaves together the complicated dichotomies of man and mistress, love and lust, tradition and modernity. ” —USA Today “ Reads like a graceful, page-turning mixture of stirring romance and social commentary. ” —Entertainment Weekly

Samrat Upadhyay ’ s new collection vibrates at the edges of intersecting cultures. Journalists in Kathmandu are targeted by the government. A Nepali man studying in America drops out of school and finds himself a part of the unrest in Ferguson, Missouri. A white American woman moves to Nepal and changes her name. A Nepali man falls in love with a mysterious foreign black woman. A rich kid is caught up in his own fantasies of poverty and bank robbery. In the title story, a powerful woman, the owner of a construction company, becomes a political prisoner, and in stark and unflinching prose we see both her world and her mind radically remade. Through the course of the stories in this collection, Upadhyay builds new modes of seeing our interconnected contemporary world. A collection of formal inventiveness, heartbreak and hope, it reaffirms Upadhyay ’ s position as one of our most important chroniclers of globalization and exile.

A novel of love and political upheaval, in which “ Kathmandu is as specific and heartfelt as Joyce ’ s *Dublin* ” (San Francisco Chronicle). In *Buddha ’ s Orphans*, Nepal ’ s political upheavals of the past century serve as a backdrop to the story of an orphan boy, Raja, and the girl he is fated to love, Nilu, a daughter of privilege. Their love scandalizes both of their families—and the novel takes readers across the globe and through several generations. This engrossing, unconventional love story explores the ways that events of the past, even those we are ignorant of, inevitably haunt the present. It is also a brilliant depiction of Nepali society from the Whiting Award – winning author of *Arresting God in Kathmandu*. “ [Upadhyay is] a Buddhist Chekhov. ” —San Francisco Chronicle “ Upadhyay . . . [illuminates] the shadow corners of his characters ’ psyches, as well as the complex social and political realities of life in Nepal, with equal grace. ” —Elle “ [Upadhyay ’ s] characters linger. They are captured with such

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concise, illuminating precision that one begins to feel that they just might be real. ” —The Christian Science Monitor “ Absorbing . . . Beautifully told. ” —Publishers Weekly, starred review

Expelling her husband's mistress, Nepalese wife Didi dominantly mothers her husband's illegitimate son while developing a taboo obsession for him as he enters adulthood. By the award-winning author of *The Guru of Love*.

“ Startlingly good ” stories of Nepali society set against the backdrop of violent Maoist insurgencies (San Francisco Chronicle). From an author like “ a Buddhist Chekhov, ” *The Royal Ghosts* features characters trying to reconcile their true desires with the forces at work in Nepali society (San Francisco Chronicle). As political violence rages, these people struggle with their duties to their aging parents, an oppressive caste system, and the complexities of arranged marriage, striving to find peace and connection, and often discovering it in unexpected places. These stories, from the Whiting Award – winning author of *Arresting God in Kathmandu* and *The Guru of Love*, brilliantly examine not only Kathmandu during a time of upheaval, crisis, and cultural transformation but also the effects of the city on the individual consciousness. “ Like William Trevor, Samrat Upadhyay compresses into a short story the breadth of vision and human consequence we expect from a novel, and he does so in a prose that seems as natural as breathing. ” —Scott Russell Sanders, author of *A Private History of Awe* “ Takes us straight into the heart of the troubled and enchanting kingdom of Nepal. ” —The Washington Post “ Upadhyay ’ s not-so-simple stories are lucid and often luminous. ” —Publishers Weekly

Includes contributions by Gita Mehta, Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Anita Desai, Salman Rushdie, Satyajit Ray, Sara Suleri, and Bapsi Sidhwa

A “ superb ” novel of a Nepali woman ’ s dangerous obsession with her husband ’ s illegitimate son, from the award-winning author of *Buddha ’ s Orphans* (The Wall Street Journal). When Didi discovers that her husband, the Masterji, has been hiding his beautiful lover and their young son, Tarun, in a nearby city, she takes the Masterji back into her grasp and expels his second family. Tarun ’ s mother, heartsick and devastated, slowly begins to lose her mind—and Tarun turns to Didi for the nurturing he longs for. But as Tarun gets older, Didi ’ s domination of the boy turns from emotional to physical, and the damages she inflicts spiral outward, threatening to destroy Tarun ’ s one chance at true happiness. Potent, disturbing, and gorgeously stark in its execution, *The City Son* is a novel not soon forgotten, “ the literary equivalent of watching a horror film [that] leaves us holding our breaths ” (The Plain Dealer).

A young man goes to war against a landfill in a novel that “ revels in the absurd but never strays far from the deeply felt humanity of its characters ” (Maceo Montoya, author of *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza*). Ben Shippers doesn ’ t have much use for school, friends, or pretty much anyone except his smartass sister, but he does harbor a secret passion: Trash Mountain, the central feature of the noxious landfill next to his house, the fumes from which have made his sister ill. After a botched attempt to destroy Trash Mountain with a homemade firebomb, Ben begins a years-long infiltration operation that leads him to drop out of school to work alongside homeless trash-pickers, and then, eventually, intern at the very place he meant to destroy. Ben ’ s boss there, a charismatic would-be titan of sanitation, shows Ben the intricate moralities of the trash industry, forcing him to choose between monetary stability and his environmental principles. With dark humor, *Trash Mountain* reflects on life in small southern cities in decline—and an adolescent ’ s search for fundamental values without responsible adults to lead the way. “ From Mark Twain to George Saunders . . . *Trash Mountain* joins a long tradition of dark humor, wild inventiveness, and social satire in American letters. By turns hilarious, colorful, and strange. ” —Maceo Montoya, author of *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza*

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“ Chronicles the ways in which Ben ’ s early idealism erodes under more complex concerns . . . Bazzle ’ s novel explores the compromises one makes in life even as it blends the gritty and the extravagant along the way. ” —Kirkus Reviews

Sultanas Dream, first published in 1905 in a Madras English newspaper, is a witty feminist utopiaa tale of reverse purdah that posits a world in which men are confined indoors and women have taken over the public sphere, ending a war nonviolently and restoring health and beauty to the world."The Secluded Ones" is a selection of short sketches, first published in Bengali newspapers, illuminating the cruel and comic realities of life in purdah.

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