

Anita Desai, b. 1937, Indo-English novelist.

A Critical Study

A Companion to Indian Fiction in English

Anita Desai, Kiran Desai and Jhumpa Lahiri

In Custody

Transcultural Encounters in South-Asian American Women's Fiction

Anita Desai's Work Represents A Unique Blending Of The Indian And The Western. Her Novels Catch The Bewilderment Of The Individual Psyche Confronted With The Overbearing Socio-Cultural Environment And The Ever-Beckoning Modern Promise Of Self-Gratification And Self-Fulfilment. In The Face Of This Dual Onslaught, Her Protagonists, Male Or Female Maya, Sita, Monisha And Amla; Sarah, Nanda And Raka; Bim And Tara; Devan, Baumgartner Are Seen Poised Rentalingly At Different Junctures Of The Philosophic Spectrum. Applying Sociological, Psychoanalytic, Structural And Other Approaches Of Formal Textual Analysis, The Essays In The Present Anthology Take A Fresh Look At Established Works, Revealing Aspects Of Study Hitherto Unexplored, Offer Critically Insightful Probes Into Individual Novels And Explore The Deployment Of Images, Symbols And Other Poetic Devices, Besides Diverse Narrative Strategies. An Indispensable Source-Book For Students, Researchers And Teachers Of Indian English And Commonwealth Literature In General And Fiction And Anita Desai In Particular. An Insightful Companion For Research In Sociology And Women-Studies.

Today Anita Desai Is Recognised For Her Originality, Versatility And The Indigenous Flavour Of Her Character-Portrayal That She Brings To Her Work. Her Women Characters Are Real Flesh And Blood Protagonists Who Make You Look At Them With Awe And With Their Relationships To Their Surroundings, Their Society, Their Men, Their Children, Their Families, Their Mental And Psychological Make-Ups And Themselves. The Present Book Purports To Be A Pioneering Attempt To Evaluate Desai's Fiction And Fictional Art From Various Points Of View And Assesses Her Contribution To The Indian-English Fiction. What Is Unique About This Book Is The Attempt To Include Desai's Complete Fictional Oeuvre From Her Maiden Attempt Cry, The Peacock (1963) Till Her Latest Published Work The Zigzag Way (2004). Her Novels Of Four Decades Have Been Divided Into Different Sections For A Focused Study. The Present Critical Anthology Of Dr. Neeru Tandon On Anita Desai Is An Admirable Effort On The Presentation Of A Coherent And Comprehensive Assessment Of Anita Desai As A Powerful Indian English Fiction Writer. In Her Collection She Has Included Certain Burning Topics Of The Day Such As Male-Female Dichotomy, Existentialist Vision, Religion And Culture, Concept Of Marriage And Narrative Technique In The Fiction Of Anita Desai. The Uncomplicated Language And The Natural Flow Of Words Make For Easy Reading. Since Dasai Is Prescribed In The Syllabus In Most Of The Universities Of India, Both The Teachers And The Students Will Find This Book Extremely Useful, And The Research Scholars Will Also Find It Very Interesting And Purposeful.

Contributed articles.

Published to high praise--"groundbreaking . . . a landmark" (Poets and Writers)--this was the first anthology to celebrate the diversity of women who write.

The Village by the Sea

Bye-Bye Blackbird

Anita Desai and Her Fictional World

Roots and Blossoms

Their Words and Worlds : Life in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean as Seen in Photographs and in Fiction by the Region's Top Women Writers

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.

The Book Is A Pioneering Study Of Its Kind, Chronologically Examining The Novels Of Anita Desai Mostly From A Feminist Point Of View. The Book Excels In Formally Analysing Indian And Western Traditions Of Feminism, Man-Woman Relationship And Art Of Characterisation In The Overall Context Of The Feminine Psyche Which It Thoroughly Examines. Anita Desai's Is A World Of Married Women Who Combat To Get Out Of The Manacles That Bind Them; To Evolve From Being A Mere Nonentity Victim To A Vibrant Individual Capable Of Breaking The Fetters Without Breaking The Relationship. The Book Is A Voyage From A Sense Of Incompetence And Paranoia To Self-Awareness And Resilience, To Self-Poise And Concord Within The Family Matrix. Dr. Gupta Shows How Anita Desai Has Depicted The Depths Of Human Consciousness And Subconsciousness In Her Existential Concern Which Makes Her Writings Uniquely Powerful Through Feminism. Hence, The Need And Justification Of The Book To Undertake The Present Study Of Her New Perspective On Feminism.

This book is a comparative and developmental study of the expression of feminist concerns in the novels of Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai, and Shashi Deshpande, among the best known and most prolific Indian novelists writing in English, who have been self-consciously engaged with women's issues during the postcolonial era.

Journey to Ithaca

The Interview Chain

The Writer on Her Work

Existential Dimensions in the Novels of Anita Desai

Feminism and Contemporary Indian Women's Writing