

## Delhi Khushwant Singh

*About the Book : - One of the great icons of our time, Khushwant Singh, 95, is a man of contradictions. An agnostic who's well-versed in the holy scriptures; a vocal champion of free speech who supported the Emergency; a dirty old man who sees the world in a grain of sand and beauty in a wild flower. Born in 1915 in pre-Partition Punjab, Khushwant Singh has been witness to almost all the major events in modern Indian history and has known most of the figures who have shaped it. In a career spanning over six decades as writer, editor and journalist, his views have been provocative and controversial, but they have also been profound, deeply perceptive and always compelling. Khushwant Singh has never been less than honest. In Absolute Khushwant, India's grand old man of letters tells us about his life, his loves and his work. He writes on happiness, faith and honesty. And, for the first time, about his successes and failures, his strengths and weaknesses, his highs and lows. He tells us what makes him tick and the secret of his longevity; he confesses his deepest fears and what he holds dear. He writes about sex, marriage, worship and death; the people he's admired and detested.*

*Travelling through time, space and history to 'discover' his beloved city, the narrator of this novel meets a myriad of people - poets and princes, saints and sultans, temptresses and traitors, emperors and eunuchs - who have shaped and endowed Delhi with its very mystique. Delhi Penguin Books India*

*A sensitively written account of a Pakistani writer's discovery of Delhi Why, asks Raza Rumi, does the capital of another country feel like home? How is it that a man from Pakistan can cross the border into 'hostile' territory and yet not feel 'foreign'? Is it the geography, the architecture, the food? Or is it the streets, the festivals and the colours of the subcontinent, so familiar and yes, beloved... As he takes in the sights, from the Sufi shrines in the south to the markets of Old Delhi, from Lutyens' stately mansions to Ghalib's crumbling abode, Raza uncovers the many layers of the city. He connects with the richness of the Urdu language, observes the syncretic evolution of mystical Islam in India and its deep connections with Hindustani classical music - so much a part of his own selfhood. And every so often, he returns to the refuge of Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, the twelfth-century pir, whose dargah still reverberates with music and prayer every evening. His wanderings through Delhi lead Raza back in time to recollections of a long-forgotten Hindu ancestry and to comparisons with his own city of Lahore - in many ways a mirror image of Delhi. They also lead to reflections on the nature of the modern city, the inherent conflict between the native and the immigrant and, inevitably, to an inquiry into his own identity as a South Asian Muslim. Rich with history and anecdote, and conversations with Dilliwalas known and unknown, Delhi By Heart offers an unusual perspective and unexpected insights into the political and cultural capital of India.*

*An Unreliable Memoir*

*City Improbable: Writings (R/E)*

*Khushwantnama*

*City Improbable*

*Obituaries*

*The Company of Women*

**About the Book : - Who are the real makers of a city? Delhi, located at the crossroads of history, has been occupied, abandoned and rebuilt over the centuries. It has been the capital of the Pandavas, the Rajputs, Central Asian dynasties, the Mughals and the British, and is best described as a melting pot of these vastly varying traditions and customs. Originally part of the Sir Sobha Singh Memorial Lecture series organized by The Attic in collaboration with the India International Centre and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, this updated selection explores Delhi's living syncretic heritage. The essays illuminate unknown and fascinating aspects of the city's history. Place names, part of the cultural fabric of a city, unearth a vanishing history of Delhi, while the contrasting history of Sufi shrines draws attention to the spiritual masters, the pirs, and their search for truth. This open-mindedness is reflected in the letters and public proclamations issued from the Mughal court in the Delhi uprising of 1857. These were emphatically religious, yet inclusive of both Hindus and Muslims. As the centre of political power for centuries, many great artists, poets and musicians found patronage at the royal courts of Delhi. The city has been home to a rich tradition of classical music. The many peoples who made Delhi their home through the centuries have all contributed to the creation and development of a sumptuous cuisine noted for its rich variety.**

**Celebrating Delhi takes you on a journey, both varied and unexpected.**

**'The Emergency has become a synonym for obscenity. Even men and women who were pillars of Emergency rule and misused their positions to harass innocent people against whom they had personal grudges try to distance themselves from their past in the hope that it will fade out of public memory forever. We must not allow them to get away with it,' says Khuswant Singh, while fearlessly stating his own reasons for championing the Emergency. This bold and thought-provoking collection includes essays on Indira Gandhi's government, the Nanavati Commission's report on the 1984 riots and the riots themselves, as well as captivating pieces on the art of kissing and the importance of bathing. Alongside these are portraits of historical figures such as Bahadur Shah Zafar, General Dyer, Ghalib and Maharaja Ranjit Singh as well as candid profiles of the famous personalities he has known over the years, revealing intimate details about their lives and characters. From his reflections on Amrita Sher-Gil's alleged promiscuity to the experience of watching a pornographic film with a stoic R.K. Narayan, this is Khuswant Singh at his controversial and iconoclastic best. Selected and edited by Sheela Reddy, Why I Supported the Emergency: Essays and Profiles covers three quarters of a century. Straight from the heart, this is unadulterated Khuswant Singh.**

**A sharp and funny dissection of different aspects of the Indian character, from our attitude to sex, religion and women to our views on corruption and the English language. Irreverent and full of witty observations, this is a Khushwant Singh classic!**

**‘I thought the nation was coming to an end’** When Khushwant Singh witnessed the violence of Partition nearly seventy years ago, he believed that he had seen the worst that India could do to herself. But after the carnage in Gujarat in 2002, he had reason to feel that the worst, perhaps, was still to come. Analysing the communal violence in Gujarat in 2002, the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the burning of Graham Staines and his children, the targeted killings by terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir, Khushwant Singh forces us to confront the absolute corruption of religion that has made us among the most brutal people on earth. He also points out that fundamentalism has less to do with religion than with politics. And communal politics, he reminds us, is only the most visible of the demons we have nurtured and let loose upon ourselves. A brave and passionate book, *The End of India* is a wake-up call for every citizen concerned about his or her own future, if not the nation’s.

**Essays and Profiles**

**Why I Supported the Emergency**

**The End of India**

**Analects of the Year 2009**

**Khushwant Singh's Book of Unforgettable Women**

**The Low-down on Life, Death, and Most Things In-between**

Born in 1915 in pre-Partition Punjab, Khushwant Singh, perhaps India’s most widely read and controversial writer has been witness to most of the major events in modern Indian history from Independence and Partition to the Emergency and Operation Blue Star and has known many of the figures who have shaped it. With clarity and candour, he writes of leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, the terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the talented and scandalous painter Amrita Shergil, and everyday people who became butchers during Partition. Writing of his own life, too, Khushwant Singh remains unflinchingly forthright. He records his professional triumphs and failures as a lawyer, journalist, writer and Member of Parliament; the comforts and disappointments in his marriage of over sixty years; his first, awkward sexual encounter; his phobia of ghosts and his fascination with death; the friends who betrayed him, and also those whom he failed.

Noted Indian writer and translator Khushwant Singh’s tribute to 18 major Punjabi writers whose stories he has translated in this collection of short fiction. The writers included here are familiar names in India – writers such as Amrita Pritam, Saadat Hasan Manto, Khwaja Ahmed Abbas, and also two new women writers, Ajeet Caur and Usha Mahajan – among others.

Meet the members of the Sunset Club: Pandit Preetam Sharma, Nawab Barkatullah Baig and Sardar Boota Singh. Friends for over forty years, they are now in their eighties. And every evening, at the sunset hour, they sit together on a bench in Lodhi Gardens to exchange news and views on the events of the day, talking about everything from love, lust, sex and scandal to religion and politics. As he follows a year in the lives of the three men—from January 26 2009 to January 26 2010—Khushwant Singh brings his characters vibrantly to life, with his piquant portrayals of their fantasies and foibles, his unerring ear for dialogue and his genius for capturing the flavour and texture of everyday life in their households. Interwoven with this compelling human story is another chronicle – of a year in the life of India, as the country goes through the cycle of seasons, the tumult of general elections, violence, natural disasters and corruption in high places. In turn ribald and lyrical, poignant and profound, *The Sunset Club* is a deeply moving exploration of friendship, sexuality, old age

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and infirmity; a joyous celebration of nature; an insightful portrait of India's paradoxes and complexities. A masterpiece from one of India's most-loved storytellers, *The Sunset Club* will have you in tears and laughter, and grip you from the first page to the last.

Written over the years, Khushwant Singh obituaries present the dead in death, as in life—good, bad or ugly—including Bhutto, Sanjay Gandhi, M.O. Mathai, Lord Mountbatten, and the author's pet Alsatian Simba.

*The Sunset Club*

*Truth, Love & A Little Malice*

*An Anthology of Writings on Delhi*

*Nature Watch*

*The AntiSikh Violence of 1984*

*A Short Biography of Delhi*

'Delhi is the twin of pure paradise, a prototype of the heavenly throne on an earthscroll'—Amir Khusrau A city of contradictions, where traditions and modern aspirations jostle for space, Delhi has often been compared to a phoenix rising from the ashes. Its three thousand years of history have witnessed the rise and fall of several empires, a process that continues today. *City Improbable* brings together writings by residents, refugees, travellers and invaders who have engaged with India's capital over different epochs. Babur shares his earliest experiences and Amir Khusrau praises the fine lads of Delhi; Ibn Battuta and Niccolao Manucci record the glories and follies of prominent rulers; Willa Cather and Khushwant Singh provide intriguing accounts of the threshold period that saw the coming of the British and the waning of the Mughals. Storytellers—Meer Taqi Meer, Ghalib, Yashpal, Kamleshwar, Ruskin Bond—narrate their versions of the city. Contemporary Delhi is featured in vignettes: the bureaucracy, the Emergency, the anti-Sikh violence, lovers and joggers in Lodi Gardens, the city's Sufi legacy as well as its cuisine. Among the new pieces in this expanded edition are Sam Miller's account of his experiences in the suburb of Noida, Manto's story of a man from Delhi leaving the city during Partition, Jarnail Singh's unflinching recollection of the massacre of Sikhs in 1984, a photo essay on Sikkim by Karoki Lewis, and a composite narrative by the young writers of the Cybermohalla Collective about the making of a resettlement colony. *Mano Majra* is a place, Khushwant Singh tells us at the beginning of this classic novel, where Sikhs and Muslims have lived together in peace for years. Then one day, at the end of the summer, the 'ghost train' arrives, a silent, incredible funeral train loaded with the bodies of the dead, bringing the village its first taste of the horrors of the civil war. *Train to Pakistan* is the story of this isolated village that is plunged into a world of religious hate. It is also the story of a Sikh boy and a Muslim girl whose love endures and transcends the ravages of war.

In This Unparalleled Collection Of Short Stories, The Harpercollins Book Of New Indian Fiction Presents An Absorbing View Of One Of The Most Diverse Literary Landscapes In The World. Traversing Continents And Orbits, Styles And Themes, In Rich, Original And Frequently Surprising Ways, These Stories Testify To The Range And Depth Of Indian Writing In English. Various Lyric, Satiric, Tragic And Fantastic, They Are Unified In Their Vigorous Celebration Of Humanity. The Anthology Features A Rich Assortment Of Voices From Both New Authors And Established Names Including Abraham Verghese, Kapur, Githa Hariharan And Amitava Kumar. With An Insightful Introduction By Khushwant Singh, One Of India's Foremost Literary Personalities, This Is The Definitive Survey Of A Lively Modern Scene.

I thought the nation was coming to an end wrote Khushwant Singh, looking back on the violence of partition. He believed then, and for years, that he had seen the worst that India could do to herself. Over the last few years, however, he has had reason to feel that the worst, in this fierce, uncompromising book he shows us what few of us wish to see: Why it is entirely likely that India will come undone in the

I Accuse...

The Best of Khushwant Singh

The Collected Novels

We Indians

The Hidden Monuments of Delhi

Delhi By Heart

*A book about Delhi's secret and seldom-visited monuments.*

*This Is The Diary Of A Nature Lover Patterned After The Traditional Baramasi Of Indian Poets. It Tells You Of Trees, Flowers, Fruits, Birds, Snakes, Insects And Animals To Be Seen During The Twelve Months Of The Year. It Also Tells Of The Many Fairs And Festivals Celebrated In The Country, How Clouds Are Formed And What Their Shapes And Movements Mean, Why Hailstorms Come In Spring And Early Summer And Not In Winter, How Birds Communicate With Each Other And Why Their Calls Vary With The Seasons. With The Descriptions Of Nature Are Included Poems On Natural Phenomena By Poets Like Kalidasa, Guru Nanak, Meer Taqi Meer, Ghalib, Akbar Illahabadi, Rabindranath Tagore, Rudyard Kipling And Many Others.*

*Raghu Rai is Indias most famous and most lauded photographer. Here, he lends his creative genius to capturing the changing face of Delhi, the place of his birth and Indias capital city, over the last forty years. William Dalrymple says in his introduction to the book that [this is] the work of a sympathetic insider and has a tender and knowing intimacy that no outsider like myself can come close to. That quality is displayed to stunning effect in this spectacular, large format book, which will be prized by anyone with an interest in modern India or photography.*

*"Though I am nothing to look at, it is women who have sought my company more than I have sought theirs." 'Khushwant Singh' In Khushwant Singh's Book of Unforgettable Women, India's most widely-read and irreverent author and columnist profiles some of many women in his life. From Ghayoorunnisa Hafeez, the girl who forever changed his attitude towards Muslims, to his wife, Kaval Malik, who is allergic to media publicity; from his old grandmother to the controversial artist Amrita Shergil; from Mother Teresa to Phoolan Devi, Khushwant Singh paints colourful and true-to-life portraits of the women he has*

known, loved, despised, admired, and lived with. The book also includes some of the women Khushwant Singh has conjured up in the numerous stories and novels he has written over sixty years. The lively Martha Stack (-Black Jasmine'), Lady Mohan Lal (-Karma'), Jean Memsahib (-The Memsahib of Mandla'), the hijra-whore Bhagmati (Delhi), the insatiable Champak (I Shall Not Hear The Nightingale), dark-eyed Nooran (Train to Pakistan) and the free-spirited Molly Gomes (The Company of Women) are only a few of Khushwant Singh's larger-than-life characters who are sure to entertain and amuse the reader.

On India

Absolute Khushwant

An Authorized Biography

More Malicious Gossip

Celebrating Delhi

Captain Amarinder Singh: The People's Maharaja

**Contributed articles on history and social life of Delhi, India.**

**'A Khushwant Singh short story is not flamboyant but modest, restrained, well-crafted...Perhaps his greatest gift as a writer is a wonderful particularity of description'—London Magazine** **Khushwant Singh first established his reputation as a writer through the short story. His stories—wry, poignant, erotic and, above all, human—bear testimony to Khushwant Singh's remarkable range and his ability to create an unforgettable PBI - World. Spanning over half a century, this volume contains all the short stories Khushwant Singh has ever written, including the delightfully tongue-in-cheek 'The Maharani of Chootiapuram', written in 2008. 'Khushwant's stories enthrall...[He has]an ability akin to that of Somerset Maugham...the ability to entertain intelligently'—PBI - India Today 'His stories are better than [those of] any PBI - Indian writing in English—Times of PBI - India 'The Collected Short Stories leaves the reader in a delightful, inebriated trance'—Sunday Chronicle 'He is not an ordinary short story writer...[Collected Stories] is delightful reading'—Hindustan Times**

**This selection of Khushwant Singh's prose is like the man himself: blunt, perceptive, incorrigibly provocative, often amusing but always bubbling with life. The book includes candid portrayals of public personalities such as Zail Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, Nani Palkhivala, Rajni Patel and Nargis Dutt. There are also vivid portrayals of public personalities such as Zail Singh, Rajiv Gandhi, Nani Palkhivala, Rajni Patel and Nargis Dutt. There are also vivid portraits of places such as Delhi,**

***Amritsar, Goa, Lucknow, Bhopal and Hyderabad. Then there are his musings on such issues as communalism, terrorism and bride burning, still as vivid today as when the pieces were first written. From modest beginnings in Fiji, a dot in the Pacific Ocean, to the dining tables of queens and prime ministers, Bhaichand Patel's journey shows him to be the quintessential self-made man. Journalist, author, lawyer, diplomat, film critic, with a gift for mixing a potent cocktail--he has dived into every avocation with aplomb, and emerged with some great insights and plenty of stories. In I Am a Stranger Here Myself, he puts these together in a narrative that takes the reader on a roller-coaster ride all over the world--from Fiji, Bombay, London to New York, Cairo, Manila--coming to rest in the leafy environs of New Delhi's Sujana Singh Park. Traipsing through the book's pages are distinguished lawyers, judges, diplomats, journalists, politicians, authors, actors and directors--some down on their luck, others on the rise. An early practitioner of the work hard, party harder philosophy, Patel shows that life can be as difficult as we want to make it, or as much fun. As Henry Miller put it, 'Do anything, but let it produce joy'.***

***Not A Nice Man To Know***

***Raghu Rai's Delhi***

***Land of Five Rivers***

***I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale***

***I Am a Stranger Here Myself***

'If people have lost their lives in a storm, it is a different matter; but how can a massacre be forgotten? Especially when there's been no justice?' The three days of 1984, when over 3000 Sikhs were slaughtered, have indelibly marked the lives of thousands more who continue to exist in a twilight of bitterness and despair. It was outrage at this state of affairs that led Jarnail Singh—an unassuming, law-abiding journalist—to throw his shoe at Home Minister P. Chidambaram during a press conference in New Delhi. He readily acknowledges that this was not an appropriate means of protest, but asks why, twenty-seven years after the massacres, so little has been done to address the issues that are still unresolved and a source of anguish to the whole community. *I Accuse . . .* is a powerful and passionate indictment of the state's response to the killings of 1984. By exploring the chain of events, the survivors' stories and the continuing shadow it casts over their lives, Singh seeks answers to some relevant questions. Who initiated the pogrom and why? Why did the state apparatus allow it to happen? Why, despite the many commissions and committees set up to investigate the events, have the perpetrators not been brought to book? Because, finally, 1984 was not an attack on the Sikh community alone; it was an attack on the idea at the very core of democracy—that every citizen, irrespective of faith and community, has a right to life, security and justice.

This brand new, updated edition, with 18 new pieces from his more recent writings added to the original selection, collects the best of over fifty years of his prose—including his finest journalistic pieces, short stories, translations, jokes and a play, as well as excerpts from his autobiography, novels and non-fiction books. Taken together, this collection shows just why Khushwant Singh is one of the country's most celebrated and widely-read authors. The Essential Khushwant Singh Collection

"A heartfelt love letter to Delhi that is part history, part family memoir and part indignant call to arms: Why do we tolerate the neglect of India's greatest city, asks Mala Singh. More importantly, she brilliantly shows why we should care and how we need to learn to value the nation's extraordinary capital city." - William Dalrymple Capital to successive empires and the independent Indian republic, Delhi is finally coming into its own as the nation's first city in the twenty-first century. In so doing, it has left behind once and future contenders for the title - Bombay, Madras, Calcutta. How did this small settlement, founded in the lee of an ancient range of hills in eighth century by a Tomar Rajput chief called Suraj Pal, become one of the world's great cities, home to nearly twenty million people, witness to the rise and fall of empires and dynasts and eccentrics as magnificent and notable as the Tomar Chauhans, the Mamluks, the Khiljis, the Tughlaks, the Sayyids, the Lodis, the Mughals, the Nehrus, the Gandhis and dozens of others too numerous to count. Drawing upon her unparalleled knowledge of the city she has spent most of her life in, Malvika Singh gives us a book that reveals the pith and essence of Delhi through the memorable people who lived (and live) in it, its great buildings, its extraordinary food, its unforgettable music and the centuries of blood and history that have seeped into every square inch of its soil.

If there's anyone who's been around, seen it all and lived life to the hilt, it has to be Khushwant Singh. India's most popular and prolific writer has, over the years, enlightened and outraged in equal measure, and enriched our lives with his humour, his honesty and his sharp insights and observations. In Khushwantnama, the 98-year-old reflects on a life lived fully and the lessons it has taught him. Here is his distilled wisdom on subjects as diverse as old age and the fear of death; on the joy of sex, the pleasures of poetry and the importance of laughter; on how to cope with retirement and live a long, happy and healthy life. Here, too, are his reflections on politics, politicians and the future of India; on what it takes to be a writer; and on what religion means to him.

The Lost Victory

A Novel

Harpercollins Book Of New Indian Fiction

Khushwant Singh on Women, Love & Lust

Death at My Doorstep

The Portrait of a Lady

The Lost Victory perfectly captures the cultural essence of 1942 and the urgency of this colourful and moving pageant of a nation about to throw off the yoke of foreign rule. Essentially, it is the story of Buta Singh, a shrewd and wily official working with the British, and of Sher Singh, his vain and ambitious son driven to rebellion against the foreign master. It is also the story of the women of the family—Champak, Sher's beautiful wife, her wild passions bursting the

bonds of century-old prohibitions, and Sabhrai, Sher's mother, whose matriarchal strength sustains the family in its time of crisis. What happens to this family when a brutal and senseless murder sets father against son, wife against husband, is told against the background of an India torn by religious tension and fraternal strife.

This volume brings together all the novels, except *The Company of Women*, by India's most widely read and celebrated author. Included here are the classic *Train to Pakistan* that describes the tragedy of Partition through the love story of a Sikh dacoit and a Muslim girl; *I Shall Not Hear the Nightingale*, which deals with the conflict in a prosperous Sikh family of Punjab in the 1940s; and the best-selling *Delhi*, a vast, erotic, irreverent magnum opus centred on the Indian capital.

An authentic, definitive and no-holds-barred narrative – packed with fascinating incidents and anecdotes – that brings alive the life and times of one of the most prominent, multifaceted and striking individuals (a former royal) in the sphere of Punjab politics. Beginning with a historical background of how the Patiala kingdom came to be established, and ruled, over the centuries, the author moves on to describe the early years of Amarinder Singh (a scion of that kingdom). He then portrays the Indo-Pak war zone of 1965 (where the protagonist earned his spurs) and finally focuses on the combative arenas of Punjab politics, where numerous electoral and other battles have been (and continue to be) fought. This informative work unravels the subterfuges of politicians and others (including religious leaders) in trying to ensure their dominance. The pages reveal behind-the-scenes intrigues, plots and counter-plots even as Punjab was in the vice-like grip of terrorism in the late twentieth century. Operation Bluestar (June 1984) and its consequences have been objectively recorded. Besides tracing the career graph of Amarinder Singh, who reached his pinnacle when he became the chief minister of Punjab in February 2002, the author provides useful insights into crucial events that have made an immense impact on that state and the neighbouring areas over the past few decades. The text also throws light on Amarinder Singh's five-year tenure as chief minister (marked by both positive and negative aspects) and on the following period, when Parkash Singh Badal regained that post. The contents are rounded off with an update on the Punjab scenario up to February 2017, which saw Amarinder Singh come back with a thumping victory. Here's a saga that records history in the making in Punjab.

This Novel Of Partition Was First Published In 1956 And Is Now Widely Accepted As Being One Of The Classics Of Modern Indian Fiction.

Perpetual City

Train to Pakistan

Not a Nice Man to Know

### Khushwant Singh's Joke Book 3

Delhi - A Novel

The Lessons of My Life

*I return to Delhi as I return to my mistress Bhagmati when I have had my fill of whoring in foreign lands...'* Thus begins Khushwant Singh's vast, erotic, irrelevant magnum opus on the city of Delhi. The principal narrator of the saga, which extends over six hundred years, is a bawdy, ageing reprobate who loves Delhi as much as he does the hijda whore Bhagmati—half man, half woman with sexual inventiveness and energy of both the sexes. Travelling through time, space and history to 'discover' his beloved city, the narrator meets a myriad of people—poets and princes, saints and sultans, temptresses and traitors, emperors and eunuchs—who have shaped and endowed Delhi with its very special mystique. And as we accompany the narrator on his epic journey we find the city of emperors transformed and immortalized in our minds forever.

*More laughs! More laughter!! Another super collection of naughty and not-so-naughty jokes, humorous anecdotes, comic interludes, hilarious situations and bitchy remarks, selected by Khushwant Singh from amongst the thousands contributed by his readers and fans — and some manufactured by him. All dedicated to getting the humorless Indians to smile and to laugh. His earlier collection of jokes, Khushwant Singh's Joke Book and Khushwant Singh's Joke Book II have both been runaway bestsellers having sold over 80,000 copies, a rare phenomenon in Indian publishing. They were widely hailed for "poking fun at Indians and lampooning politicians." One reviewer paid a rich compliment by describing the books as "designed with malice towards one and all and to give the reader a pain in the belly."*

*'Balzac could not have done better' —The Financial Express In this sparkling collection of stories, India's best-known writer addresses some pertinent questions: Why do we believe in miracles? Can a horoscope guarantee the perfect wife? Is the Kamasutra a useful manual for newlyweds? Margaret Bloom arrives in Haridwar from New York to save her soul. But she soon discovers that there are temptations even on the banks of the holy Ganga. Madan Mohan Pandey, amateur astrologer and scholar of ancient Hindu texts, finds to his horror that his doe-like bride is not quite what he had expected. Pious Zora Singh, Pride of the Nation, rumoured to be a char sau bees and a womanizer, silences his detractors by earning the Bharat Ratna. Devi Lal makes his peace with a fickle God when his daughter-in-law delivers a son, following secret visits to the Peer Sahib's tomb. And Vijay Lall, emboldened by his miraculous escape from death, decides to act upon his silent obsession with Karuna Chaudhury, which takes him to a shifty soothsayer behind the Khan Market loo. Khushwant Singh returns to the short story after decades to deliver a truly memorable collection—humorous, provocative, tongue-in-cheek, ribald and even, at times, tender.*

*Recently separated from his nagging, ill-tempered wife of thirteen years, millionaire businessman Mohan Kumar decides to reinvent his life. Convinced that 'lust is the true foundation of love', he embarks on an audacious plan: he will advertise for paid lady companions to share his bed and his life. Thus begins his journey of easy, unbridled sexuality in the company of some remarkable women. There is Sarojini Bharadwai, the demure professor from small-town Haryana who surprises Mohan with her ardour and sexual energy; Molly Gomes, the free-spirited masseuse from Goa, mistress of the sensual impulse; and Susanthika Goonatilleke, the diminutive seductress from Sri Lanka. After each affair ends and before the next begins, Mohan finds solace in the practiced charms of his obliging maid, Dhanno, and in the memories of his first lovers: the American Jessica Browne, to whom he lost his virginity, and the Pakistani Yasmeen Wanchoo, who brought him the heady passion of an older woman. In *The Company of Women*, Khushwant Singh, India's most widely read author, has produced an uninhibited, erotic and endlessly entertaining celebration of love, sex and passion.*

*Invisible City*

*A History of the Sikhs*

*Delhi*

*Paradise and Other Stories*

*The essential Khushwant Singh collection. In an essay in this anthology, Khushwant Singh claims that he is not a nice man to know. Whatever the truth of that assertion, there is little question about his skill as a witty, eloquent and entertaining writer. This book collects the best of over three decades of the author's prose—including his finest journalistic pieces, short stories, translations, jokes, plays as well as excerpts from his non-fiction books and novels. Taken together, the pieces in this selection (some of which have never been published before) show just why Khushwant Singh is the country's most widely read columnist and one of its most celebrated authors.*

*Born in Punjab's Hadali village (now in Pakistan) in 1915, Khushwant Singh was among India's best-known and most widely read authors and journalists.*