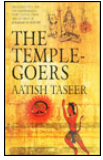


## Choice of the Week



### **The Temple Goers by Aatish Taseer**

A young man returns home to Delhi after several years abroad and resumes his place among the city's cosmopolitan elite – a world of fashion designers, media moguls and the idle rich. But everything around him has changed – new roads, new restaurants, new money, new crime – everything, that is, except for the people, who are the same, only maybe slightly worse.



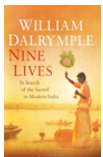
### **Electric Feather: Tranquebar Book of Erotic Stories edited by Ruchir Joshi**

In this motley anthology of erotic stories, Ruchir Joshi brings together different facets of sexual love through the writings of celebrated contemporary Indian authors. Filling in the dearth of good erotic writing in the Indian subcontinent, the anthology reaches out to the matured Indian audience.



### **Blowback by Mukul Deva**

As the political situation in the subcontinent continues to spin out of control, a warlord in the rugged Tribal Areas of Pakistan pushes his way to the crest of the jihadi wave, seeking to forge an alliance of terror groups to take on the American surge. One of his allies appears to be Pakistan's ISI. But are they using him to attain their own goals? Or is he using them? If so, for what? Yet again, facing the brunt of the deadly double game is the spirited Force 22. Iqbal and Tanaz, just back from Pakistan after their search-and-destroy mission to eliminate Salim, are catapulted into action as lethal intelligence operations begin to unfold.



### **Nine Lives: IN SEARCH OF THE SACRED IN INDIA by William Dalrymple**

A Buddhist monk takes up arms to resist the Chinese invasion of Tibet - then spends the rest of his life trying to atone for the violence by hand printing the best prayer flags in India. A Jain nun tests her powers of detachment as she watches her best friend ritually starve to death. A woman leaves her middle-class family in Calcutta, and her job in a jute factory, only to find unexpected love and fulfilment living as a Tantric skull feeder in a remote cremation ground. A prison warden from Kerala becomes, for two months of the year, a temple dancer and is worshipped as a deity; then, at the end of February each year, he returns to prison. An illiterate goat herd from Rajasthan keeps alive an ancient 4,000-line sacred epic that he, virtually alone, still knows by heart. A devadasi - or temple prostitute - initially resists her own initiation into sex work, yet pushes both her daughters into a trade she now regards as a sacred calling. Nine people, nine lives. Each one taking a different religious path, each one an unforgettable story. Exquisite and mesmerising, and told with an almost biblical simplicity, William Dalrymple's first travel book in over a decade explores how traditional forms of religious life in South Asia have been transformed in the region's rapid change.



### **The Rediscovery of India by Meghnad Desai**

What makes India a nation? What has held its many disparate societies with their diverse, sometimes conflicting, narratives together for more than sixty years? What has allowed India to sustain its commitment to the democratic process, given its location in a region that is largely undemocratic? In this magisterial analysis of the last five hundred years of Indian history, Meghnad Desai looks at India's colonial past, its struggle for independence and its many contemporary conundrums, to discover answers to the questions that have confronted India-watchers for decades.



### **Indian Essentials**

Celebrating 60 years of the Indian Republic, we bring you Indian Essentials, a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek ode to India. In this quirky collection, twenty writers and social commentators ponder the mysteries of the Indian psyche and try to make sense of one trait, phenomenon or cultural value that is quintessentially Indian.