

BOOKS RECEIVED

A Great Ball In China And My Little Talzhou

Shankar Sharma

Tranquebar

pp 242, Rs 295

With its unbounded zest for the more piquant absurdities of life — starting with himself — Sharma's account of being the world's first Assamese Scot to teach in the middle kingdom is a Chinese take-away treat par excellence.



Blowback

Mukul Deva

Harper Collins

pp 349, Rs 199

The novel will keep you riveted with its tight plotting and heart-stopping pace.



Through The Narrow Gate

Karen Armstrong

Flamingo

pp 281, Rs 325

Painful and honest, the novelist's simple account of her struggles says a great deal about destructive trends in modern life.