

Children's & Young Adult Catalogue



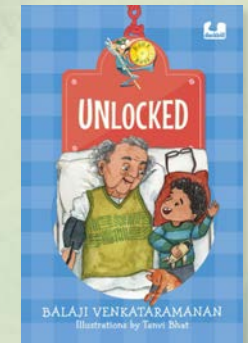
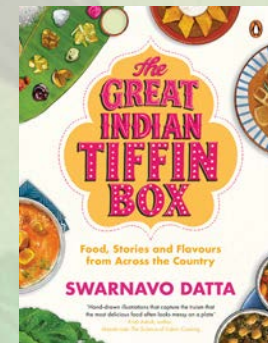
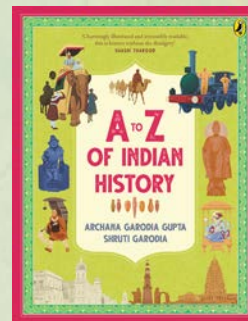
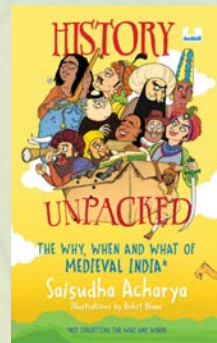
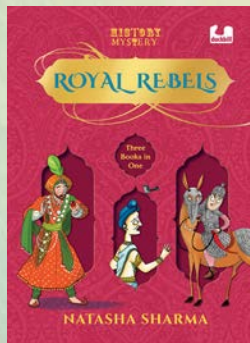
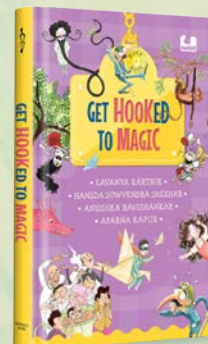
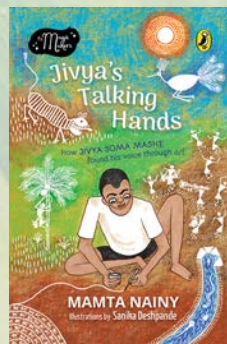
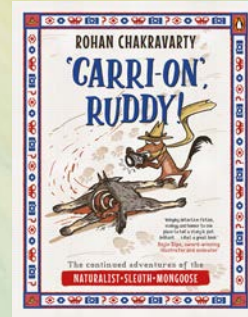
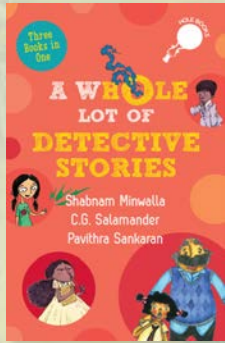
APRIL - JUNE 2026



Penguin
Random House
India

January to March 2026 Highlights

January to March 2026 Highlights



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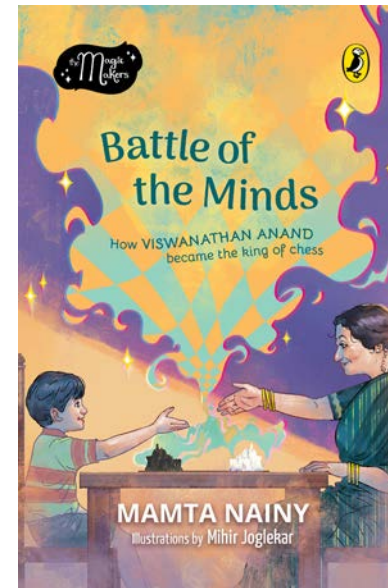


PUFFIN

Young Readers and Middle Grade



In the same series



IMPRINT Puffin

FORMAT 229 x 153 mm/PB

PAGE EXTENT 40/Full-colour

PRICE ₹299

ISBN 9780143481072

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

MAMTA NAINY is a writer based in New Delhi. She has authored over thirty books for children, many of which have gone on to win national and international awards and recognition.

Battle of the Minds: How Viswanathan Anand Became the King of Chess

MAMTA NAINY

A unique biography that explores and celebrates the life of India's greatest chess master!

'The pieces looked like lifeless soldiers. But in Vishy's mind, they were alive.'

To everyone else, the chessboard was just black-and-white squares. To Vishy, it was a fantastical world of leaping knights, swooping bishops, shape-shifting pawns and clever queens. With Amma as his opponent, every match was a battle of wits waiting to unfold.

Could Vishy outsmart Amma and find the winning move? And could these early games prepare him for the greatest chess stages in the world?

Ages 8+



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT B/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 224/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹399
 ISBN 9780143478751
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY World

RUSKIN BOND is one of India's best-loved writers, who has written over 500 short stories, essays and novellas, and more than forty books for children.

All-Time Favourite Friendship Stories

RUSKIN BOND

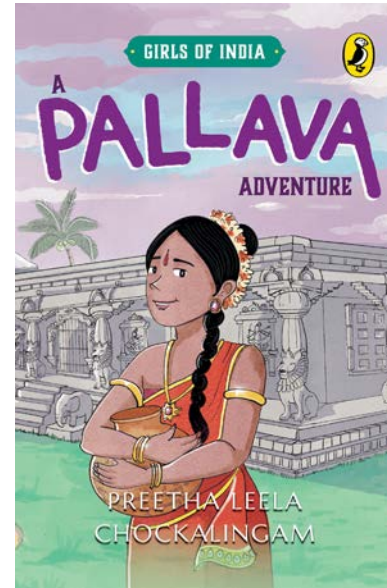
Heartwarming tales of friendship from one of India's most beloved storytellers.

All-Time Favourite Friendship Stories is a joyful jumble of twenty-five heartwarming tales about friendship in all its wonderful and surprising forms.

From 'The Playing Fields of Simla' and 'Rusty and Somi' to 'The Hidden Pool' and 'Two Boys and a Tiger', each story brings to life characters that you won't forget. There are schoolyard rivalries that turn into friendship, chance meetings that grow into strong bonds and special connections with animals and nature. Filled with adventure and small moments of kindness, these are stories of bonds that last across time and distance.

Written and curated by Ruskin Bond, this collection celebrates friendship, loyalty, mischief and the joy of having a friend by your side.

In the same series



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT B/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 296/B&W
 PRICE ₹350
 ISBN 9780143466970
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY World

PREETHA LEELA CHOCKALINGAM is a writer, assessor and mum who enjoys mentoring, training and coaching. Preetha loves writing historical fiction, set in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, for both children and adults. She would have loved to have lived under the liberal-minded Cheras or the sophisticated Pallavas but has settled for bringing those kingdoms back to life through her books, stories and research.

A Pallava Adventure

PREETHA LEELA CHOCKALINGAM
Illustrations by **MEGHA VISHWANATH**

Travel back to different eras of Indian history with the girls who lived in them!

620 CE. Mamallapuram, India.

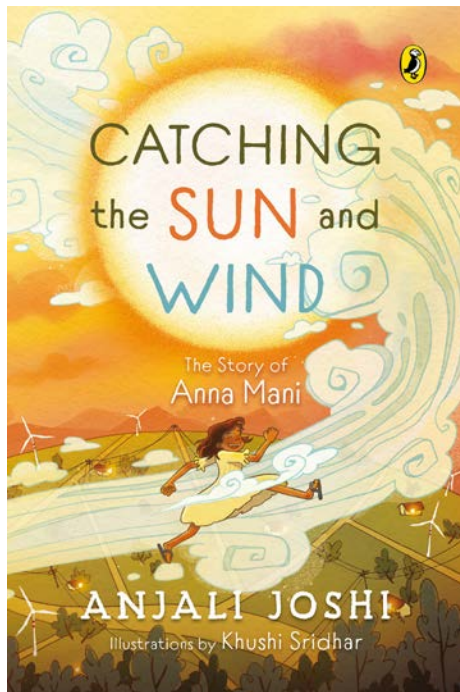
Twelve-year-old Pallavi's father works at the royal court of Mamallapuram. Pallavi spends her days in its magnificent library, studying with her best friend Shobavathi and dreaming of becoming a scholar. But life at court is unpredictable.

When her father loses his job and is banished by the king for misconduct, Pallavi is forced to leave her lessons to help her stepmother run a seaside shop. But she cannot turn her back on her education. She secretly scribbles poems in hidden spots to practice writing Tamil. When a jug with a poem etched on it is discovered, it thrills scholars of the kingdom but also alerts its enemies. Suddenly, Pallavi finds herself thrust into a mysterious Chalukya plot to bring down the Pallava empire. To make matters worse, a strange woman arrives and shatters Pallavi's world with a dark family secret.

Caught amidst spies, secrets, and betrayal, can Pallavi stop the Chalukyas, figure out whom to trust, and forgive her family's hidden truths?

Ages 10+





IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT 229 x 153 mm/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 40/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹299
 ISBN 9780143475705
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY Indian Subcontinent

ANJALI JOSHI is a science teacher and curriculum developer by day, and a children's book author by night. She has published over a dozen books for children, sharing her love of science and storytelling through her books. She holds a master's degree in STEM education from the University of Oxford.

Catching the Sun and Wind: The Story of Anna Mani

ANJALI JOSHI

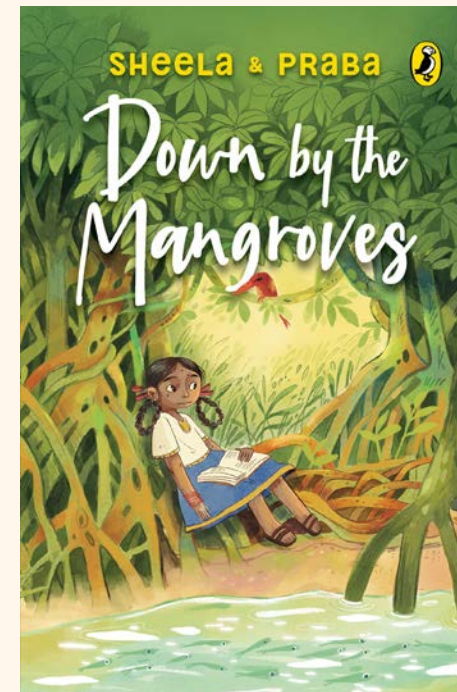
The remarkable story of Anna Mani, a pioneer of solar and wind energy in India!

In the small villages of India, the setting sun brought an end to everything—including Anna Mani's precious reading time. Frustrated by the darkness that brought her community to a standstill, Anna dreamed of a day when light could shine long after nightfall.

But when modern electricity finally arrived, it came at a cost: skies clouded with dark, choking smoke. Anna realized that the first solution isn't always the best one.

Follow the inspiring true story of Anna Mani, a determined scientist and inventor who turned her childhood frustration into a lifelong quest. Travel with her across India as she experiments, invents, and works with fellow scientists to harness the clean, powerful energy of the sun and wind.

Discover how one woman's vision helped bring light to millions—while keeping the skies blue and the air clean for generations to come.



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT B/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 176/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹350
 ISBN 9780143475880
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY World

SHEELA and **PRABA** are storybrewers who love tales of every kind—big, small, wild and gently hopeful. Writing across oceans and time zones, they craft stories where young readers can find a friend, feel seen, and remember that they're not alone. Their previous picture book, *Thukpa for All*, has been recognized by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) and the South Asia Book Award, and featured on the Bank Street Best Children's Books list.

Down by the Mangroves

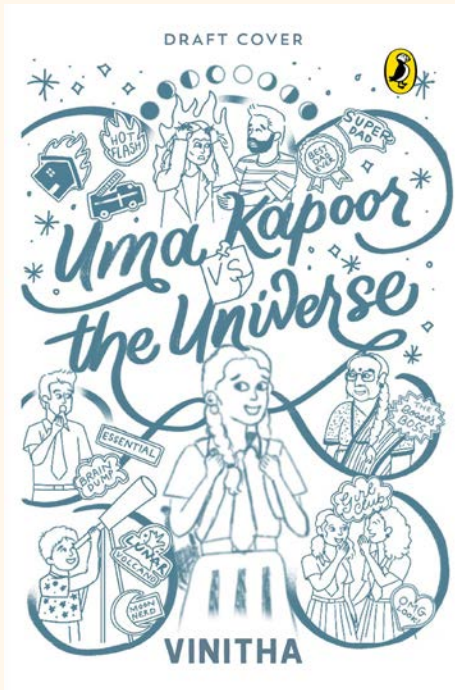
SHEELA PREUITT & PRABA RAM

A moving story about love, loss and the quiet strength of a girl growing up by the mangroves of the Sundarbans.

For fifth-grader Moyna, life feels full in the way it does for many children her age: school, friends, and parents who think the world of her. Her backyard just happens to be a vast mangrove delta, where herons stand as still as secrets and kingfishers flash like sparks over the water, and where she has fallen asleep to stories of Bonbibibi, guardian of the forest. Out in the deep jungle, tigers still prowl.

After her father is suddenly gone, Moyna's familiar rhythms falter. In the quiet care of friends, neighbours and family, she begins to see that she doesn't have to face it all alone, and that ordinary moments—and laughter—can return, bit by bit, day by day.

Down by the Mangroves is a tender story about loving your world, watching it change, and discovering, slowly and in your own way, that sorrow and joy can share the same space.



IMPRINT Puffin

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 216/B&W

PRICE ₹350

ISBN 9780143477877

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

VINITHA is an award-winning author and editor who also paints and writes poetry. An ex-journalist and columnist, Vinitha has written over thirty books for children. Her stories are part of CBSE and ICSE curriculum. Her book Ammu and the Sparrows won the Neev Literature Award 2021 and is a part of Parag Honour List, while Jamini Roy's Unbroken Lines has received much critical acclaim. A scholarship she won at Hedgebrooke's Writers in Residence Program has led her to write her first not-for-children book—a food memoir.

Uma Kapoor vs the Universe

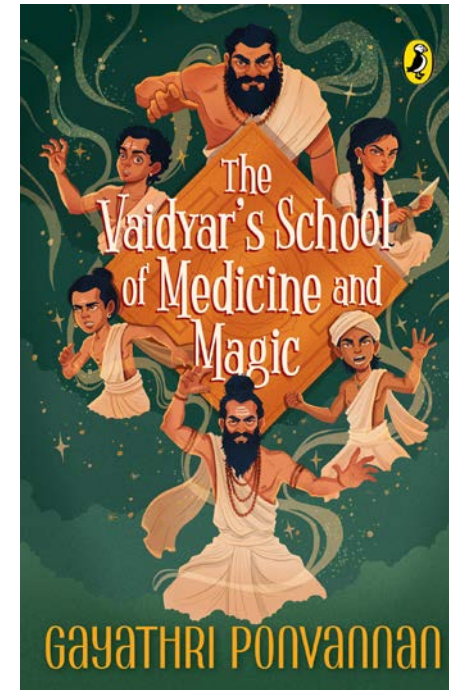
VINITHA

Periods, crushes, BFFs and an angry mom—can Uma's life get any more complicated?

What should one do when the Universe is conspiring against you? That's what twelve-year-old Uma Kapoor would like to know, thank you very much. Her friends are getting ahead of her, her crush thinks she's embarrassing and her own body is betraying her. Meanwhile, her Type A mom, who could once reorganize the spice cabinet while juggling several clients, is now a walking disaster. And her dad? He's turned into a shadow trying to keep the peace.

Then, the house catches fire. Well played, Universe.

As her private fears collide with public disaster, Uma must navigate the big, bad (and slightly sooty) world of adolescence. With her snack-fiend BFF Arjun and her astronomy-obsessed brother at her side, she begins to learn that growing up might mean there are no neat answers—only brave questions.



IMPRINT Puffin

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 224/B&W

PRICE ₹350

ISBN 9780143479864

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

GAYATHRI PONVANNAN'S first book, *Time Racers*, was published by Puffin India in 2016. She has also written for several newspapers, anthologies and magazines.

The Vaidyar's School of Medicine and Magic

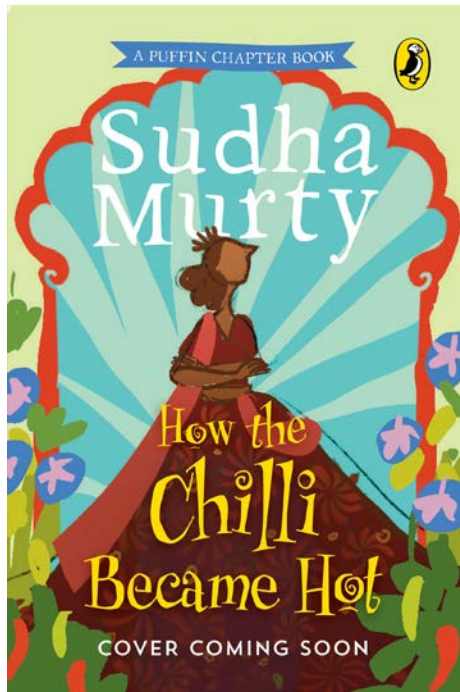
GAYATHRI PONVANNAN

Three boys. One stolen relic. A race against time itself.

In the bustling Chera port of Muciri, thirteen-year-old Kathir believes that the god-like ancient Siddhars belong only in folklore—until he is sent to apprentice under one atop the mist-laced Agastya Mountain. What he finds there is a world where medicine borders on magic, forests guard ancient memories and time keeps its own secrets. When a sacred relic vanishes and a student disappears, Kathir, along with his friends Atreya and Nakulan, is pulled into a perilous journey across ancient India. To mend what has been broken, they must unravel prophecies hidden in stars and silence and confront powers that can twist destiny itself. Rich with lore, wonder and adventure, *The Vaidyar's School of Medicine and Magic* is a story of courage awakening in the unlikely of hearts.

Ages 5+

Ages 10+



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT B/HB
 PAGE EXTENT 44/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹250
 ISBN 9789377307622
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY World

SUDHA MURTY is a bestselling author with more than three hundred titles to her acclaim.

How the Chilli Became Hot

SUDHA MURTY

Illustrations by PRIYANKA PACHPANDE

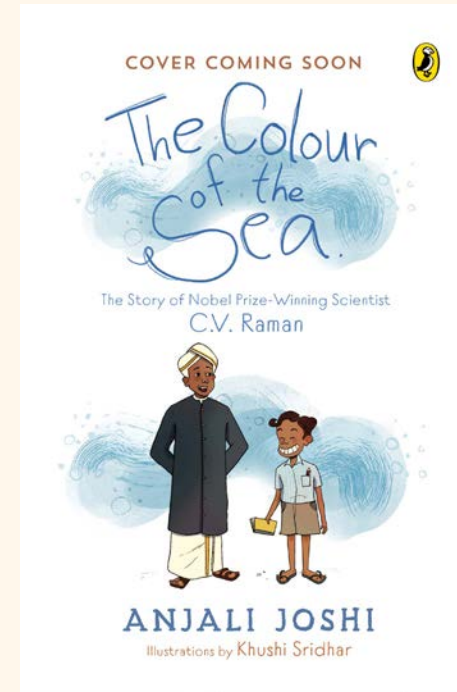
A brand-new story in the best-selling chapter book series by Sudha Murty!

'If spoken gently, words add flavour to life—but if spoken without thought, they can cause harm.'

In the grand kingdom of food, Princess Chilli dazzles with her looks but hurts others with her careless tongue. When a grand feast tests every flavour, she discovers that beauty alone is never enough.

India's favourite storyteller brings us the story of a proud princess who learns the true meaning of humility, kindness and purpose. A warm, thought-provoking tale that reminds us of the power of choosing our words with care, this gorgeous chapter book is the ideal introduction to the world of Sudha Murty.

In the same series



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT 229 x 153 mm/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 40/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹299
 ISBN 9789377305505
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY Indian Subcontinent

ANJALI JOSHI is a science teacher and curriculum developer by day, and a children's book author by night. She has published over a dozen books for children, sharing her love of science and storytelling through her books. She holds a master's degree in STEM education from the University of Oxford.

The Colour of the Sea: The Story of C.V. Raman

ANJALI JOSHI

The fascinating story of C.V. Raman, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist who uncovered the secrets of light and the sea through the Raman Effect!

As a young boy growing up by the sea, C.V. Raman was full of questions. Why did a sitar sing in different notes? How did rainbows appear? And most of all—why was the sea blue?

While others were content with simple answers, Raman was not. His curiosity followed him from the shores of India to a long voyage across the ocean, where a single question would lead to a remarkable discovery.

Armed with sharp observation and a simple spectroscope, Raman set out to uncover the truth. What he found would change the way we understand light itself.

Follow the inspiring true story of a boy who dared to question, a scientist who refused to settle, and a discovery that revealed the hidden colours of our world—proving that curiosity can transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT Demy/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 144/Full-colour
 PRICE ₹399
 ISBN 9789377309954
 GENRE Non-fiction
 TERRITORY World

SUPRITA DAS is a sports journalist and author of *Shadow Fighter: A Biography of Sarita Devi* and *Free Hit: The Story of Women's Cricket in India* (HarperCollins India). During the 2025 Women's World Cup, she worked on location as a Features Producer with the ICC, witnessing India's history-making win on November 3 from the front row.

Women in Blue: The Rise of India's World Cup-Winning Women's Cricket Team

SUPRITA DAS

Cricket's new queens: real stories, real strength.

In dusty small-town fields and bustling city pitches, sixteen extraordinary women rose from overlooked dreams to cricketing glory. *Women in Blue* dives into their stories—one gripping chapter per player—tracing humble beginnings, shattered barriers, and heart-pounding turning points that fuelled India's historic 2025 World Cup victory.

Meet the trailblazers like Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma, who battled scarce resources and sky-high odds, forging a team unbreakable in spirit. From a young girl sneaking into practices under streetlights to captains who turned doubt into dominance, this is no stats sheet—it's a vivid, scene-packed adventure that captures the sweat cheers, and the sisterhood of women's cricket's biggest moment.



IMPRINT Puffin
 FORMAT B/PB
 PAGE EXTENT 299/B&W
 PRICE ₹299
 ISBN 9780143474029
 GENRE Fiction
 TERRITORY World

AREFA TEHSIN is the author of several fiction and non-fiction books and writes columns and articles for various dailies and magazines. A dreamer as well as a rationalist, she is a serial traveller who wants to go on an endless journey, starting with *Planet Earth*. (Irrational for a rationalist? Ask her companion, Aditya!)

Wild in the Backyard 2

AREFA TEHSIN

Your backyard is buzzing—meet the wild, weird, wonderful neighbours you never noticed.

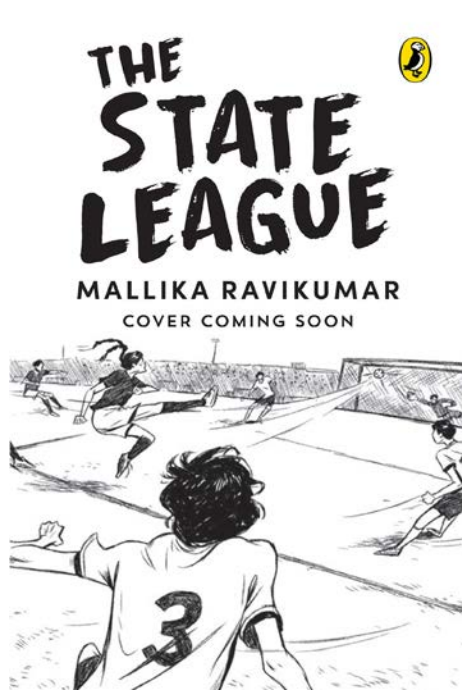
Put on your explorer hat and grab your detective glass—your home and garden are full of tiny oddballs and mighty misfits! From porch-loving hornets and wall-munching termites to night-time pop stars in the garden and a fish that seems to know how to walk, these are the critters who share our homes, beds, and heads (yes, really).

You'll spot shiny skinks sunbathing, earthworms with many hearts in the soil, beetles rolling balls of poop, and bright guppies swimming in rainbow colours. There are fireflies with glowing bottoms, a chick that keeps a super-messy nest, and even a flatworm that can grow back if it's cut in half!

Some of these critters work hard, some sleep a lot, some have long sticky tongues and some can smell your breath when they come close for a tiny sip of blood.

So put on your explorer hat and get ready to find the secret, surprising world of creatures living right beside you!





IMPRINT Puffin

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 240/B&W

PRICE ₹299

ISBN 9789377306090

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

Once a lawyer by profession, **MALLIKA RAVIKUMAR** now writes books on Indian history, culture and nature. In her spare time, she enjoys learning about trees and shares stories and snippets about trees on her YouTube channel, in a series entitled Tree Talk with Mallika Ravikumar.

The State League

MALLIKA RAVIKUMAR

Illustrations by **GOVINDA SAO**

From silent striker to whistleblower hero!

Fourteen-year-old Prithvi Prakash's dreams of becoming a professional footballer are tested by corruption and deceit at the Elite Academy, Goa. As new management prioritizes commercial interests over the integrity of the sport, Prithvi faces tough choices. Should he keep his head down and focus on playing the game or find his voice and speak out?

With the help of friends and mentors, he chooses to expose the academy's misdeeds, leading to transformative change. This compelling narrative highlights the importance of integrity, the struggles in Indian sports, and the power of speaking out. Will Prithvi's journey inspire a new era in football?

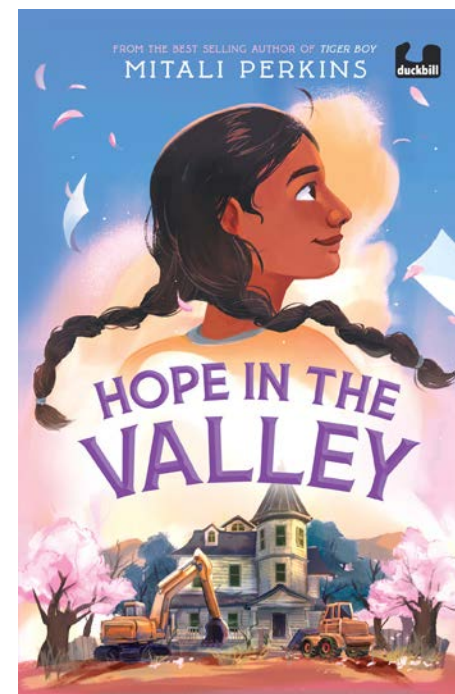


DUCKBILL

Young Readers and Middle Grade



Ages 10+



IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 304/B&W

PRICE ₹399

ISBN 9780143482321

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY Indian Subcontinent

MITALI BOSE PERKINS has written many novels for young readers, including *Rickshaw Girl* and *Bamboo People*. Her book *Tiger Boy* was a South Asia Book Award winner in 2016 and a Neev Book Award winner in 2018.

Hope in the Valley

MITALI PERKINS

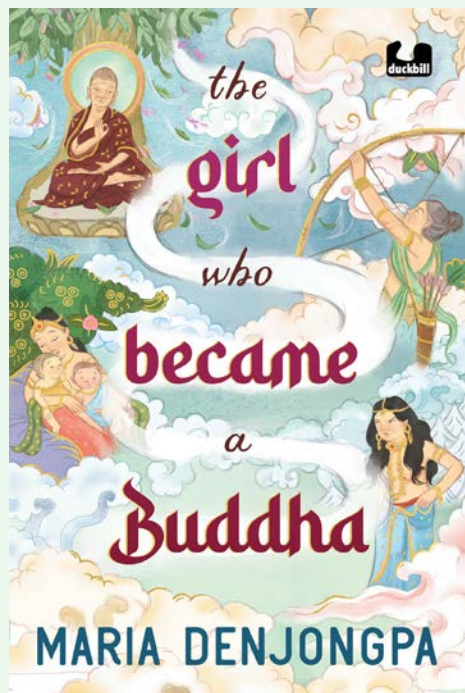
An exploration of immigrant identity, belonging and suspicion faced by families in changing communities, set in Silicon Valley.

Pandita Paul doesn't like change.

Pandita isn't ready to start middle school. She does not want to lose her memories of her mother, who died a few years earlier. And she doesn't want to lose the secret place where she spent time with her mother—an abandoned house across the street.

When the town decides that the old house must be bulldozed, and her town and her family divided over the issue, Pandita must find her voice—and the strength to move on—in order to give her community hope.

Hope in the Valley is a tale of grief, family, friendship and poetry—and of growing up in Silicon Valley at a time when immigrants are looked at with suspicion.



IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 336/B&W

PRICE ₹499

ISBN 9780143479307

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

MARIA DENJONGPA is a teacher, writer and paper-mâché artist. She studied anthropology at Brown University, where she met her Sikkimese husband, Sonam. Together, with their two sons and a group of friends, they founded Taktse International School in 2006. For the next thirteen years she taught English from kindergarten to Class XII. At night in Sikkim, she liked listening to miraculous stories about it raining milk or the flying meditation master who spends the night in a Garuda's nest.

The Girl Who Became a Buddha

MARIA DENJONGPA

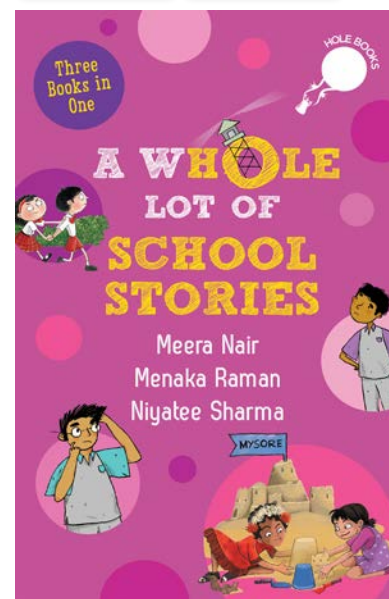
A bold reimagining of the life of Pajapati, the woman who raised the Buddha and became a Buddha herself.

Pajapati hates rules.

Her sister and co-queen of Kapilavastu, Maya, tries to gently hold her in check, but Pajapati is irrepressible. When Maya dies, shortly after giving birth to Siddhartha, Pajapati is inconsolable. Yet bring up Siddhartha she must—for the sake of her sister—and with extreme diligence, for it has been prophesied at Siddhartha's birth that should he see suffering or death, he will leave the kingdom forever.

Despite the protection and restrictions, Siddhartha does live out the prophecy—and goes on to become the Buddha. But this is not his story. This is the story of Pajapati, the woman who raised him, and became a Buddha herself.

Set in the fifth century BCE, Maria Denjongpa's compelling debut novel explores the nature of love and loss and the challenges of a woman on a spiritual journey.



SERIES hOle Books

IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 224/B&W

PRICE ₹399

ISBN 9780143481782

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

A collection of stories by celebrated children's authors and illustrators including **MEERA NAIR, MENAKA RAMAN, NIYATEE SHARMA, PRIYA KURIYAN, PIA ALIZE HAZARIKA** and **SUVIDHA MISTRY**.

A WhOle Lot of School Stories

VARIOUS

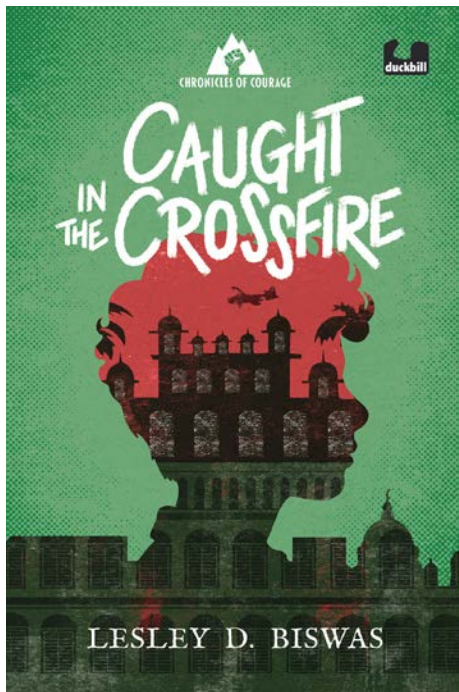
Jump into reading through a Duckbill hOle!

School is the new chaos central!

Join Maya, who loses the class cupboard key on the very first day she becomes monitor (excellent timing!) and must find it before disaster strikes; Sachit, who thinks a beautiful day is far too good to waste sitting in school, and plots a daring escape with his new friends; and Ira, who decides her friend Mahalaxmi is going on the class trip to Mysore—against all odds.

Three lively tales of friendship, determination and glorious school-day mayhem, all packed into one joyful collection.





SERIES Chronicles of Courage

IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 160/B&W

PRICE ₹299

ISBN 9780143476719

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

LESLEY D. BISWAS grew up in McCluskiegunj, and dreamed of playing cricket. But instead of a bat, she ended up with a pen in her hand. Currently based in Kolkata, she's a freelance writer who enjoys writing children's stories the most. She's also passionate about nature, gardening and bird photography.

Caught in the Crossfire

LESLEY D. BISWAS

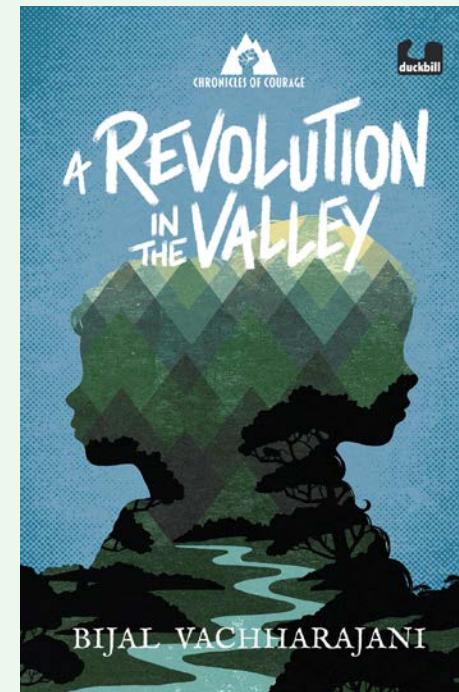
A novel of the Bangladesh War of 1971

Dhiman is most excited to meet Ruhul, a refugee from East Pakistan. All he and his classmates can talk about is the war that is sure to happen, and Ruhul's friendship gives him a unique insight (which makes everyone think he is very cool).

But then the war comes too close as his journalist father disappears across the border to cover events happening there. And when the constant battles between his mother, aunt and uncle reach a crisis point, it is only Ruhul who can help Dhiman to go in search of his missing father in a land already torn apart by war . . .

Award-winning author Lesley D. Biswas's exciting and thought-provoking novel is a vivid depiction of a society in transit and of a boy struggling to find courage.

The Chronicles of Courage series explores moments and movements in India after independence that have shaped the life of the nation.



SERIES Chronicles of Courage

IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 192/B&W

PRICE ₹299

ISBN 9780143481867

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY Indian Subcontinent

When **BIJAL VACHHARAJANI** is not reading Harry Potter, she dreams up picture books as Editor Scissorhands at Pratham Books. Bijal is the author of four children's books including *A Cloud Called Bhura* and *So You Want to Know About the Environment*.

A Revolution in the Valley

BIJAL VACHHARAJANI

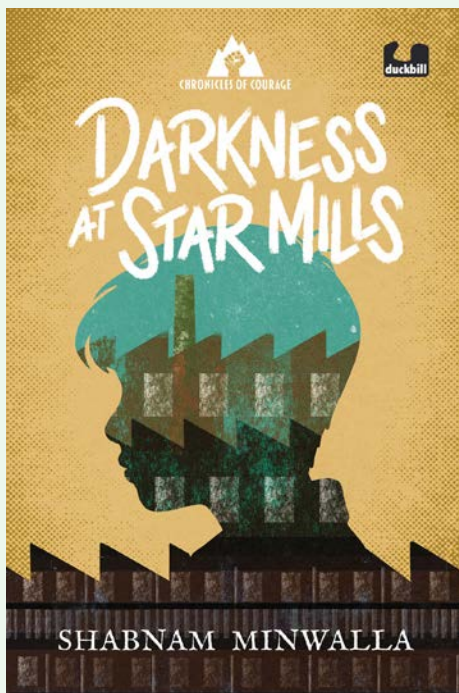
A novel of the Silent Valley Movement of 1973–1983

It is 1978 and letters are flying from Jenny in Palakkad to Teesta in Bombay and back. Jenny lives near the Silent Valley forest in Kerala and loves her life in general (except for Pushkin). Teesta wants to be a journalist and lives in a house that smells of biscuits. When they become pen pals, their worlds opens up—Teesta brings the city to Jenny and Jenny nudges Teesta to express herself freely.

When the government gives permission for a dam that will submerge half of Silent Valley, and urban expansion threatens the coastal mangroves of Bombay, Jenny and Teesta must inspire each other as they fight their own battles against those who seek to destroy nature.

Award-winning author Bijal Vachharajani writes of nature and change and celebrates the wild in this delightful novel.

The Chronicles of Courage series explores moments and movements in India after independence that have shaped the life of the nation.



SERIES Chronicles of Courage

IMPRINT Duckbill

FORMAT B/PB

PAGE EXTENT 168/B&W

PRICE ₹299

ISBN 9780143479161

GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

SHABNAM MINWALLA is a Mumbai-based writer and former journalist with The Times of India who writes widely for children and young adults. Her award-winning books include *When Jiya Met Urmila*, *Saira Zariwala is Afraid* and *Murder at Daisy Apartments*.

Darkness at Star Mills

SHABNAM MINWALLA

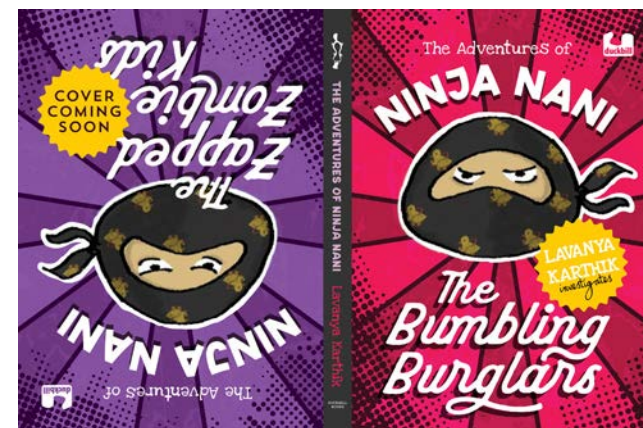
A novel of the Bombay mill strike of 1982

There's a lot going on at Tenduwadi Chawl. Vinod's friends are practising for the big cricket match between Building No. 1 and Building No. 2. Radha's friends are arguing over two Bollywood heroes. Everyone seems to be fighting, falling in love and keeping secrets.

Little wonder, then, that it takes the children of Tenduwadi Chawl some time to realize that their world is changing. The Bombay Mill Strike has begun and the air is thick with suspicion. Old acquaintances are turning into strangers. Then, one evening, Vinod follows the Building No. 2 cricket team to Star Mill Compound and stumbles upon an ugly mystery.

Award-winning author Shabnam Minwalla's novel is both gripping and layered, and paints a vivid picture of a time of the city's transformation.

The Chronicles of Courage series explores moments and movements in India after independence that have shaped the life of the nation.



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As a child, **LAVANYA KARTHIK** spent her time writing stories in her school notebooks and drawing the pictures to go with them. She is now a slightly older child, still making up stories and drawing pictures. She is the author of several books, including *Neel on Wheels*, *A Walk with Thambi* and *The Lion's Feast*.

The Adventures of Ninja Nani

LAVANYA KARTHIK

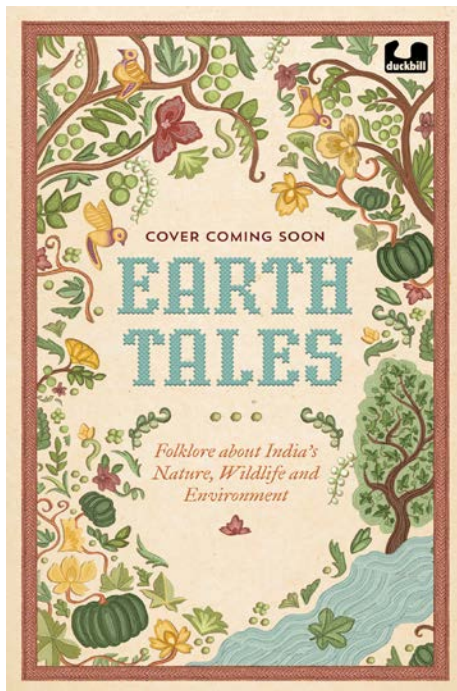
Flip into action with a brand-new edition of Ninja Nani adventures!

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THE CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY FOLKLORE (CCF) is committed to preserving, promoting, and celebrating India's rich and diverse folk heritage. At CCF, folklore is understood not as a static remnant of the past but as a living, evolving tradition that continues to shape cultural identities. Through research, documentation, and sustained engagement with communities, CCF seeks to ensure that these stories, practices, and traditions remain vibrant and accessible for generations to come.

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GENRE Fiction

TERRITORY World

MANDIRA SHAH is a part-time writer and enjoys stories that take her on adventures that are far from the humdrum. She likes to write about the kind of adventures she'd love to get lost in, hoping you'll feel the same. Her debut novel *Children of the Hidden Land* won the Binod Kanoria Awards and *Valley of Words* and was shortlisted for the Auther Awards. Her second book *Muniya's Quest* found itself in the Binod Kanoria shortlist for middle-grade.

Off With Their Heads

MANDIRA SHAH

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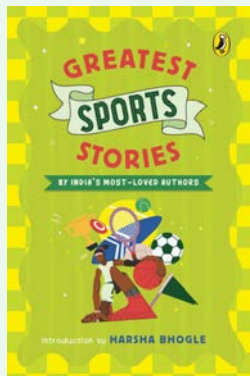
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