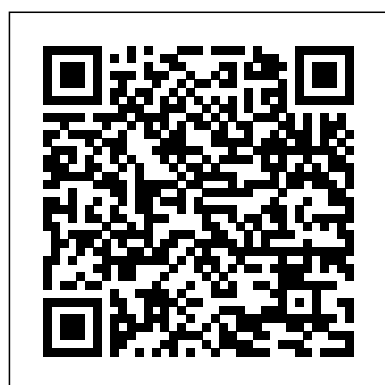


## The Assassins Song Mg Vassanji

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### No New Land McClelland & Stewart

An Important Book . . . Vassanji Writes About Faith And Conflict Like No Other. His Prose Is Impeccable

-Khushwant Singh The Assassin S Song Is A Stunning Evocation Of The Physical And Emotional Landscape Of A Man Caught Between Filial Obligation And Personal Yearning, Between The Ancient And The Modern. It Is The Story Of Karsan Dargawalla, The Estranged Elder Son Of The Saheb Of Pirbaag, And Of Nur Fazal, A Mysterious Thirteenth-Century Sufi Saint. In The Aftermath Of The Gujarat Violence Of 2002, Karsan, Heir To The Now Destroyed Pirbaag, Shrine To The Medieval Sufi, Begins To Recall Not Only The Rich History Of His Forefathers And His Beloved Pirbaag But Also The Bittersweet Journey That Took Him From His Dusty Village In Gujarat To The Ivy Covered Campus Of Harvard, And From The Halls Of Academia To The Blissful Reverie Of North American Suburbia. Drawn Back To Where It All Began, Karsan Finds That In The Circle Of Life, He Forged His Own Identity Independent Of His Father S Position And Pirbaag; Lost And Rediscovered His Faith; Watched His Family Be Ripped Apart By Abandonment And Death; And Now, As He Slowly Remembers The Bol Of His Forefathers And Sings The Ginans Of Pirbaag, It Is Redemption That He Seeks. But As He Picks Up The Threads Of A Life He Rejected Decades Ago, Karsan Realizes There May Be No Absolution. A Novel Of Grand Historical Sweep And Intricate Personal Drama, The Assassin S Song Is A Heartbreaking Ballad Of Life Irrevocably Tainted By The Bigotry Of Narrow Thought And Rigid Faith. Full Of The Delicate Insight And Searing Compassion That Are M.G. Vassanji S Hallmarks Shashi Tharoor

The Cat's Table Purdue University Press

A lion on the loose; a barking cat; smoke, and a bridal veil. In an indeterminate future in Toronto, people can now live lives of two or three 'generations'; when the time feels right, a person can transition into the next generation. Current personal history becomes irretrievable, replaced by an ideal life story of choice: a neatly concocted fiction which aids in constant rejuvenation. But one day, a strange-looking man—Presley Smith—arrives in the office of Dr Frank Sina one day, presenting symptoms of Leaked

Memory Syndrome or Nostalgia; random scenes from a previous generation flash persistently through his mind. When the Department of Internal Security begins to take an interest in Presley's case, he goes into hiding, and a public search ensues. Who exactly is Presley, and what does this mean for life as his fellow citizens know it? Dr Sina—rejuvenated in his second or third generation and feeling financially secure but sexually inadequate—struggles to solve this difficult case, even as he deals with his own life. And through it all there is the spectre of the Long Border, separating the rich North and the violence and famine of the failed states. Readers will enjoy this refreshing new turn for Vassanji, as one of the finest Indian writers in English takes us into exciting new territory.

The Transnational Imaginaries of M. G. Vassanji Vintage

There's more to Milind Soman than meets the eye (although, as his legions of female fans will agree, what meets the eye is pretty delish). Combining in himself the passion of an entrepreneur, the mind of a nerd, the discipline of an athlete, the curiosity of an explorer, the heart of a patriot and the soul of a philosopher, Milind has made the stunning—and apparently seamless—transition from champion swimmer to supermodel to actor to extreme sportsperson to women's fitness activist, enabler and proselytiser, all in one lifetime. How does he do it? What makes him tick? On the twenty-fifth anniversary of 'Made in India', the breakout pop music video of the 1990s that captured the apna-time-aagaya zeitgeist of post-liberalization India and made him the nation's darling across genders and generations, Milind talks about his fascinating life-controversies, relationships, the breaking of vicious habits like smoking, alcohol, rage, and more—in a freewheeling, bare-all (easy, ladies—we're talking soul-wise!) memoir. Co-authored with bestselling author Roopa Pai, MADE IN INDIA is a rare glimpse into the mind and heart of a very unusual man that will leave you thoughtful, awed and inspired.

Contemporary Sufism Biblioasis

This collection of scholarly articles engages with, analyzes, and appreciatively critiques the fiction and non-fiction writing of M. G. Vassanji, a multiple award-winning author. Vassanji's works have a sense of multiple connections across four continents: Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. He challenges the imperial centers of Western powers through the content of his work and his deeply-felt humanist engagements with the politics of displacement, settlement, partition and postcolonialism. Ranging across almost his entire oeuvre, the essays in this book argue that Vassanji's work should be read as one emerging from a transnational space that connects people, places and issues across the world. Collectively, the essays in this book, using a range of theoretical frameworks, claim that Vassanji's work fits into and also goes beyond the usual categorizations, structures and styles of analysis applied to writers from the colonies. When She Was Queen Random House India From M.G. Vassanji, two-time Giller Prize winner and winner of the Governor General's Literary Award, comes a finely crafted collection of short fiction that explores the tensions between remembering past

homes and belonging in new ones. Weaving between wistful memories of youthful ambition and the compromises and comforts of age, travelling between the streets of Dar es Salaam and Toronto, the characters in these stories must negotiate distance--between here and there; between lives imagined and lives lived; between expectation and disappointment; between inclusion and exclusion. Throughout, Vassanji engages passionately with the intellectual and political questions that inspire him as a writer and a citizen, while always matching the energy of his ideas with the empathy and emotional depth he invests in his characters. As with all Vassanji's finest work, *What You Are* stands as a model of artistic integrity and clarity of vision.

*The Magic of Saida* Vintage

Munir Khan, a recently widowed Indian Canadian writer, meets the charming Mohini Singh, a college teacher, in the high-brow Delhi Recreational Club in the heart of the city next to Sikandar Gardens. An enigma surrounds the gentle, non-believing Munir, tempting Mohini to rock the boat of her steady marriage. Delhi's streets, monuments and ruins become witness to their heady affair, but tensions simmer just beneath the surface. A terror attack shakes the city just as Jetha Lal and his acolytes, self-proclaimed protectors of cows and Hindu women, raise decibel levels at the Club. Meanwhile, her parents' wounded memory of the Partition and a family trip to Shirdi create a deep churn within the traditional Mohini that shocks Munir. With the trust between them crumbling and Jetha Lal's menacing shadow orbiting the couple, how long will their impossible love survive? Written with trademark sensitivity and a sharp, affecting vision, *A Delhi Obsession* is M.G. Vassanji's most urgent novel yet. Set in contemporary times, it unravels an unexpected yet prophetic story of passion, love and faith, amidst the placid environment of an elite Delhi club. Cutting close to the bone, this searing novel will compel you to confront your profoundest dilemmas.

*Provisionally Yours* Anchor Canada

A stellar host of writers explore the cornerstone of fiction writing: character. *The Book of Other People* is about character. Twenty-five or so outstanding writers have been asked by Zadie Smith to make up a fictional character. By any measure, creating character is at the heart of the fictional enterprise, and this book concentrates on writers who share a talent for making something recognizably human out of words (and, in the case of the graphic novelists, pictures). But the purpose of the book is variety: straight "realism"-if such a thing exists-is not the point. There are as many ways to create character as there are writers, and this anthology features a rich assortment of exceptional examples. The writers featured in *The Book of Other People* include: Aleksandar Hemon Nick Hornby Hari Kunzru Toby Litt David Mitchell George Saunders Colm Tóibín Chris Ware, and more. Read Zadie Smith's newest novel, *Swing Time*.

*The Barefoot Bingo Caller* McClelland & Stewart

Fast-paced and razor-sharp dark fantasy for readers of Nicholas Eames, Anna Smith Spark and Robert Jackson Bennett "A fantastic book, full of wit and sharp humor, *City of Iron and Dust* careens through a modernized faerie at a breakneck pace, full of verve and unforgettable characters. Oakes spins a smart, electric, and sometimes snarky tale, showing that the beating heart of modern fantasy is alive and well." — John Hornor Jacobs, author of *A Lush and Seething Hell* and *The Incorruptibles* *The Iron City* is a prison, a maze, an industrial blight. It is the result of a war that saw the goblins grind the fae beneath their collective boot heels. And tonight, it is also a city that churns with life. Tonight, a young fae is trying to make his fortune one drug deal at a time; a goblin princess is searching for a path between her own dreams and others' expectations; her bodyguard is deciding who to kill first; an artist is hunting for his own voice; an old soldier is starting a new revolution; a young rebel is finding fresh ways to fight; and an old goblin is dreaming of reclaiming her power over them all. Tonight, all their stories are twisting together, wrapped up around a single bag of Dust—the only drug that can still fuel fae magic—and its fate and theirs will change the Iron City forever.

*The Day the Dancers Came* Doubleday Canada

The Scotiabank Giller Prize – winning novel from Elizabeth Hay. Harry Boyd, a hard-bitten refugee from failure in Toronto television, has returned to a small radio station in the Canadian North. There, in Yellowknife, in the summer of 1975, he falls in love with a voice on air, though the real woman, Dido Paris, is both a surprise and even more than he imagined. Dido and

Harry are part of the cast of eccentric, utterly loveable characters, all transplants from elsewhere, who form an unlikely group at the station. Their loves and longings, their rivalries and entanglements, the stories of their pasts and what brought each of them to the North, form the centre. One summer, on a canoe trip four of them make into the Arctic wilderness (following in the steps of the legendary Englishman John Hornby, who, along with his small party, starved to death in the barrens in 1927), they find the balance of love shifting, much as the balance of power in the North is being changed by the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline, which threatens to displace Native people from their land. With unforgettable characters, vividly evoked settings, in this award – winning novel, Hay brings to bear her skewering intelligence into the frailties of the human heart and her ability to tell a spellbinding story. Written in gorgeous prose, laced with dark humour, *Late Nights on Air* is Hay's most seductive and accomplished novel yet.

*The Assassin's Song* Penguin UK

Giller Prize-winner M.G. Vassanji's *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* is a haunting novel of corruption and regret that brings to life the complexity and turbulence of Kenyan society in the last five decades. Rich in sensuous detail and historical insight, this is a powerful story of passionate betrayals and political violence, racial tension and the strictures of tradition, told in elegant, assured prose. The novel begins in 1953, with eight-year-old Vikram Lall a witness to the celebrations around the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, just as the Mau Mau guerilla war for independence from Britain begins to gain strength. In a land torn apart by idealism, doubt, political upheaval and terrible acts of violence, Vic and his sister Deepa must find their place among a new generation. Neither colonists nor African, neither white nor black, the Indian brother and sister find themselves somewhere in between in their band of playmates: Bill and Annie, British children, and Njoroge, an African boy. These are the relationships that will shape the rest of their lives. We follow Vikram through the changes in East African society, the immense promise of the fifties and sixties. But when that hope is betrayed by the corruption and violence of the following decades, Vic is drawn into the Kenyatta government's orbit of graft and power-broking. Njoroge, his childhood friend, can abandon neither the idealism of his youth nor his love for Vic's sister Deepa. But neither the idealism of the one nor the passive cynicism of the other can avert the tragedies that await them. *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* is a profound and careful examination of one man's search for his place in the world, with themes that have run through Vassanji's work: the nature of community in a volatile society, the relations between colony and colonizer, and the inescapable presence of the past. It is also, finally, a deeply personal book speaking to the people who are in the in-between.

*Last Night of the World* Bloomsbury Publishing

In the aftermath of the brutal violence that gripped western India in 2002, Karsan Dargawalla, heir to Pirbaag – the shrine of a mysterious, medieval sufi – begins to tell the story of his family. His tale opens in the 1960s: young Karsan is next in line after his father to assume lordship of the shrine, but he longs to be "just ordinary." Despite his father's pleas, Karsan leaves home behind for Harvard, and, eventually, marriage and a career. Not until tragedy strikes, both in Karsan's adopted home in Canada and in Pirbaag, is he drawn back across thirty years of separation and silence to discover what, if anything, is left for him in India.

*Made in India* McClelland & Stewart

On a hot Ottawa night in August 1945, Soviet agent Freda Linton's world is about to fall apart. She's spent the war infiltrating the highest levels of the Canadian government as an undercover operative for the fledgling Canadian Communist Party and for Moscow's military police. As the global conflict nears its conclusion, her Soviet embassy handler and darling of the diplomatic scene Nikolai Zobotin sends her to retrieve atomic secrets from the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories. When Freda discovers that Soviet cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko plans to turn over top secret files to the RCMP that will expose Freda and the others in her spy ring, she is faced with an impossible decision and must determine who is on her side. Should she risk everything to smuggle

out nuclear secrets that will kick off the Cold War? Joyce Wayne's *Last Night of the World* brings a high-energy creativeness and emotional tension to a story that is rooted in a generation's defining incident.

The Assassin's Song Simon and Schuster

Nurdin Lalani and his family, Asian immigrants from Africa, have come to the Toronto suburb of Don Mills only to find that the old world and its values pursue them. A genial orderly at a downtown hospital, he has been accused of sexually assaulting a girl.

Although he is innocent, traditional propriety prompts him to question the purity of his own thoughts. Ultimately, his friendship with the enlightened Sushila offers him an alluring freedom from a past that haunts him, a marriage that has become routine, and from the trials of coping with teenage children. Introducing us to a cast of vividly drawn characters within this immigrant community, Vassanji is a keen observer of lives caught between one world and another.

Late Nights on Air Penguin Random House India Private Limited

In *Transcultural Writers and Novels in the Age of Global Mobility*, Arianna Dagnino analyzes a new type of literature emerging from artists' increased movement and cultural flows spawned by globalization. This

"transcultural" literature is produced by authors who write across cultural and national boundaries and who transcend in their lives and creative production the borders of a single culture. Dagnino's book contains a creative rendition of interviews conducted with five internationally renowned writers--Inez Baranay, Brian Castro, Alberto Manguel, Tim Parks, and Ilija Trojanow--and a critical exegesis reflecting on thematic, critical, and stylistic aspects. By studying the selected authors' corpus of work, life experiences, and cultural orientations, Dagnino explores the implicit, often subconscious, process of cultural and imaginative metamorphosis that leads transcultural writers and their fictionalized characters beyond ethnic, national, racial, or religious loci of identity and identity formation. Drawing on the theoretical framework of comparative cultural studies, she offers insight into transcultural writing related to belonging, hybridity, cultural errancy, the "Other," worldviews, translanguaging, deterritorialization, neomadism, as well as genre, thematic patterns, and narrative techniques. Dagnino also outlines the implications of transcultural writing within the wider context of world literature(s) and identifies some of the main traits that characterize "transcultural novels." "Starting from the idea that we live in an age of increasing interconnectedness, the book focuses on the biographical experiences and literary outputs of a group of culturally mobile writers it defines as transcultural. The text combines a wide-ranging and systematic theoretical approach to transcultural literature with a section in which the author recounts imaginatively the in-depth interviews she had with five authors. The work is a significant contribution to scholarship, for it increases our theoretical awareness of today's literary developments, providing us with critical tools that enable us to approach literary texts with an innovative perspective." Maurizio Ascari, Università di Bologna.

Diaspora, Law and Literature Notion Press

Ravan and Eddie are the unlikeliest of companions. For one thing, Ravan is Hindu, while Eddie is Catholic. For another, when Ravan was a baby and fell from a balcony, that fall had a dramatic, and very literal, impact on Eddie's family. But Ravan and Eddie both live in Central Works Department Chawl No. 17—and if you grow up in the crowded Mumbai chawls, you get to participate in your neighbors' lives, whether you like it or not. As we watch the two unlikely heroes of Kiran Nagarkar's acclaimed novel rocket out of the starting blocks of their lives, leaving earth-mothers and absentee fathers, cataclysms and rock 'n' roll in their wake, we're compelled to sit up and take notice. Recently selected by *The Guardian* as one of the ten best novels about Mumbai, *Ravan and Eddie* is a comic masterpiece about two larger- and truer-than-life characters and their bawdy, Rabelaisian adventures in postcolonial India. It is also a timeless journey of self-discovery, a quest for the meaning of guilt and responsibility, sin and sex, crime and punishment.

The Gunny Sack Vintage

From M.G. Vassanji, two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize winner

and a Governor General's Literary Award winner for Non-fiction, comes a poignant love letter to his birthplace and homeland, East Africa—a powerful and surprising portrait that only an insider could write. Part travelogue, part memoir, and part history-rarely-told, here is a powerful and timely portrait of a constantly evolving land. From a description of Zanzibar and its evolution to a visit to a slave-market town at Lake Tanganyika; from an encounter with a witchdoctor in an old coastal village to memories of his own childhood in the streets of Dar es Salaam and the suburbs of Nairobi, Vassanji combines brilliant prose, thoughtful and candid observation, and a lifetime of revisiting and reassessing the continent that molded him—and, as we discover when we follow the journeys that became this book, shapes him still.

Abundance of the Infinite Penguin

From Michael Ondaatje: an electrifying novel, by turns thrilling and deeply moving—one of his most vividly rendered and compelling works of fiction to date. In the early 1950s, an eleven-year-old boy boards a huge liner bound for England. At mealtimes, he is placed at the lowly "Cat's Table" with an eccentric and unforgettable group of grownups and two other boys. As the ship makes its way across the Indian Ocean, through the Suez Canal, into the Mediterranean, the boys find themselves immersed in the worlds and stories of the adults around them. At night they spy on a shackled prisoner—his crime and fate a galvanizing mystery that will haunt them forever. Looking back from deep within adulthood, and gradually moving back and forth from the decks and holds of the ship to the years that follow the narrator unfolds a spellbinding and layered tale about the magical, often forbidden discoveries of childhood and the burdens of earned understanding, about a life-long journey that began unexpectedly with a sea voyage.

And Home Was Kariakoo Penguin Random House India Private Limited

What is Sufism? Contemporary views vary tremendously, even among Sufis themselves. *Contemporary Sufism: Piety, Politics, and Popular Culture* brings to light the religious frameworks that shape the views of Sufism's friends, adversaries, admirers, and detractors and, in the process, helps readers better understand the diversity of contemporary Sufism, the pressures and cultural openings to which it responds, and the many divergent opinions about contemporary Sufism's relationship to Islam. The three main themes: piety, politics, and popular culture are explored in relation to the Islamic and Western contexts that shape them, as well as to the historical conditions that frame contemporary debates. This book is split into three parts: • Sufism and anti-Sufism in contemporary contexts; • Contemporary Sufism in the West: Poetic influences and popular manifestations; • Gendering Sufism: Tradition and transformation. This book will fascinate anyone interested in the challenges of contemporary Sufism as well as its relationship to Islam, gender, and the West. It offers an ideal starting point from which undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers and lecturers can explore Sufism today.

Amriika Doubleday Canada

Contributed articles presented at International Conference on "Global Indian Diaspora: Continuities and Changes," organized by Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, held in November 2014.

Mapping Indian Diaspora Anchor Canada

*Amriika* is a novel of betrayal, disillusionment, and discovery set in America during three highly charged decades in the nation's history. In the late sixties, Ramji, a student from Dar es Salaam, East Africa, arrives in an America far different from the one he dreamed about, one caught up in anti-war demonstrations, revolutionary lifestyles, and spiritual quests. As Ramji finds himself pulled by the tumultuous currents of those troubled times, he is swept up in events whose consequences will haunt him for years to come. Decades later in a changed America, having recently left a marriage and a suburban existence, an older Ramji, passionately in love, finds himself drawn into a set of circumstances which hold terrifying reminders of the past and its unanswered questions.