
The Assassins Song Mg Vassanji

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The Assassin's Song

Scholastic Inc.
The Assassin's
SongVintage
The Journey Prize
Anthology Penguin
UK
AD 1215: The year
of Magna Carta -
and Robin Hood's

greatest battle The catastrophe - a
yoke of tyranny plan to kill the
King John is King. The roar of
scheming to reclaim revolution England
his ancestral lands explodes into
in Europe, raising bloody civil war
the money for new and Alan and Robin
armies by bleeding must decide who to
dry peasants and trust - and who to
nobles alike, not slaughter. And
least the Earl of while Magna Carta
Locksley - the might be the answer
former outlaw Robin their prayers for
Hood - and his peace, first they
loyal man Sir Alan will have to force
Dale. The call to the King to submit
arms As rebellion to the will of his
brews across the people . . .
country and Robin **The Assassin's Song** National
Hood and his men Geographic Books
are dragged into Nurdin Lalani and his family,
the war against the Asian immigrants from Africa,
French in Flanders, have come to the Toronto
a plan is hatched suburb of Don Mills only to
that will bring the find that the old world and its
former outlaws and values pursue them. A genial
their families to orderly at a downtown
the brink of 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.

Amriika Penguin Random House India Private Limited
A heartbreaking, lyrical story for all of those who have fantasized about escaping their daily lives and starting over. Michael Kabongo is a British-Congolese teacher living in London on the cusp of two identities. On paper, he seems to have it all: He 's

beloved by his students, popular with his coworkers, and the pride and joy of a mother who emigrated from the Congo to the UK in search of a better life. But behind closed doors, he 's been struggling with the overwhelming sense that he can ' t address the injustices he sees raging before him—from his relentless efforts to change the lives of his students for the better to his attempts to transcend the violence and brutality that marginalizes young Black men around the world. Then one day he suffers a devastating loss, and his life is thrown into a tailspin. As he struggles to find a way forward, memories of his fathers ' violent death, the weight of refugeehood, and an increasing sense of dread threaten everything he ' s worked so hard to achieve.

Longing to escape the shadows in his mind and start anew, Michael decides to spontaneously pack up and go to America, the mythical “land of the free,” where he imagines everything will be better, easier—a place where he can become someone new, someone without a past filled with pain. On this transformative journey, Michael travels everywhere from New York City to San Francisco, partying with new friends, sparking fleeting romances, and splurging on big adventures, with the intention of living the life of his dreams until the money in his bank account runs out. Written in spellbinding prose, with Bola’s trademark magnetic storytelling, *The Selfless Act of Breathing* takes us on a wild ride to odd but exciting

places as Michael makes surprising new connections and faces old prejudices in new settings.

The In-Between World of Vikram Lall Penguin

Canada

A Globe and Mail Best

Book The inimitable M.G.

Vassanji turns his eye to

India, the homeland of his

ancestors, in this powerfully

moving tale of family and

country. Part travelogue,

part history, *A Place Within*

is M.G. Vassanji’s

intelligent and beautifully

written journey to explore

where he belongs. It would

take many lifetimes, it was

said to me during my first

visit, to see all of India. The

desperation must have

shown on my face to

absorb and digest all I

possibly could. This was

not something I had

articulated or resolved; and

yet I recall an anxiety as I

travelled the length and

breadth of the country, senses raw to every new experience, that even in the distraction of a blink I might miss something profoundly significant. I was not born in India, nor were my parents; that might explain much in my expectation of that visit. Yet how many people go to the homeland of their grandparents with such a heartload of expectation and momentousness; such a desire to find themselves in everything they see? Is it only India that clings thus, to those who've forsaken it; is this why Indians in a foreign land seem always so desperate to seek each other out? What was India to me?

The Selfless Act of Breathing Simon and Schuster

"My father lost my mother one evening in a final round of gambling at the

poker table," writes the narrator of "When She Was Queen," the title story of a new collection by bestselling novelist and two-time winner of the Giller Prize, M.G. Vassanji. That fateful evening in Kenya becomes "the obsessive and dark centre" of the young man's existence and leads him, years later in Toronto, to unearth an even darker family secret. In "The Girl With The Bicycle," a man witnesses a woman from his hometown of Dar es Salaam spit at a corpse as it lies in state at a Toronto mosque. As he struggles to fathom her strange behaviour, he finds himself prey to memories and images from the past—and to perilous yearnings that

could jeopardize his comfortable, middle-aged life. Still reeling from the impact of his wife's betrayal, a man decides to stop in on an old college friend in "Elvis, Raja." But he soon realizes that it's not always wise to visit the past as he finds himself trapped in a most curious household, where Elvis Presley has replaced the traditional Hindu gods. The other stories in the collection also feature exceptional lives transplanted. A young man returns to his roots in India, hoping to find his uncle and, perhaps, a bride. Instead, he becomes a reluctant guru to the residents of his ancestral village. A mukhi must choose between granting the final sacrilegious wish of a dying man and abiding by religious custom in a community that considers him a representative of God. A woman is torn between the voice of her dead husband—a cold and grim-natured atheist—and her new, kind and loving husband whose faith nevertheless places constraints on her as a woman. On Halloween night, a scientist lays bare his horrifying plan to seek vengeance on the man who thwarted his career. Set variously in Kenya, Canada, India, Pakistan, and the American Midwest, these poignant and evocative stories portray migrants negotiating the in-between worlds of east and west, past and present, secular and religious. Richly detailed and full of vivid

characters, the stories are worlds unto themselves, just as a dusty African street full of bustling shops is a world, and so is the small matrix of lives enclosed by an intimate Toronto neighbourhood. It is the smells and sentiments and small gestures that constitute life, and of these Vassanji is a master. Vassanji's seventh book and his second collection of short stories, *When She Was Queen* was shortlisted for the 2006 Toronto Book Award. The jury said: "Vassanji's Naipaulian language is like a sharp short knife that cuts through the superficial and gets to the heart and soul of the narrative." Quattro Books

Karsan Dargawalla has always known that he will succeed his father as guardian of a Sufi shrine and an earthly avatar of the thirteenth-century mystic, Pir Bawa—but all he desires is to be "ordinary," and play first-class cricket. When he goes away to study in the United States, he discovers an exhilarating freedom and rejects his inheritance; his life experiences however ultimately draw him back to his spiritual heritage. He returns to India to find a communally torn Gujarat, a despoiled shrine, and a fugitive brother. With its grand historical sweep and intense personal drama, this superbly crafted novel tells a powerful story of one man's struggle to balance life and faith.

The King's Assassin
Doubleday Canada
With his first novel since the internationally acclaimed *The English Patient*, Booker Prize—winning author Michael Ondaatje gives

us a work displaying all the richness of imagery and language and the piercing emotional truth that we have come to know as the hallmarks of his writing. Anil's Ghost transports us to Sri Lanka, a country steeped in centuries of tradition, now forced into the late twentieth century by the ravages of civil war. Into this maelstrom steps Anil Tissera, a young woman born in Sri Lanka, educated in England and America, who returns to her homeland as a forensic anthropologist sent by an international human rights group to discover the source of the organized campaigns of murder engulfing the island. What follows is a story about love, about family, about identity,

about the unknown enemy, about the quest to unlock the hidden past—a story propelled by a riveting mystery. Unfolding against the deeply evocative background of Sri Lanka's landscape and ancient civilization, Anil's Ghost is a literary spellbinder—Michael Ondaatje's most powerful novel yet.

Uhuru Street Anchor Tormented by his wife's apparent determination to abort their child, a psychologist travels to a small coastal fishing town in South America, where his recently deceased father lived. There, he discovers many unsettling truths about himself and his family which eventually transform his reality into a lucid,

disparaging dream from which he may not be able to escape...

Surfacing Head of Zeus Ltd

In his final years, Egyptian Nobel Laureate Naguib Mahfouz distilled his storyteller's art to its most essential level. Written with the compression and power of dreams, these poetic vignettes, originally collected in two books, *The Dreams* and *Dreams of Departure*, here combined in one volume for the first time. These stories telescope epic tales into tersely haunting miniatures. A man finds his neighborhood has turned into a circus, but his joy turns to anger when he cannot escape it. An obscure writer finally achieves fame-through the epitaph on his grave. A group of friends telling jokes in an alley face the murderous revenge of an ancient Egyptian queen. Figures from Mahfouz's past-women he loved, men who inspired him, even fictional characters from his own

novels-float through tales dreamed by a mind too fertile ever to rest, even in sleep.

Translated by Raymond Stock
Hidden Lives Vintage

The eagerly anticipated novel from the bestselling author of *A Student of Weather* and *Garbo* *Laughs*. 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. Elizabeth Hay has been compared to Annie Proulx, Alice Hoffman, and Isabel Allende, yet she is uniquely herself. With unforgettable characters, vividly evoked settings, in this new 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. On the shortest night of the year, a golden evening without end, Dido climbed the wooden steps to Pilot's Monument on top of the great Rock that formed the heart of old Yellowknife. In the Netherlands the light was long and gradual too, but more meadowy, more watery, or else hazier, depending on where you were. . . . Here, it was subarctic desert, virtually unpopulated, and the light was uniformly clear. On the road below, a small man in a black beret was bending over his tripod just as her father used to bend over his tape recorder. Her father's voice had become the wallpaper inside her skull, he'd made a home for himself there as improvised

and unexpected as these little houses on the side of the Rock — houses with histories of instability, of changing from gambling den to barber shop to sheet metal shop to private home, and of being moved from one part of town to another since they had no foundations. —From Late Nights On Air

Child of Dandelions

Anchor 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.

The Transnational

Imaginaries of M. G.

Vassanji McClelland & Stewart

From the author of the New

York Times bestselling novels *The Handmaid's Tale*—now an Emmy Award-winning Hulu original series—and *Alias Grace*, now a Netflix original series. Part detective novel, part psychological thriller, *Surfacing* is the story of a talented woman artist who goes in search of her missing father on a remote island in northern Quebec. Setting out with her lover and another young couple, she soon finds herself captivated by the isolated setting, where a marriage begins to fall apart, violence and death lurk just beneath the surface, and sex becomes a catalyst for conflict and dangerous choices. *Surfacing* is a work permeated with an aura of suspense, complex with layered meanings, and written in brilliant, diamond-sharp prose. Here is a rich mine of ideas from an

extraordinary writer about contemporary life and nature, families and marriage, and about women fragmented...and becoming whole.

The Gunny Sack Anchor
Canada

One of Canada's top novelists examines the life and work of another Canadian Great. Both Richler and Vassanji are award-winning novelists who regarded themselves as outsiders in their respective societies—one a Jew in Quebec, the other an Indian in Tanzania who emigrated to Canada. Their experiences were vastly different, but their perspective as outsiders allows each a unique viewpoint. With narrative flair and surprising insights, Vassanji explores the life and artistic quest of the prolific Montreal satirist who died in 2001.

The Assassin Emblem
Editions

Two-time Giller Prize winner
M.G. Vassanji returns with a

powerful new novel about grief and second chances, tradition and rebellion, set in vibrant present-day Delhi. Munir Khan, a recent widower from Toronto, on a whim decides to visit Delhi, the city of his forbears. Born in Kenya, he has lost all family connections, and has never visited India before. While sitting in the bar of the Delhi Recreational Club where he's staying, an attractive woman joins his table to await her husband. A sparring match ensues. The two are from different worlds: Munir is a westernized agnostic of Muslim origin; Mohini, a modern Hindu woman. Utterly witty and charming, she's religiously traditional, but also a liberal and provocative newspaper columnist. Against her better judgment, Mohini agrees to show Munir around the city. As they explore the thriving markets and historical buildings of Old Delhi, an inexplicable attraction begins. What follows is a passionate love affair--uncontrollable yet

impossible. This is a period of rising Indian nationalism in modern India that at times finds outlet in senseless violence. Constantly lurking at Munir's Club is the menacing and foreboding presence of a fanatical nationalist group. To them Munir Khan is simply a Muslim "love-jihadi" who has led the pride of Hindu womanhood, Mohini Singh, astray. At what cost, their passion?

When She Was Queen

Anchor Canada

Drawing on unpublished letters and rare primary sources, King and Woolmans tell the true story behind the tragic romance and brutal assassination that sparked World War I. In the summer of 1914, three great empires dominated Europe: Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. Four years later all had vanished in the chaos of World War I. One event precipitated the conflict, and at its heart was

a tragic love story. When Austrian heir Archduke Franz Ferdinand married for love against the wishes of the emperor, he and his wife Sophie were humiliated and shunned, yet they remained devoted to each other and to their children. The two bullets fired in Sarajevo not only ended their love story, but also led to war and a century of conflict. Set against a backdrop of glittering privilege, The Assassination of the Archduke combines royal history, touching romance, and political murder in a moving portrait of the end of an era. One hundred years after the event, it offers the startling truth behind the Sarajevo assassinations, including Serbian complicity and examines rumors of conspiracy and official negligence. Events in Sarajevo also doomed the couple's children to lives of

loss, exile, and the horrors of year-old Vikram Lall a Nazi concentration camps, witness to the celebrations their plight echoing the around the coronation of horrors unleashed by their Queen Elizabeth II, just as parents' deaths. Challenging the Mau Mau guerilla war a century of myth, The for independence from Assassination of the Britain begins to gain Archduke resonates as a strength. In a land torn apart by idealism, doubt, political very human story of love destroyed by murder, upheaval and terrible acts of revolution, and war. violence, Vic and his sister *And Home Was Kariakoo* Deepa must find their place among a new generation. Mosaic Press Neither colonists nor Giller Prize-winner M.G. African, neither white nor Vassanji's *The In-Between* black, the Indian brother World of Vikram Lall is a and sister find themselves haunting novel of corruption somewhere in between in and regret that brings to life their band of playmates: Bill the complexity and Bill and Annie, British children, turbulence of Kenyan society in the last five and Njoroge, an African boy. These are the decades. Rich in sensuous relationships that will shape detail and historical insight, the rest of their lives. We this is a powerful story of follow Vikram through the passionate betrayals and changes in East African political violence, racial society, the immense tension and the strictures of promise of the fifties and tradition, told in elegant, sixties. But when that hope assured prose. The novel is betrayed by the corruption begins in 1953, with eight-

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.

A Place Within Vintage
My name is Lucie Blaise. I am sixteen years old. I have many aliases, but I am none of the girls you see. What I am is the newest recruit of Covert Ops. And we are here to take down Hitler. After the Nazis killed my brother on the North African front, I volunteered at the Office of Strategic Services in Washington to do my part for the war effort. Only instead of a desk job at the OSS, I was tapped to join the Clandestine Operations--a secret espionage and sabotage organization of girls. Six months ago, I was deployed to German-occupied France to gather intelligence and eliminate Nazi targets. My current mission: Track down and interrogate a

Nazi traitor about a weapon that threatens to wipe out all of Western Europe. Then find and dismantle the weapon before Hitler detonates it. But the deeper I investigate, the more danger I'm in. Because the fate of the free world hangs in the balance, and trusting the wrong person could cause millions of lives to be lost. Including my own.

No New Land Anchor
Canada

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.

The Assassin's Song

Vintage

In 1988, a retired schoolteacher named Pius Fernandes receives an old diary found in the back room of an East African shop. Written in 1913 by a British colonial administrator, the diary captivates Fernandes, who begins to research the coded history he encounters in its terse, laconic entries. What he uncovers is a story of forbidden liaisons and simmering vengeance, family secrets and cultural exiles--a story that leads him on an investigative journey through his own past and Africa's.