



from the time of unification to a remittance economy driven by the labour of Nepal's diaspora. Acclaimed columnist and business leader Sujeev Shakya examines not only the squandered opportunities of the past but also what Nepali citizens need to do to escape from a feudal history of dependence and powerlessness. Here is a Nepal that could be an Asian Tiger. Here are resourceful village communities who manage their own electricity, aspirational Nepali youth, energetic migrant workers, and driven foreign-aid workers, who can make this dream a reality. Compelling and eminently readable, this updated and enriched version brings the country alive with its acute business understanding, humour and local colour.

[Maoists at the Hearth](#) Penguin UK

\*National Bestseller\* New York Times bestselling author Laurence Leamer reveals the complex web of relationships and scandalous true stories behind Truman Capote's never-published final novel, *Answered Prayers*—the dark secrets, tragic glamour, and Capote's ultimate betrayal of the group of female friends he called his "swans." "There are certain women," Truman Capote wrote, "who, though perhaps not born rich, are born to be rich." Barbara "Babe" Paley, Gloria Guinness, Marella Agnelli, Slim Hayward, Pamela Churchill, C. Z. Guest, Lee Radziwill (Jackie Kennedy's sister)—they were the toast of midcentury New York, each beautiful and distinguished in her own way. Capote befriended them, received their deepest confidences, and ingratiated himself into their lives. Then, in one fell swoop, he betrayed them in the most surprising and startling way possible. Bestselling biographer Laurence Leamer delves into the years following the acclaimed publication of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* in 1958 and *In Cold Blood* in

1966, when Capote struggled with a crippling case of writer's block. While enjoying all the fruits of his success, he was struck with an idea for what he was sure would be his most celebrated novel...one based on the remarkable, racy lives of his very, very rich friends. For years, Capote attempted to write *Answered Prayers*, what he believed would have been his magnum opus. But when he eventually published a few chapters in *Esquire*, the thinly fictionalized lives (and scandals) of his closest female confidantes were laid bare for all to see, and he was banished from their high-society world forever. Laurence Leamer re-creates the lives of these fascinating swans, their friendships with Capote and one another, and the doomed quest to write what could have been one of the greatest novels of the twentieth century.

[Nepali Literature](#) Penguin

Pagal Basti is one of the most popular Nepali novels of all time by Madan Puraskar winner writer, Saru Bhakta. The novel is set at Pokhara, Mid-Western Nepal. It is about a settlement by a spiritual leader with a set of followers.

[Video Night in Kathmandu](#) Vintage

A storm batters a hillside farmstead through the night, and the family living in it debates its decision to give up the comforts of Darjeeling town for the pride of owning land. Ancient law allows Harshajit to cut down Rudraman, who has staked claim to his wife Thuli, but when Harshajit catches up with the couple after days of relentless chase, he witnesses a fearsome encounter that compels him to consecrate their marriage with his own hands. When a man on his way to Darjeeling stops in a bungalow near the Teesta river, he is drawn to the conversation of the labourers next door and, in their chatter about the ideal recipe for cooking kheer, he gains a profound insight into the human condition. And

Jayamaya, part of the Gurkha community in Burma forced on a long march to India during the Second World War, helplessly witnesses her life disintegrate in the face of invasion. Lyrically translated, the stories in *Long Night of Storm* are wise, psychologically astute and deeply compassionate. A collection that will yield more at every reading, this is a book to keep returning to.

**While the Gods Were Sleeping** Hachette Books

"Startlingly good" stories of Nepali society set against the backdrop of violent Maoist insurgencies (*San Francisco Chronicle*). From an author like "a Buddhist Chekhov," *The Royal Ghosts* features characters trying to reconcile their true desires with the forces at work in Nepali society (*San Francisco Chronicle*). As political violence rages, these people struggle with their duties to their aging parents, an oppressive caste system, and the complexities of arranged marriage, striving to find peace and connection, and often discovering it in unexpected places. These stories, from the Whiting Award-winning author of *Arresting God* in Kathmandu and *The Guru of Love*, brilliantly examine not only Kathmandu during a time of upheaval, crisis, and cultural transformation but also the effects of the city on the individual consciousness. "Like William Trevor, Samrat Upadhyay compresses into a short story the breadth of vision and human consequence we expect from a novel, and he does so in a prose that seems as natural as breathing." —Scott Russell Sanders, author of *A Private History of Awe* "Takes us straight into the heart of the troubled and enchanting kingdom of Nepal." —*The Washington Post* "Upadhyay's not-so-simple stories are lucid and often luminous." —*Publishers Weekly*