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The pick of thirty years of essays from R.K. Narayan, India's greatest English language novelist. R.K. Narayan is perhaps better known as a novelist, but his essays are as delightful and enchanting as his stories and novels. Introducing this selection of essays, Narayan writes, 'I have always been drawn to the personal essay in which you see something of the author himself apart from the theme...the scope for such a composition is unlimited—the mood may be sombre, hilarious or satirical and the theme may range from what the author notices from his window to what he sees in his waste-paper basket to a world cataclysm.' A Writer's Nightmare is the marvellous result of Narayan's liking for the personal essay. In the book, he tackles subjects such as weddings, mathematics, coffee, umbrellas, teachers, newspapers, architecture, monkeys, the caste system, lovers—all sorts of topics, simple and not so simple, which reveal the very essence of India. When R.K. Narayan Passed Away Last Year At The Age Of Ninety-Four, Tributes Poured In From Fans And Admirers, Celebrating The Art Of This Master Storyteller Who Has Often Been Described As India'S Greatest English Language Writer. Narayan Is Better Known For His Novels Set In The Fictional South Indian Town Of Malgudi, But His Essays Are As Delightful And Enchanting As Any Of His Novels. This Collection Begins With The Short Essays Which Narayan Wrote As A Weekly Contribution To The Hindu, The Subjects Of Which Are As Diverse As Umbrellas, Weddings, Monkeys, South Indian Coffee, Films, The Black Market, Old Age, The Caste System, Gardening And Vayudoot. The Later, Longer Essays Dwell On The Cultural Ambiguities That Persist In Our Nation: Narayan S Description Of The Linguistic Confusion Between The North And The South With The Advent Of National Television Is Reminiscent Of The Misunderstood Messages In His Famous Story 'A Horse And Two Goats'. The Highlight Of This Section Is A Scathingly Funny Essay On The Making Of The Film The Guide, A Project That Distorted Narayan S Narrative Beyond Recognition. In A Separate Section On The World Of The Writer, Narayan Describes The Predicament Of Writing In English In India, An Art Which He Pioneered, And The Pitfalls Of Being Considered For The Nobel Prize In Literature Which He Never Got. This Volume Also Includes The Complete Text Of My Dateless Diary, Narayan S Jottings About His Travels In America When He Was In The Process Of Writing The Guide. As He Journeys Across The Vast Continent On A Diet Of Rice And Yoghurt And Without The Aid Of An Alarm Clock, Narayan Recounts A Myriad Memorable Moments, From His Encounter With The Mysterious Greta Garbo To The Evening Gathering Where He Is Hailed As One Of The Three Greatest Living Authors In The World. Taken Together, These Writings Provide A Fascinating Glimpse Into The Private World Of One Of The Most Gifted Writers Of Our Time, And Reveal The Ways In Which Narayan Was Able To Convert The Small And Ordinary Things Of Everyday Life Into Memorable Literary Anecdotes. Memories Of Malgudi Brings Together Five Unforgettable Novels From The Narayan Corpus. The Dark Room, The First Novel In This Collection, Is The Story Of The Marital Discord Between Savitri, A Traditional Hindu Wife, And Ramani, Her Husband. The English Teacher Is About Another Young Couple: Krishna And His Wife, Susila. Their World Is Full Of Love And Laughter, But When Susila Passes Away, Krishna Must Deal With The Tragic Blow And Find A Reason To Go On Living. In The World Of Nagaraj, Narayan S Final Novel, Nagaraj S Life Of Small Comforts Is Rudely Interrupted By The Arrival Of His Nephew Tim, And He Struggles To Fend Off The Turbulence Which Threatens To Disrupt His World Forever. Sriram, The Hero Of Waiting For

The Mahatma, Is In Love With The Enchanting Bharati, But Her Primary Loyalty Is To Gandhiji And His Ideals. Sriram Becomes A Follower Of The Mahatma Himself, But Finds Himself Adapting The Great Man S Ideas To Suit His Own Petty Ends. And In The Guide, Narayan S Award-Winning Novel, Raju The Guide Takes A Roller-Coaster Ride Through Life He Falls In Love With The Beautiful Dancer Rosie, Seduces Her Away From Her Husband, Transforms Her Into A Celebrity But Then Falls Out With Her. Finally, Through A Series Of Ironical Events, He Becomes A Well-Respected Holy Man. The Last In Penguin India S Series Of Collectors Editions Of R.K. Narayan S Novels, Memories Of Malgudi Showcases The Best Of The Master Storyteller S Oeuvre. There is no better introduction to R.K. Narayan than this remarkable collection of stories celebrating work that spans five decades. Characters include a storyteller whose magical source of tales dries up, a love-stricken husband who is told by astrologers he must sleep with a prostitute to save his dying wife, a pampered child who discovers that his beloved uncle may be an impostor or even a murderer. Standing supreme amid this rich assortment of stories is the title novella. Told by the narrator's grandmother, the tale recounts the adventures of her mother, married at seven and then abandoned, who crosses the subcontinent to extract her husband from the hands of his new wife. Her courage is immense and her will implacable -- but once her mission is completed, her independence vanishes. Gentle irony, wryly drawn characters, and themes at once Indian and universal mark these humane stories, which firmly establish Narayan as one of the world's preeminent storytellers. The Mahabharata tells a story of such violence and tragedy that many people in India refuse to keep the full text in their homes, fearing that if they do, they will invite a disastrous fate upon their house. Covering everything from creation to destruction, this ancient poem remains an indelible part of Hindu culture and a landmark in ancient literature. Centuries of listeners and readers have been drawn to The Mahabharata, which began as disparate oral ballads and grew into a sprawling epic. The modern version is famously long, and at more than 1.8 million words—seven times the combined lengths of the Iliad and Odyssey—it can be incredibly daunting. Contemporary readers have a much more accessible entry point to this important work, thanks to R. K. Narayan's masterful translation and abridgement of the poem. Now with a new foreword by Wendy Doniger, as well as a concise character and place guide and a family tree, The Mahabharata is ready for a new generation of readers. As Wendy Doniger explains in the foreword, "Narayan tells the stories so well because they're all his stories." He grew up hearing them, internalizing their mythology, which gave him an innate ability to choose the right passages and their best translations. In this elegant translation, Narayan ably distills a tale that is both traditional and constantly changing. He draws from both scholarly analysis and creative interpretation and vividly fuses the spiritual with the secular. Through this balance he has produced a translation that is not only clear, but graceful, one that stands as its own story as much as an adaptation of a larger work. The Best Of A Lifetime S Work Novels, Short Stories, Essays, Travel Pieces And Short Non-Fiction Of One Of The World S Finest Writers Comes Together In Malgudi Landscapes. Skilfully Edited And Introduced By S. Krishnan, This Selection Brings Malgudi, The Enchanting Little South Indian Town That R.K. Narayan Created, To Glorious And Colourful Life. Four gems, with new introductions, mark acclaimed Indian writer R. K. Narayan's centennial. Introducing this collection of stories, R. K. Narayan describes how in India "the writer has only to look out of the window to pick up a character and thereby a story." Composed of powerful, magical portraits of all kinds of people, and comprising stories written over almost forty years, Malgudi Days presents Narayan's imaginary city in full color, revealing the essence of India and of human experience. This edition includes an introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators. A venerable tiger, old and toothless now, looks back over his life from cubhood and early days roaming wild in the Indian jungle. Trapped into a miserable circus career as 'Raja the magnificent',

he is then sold into films (co-starring with a beefy Tarzan in a leopard skin) until, finding the human world too brutish and bewildering, he makes a dramatic bid for freedom. R.K. Narayan's story combines Hindu mysticism with ripe Malgudi comedy, viewing human absurdities through the eyes of a wild animal and revealing how, quite unexpectedly, Raja finds sweet companionship and peace. R.K. Narayan's Career As A Novelist And Short Story Writer Spans Almost Eight Decades From *Swami And Friends* (1935) To *Grandmother's Tale* (1992) Until His Death On 13 May 2001 At The Ripe Age Of 95. His Distinctive Sense Of Humour, His Trade Mark Irony, His Bemused, Knowing, Overseeing Perspective, His Rootedness In Religion And Family Values And His Inescapable Capturing Of The Essence Of Indian Sensibility All Have Been Looked At From A Refreshingly New Perspective, Hitherto Only Partly Touched Or Left Unexplored And Unattempted. New Insights Into *The Guide*, *The Man-eater Of Malgudi*, *A Tiger For Malgudi*, *Waiting For The Mahatma*, *The Dark Room* Exploit Freshly-Forged Tools Of Critical Analysis Comparative, Structural, New Historical, Feminist, Bakhtinian, Post-Colonial And Socio-Cultural And Ethical. A Welcome Addition To The Extant Critical Scholarship On R.K. Narayan's Oeuvre. A Lucid Discussion Of New Dimensions In Literary Theory Through Well-Argued, Illustrative Analysis Of Popular Texts. A Scholarly Elucidation Of The Sociology Of Hinduism As Reflected In Popular Fiction. An Indispensable Source-Book For Students, Researchers, Teachers, Scholars In Inter-Related Fields Like Literary Criticism, Theory Of Literature, Indian Philosophy, Customs And Thought-Patterns, Besides Social Anthropology And Sociology. R.K. Narayan is not only a novelist whose fourteen novels span the last fifty years of India's history; he is a humanist who draws the best possible picture of contemporary Indian middle class families. This work deals with Narayan's approach to his own Indian civilization which he describes as threatened from within (a slumbering routine seems to have overtaken every activity), and from without (the West increasingly makes its way into the country). Narayan's unique use of English and his treatment of the novel as a form of art are analyzed, along with the author's evolution, as he describes the problems of Indian individuals faced with an uncertain future in a fast changing society. Twenty-eight stories set in the fictional south Indian town of Malgudi, deal with people from all classes and walks of life 'The best of R.K. Narayan's enchanting novels'—*The New Yorker* Raju, a corrupt tourist guide, together with his lover, the dancer Rosie, leads a prosperous life before he is thrown into prison. After release he rests on the steps of an abandoned temple when a peasant passing by mistakes him for a holy man. Slowly, almost reluctantly, he begins to play the part, acting as a spiritual guide to the village community. Raju's holiness is put to the test when a drought strikes the village, and he is asked to fast for twelve days to summon the rains. Set in Narayan's fictional town, Malgudi, *The Guide* is the greatest of his comedies of self-deception. 'A brilliant accomplishment ... Narayan is the compassionate man who can write of human life as comedy'—*The New York Times Book Review* 'Narayan is such a natural writer, so true to his experience and emotions'—V.S. Naipaul "I am inclined to call this the last chapter, but how can an autobiography have a final chapter? At best, it can only be a penultimate one; nor can it be given a rounded-off conclusion, as is possible in a work of fiction." So begins the last chapter of *My Days*, the only memoir from R. K. Narayan, hailed as "India's most notable novelist and short-story writer" by the *New York Times Book Review*. In his usual winning, humorous style, R. K. Narayan shares his life story, beginning in his grandmother's garden in Madras with his ferocious pet peacock. As a young boy with no interest in school, he trains grasshoppers, scouts, and generally takes part in life's excitements. Against the advice of all, especially his commanding headmaster father, the dreaming Narayan takes to writing fiction, and one of his pieces is accepted by *Punch* magazine (his "first prestige publication"). Soon his life includes bumbling British diplomats, curious movie moguls, evasive Indian officials, eccentric journalists, and "the blind urge" to fall in love. R. K. Narayan's larger-than-life perception of the human comedy is at once acute and forgiving, and always true to it. In 1999, R.K. Narayan, *The Grand Old Man Of Indian Literature, Turned Ninety-Three*. In A Writing Career Spanning Seven Decades, He Has Enthralled And Entertained Generations Of Readers With His Deftly Etched Characters, His Uniquely Stylized Language And His Wry Sense Of Humour. A Storyteller Par Excellence, Narayan's Greatest Achievement Perhaps Lies In Creating And Peopling

The Imagined Landscapes Of A Town Called Malgudi, Located Somewhere In South India, Which Has Come Alive In Story After Story In Such A Way That It Has Now Become A Part Of Modern Indian Folklore. This Collection Brings Between Two Covers Some Of The Most Memorable Fiction That Has Emerged From R.K. Narayan S Pen. It Contains The Man-Eater Of Malgudi , Arguably The Greatest Novel Narayan Has Ever Written, Which Tells The Story Of Nataraj, Owner Of A Small Printing Press, And His House Guest Vasu, A Taxidermist, Who Moves Into Nataraj S Attic With A Menagerie Of Dead Animals. There Is Also Talkative Man , A Novella That Starts Off With The Arrival On The Delhi Train Of A Stranger In A Blue Suit Who Takes Up Residence In The Station Waiting-Room And Refuses To Budge. Also Included Here Are Some Of The Most Popular And Striking Short Stories Narayan Has Written: From The Celebrated A Horse And Two Goats And Salt And Sawdust , The Tale Of A Wife Who Cannot Distinguish Between Salt And Sawdust For Seasoning And Thus Leaves Her Husband With No Option But To Cook Himself, To Gems Like An Astrologer S Day , The Shelter And Under The Banyan Tree , Which Is About A Man Called Nambi Who Has The Uncanny Ability To Mesmerize His Audience With His Stories, But Eventually Lapses Into Silence. Encapsulating The Very Best Of R.K. Narayan S Remarkable Output, This Is A Fitting Tribute To One Of The Greatest Living Writers In The English Language. Comprehensive study on the works on Rasipuram Krishnaswamy Narayan, 1906-2001, Indian-English novelist. The book studies three Narayan novels, *The English Teacher*, *The Man-Eater Of Malgudi* and *The Painter Of Signs*, in the light of three popular Indian myths—*The Savitri Satyavan Myth*, *The Bhasmasura Myth* and *The Santanu Ganga Myth*. It reveals how Narayan has transformed Indian history and myth into fascinating fiction by the alchemy of his genius. Short stories. The book is the first attempt to write a full-fledged account of the world of Malgudi as depicted in the novels of Narayan. It takes up for detailed discussion *Swami and Friends*, *The Bachelor Of Arts*, *The Dark Room*. *The English Teacher*, *The Financial Expert*, *Waiting For The Mahatma*. *The Guide*, *The Man-Eater Of Malgudi*, *The Vendor Of Sweets*, *A Tiger For Malgudi*, *The World Of Nagaraj* and *Grandmother`S Tale*. R.K. Narayan and his social perspective deals with the caste-ridden Hindu society which Narayan presents in his novels. His characters are fatalists with explicit faith in the invisible. The book presents their half-hearted attempts at self-assertion. However, their so-called sentimentalism does not bear fruit and they fall back to their former position accepting defeat in life. The book brings out vividly Narayan S Attitude To Life, His Firm Grip Of Hindu Ethos Of Which He Is The Product, And His Failure To Come Out Of It, Though The West Wind Has Blown Much Of Its Dust. However detached he sounds himself to the readers, his true spirit finds vivid expression in the book. At any rate R.K. Narayan is a thoroughly Indian novelist par excellence, and the aspect is hardly to be overlooked. Contributed articles on the works of R.K. Narayan, b. 1906. R. K. Narayan (1906–2001) witnessed nearly a century of change in his native India and captured it in fiction of uncommon warmth and vibrancy. The title character in *The English Teacher*, Narayan's most autobiographical novel, searches for meaning when the death of his young wife deprives him of his greatest source of happiness. This pioneering novel, luminous in its detail and refreshingly free of artifice, is a gift to twentieth-century literature. Over a career spanning seven decades, R.K. Narayan, easily one of the most influential and important writers of India, populated the fictional town of Malgudi with a host of unforgettable characters: Swami and his gang of friends, the Talkative Man, Raju the guide and Sampath the printer, among many others. These characters have carved out a place for themselves in popular imagination and live on, still fresh and endlessly entertaining, many decades after they first appeared. Timeless Malgudi brings together a selection of the best and the most enduring of R.K. Narayan's fiction and nonfiction. *The Guide* examines, with wit and irony, how a man becomes a godman. The story 'A Horse and Two Goats' describes an attempt at crosscultural communication which goes haywire, with hilarious consequences. The excerpt from *My Days*, Narayan's autobiography, paints a poignant picture of the author's childhood while the 'Misguided Guide' is a cynical, sharply written chronicle of the making of the film *Guide*, based on his novel. Also included in this volume are excerpts from the travelogue *My Dateless Diary* and a brilliant retelling of the Tamil epic *Silappadikaram*. Offering rare insight into the complexities

of Indian middle-class society, R.K. Narayan traces life in the fictional town of Malgudi. *The Dark Room* is a searching look at a difficult marriage and a woman who eventually rebels against the demands of being a good and obedient wife. In *Mr. Sampath*, a newspaper man tries to keep his paper afloat in the face of social and economic changes sweeping India. Narayan writes of youth and young adulthood in the semiautobiographical *Swami and Friends* and *The Bachelor of Arts*. Although the ordinary tensions of maturing are heightened by the particular circumstances of pre-partition India, Narayan provides a universal vision of childhood, early love and grief. The essays in this book have been divided into two sections. The first section examines one of Narayan's major works, *The Guide*. The essays here discuss the genesis of the novel, narrative structure, use of language, humour and irony in the novel, the characters, and also the post-colonial quality of *The Guide*. The second section situates *The Guide* within the larger context of Narayan's life and works, Narayan as a novelist, themes and characters in his novels, Narayan's Malgudi, and Narayan as an Indian English writer. These essays will be essential reading for students who study *The Guide*, and also Narayan's works as a whole. The first novel set in "the fictional Indian town of Malgudi, where ten-year-old Swaminathan's excitement about his country's initial stirrings for independence compete with his ardor for cricket and all other things British." *Unforgettable Stories For Children From The Masterly Pen Of R.K. Narayan After The Stupendous Success Of Malgudi Schooldays*, R.K. Narayan *S Chronicle Of The Escapades Of Swami And His Friends, Comes Malgudi Adventures, Which Contains More Delightful Stories Of Children S Adventures In The Magical South Indian Small Town Of Malgudi. There Are The Memorable Stories Of Babu, Who, In Trying To Set Up The Lights For His Sisters Navaratri Display, Manages To Plunge The Entire Household Into Darkness; Of A Snake Charmer Boy Who Grows Up With A Monkey Named Rama As His Companion; And Of Raju, Who Decides To Become A Guide When A Train Station Is Built At Malgudi. Also Included Are The Fascinating Stories Of Balu, Who Dumps His Father S Accounts Ledger In The Gutter; Of A Little Boy Who Finds Himself Lost On The Streets Of Malgudi Late One Night; Of Chandran, Who Falls Head Over Heels In Love On The Banks Of The Sarayu One Evening; And Of The Hilarious Sequence Of Events That Unfolds When Raja The Tiger Decides To Seek Refuge In The Local School.* REQUIRED, THE STORY-TELLER COULD HAVE AN AUDIENCE BUT IN THIS CASE HE WOULDN'T BE READING FROM HIS MS, BUT WOULD BE LOOKING AT THE VILLAGERS. I MUCH PREFER THE STORY-TELLER ALONE.

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