

## BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Amanthi Harris

9789389109191

Fiction > Contemporary Fiction; Literary Fiction

Macmillan | Rs 599 | 372pp | Hardback | Demy

September 23, 2019

'A beautiful, affecting, delicately written narrative' **Amit Chaudhuri**

'In quiet, distilled prose, Amanthi Harris takes a moment of change we all experience and brings it into poignant, evocative focus. Her story resonates like a personal and deeply felt memory' **Preeti Taneja**

On a patch of Sri Lanka's exquisite southern coast stands the Villa Hibiscus. It is Padma's home. The owner of the villa, Gerhardt, is an elderly Austrian architect to whom Padma was taken when young by Sunny, her scheming father. He had hoped to use his attractive child to entice the wealthy new foreigner in the area. Gerhardt, in turn, adopted Padma, paying Sunny to stay away until she is grown up, when Gerhardt expects to have sent Padma to university, far away.

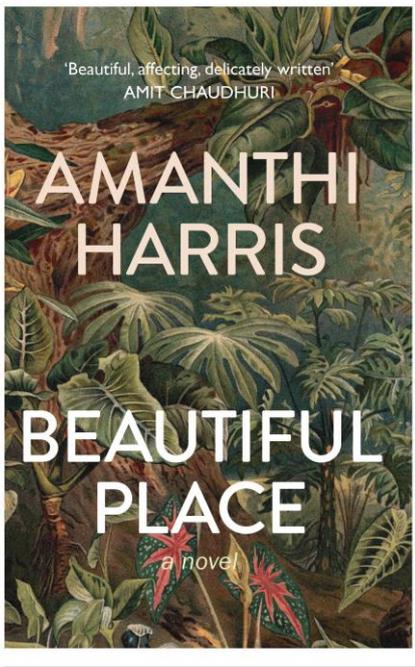
But Padma fails her exams and is lonely in the city, gladly returning to her beloved old home by the sea. With Gerhardt's help, she creates a guest house at the villa. Soon, guests start to arrive, opening new vistas for Padma through their friendship and love.

Then Sunny appears, ready to reclaim his daughter ...

A captivating novel about the meaning of home and family, love and loss, *Beautiful Place* marks the arrival of a dazzling new voice.

### AUTHOR BIO

**Amanthi Harris** was born in Sri Lanka and grew up in London. She studied Fine Art at Central St Martins and has degrees in Law and Chemistry from Bristol University. Her novella *Lantern Evening* won the Gatehouse Press New Fictions Prize 2016 and was published by Gatehouse Press in 2017. Her short stories have been published by Serpent's Tail and broadcast on BBC Radio 4 as *Afternoon Readings*.



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9789389109207

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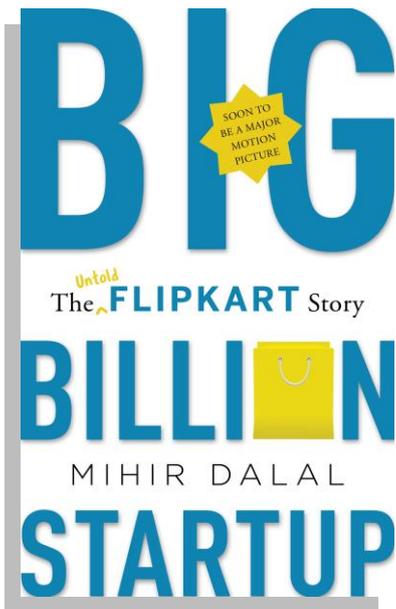
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**BIG BILLION STARTUP**  
The Untold Flipkart Story

Mihir Dalal

9789389109146

Non-Fiction > Business, Strategy and Management,  
Entrepreneurship, Journalism

Macmillan | Rs 699 | 336pp | Hardback | Royal

September 30, 2019

**The definitive account of India's biggest startup that redefined e-commerce, entrepreneurship and the way we shop and live.**

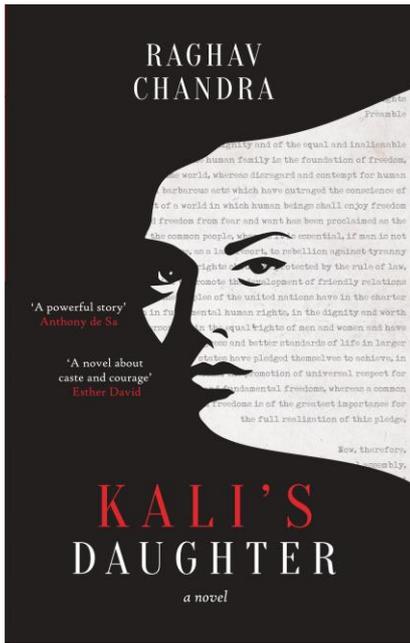
IIT graduates Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal founded out of a Bangalore apartment what would become India's biggest e-commerce startup. Established in October 2007, Flipkart began as an online bookstore and soon came to be known for its 'customer obsession'. As the startup's reputation grew, so did its value, with venture capitalists in India and abroad lining up to invest heavily in the company that stood for bold ambition, unabashed consumerism and the virtues of technology.

Investigative journalist Mihir Dalal recounts the astounding story of how the Bansals built Flipkart into a multi-billion-dollar powerhouse in the span of a few years and made internet entrepreneurship a desirable occupation. But it is also a story of big money, power and hubris, as both business and interpersonal complexities weakened the founders' control over their creation and forced them to sell out to a retailer whose dominance they had once dreamt of emulating. Flipkart's auction involved some of the corporate world's biggest names, from Jeff Bezos, Satya Nadella, Sundar Pichai to Masayoshi Son and Doug McMillon, an ironic testimony to the strength of what the Bansals had forged.

Based on extraordinary research, extensive interviews and deep access to key characters in the Flipkart story, *Big Billion Startup* is the riveting and revealing account of how Sachin and Binny Bansal built and sold India's largest internet company.

**AUTHOR BIO**

**Mihir Dalal** is a journalist with *Mint*, from where he has covered Flipkart and other internet businesses for more than five years. He previously worked at *Reuters* and *CNBC TV18*. He was born and brought up in Bombay and currently lives in Bangalore, where he has spent most of his professional life. *Big Billion Startup* is his first book.



## **KALI'S DAUGHTER**

Raghav Chandra

9789389109214

**Fiction > Contemporary Fiction; Society & Culture**

Macmillan | Rs 599 | 352pp | Hardback | Demy

September 16, 2019

On a chilly November morning in Geneva, Deepika Thakur prepares to address the United Nations Human Rights Council. Despite her personal experience of oppression as a Dalit woman, she must claim that the Indian government remains firmly committed to eradicating caste-based discrimination in the country.

As echoes of humiliation and atrocities flood her memory, Deepika is transported back in time, to almost six years ago, when she became the first member of her family to be selected for the Indian Civil Services. She had moved from Bhopal, her home town, to the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie, to prepare for a career as a civil servant. It was here that she met Aman, an upper-caste Brahmin, and Vijay, a fellow Dalit. Both relationships defined by caste and class politics, Deepika had found herself in the crosshairs of an ancient history built on inequality and prejudice. Yet, as a diplomat from India's Foreign Service, she must deny caste, and the fact that India's fractured society, despite its apparent modernization and progress, remains stuck in the middle ages. Her father's words come back to haunt her: 'When you cannot fight the system, you must endure.'

Will Deepika fight? Will she endure? What will she say to the Human Rights Council? How will she represent India to the rest of the world?

### **AUTHOR BIO**

**Raghav Chandra**, an officer of the Indian Administrative Service, was Secretary to the Government of India. Author of *Scents of a Game*, a novel about wildlife hunting and conservation, he has also held significant positions across ministries in the Government of India and Madhya Pradesh and served as Managing Director of many companies. He has a special interest in the development of Indian tribes. Raghav holds master's degrees from Harvard University, where he was an Edward S. Mason Fellow, and St Stephen's College, University of Delhi. He writes and lectures about inclusive growth, management and sustainability, and has been widely published. He is the Director of the Bhopal Literature and Art Festival and is also a keen golfer. He lives in New Delhi.

**REVIEWS**

‘Engagingly written ... Kali’s Daughter is a novel about caste and courage’ – **Esther David**, author of *The Book of Esther* and *The Book of Rachel*

‘A compelling and important novel for our times’ – **Malashri Lal**, author and Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi

‘Sketches a powerful picture of society and a leadership class in transition in modern India’ – **Amitabh Pandey**, author of *Love in Lutyens’ Delhi* and *When It Clicks*

‘A brave take on the ancient evil that is the caste system’ – **Anuja Chandramouli**, author of *Arjuna: Saga of a Pandava Warrior Prince*

‘A masterfully crafted, thought-provoking book, much needed to amend the archaic mindset’ – **Anita Krishan**, author of *Despite Stolen Dreams*

‘A powerful story, superbly told’ – **Anthony de Sa**, writer, poet and former Chief Secretary Madhya Pradesh

‘Kali’s Daughter exposes the curse of India – the caste system ... The novel is a masterpiece, a must-read’ – **Ajit Kumar**, Ambassador and Former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in Geneva

‘A compelling insider’s view of life within the country’s elite Indian Civil Services’ – **Vinita Nangia**, author and columnist