



## Animal's People: A Novel

By Indra Sinha

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**Animal's People: A Novel** By Indra Sinha

**"I used to be human once. So I'm told. I don't remember it myself, but people who knew me when I was small say I walked on two feet, just like a human being..."**

Ever since he can remember, Animal has gone on all fours, his back twisted beyond repair by the catastrophic events of "that night" when a burning fog of poison smoke from the local factory blazed out over the town of Khaufpur, and the Apocalypse visited his slums. Now just turned seventeen and well schooled in street work, he lives by his wits, spending his days jamisponding (spying) on town officials and looking after the elderly nun who raised him, Ma Franci. His nights are spent fantasizing about Nisha, the girlfriend of the local resistance leader, and wondering what it must be like to get laid.

When Elli Barber, a young American doctor, arrives in Khaufpur to open a free clinic for the still suffering townsfolk -- only to find herself struggling to convince them that she isn't there to do the dirty work of the Kampani -- Animal gets caught up in a web of intrigues, scams, and plots with the unabashed aim of turning events to his own advantage.

Profane, piercingly honest, and scathingly funny, *Animal's People* illuminates a dark world shot through with flashes of joy and lunacy. A stunning tale of an unforgettable character, it is an unflinching look at what it means to be human: the wounds that never heal and a spirit that will not be quenched.

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Set in a loosely fictionalized version of Bhopal, India, in the wake of the 1984 explosion at a Union Carbide pesticide plant, Indra Sinha's wonderful novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, and it's no mystery why. As this unique, and uniquely untrustworthy, narrator divulges his life story, the resulting knee-high vista opens up a heart-breaking and unforgettable world. --*Jason Kirk*

#### From Publishers Weekly

Orphaned Bhopal slum resident Animal, who used to be human before an industrial chemical accident left his bones twisted like a hairpin, narrates in a rich argot this tense and absorbing Brit import, shortlisted for the Booker in 2007. Animal, who walks on all fours, focuses on the events surrounding the impending trial of the Kampani responsible for the accident. He falls in with a group led by famous musician Somraj; Somraj's daughter, Nisha; and Nisha's boyfriend, Saint Zafar, who devotes his life to fighting the Kampani and caring for the poor. Tensions mount as suspicious Amrikan doctor Elli Barber opens a clinic in the slums, lawyers from the Kampani arrive in Khaufpur to negotiate a settlement, and Animal, desperately in love with Nisha, copes with his desires and frustrations. While some of the supporting characters remain one-dimensional, Animal's voice—a mélange of grit, pointed social criticism, profanity and lust—brings to life what could have become a tendentious parable, and his struggles personalize the novel's grand themes of secrecy, betrayal and unexpected acts of love and kindness. Sinha balances big issues with an intimate depiction of life at its bleakest. (Feb.)

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#### From Booklist

\*Starred Review\* Can a novel about the 1984 chemical apocalypse in Bhopal, India, be funny? Yes, when the story is imaginatively told in the voice of a determined, strangely gifted 19-year-old survivor. An infant on "that night," when a monstrous cloud of poison gas erupted from a pesticide plant, he was orphaned and eventually crippled by the disaster, his spine so severely bent he is forced to walk on all fours. Taunted and called Animal, he lives a hardscrabble life. Befriended by kind Nisha, Animal falls in love, even though she loves Zafar, the virtuous leader of a protest movement demanding reparation from the American chemical company. When an American opens a free clinic, Zafar calls for a boycott, certain that the clinic is in cahoots with the chemical company, but Animal can't stay away. Writing with both serious intent and exuberant satirical humor, Sinha tells an antic, ribald, and searing tale of greed and heroism. Short-listed for the Booker Prize, Sinha's daring farce asks what it means to be human, rekindles compassion for the still uncompensated victims of the real-life catastrophe, and celebrates the resiliency of love and goodness in the poorest and most poisoned of places. --Donna Seaman

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##### Neil Williams:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important for us. The book Animal's People: A Novel had been making you to know about other know-how and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book Animal's People: A Novel is not only giving you far more new information but also to become

your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your own time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with all the book Animal's People: A Novel. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

**Michael Griffin:**

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**William Holt:**

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the entire day to reading a publication. The book Animal's People: A Novel it is quite good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more effortlessly to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

**Scott Rochelle:**

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