



Bombay Stories (Vintage International)

By Saadat Hasan Manto

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Bombay Stories (Vintage International) By Saadat Hasan Manto

A collection of classic, yet shockingly contemporary, short stories set in the vibrant world of mid-century Bombay, from one of India's greatest writers.

Arriving in 1930s Bombay, Saadat Hasan Manto discovered a city like no other. A metropolis for all, and an exhilarating hub of license and liberty, bursting with both creative energy and helpless despondency. A journalist, screenwriter, and editor, Manto is best known as a master of the short story, and Bombay was his lifelong muse. Vividly bringing to life the city's seedy underbelly—the prostitutes, pimps, and gangsters that filled its streets—as well as the aspiring writers and actors who arrived looking for fame, here are all of Manto's Bombay-based stories, together in English for the very first time. By turns humorous and fantastical, Manto's tales are the provocative and unflinching lives of those forgotten by humanity.

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Bombay Stories (Vintage International) By Saadat Hasan Manto Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #278750 in Books
- Brand: Vintage International
- Published on: 2014-03-25
- Released on: 2014-03-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .65" w x 5.18" l, .51 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

When Manto arrived in 1930s Bombay, he fell in love with the city. For him, it was a place bursting with energy and at the same time filled with a hopeless despondency. Manto spent his most creative years there, and *Bombay Stories* is the result, a collection of 14 stories set in that thriving metropolis. Most of the tales revolve around what Salman Rushdie called Manto's "lowlives." Prostitutes, pimps, con men, thieves, and thugs inhabited the city's dark side, while aspiring writers, actors, and intellectuals searched for fame. Manto depicts this lower strata of society in an almost loving way, with delicacy, grace, and a kind of Everyman quality, so that who they are becomes secondary to how they live. The simple narration and strong imagery reflect Manto's keen powers of observation. Beautifully crafted and skillfully translated, the stories remain as startling and provocative today as they were when originally written. They will be for many readers a long-awaited and deeply satisfying introduction to one of India's greatest storytellers. --Carol Gladstein

Review

"The undisputed master of the modern Indian short story."

—Salman Rushdie

"An incredible book and a compelling argument to Saadat Hasan Manto's credibility as a giant in Indian/Pakistani literature. . . . Manto painted the women of Bombay in a way that few South Asian writers have been able to since."

—*PopMatters*

"Fascinating—completely unlike anything I've read from India—I found I was gobbling up these stories almost as much for sociology as for literature: I couldn't have believed that all that was happening (let alone being recorded, with such sympathy and precision) almost 80 years ago. . . . Whenever someone today talks about the Falkland Road, or Maximum Bombay, I will think back to this startling (and maybe not so well-known) predecessor from a different era. . . . Part of their beauty is that, in every story, one has to read only about three sentences, and one's fully inside one of those small, dank rooms, the paint peeling, the rupees dribbling away, shouts in the alleyway outside. Manto knows how to evoke a world in a sentence!"

—Pico Iyer

"I would travel anywhere with Manto. . . . He is magnificently immortal."

—Nadeem Aslam, author of *Maps for Lost Lovers*

"Presented in a realistic, almost reportorial style, these stories are both unremittingly bleak and exceptionally powerful."

—*Kirkus*

"A long-awaited and deeply satisfying introduction to one of India's greatest storytellers. . . . Beautifully crafted and skillfully translated, the stories remain as startling and provocative today as they were when originally written. . . . Manto depicts [the] lower strata of society in almost a loving way, with delicacy, grace, and a kind of Everyman quality, so that who they are becomes secondary to how they live. The simple narration and strong imagery reflect Manto's keen powers of observation."

—*Booklist*

"There is still no literary rival to Manto. . . . [And] as communalism, religious intolerance and enmity

between India and Pakistan continue to grow, his stories are still highly relevant.”

—*The Independent* (London)

“Manto’s irony and humanity raise him on par with Gogol.”

—Anita Desai

About the Author

Saadat Hasan Manto was born in what is now Punjab in 1912. An acclaimed Urdu-language short story writer, he also worked as a journalist and wrote extensively for film and radio throughout Indian and Pakistan. He died in 1955.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Yasmin Parker:

The book *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International) can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave the good thing like a book *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International)? Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim this book can give many info for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you may give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International) has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by start and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

Hector Duggan:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition associated with. Even you love *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International), it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can happen its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Wm Dunlap:

This *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International) is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. That book reveal it data accurately using great coordinate word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having *Bombay Stories* (Vintage International) in your hand like getting the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this guide already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

Carl Fox:

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