

The Mystic Masseur

The Masque of AfricaDiasporic TransformationsGuerillasIndiaDecolonization and the OtherA House for Mr. BiswasThe Mystic Masseur ; &, Miguel StreetThe Mystic MasseurThe Nightwatchman's Occurrence BookThe Mystic MasseurThe Indian TrilogyA Turn in the SouthA Bend in the RiverThe Writer and the WorldThe Middle PassageLiterary OccasionsHalf a LifeThree NovelsSir Vidya's ShadowThe Enigma of ArrivalV.S. Naipaul, Man and WriterThe Overcrowded BarracoonIndiaV.S. NaipaulAmong the BelieversFinding the CenterMr. Stone and the Knights CompanionNaipaulFlag on the Island (short Stories).A Writer's PeopleMiguel StreetThe Mystic Masseur. Introduction by Paul Edwards and Kenneth RamchandReckless EyeballingIndia: A Wounded CivilizationThe Mystic MasseurMagic SeedsThe Suffrage of ElviraThe Loss of El DoradoA Way in the WorldBeyond the "Callaloo" and "Tossed Salad" Metaphors

The Masque of Africa

In 1975, at the height of Indira Gandhi's Emergency, V. S. Naipaul returned to India, the country his ancestors had left one hundred years before. Out of that journey he produced this concise masterpiece of journalism and cultural analysis, a vibrant, defiantly unsentimental portrait of a society traumatized by repeated foreign invasions and immured in a mythic vision of its past. Drawing on novels, news reports, and political memoirs -- but most of all on his conversations with ordinary Indians, from princes to engineers and feudal village autocrats -- Naipaul captures India's manifold complexities. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Diasporic Transformations

Guerillas

AN AREA OF DARKNESS 'Brilliant tender, lyrical, explosive' Observer V.S. Naipaul was twenty-nine when he first visited India. This is his semi-autobiographical account-at once painful and hilarious, but always thoughtful and considered-a revelation both of the country and of himself. INDIA: A WOUNDED CIVILIZATION 'A devastating work, but proof that a novelist of Naipaul's stature can often define problems quicker and more effectively than a team of economists and other experts' The Times Prompted by the Emergency of 1975, Naipaul casts a more analytical eye, convinced that India, wounded by a thousand years of foreign rule, has not yet found an ideology of regeneration. INDIA: A MILLION MUTINIES NOW 'Indispensable for anyone who wants seriously to come to grips with the experience of India' New York Times Book

Review It is twenty-six years since Naipaul's first trip to India. Taking an anti-clockwise journey around the metropolises-including Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi-he focuses on the country's development since Independence. The author recedes, allowing Indians to tell the stories, and a dynamic oral history of the country emerges.

India

Decolonization and the Other

Offering a survey of the life and work of the 2001 Nobel Laureate for Literature, V S Naipaul, this book introduces the readers to the writer widely viewed as a curmudgeonly novelist. It assesses each of Naipaul's major publications in light of his stated intentions, and traces the development of his writing style over a forty-year career.

A House for Mr. Biswas

Shortly before retirement from his post as a librarian in a large commercial firm, sixty-two-year-old Mr. Stone marries, becomes inspired, and turns his creative idea into fact.

The Mystic Masseur ; &, Miguel Street

In 1962 Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago became independent countries; Barbados followed in 1966. In the years leading up to these events, the history of the British West Indies was written largely by the British, the colonial power, who focused on the process of decolonization and the key local players involved. After independence, local scholars also focused on the role of political leaders in the newly independent countries. To date, scholars have paid little attention to the impact of these events on the local populations of these islands. Decolonization and the Other: The Case of the British West Indies explores the local perspectives on, and reactions to, events by using West Indian literature to supplement the historical record. Beginning in the 1930s when local demands for political participation increased, through the process of decolonization, and into the early years of independence, West Indian writers used their life experiences to document local reaction. West Indian literature first appeared in 1950, when British publishers became interested in island authors and their novels. By using the novels to supplement the historical record, we can gain a better understanding of the process of decolonization and the early years of independence in the British West Indies.

The Mystic Masseur

Masochism is out and feminism is in, Jews are out and Germans are in, race is out and gender is in, and everyone's fighting (and rewriting) for a piece of the pie. Jewish director Jim Minsk disappears during a trip to the South. Black playwright Ian Ball writes the all-female play Reckless Eyeballing in hopes of getting off the "sex-list." Preeminent playwright Jack Brashford, claiming the Jews stole all his black material, decides to write about Armenians. In the background, an unknown assailant dubbed the "Flower Phantom" runs loose through the city shaving heads of prominent black feminists (to the secret delight of black men). In this hilarious, devastating, but also deeply sympathetic novel, Ishmael Reed turns characters on the backs, sides, tops and bottoms to expose the multiple hypocrisies at the heart of American culture.

The Nightwatchman's Occurrence Book

One of the finest living writers in the English language, V. S. Naipaul gives us a tale as wholly unexpected as it is affecting, his first novel since the exultantly acclaimed *A Way in the World*, published seven years ago. *Half a Life* is the story of Willie Chandran, whose father, heeding the call of Mahatma Gandhi, turned his back on his brahmin heritage and married a woman of low caste—a disastrous union he would live to regret, as he would the children that issued from it. When Willie reaches manhood, his flight from the travails of his mixed birth takes him from India to London, where, in the shabby haunts of immigrants and literary bohemians of the 1950s, he contrives a new identity. This is what happens as he tries to defeat self-doubt in sexual adventures and in the struggle to become a writer—strivings that bring him to the brink of exhaustion, from which he is rescued, to his amazement, only by the love of a good woman. And this is what happens when he returns with her—carried along, really—to her home in Africa, to live, until the last doomed days of colonialism, yet another life not his own. In a luminous narrative that takes us across three continents, Naipaul explores his great theme of inheritance with an intimacy and directness unsurpassed in his extraordinary body of work. And even as he lays bare the bitter comical ironies of assumed identities, he gives us a poignant spectacle of the enervation peculiar to a borrowed life. In one man's determined refusal of what he has been given to be, Naipaul reveals the way of all our experience. As Willie comes to see, "Everything goes on a bias. The world should stop, but it goes on." A masterpiece of economy and emotional nuance, *Half a Life* is an indelible feat of the imagination. From the Hardcover edition.

The Mystic Masseur

V. S. Naipaul's first book about the United States is a revealing, disturbing, elegiac book about the hidden life and culture of the American South — from Atlanta to Charleston, Tallahassee to Tuskegee, Nashville to Chapel Hill. From the Trade Paperback edition.

The Indian Trilogy

For forty years V. S. Naipaul has been traveling and, through his writing, creating one of the most wide-ranging and sustained meditations on our world. Now, for the first time, his finest shorter pieces of reflection and reportage -- nearly all of them heretofore out of print -- are collected in one volume. With an abiding faith in the redemptive power of modernity balanced by a sense of wonder about the past, Naipaul has explored an astonishing variety of societies and peoples through the many-sided prism of his own experience. Whether writing about the Muslim invasions of India, Mobutu's mad reign in Zaire, or the New York mayoral elections, he has demonstrated again and again that no one has a shrewder intuition of the ways in which power works, of the universal relation of the exploiter and the exploited. And no one has put forth a more consistently eloquent defense of the dignity of the individual and the value of civilization. Infused with a deeply felt humanism, *The Writer and the World* attests powerfully not only to Naipaul's status as the great English prose stylist of our time but also to his keen, often prophetic, understanding. From the Trade Paperback edition.

A Turn in the South

In this book, an old, comically timid and absent-minded man, Surujpat Harbans, runs for office, aided by superstition, bribes, and an aggressive campaign.

A Bend in the River

In his long-awaited, vastly innovative new novel, Naipaul, "one of literature's great travelers" (Los Angeles Times), spans continents and centuries to create what is at once an autobiography and a fictional archaeology of colonialism. "Dickensian... a brilliant new prism through which to view (Naipaul's) life and work."—New York Times.

The Writer and the World

The Middle Passage

A collection of the author's political and personal journalism of the last fifteen years.

Literary Occasions

Half a Life

(includes *The Suffrage of Elvira*, *A Flag on the Island* and *Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion*) Written early in V. S. Naipaul's prolific career, these three works of fiction — two novels and a collection of stories — are ample evidence of his cosmopolitan reach and his seemingly effortless command of broad comedy and acute observation. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Three Novels

In his first book of non-fiction since 2003, V.S. Naipaul gives us an eloquent, candid, wide-ranging narrative that delves into the sometimes inadvertent process of creative and intellectual assimilation. Born in Trinidad of Indian descent, a resident of England for his entire adult life, and a prodigious traveller, Nobel Laureate V. S. Naipaul has always faced the challenges of “fitting one civilisation to another.” In *A Writer's People*, he discusses the writers to whom he was exposed early on, Derek Walcott, Flaubert and his own father among them; how Anthony Powell and Francis Wyndham influenced his first encounters with literary culture; what we have retained—and forgotten—of the world portrayed in Caesar's *The Gallic War* and Virgil's *Aeneid*; how the writings of Gandhi, Nehru and other Indian writers both reveal and conceal the authors and their nation. And he brings the same scrutiny to bear on his own life: his years in Trinidad; the gaps in his family history; the “private India” kept alive through story, ritual, religion and culture; his ever-evolving reaction to the more complicated and demanding true India he would encounter for the first time when he was thirty. Part meditation, part remembrance, as elegant as it is revelatory, *A Writer's People* allows us privileged insight—full of incident, humour and feeling—into the mind of one of our greatest writers. “He brings to non-fiction an extraordinary capacity for making art out of lucid thought. . . . I can no longer imagine the world without Naipaul's writing.” *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

Sir Vidia's Shadow

A New York Times Notable Book Nobel laureate V. S. Naipaul's impassioned and prescient travelogue of his journeys through his ancestral homeland, with a new preface by the author. Arising out of Naipaul's lifelong obsession and passion for a country that is at once his and totally alien, *India: A Million Mutinies Now* relates the stories of many of the people he met traveling there more than fifty years ago. He explores how they have been steered by the innumerable frictions present in Indian society—the contradictions and compromises of religious faith, the whim and chaos of random political forces. This book represents Naipaul's last word on his homeland, complementing his two other India travelogues, *An Area of Darkness* and *India: A Wounded Civilization*.

The Enigma of Arrival

Like all of V. S. Naipaul's "travel" books, *The Masque of Africa* encompasses a much larger narrative and purpose: to judge the effects of belief (in indigenous animisms, the foreign religions of Christianity and Islam, the cults of leaders and mythical history) upon the progress of civilization. From V. S. Naipaul: "For my travel books I travel on a theme. And the theme of *The Masque of Africa* is African belief. I begin in Uganda, at the center of the continent, do Ghana and Nigeria, the Ivory Coast and Gabon, and end at the bottom of the continent, in South Africa. My theme is belief, not political or economical life; and yet at the bottom of the continent the political realities are so overwhelming that they have to be taken into account. "Perhaps an unspoken aspect of my inquiry was the possibility of the subversion of old Africa by the ways of the outside world. The theme held until I got to the South, when the clash of the two ways of thinking and believing became far too one-sided. The skyscrapers of Johannesburg didn't rest on sand. The older world of magic felt fragile, but at the same time had an enduring quality. You felt that it would survive any calamity. "I had expected that over the great size of Africa the practices of magic would significantly vary. But they didn't. The diviners everywhere wanted to 'throw the bones' to read the future, and the idea of 'energy' remained a constant, to be tapped into by the ritual sacrifice of body parts. In South Africa body parts, mainly of animals, but also of men and women, made a mixture of 'battle medicine.' To witness this, to be given some idea of its power, was to be taken far back to the beginning of things. "To reach that beginning was the purpose of my book." *The Masque of Africa* is a masterly achievement by one of the world's keenest observers and one of its greatest writers. From the Hardcover edition.

V.S. Naipaul, Man and Writer

Tells the humorous stories of a masseur's rise in politics, a candidate's discovery of the cost of votes, and a young street boy's experiences in Port of Spain

The Overcrowded Barracoon

The history of Trinidad begins with a delusion: the belief that somewhere nearby on the South American mainland lay El Dorado, the mythical kingdom of gold. In this extraordinary and often gripping book, V. S. Naipaul—himself a native of Trinidad—shows how that delusion drew a small island into the vortex of world events, making it the object of Spanish and English colonial designs and a mecca for treasure-seekers, slave-traders, and revolutionaries. Amid massacres and poisonings, plunder and multinational intrigue, two themes emerge: the grinding down of the Aborigines during the long rivalries of the El Dorado quest and, two hundred years later, the man-made horror of slavery. An accumulation of casual, awful detail takes us as close as we can get to day-to-day life in the slave colony, where, in spite of various titles of nobility,

only an opportunistic, near-lawless community exists, always fearful of slave suicide or poison, of African sorcery and revolt. Naipaul tells this labyrinthine story with assurance, withering irony, and lively sympathy. The result is historical writing at its highest level.

India

With an introduction from Paul Theroux V.S. Naipaul first visited India in 1962 at twenty-nine. His most recent visit was in 2015 at eighty-two. The intervening years and visits sparked by an inquisitiveness about a country he had never seen but had been a dream of his since childhood have resulted in three books: *India: An Area of Darkness*, *A Wounded Civilization* and *A Million Mutinies Now*. India is the collection of all three, introduced by fellow traveller and writer Paul Theroux. *An Area of Darkness* is V. S. Naipaul's semi-autobiographical account - at once painful and hilarious, but always thoughtful and considered - of his first visit to India, the land of his forebears. From the moment of his inauspicious arrival he experienced a cultural estrangement from the subcontinent. India was land of myths, an area of darkness closing up behind him as he travelled. What emerged was a masterful work of literature that provides a revelation both of India and of himself: a displaced person who paradoxically possesses a stronger sense of place than almost anyone. *India: A Wounded Civilization* casts a more analytical eye than before over Indian attitudes, while recapitulating and further probing the feelings aroused in him by this vast, mysterious, and agonized country. A work of fierce candour and precision, it is also a generous description of one man's complicated relationship with the country of his ancestors. *India: A Million Mutinies Now* is the fascinating account of Naipaul's return journey to India and offers a kaleidoscopic, layered travelogue, encompassing a wide collage of religions, castes, and classes at a time when the percolating ideas of freedom threatened to shake loose the old ways. The brilliance of the book lies in Naipaul's approach to a shifting, changing land from a variety of perspectives. *India: A Million Mutinies Now* is a truly perceptive work whose insights continue to inform travellers of all generations to India.

V.S. Naipaul

The first of Naipaul's twelve novels tells of the meteoric rise and hilarious metamorphosis of Ganesh Ramsumair from failed primary schoolteacher and struggling masseur to author, revered mystic, peerless politician and the most popular man in Trinidad. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Among the Believers

This heartfelt and revealing account of Paul Theroux's thirty-year friendship with the legendary V. S. Naipaul is an intimate record of a literary mentorship that traces the growth of both writers' careers and explores the unique effect each had on

the other. Built around exotic landscapes, anecdotes that are revealing, humorous, and melancholy, and three decades of mutual history, this is a personal account of how one develops as a writer and how a friendship waxes and wanes between two men who have set themselves on the perilous journey of a writing life.

Finding the Center

Naipaul's controversial account of his travels through the Islamic world was hailed by The New Republic as "the most notable work on contemporary Islam to have appeared in a very long time." From the Trade Paperback edition.

Mr. Stone and the Knights Companion

The story of Ganesh, a ten-a-penny masseur from Trinidad. From failed primary school teacher and masseur to author, revered mystic and MBE, and his hilarious and bewildering success, Ganesh's journey is a memorable one.

Naipaul

This book is an exploration of writer V.S. Naipaul's maturing diasporic experiences and the sensibilities that shaped his works throughout his career. Starting his journey with an inconsequential piece of land which he considers as merely 'a dot on the map of the world,' Naipaul locates himself in the center of imperial power. His passionate journeys around the globe enabled him to internalize the enigma of a nomad and to come out with remarkable outpourings on diasporic issues. In a theoretical framework provided by Homi K. Bhabha, Naipaul's works portray the essential ambivalence, mimicry, and in-betweenness marking the lives of displaced migrants who realize the half-ness of their lives due to the loss of their native cultural identities. His novels are replete with the metaphors of homelessness and represent the divided selves of the shipwrecked diaspora who have been trapped into the elusive realities of the alien territory. The book traces the shifting paradigms of diasporic ambivalence in Naipaul's novels. The concepts of globalization, de-territorialization, and multiculturalism might have trivialized the diasporic debates, but the book resuscitates and sustains the charm of the subject by exploring the uncharted territories of the Nobel Laureate's fictional representation.

Flag on the Island (short Stories).

Two prize-winning early novels by V.S. Naipul, brought together in one volume. Two of V. S. Naipaul's earliest novels, already displaying his humour, endless inventiveness and imaginative brilliance. The Mystic Masseur tells the story of Ganesh, who at the beginning of the novel is a struggling masseur at a time when 'masseurs were ten a penny in Trinidad'.

From failed primary-school teacher and masseur to author, revered mystic and MBE, his is a journey memorable for its hilarious and bewildering success. Naipaul's clarity of style, humorous touch and powerful characterization are all in evidence in this, his first book. Funny, touching and perceptive, this novel is a wonderful introduction for readers new to Naipaul's writing. Included too in this edition is another exceptional early novel, MIGUEL STREET, which won the Somerset Maugham Award on its appearance in 1959.

A Writer's People

An expatriate English couple and a West Indian would-be revolutionary yield to infidelity, sexual abuse, murder, and irrevocable mental and moral decay on a socially fragile, post-colonial Caribbean island.

Miguel Street

V. S. Naipaul is a reader-friendly introduction to the writing of one of the most influential contemporary authors and the 2001 Nobel laureate in Literature. Bruce King provides a novel by novel analysis of the fiction with attention to structure, significance, and Naipaul's development as a writer, while setting the texts in their autobiographical, philosophical, social, political, colonial and postcolonial contexts. King shows how Naipaul modified Western and Indian literary traditions for the West Indies and then the wider world to become an international writer whose subject matter includes the Caribbean, England, India, Africa, the United States, Argentina, and contemporary Islam. Thoroughly revised and updated, the second edition of V. S. Naipaul now includes an expanded Introduction, and discussion of his most recent novels *A Way in the World* and *Half a Life*, his Nobel Lecture, Naipaul's writings on Islam, and a survey of the main criticism by other writers and postcolonial theorists.

The Mystic Masseur. Introduction by Paul Edwards and Kenneth Ramchand

A stranger could drive through Miguel Street and just say 'Slum!' because he could see no more. But to its residents this derelict corner of Trinidad's capital is a complete world, where everybody is quite different from everybody else. Set during World War II and narrated by an unnamed - but precociously observant - neighbourhood boy, Miguel Street is a work of mercurial mood shifts, by turns sweetly melancholy and anarchically funny. It overflows with life on every page.

Reckless Eyeballing

In his forty-six short years, Mr. Mohun Biswas has been fighting against destiny to achieve some semblance of

independence, only to face a lifetime of calamity. Shuttled from one residence to another after the drowning death of his father, for which he is inadvertently responsible, Mr. Biswas yearns for a place he can call home. But when he marries into the domineering Tulsi family on whom he indignantly becomes dependent, Mr. Biswas embarks on an arduous -- and endless -- struggle to weaken their hold over him, and purchase a house of his own. From the Trade Paperback edition.

India: A Wounded Civilization

The Mystic Masseur

In the "brilliant novel" (The New York Times) V.S. Naipaul takes us deeply into the life of one man — an Indian who, uprooted by the bloody tides of Third World history, has come to live in an isolated town at the bend of a great river in a newly independent African nation. Naipaul gives us the most convincing and disturbing vision yet of what happens in a place caught between the dangerously alluring modern world and its own tenacious past and traditions.

Magic Seeds

This is a user-friendly introduction to the novels and the non-fiction of V.S. Naipaul that will be of interest both to the student and to the specialist. It examines the language, structure, themes and development of Naipaul's writing, setting the novels in their autobiographical, philosophical, social and political, colonial and post-colonial contexts. Attention is given to Naipaul's existentialism, relationship to his literary models, use of Indian philosophy and vision of the Indian diaspora. Naipaul is shown to use similar formal literary structures and to have recurring themes and preoccupations during the four distinctive periods of his writing.

The Suffrage of Elvira

A rich collection of essays on reading, writing, and identity from our finest writer in English, V. S. Naipaul. Literary Occasions charts more than half a century of personal enquiry into the mysteries of written expression, and of fiction in particular. Literary Occasions brings together some true gems of literary criticism and personal reflection. Reflecting on the full scope of his career, V. S. Naipaul takes us through his beginnings as a writer: his boyhood experiences of reading books and his first efforts at writing them; the early glimmers and evolution of ideas about the proper relations of particular literary forms to particular cultures and identities; and his father's influence, revealed in an intriguing preface to the only book he ever published. These moving and thoughtful pieces are accompanied by Naipaul's profound and severe discussions of other

authors, including his signal essay on Conrad, and the classic "Indian Autobiographies." The collection is completed by "Two Worlds," the magnificent Nobel Address, in which Naipaul considers the indivisibility of the literary and the personal. Sustained by extraordinary powers of expression and thought, Literary Occasions is both a subtle recollection of Naipaul's past, and the only available organized statement of his literary ideas. A valuable companion to last year's *The Writer and the World*, this is an essential volume from a man who has devoted his life to the written word. From the Hardcover edition.

The Loss of El Dorado

The autobiographical novel of a journey from the British colony of Trinidad to the ancient countryside of England.

A Way in the World

Naipul's first work of travel writing is an account of his journey in 1950 from London to his birthplace, Trinidad. He offers a record of his impressions there and elsewhere in the West Indies and South America, and examines their common heritage of colonialism and slavery.

Beyond the "Callaloo" and "Tossed Salad" Metaphors

A stunning novel of the present moment that takes us into the hearts and minds of those who use terrorism as an ideal and a way of life, and those who aspire to the frightening power of wealth. Abandoning a life he felt was not his own, Willie Chandran (the hero of *Half a Life*) moves to Berlin where his sister's radical political awakening inspires him to join a liberation movement in India. There, in the jungles and dirt-poor small villages, through months of secrecy and night marches, Willie — a solitary, inward man — discovers both the idealism and brutality of guerilla warfare. When he finally escapes the movement, he is imprisoned for the murder of three policemen. Released unexpectedly on condition he return to England, he attempts to climb back into life in the West, but his experience of wealth, love and despair in London only bedevils him further. *Magic Seeds* is a moving tale of a man searching for his life and fearing he has wasted it, and a testing study of the conflicts between the rich and the poor, and the struggles within each. Its spare, elegant prose sizzles with devastating psychological analysis, bleak humour and astonishing characters. Only V. S. Naipaul could have written a novel so attuned to the world and so much a challenge to it. From the Hardcover edition.

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