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CHENNAI
INTERNATIONAL
BOOK FAIR

Whispers of
TAMIL NARRATIVES

Worldwide



TIMELESS, CLASSIC, NATIVE



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P JEEVANANTHAM



Reputation:

“A socio-political leader, a cultural theoretician, an excellent orator, journalist and critic; and above all, a relentless fighter for the deprived. A down-to-earth person with a clean record in public life, held in high esteem by ordinary people.”

P. Jeevanandham (21 August 1907 – 18 January 1963) dedicated almost four decades to public life, notably as a Gandhian, self-respect activist, and influential figure in the communal movement. His impact spanned multiple arenas, despite his self-proclaimed atheism.

Jeeva's diverse talents encompassed prolific writing, journalism, and literary sensibilities.

He penned impactful poems and articles in magazines like Republic, Reason, Revolution, Janashakti, and Tamarai, echoing Bharati's influence. His literary journey began early, writing about Gandhi and Ghadar in ninth grade and producing a play while in tenth grade, showcasing his literary prowess.

Associated with Gandhian publications, he established the 'Art and Literature Forum' in 1961, and launched the daily "Janashakti" and "Tamarai" magazine in 1959, emphasizing his dedication to art and literature. His legacy thrived through active participation in significant movements and political endeavors, leaving an enduring imprint at the intersection of literature and communal activism.

PUTHUMAI PENN

transl. The Modern Women

P Jeevanantham

Synopsis:

"Puthumai Penn," penned by Mr. P. Jeevanandham, stands as an illuminating critique of women's rights, delving deep into historical perspectives and societal constructs. Jeevanandham's narrative questions the disparities in expectations between genders, drawing from ancient Tamil literature like Thol Kappiyam, Sangam literature, and Thirukkural. It highlights the absence of imposed chastity on men and explores the societal acceptance of men having multiple partners without condemnation. The author probes Valluvar's renowned work, Thirukkural, pondering why he didn't label men in parallel terms as he did women.

This introspective journey unveils a thousand years of societal perceptions about women and elucidates the unspoken norms and biases embedded in historical contexts. Through eloquent discourse, Jeevanandham elucidates the evolving role of women, advocating for an empowered and progressive female identity—an "innovative woman" poised to break through societal confines.

"Puthumai Penn" stands as a thought-provoking piece, shedding light on the historical treatment of women while advocating for a more egalitarian and evolved society.



Genre: Non-Fiction

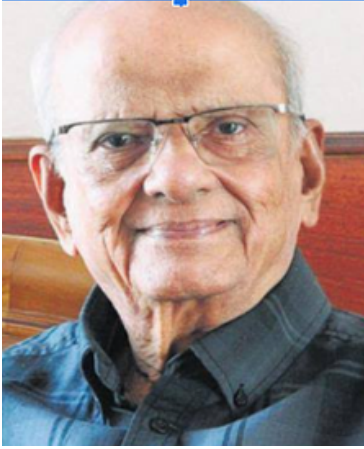
Publisher: Government of Tamil Nadu

Pages: 128 pages

ISBN: 978-1976448416

Language Availability: Tamil and English

INDIRA PARTHASARATHY



Born in Chennai, R. Parthasarathy, commonly known as Indira Parthasarathy or Ee. Paa., is a revered Indian Tamil author and playwright. Renowned for his versatile repertoire, he has penned 16 novels, 10 plays, and anthologies encompassing short stories and essays. His impactful plays, notably "Aurangzeb," "Nandan Kathai," and "Ramanujar," showcase his literary prowess.

He is celebrated for his outstanding achievements, having received prestigious honors including the Saraswati Samman (1999), Sahitya Akademi Award (1977), Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2004), and the Padma Shri in 2010 from the Government of India. His acclaimed novels like "Kuruthi Punal," a Sahitya Academy Award-winning work, and diverse plays like "Uchchi Veyyil" and "Porvai Porthiya Udalgai" reflect his literary brilliance.

The film "Marupakkam" (1991), adapted from his novel "Uchi Veyyil," directed by K.S. Sethu Madhavan, received the National Film Award for Best Feature Film, further solidifying Parthasarathy's impact in both literature and cinema.

Awards:

- The Saraswati Samman Award (1999)
- The Sahitya Akademi Award (1977)
- The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2004)
- Padma Shri Award 2010

KURUDHIPUNAL

The River of Blood

By Indira Parthasarathy

Synopsis:

"Kuruthipunal," also known as "The River of Blood," delves into the tragic Keezhavenmani massacre of 1967, vividly portrayed by author Indira Parthasarathy. Through protagonists Gopal and Siva, the novel questions the essence of revolutions, unraveling the self-interest within societal movements. It confronts rural-urban dynamics, exploring clashes between privilege and deprivation.

Parthasarathy's narrative brilliance shines as the book probes the inevitability of revolutions and societal struggles, challenging readers to reconsider the motives behind social movements. The clash of values between urban privilege and village messiahism becomes a focal point, driving intense interactions among societal forces. The narrative crescendos with thought-provoking lines like, "Revolution shall never cease to be. If it ceases, it ceases to be a revolution." Seamlessly blending an edge-of-the-seat thriller with a compelling storyline, the novel captivates with its hard-hitting narrative, inviting readers on an intellectual exploration.

"Kuruthipunal" stands as a testament to Parthasarathy's storytelling prowess, offering an intelligently crafted narrative that challenges societal norms, urging deeper contemplation on revolution, struggle, and societal change, resonating as a thought-provoking exploration of human dynamics and societal upheavals.



Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Kizhakku Publications

Pages: 240 pages

ISBN: 978-8183680721

Language Availability: Tamil and English

Awards:

This novel has won the Sahitya Akademi award for its author in 1977.

HELICOPTER GAL KEEZHE IRANGI VITTANA

Helicopters Have Come Down

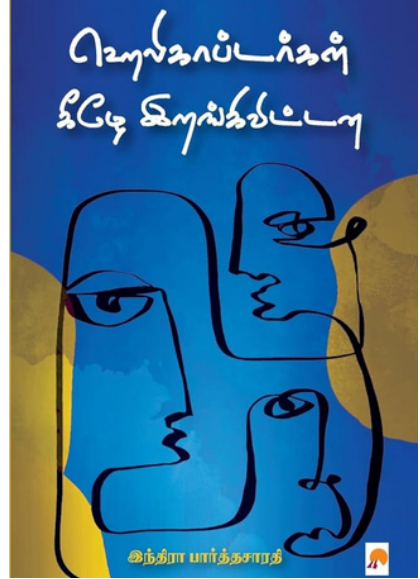
By Indira Parthasarathy

Synopsis:

In "Helicopters Have Come Down," the narrative revolves around Amritham, a central government official in Delhi. Encouraged by his wife Thilagam, as they go to a theatre, a chance encounter with Banu triggers a surge of emotions reminiscent of his past love, Nithya. Amritham embarks on an affair with Banu, entangled in memories that strain his marriage.

Banu's resemblance to Nithya resurrects dormant desires, leading Amritham to seek a rekindling of his youthful passion. However, amidst these reveries, his aspirations plummet unexpectedly. The story intricately weaves past longings and present dilemmas, exposing the fragility of human yearning and its repercussions.

As Amritham's emotional turmoil unfolds, the narrative crescendos, leaving readers suspended between the prospect of rejuvenation or an enduring descent. "Helicopters Have Come Down" invites contemplation on the transient nature of desires and their haunting impact on human connections. This poignant exploration of longing, consequence, and the elusive nature of aspirations immerses readers in a riveting saga that challenges perceptions of love, reminiscence, and the intricacies of human relationships.



Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Kizhakku Publications

Pages: 144 pages

ISBN: 978-8183681377

Language Availability: Tamil and English

KRISHNA KRISHNA

Forever Yours Krishna

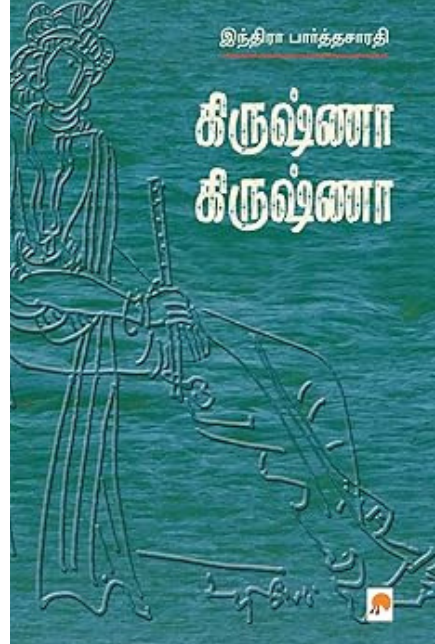
By Indira Parthasarathy

Synopsis:

"Krishna Krishna" explores the multifaceted persona of Krishna, a revered figure in Indian spiritual beliefs. Departing from conventional mythological narratives, this novel portrays Krishna as a dynamic and complex character, embodying the human avatar rather than remaining a distant deity. Indira Parthasarathi, the author, presents Krishna as an unconventional hero—an anti-hero, rebel, and central figure, challenging the norms of religious orthodoxy. The narrative fearlessly unravels the layers of Krishna's personality, showcasing his frailties alongside his divine attributes.

Krishna is depicted as a metaphor transcending traditional boundaries, symbolizing various facets beyond moral values and societal norms. From mischievous acts as a butter thief to captivating charisma in adulthood, his wit, charm, and infinite wisdom inspire profound verses and legends in Indian mythology and spiritual literature. In a departure from traditional epics, "Krishna Krishna" positions Krishna as a contemporary and a central protagonist—a departure from his usual background presence. The novel unfolds around him, highlighting his relevance across ages and positioning him as a heroic and pivotal figure in the narrative.

This rendition of Krishna in "Krishna Krishna" presents a fresh perspective, portraying him as a multifaceted character relevant to every epoch, showcasing his complexities and diverse personas beyond conventional religious portrayals.



Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Kizhakku Publications

Pages: 216 pages

ISBN: 978-8183680806

Language Availability: Tamil and English

SIVASANKARI



Awards:

- Kasturi Srinivasan Award 1984
- Dr. Rajah Sir Annamalai Chettiar Award 1988
- Bharatiya Basha Parishad Award 1990
- Tamil Annai Award 1989
- Rajiv Gandhi National Integration Award
- The Best Children's Book of The Year 1998 Award
- Premchand Rastriya Sahitya Samman Award 2001
- Nalli – Thisai Ettum Translation Award 2007
- Gopichand Literary Award 2008
- K. Swaminathan Memorial Award 2009
- Lifetime Professional Achievement Award 2010
- Potraamarai Award 2013
- Ilakkiya Chinthanai Award 2015
- Writer of 2016 Award
- Bharatiyar Award 2017
- An Award for 'CREATIVE ITERATURE' 2017
- Thanga Taragai Award 2018
- Pride of Tamil Nadu Award 2018
- Life Time Achievement Award 2019
- Bharati National Award 2019
- Vidhya Sakthi Award 2022
- Spectra Award 2023
- Life-time Achievement Award 2023
- Vision of India Literature Award 2023
- Saraswati Samman Award 2023
- Life Time Achievement Award 2023
- Life Time Achievement Sakthi Award 2023
- Kamban Pugazh Viruthu 2024.
- Viswambara National Award 2024
- Life Time Achievement Award 2024

Sivasankari, an esteemed Indian author and activist hailing from Chennai, has left an indelible mark on Tamil literature and social advocacy. Over fifty six years, she has penned a prolific collection comprising novels, short novels, stories, travelogues, articles, and biographies.

Renowned for her socially conscious narratives, her works delve into critical issues like drug abuse, alcoholism, and elderly care, earning televised adaptations and widespread acclaim. Her writings, spanning prominent Tamil periodicals, have transcended languages, translated into English, Ukrainian, and more.

Notably, her impactful article on eye donation spurred a wave of pledges. Sivasankari's novels adapted to film have garnered public acclaim for their integrity. Her travelogues with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi were even translated into Japanese. Her initiatives include establishing the Rajaji Centre for De-addiction and the ambitious "Knit India Through Literature" project, showcasing India's diverse linguistic and cultural heritage. In 2022, the acclaimed Tamil writer was honoured with the prestigious Saraswati Samman award for her compelling 2019 memoir, "SuryaVamsam."

ORU MANITHANIN KATHAI

transl. The Story of a Man

By Sivasankari

Synopsis:

"Oru Manithanin Kathai" follows Thiyagu, initially leading a stable life in a supportive family environment. However, his casual indulgence in drinking spirals into addiction, causing irreparable damage. The narrative meticulously depicts the harrowing journey of alcoholism, showcasing its catastrophic effects on Thiyagu's life and subsequent attempts at recovery.

Despite initial rehabilitation facilitated by a friend, Thiyagu relapses into alcoholism. Salvation arrives through the intervention of Alcoholics Anonymous, marking a turning point. Their support enables Thiyagu to reclaim his life and start anew.

This poignant tale underscores the insidious nature of addiction, unraveling the devastating consequences it inflicts on not only an individual's life but everyone of the family. Hence it is said that alcoholism is a family disease. Thiyagu's tumultuous journey, from descent into addiction to redemption through support, forms the crux of the narrative. The novel serves as a profound exploration of the perils of alcoholism and the hope for recovery, emphasizing the critical role of support systems in rebuilding shattered lives.



Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Gangai Puthaka Nilayam

Pages: 328 pages

ISBN: 978-8193087121

Language Availability: Tamil and English

Rights Sold: Hindi

KARUNAI KOLAI

transl. Mercy Killing

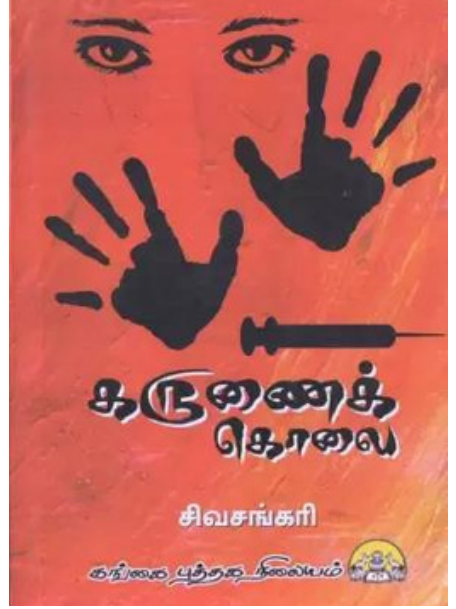
By Sivasankari

Synopsis:

In 'Karunai Kolai' ('Mercy Killing'), the intricacies of Sathya Prakash, editor of a well-known magazine and Janani, an established dancer's relationship unfold amidst the controversial theme of euthanasia. Janani, a passionate advocate of death with dignity, falls into a coma after an accident, sparking a debate between her beliefs and Sathya's staunch opposition to playing 'God.'

Their profound love and intellectual bond face a severe test as Sathya grapples with the ethical dilemma of ending Janani's suffering against his beliefs in hope and miracles. As Sathya contemplates mercy killing to alleviate Janani's trauma, an unexpected turn occurs when Janani miraculously begins recovering, challenging the decision.

This groundbreaking novel navigates the moral complexities surrounding euthanasia while showcasing the emotional journey of Sathya and Janani. It provokes vital questions about life, dignity, and who has the right to choose the decision, skillfully presenting intricate medical concepts in easily understandable language. 'Karunai Kolai' deftly encapsulates the ethical dilemmas surrounding end-of-life decisions, enveloping readers in a compelling exploration of love, ethics, and the human spirit.



Genre: Fiction

Publisher: Gangai Puthaka Nilayam

Pages: 284 pages

ISBN: 658-0101802513

Language Availability: Tamil and English

AMMA, PLEASE ENAKKAGA..

transl. Mother, for My Sake, Please..

By Sivasankari

Synopsis:

In the novel "Amma, Please, Enakkaga...", Gowri, a devoted Chief Accountant of a bank and single mother to her son Vijay, lavishes him with unconditional love following the loss of his father. As Vijay's missteps escalate, Gowri reaches her breaking point, unable to tolerate his behavior any longer. Desperate to reform her son, she sets boundaries, confronting him about the consequences of his actions. However, Vijay's repeated errors and taking his mother's affection for granted push Gowri to the edge of her patience. Meanwhile Vijay, with a hope to manipulate his mother's love somehow, plans to rob the bank. Innocent Gowri, when she comes to know the truth faces an excruciating dilemma.

The story delves into the complexities of parental love and the repercussions of excessive affection. Much like the central theme of the title, "Mother, Please, for My Sake...", the narrative reflects on the inherent challenges in the relationship between a mother and her child, showcasing how boundless love can inadvertently lead to a child's wayward path.

Through Gowri and Vijay's emotional journey, the novel navigates the delicate balance between love, discipline, and tough choices. It resonates with the universal truth that parental indulgence, while stemming from affection, can sometimes inadvertently steer children toward unforeseen turmoil. "Amma, Please, Enakkaga..." encapsulates the poignant exploration of a mother's love tested by her son's choices and the compelling consequences that unfold.



Genre: Adult Fiction,
Publisher: Gangai Puthaka Nilayam.

Pages: 333

ISBN: 978-8119556779

Language Availability: Tamil

K ARIVAZHAGAN



Awards:

- Pudhumaipithan Young Writer Award,
- Socrates Young Writer Award.

Renowned as a versatile writer, Kai Arivazhagan delves into linguistic, socio-political columns, and economics, establishing himself as a noteworthy literary figure. Hailing from Siravayal Maruthangudi near Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, his literary journey began with the compelling collection of short stories, "Mutrathu Marangal." Authored four impactful books, including "Manitha Inkkuzhu Varalaarum, Aariyamum," and "Koolikkara Payaluga," he further explored travel essays in "Vadakizhakkil Vasikkum Sooriyan." Additionally, his digital presence extends to Amazon Kindle, boasting four published books.

Arivazhagan's literary finesse is reflected in contributions to leading Tamil magazines like Ananda Vikatan, while his engaging life experience articles and columns captivate a vast social media audience, with an impressive monthly reach of 2.5 million on Facebook. His dedication to bridging linguistic gaps is evident through the translation of over 500 articles on economics, politics, and sociology between English and Tamil. Having resided in Bengaluru for over two decades, his affinity for Kannada literature shines through. Acknowledging his literary prowess, he has been honored with the "Pudhumaipithan Young Writer Award" and the "Socrates Young Writer Award."

KOOLIKKARA PAYALUHA

transl. Labourers

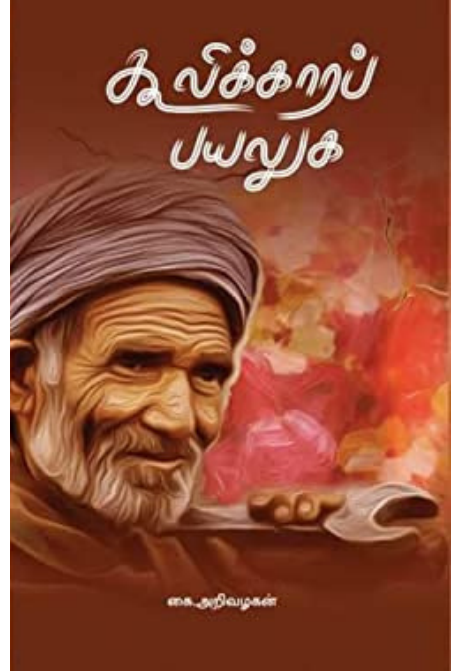
By K Arivazhagan

Synopsis:

"Koolikkaara Payaluga," by Kai.Arivazhagan, masterfully navigates the realm of realism, offering readers an unadorned tapestry of common experiences. Arivazhagan, known for his unpretentious style, delves into the lives of ordinary people, predominantly from lower and middle-class backgrounds, using the stream-of-consciousness technique to unveil their innermost thoughts.

Central to the collection is an exploration of the laborer's world, highlighting the daily struggles and triumphs of these unsung heroes. The narratives transcend racial and linguistic confines, promoting inclusivity and resonating with readers across diverse backgrounds. Notably, the story "Amma enkira Dhiwan Magal" earns acclaim, securing a nomination for the best short stories of the Commonwealth Writers forum. Arivazhagan's storytelling prowess goes beyond literary achievements, fostering a universal connection and awakening readers' consciousness.

"Koolikkaara Payaluga" stands as a powerful testament to the positive aspects of humanity, portraying characters authentically. Arivazhagan's narratives dispel the shadows of human pettiness, leaving an indelible mark on the literary landscape. The collection, with its gentle vibrations of shared experiences, connects diverse lives, where emperors and marginalized laborers coexist as flesh and blood.



Genre: Short Story Collection

Publisher: Puthuezhuthu

Pages: 128

ISBN: 978-93-94891-16-6

Language Availability: Tamil.

ICARR WEEOUI



Reputation:

“Actor, Playwright, Script Writer and Director”

I Chidambara Anantharaja, known as Icarrr Weeoui, stands as a multifaceted artist, excelling as an actor, scriptwriter, director, and proprietor. With a noteworthy stint at DD - Podhigai, he showcased his acting prowess in several projects, including awareness plays and the historical telefilm "Veera Vanchinathan." An adept stage performer, he presented his scripts like "Nachiappan Tharpaar," "PAYANAM," and "Vinai" across various venues in Chennai.

Collaborating with veteran writer GNANI Sankaran in PAREEKSHA theater troupe, he contributed to acclaimed plays such as "Vattam," "Manusha.. Manusha..," and "Balloon." An associate director with GNANI, he directed plays like "Vaanchinathan" and "Puthiyana Pukuthalum" under his troupe, Shree Thaayaar Kalai Koodam. His passion extends to social awareness dramas, including Saba plays and performances in districts like Kanchipuram, Cuddalore, and Chennai.

In the realm of scriptwriting, Anantharaja penned a reality show for a private channel, showcasing his versatility. His cine journey includes acting in notable films like "Mapla Singam," "Mayanginen..

Thayanginen..," "Iraivi," "Vandi," "Uriyadi 2," and "Godfather." Beyond cinema, he's a driving force behind Shree Thaayaar Kalai Koodam, producing acclaimed Tamil theater plays and two impactful short films - "Pirivum... Santhippum..." and "ek Nayi Shuruwat," the latter receiving accolades at prestigious film festivals, further solidifying Anantharaja's diverse and accomplished artistic career.

VINAI

transl. Deeds (Karma)

By Icarr Weeoui

Synopsis:

In the theatrical tapestry of "Vinai," a compelling drama unfolds where the protagonist, named after the very essence of 'Deed' or Karma, transcends the bounds of societal judgment. In this riveting play, no one holds the authority to task Vinai; she becomes the arbiter of actions, treating individuals according to her own discernment.

Destiny takes center stage, orchestrating a drama where Vinai engages in a relentless war for dharma, challenging those who perpetrate injustices against women.

As the narrative progresses, Vinai stands as a formidable force against abuse, relentlessly posing questions that echo through the corridors of conduct. The intensity of the play amplifies, rejecting conventional laws and rules, as Vinai, guided by her conscience, seeks justice on a deeply personal level. In a dramatic confrontation with a character devoid of principles, Vinai confronts the very essence of justice, unfolding a theatrical experience that challenges norms and beckons the audience to contemplate the intricacies of morality and societal conduct.



Genre: Play

Pages: 76

Publisher: Ezhilini Pathippagam

ISBN: 9789392224195

Language Availability: Tamil.

DR. G. MOORTHY



Awards:

- Thisai Ettum Award 2024,
- Thiruppur Literary Award 2024.

Dr. G. Moorthy, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.
Professor, Poet, Translator, and Writer

Dr. G. Moorthy is a distinguished professor, poet, translator, and writer whose literary contributions span across diverse genres. With a passion for exploring the intricacies of human experience, he has authored several notable works, including the acclaimed short story collection *Kallimadaiyan* (2019), which won the Best Short Story Collection Award from Manuda Viduthalai Panpattu Kazhagam, Auppukkottai. His short story *Manpunarkalam* was honored at the Pudukkottai Book Fair in 2020, further cementing his status as a celebrated storyteller.

Dr. Moorthy's literary journey includes his award-winning novel *Pongudi*, recognized as the Best Novel of 2022 by the Tamilnadu Progressive Writers Association. He is also a highly regarded translator, with his Tamil translation of *Feet in the Valley* (as *Aranya Thandavan*) earning the Best Translation Award of the Year in 2022 from Manimegalai Mandram. His contributions to contemporary Tamil poetry were showcased in *Rugged Road Ahead*, an anthology of 45 leading Tamil poets translated into English.

In addition to his literary pursuits, Dr. Moorthy has served as a Co-Coordinator at the Tamilnadu State Council for Higher Education and a Visiting Professor at the All India Civil Service Coaching Centre. He continues to inspire and lead the next generation of writers and academics with his vast knowledge and commitment to the literary arts.

PANGUDI

transl. A Voice Against Oppression

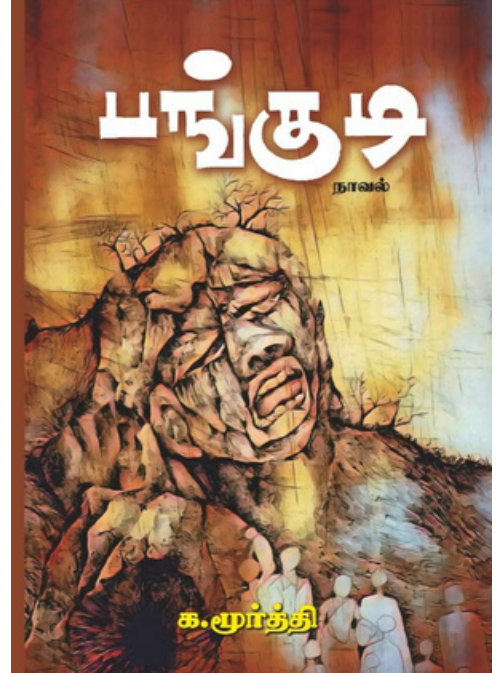
By Dr. G. Moorthy

Synopsis:

"Pongudi" is a bold and unflinching novel that challenges the deeply entrenched caste hierarchies of society. Through a poignant narrative, author Moorthy brings the marginalized Pongudi community to the forefront of mainstream literature, exposing their struggles with betrayal, exploitation, rootlessness, sexual harassment, and mass exodus.

The novel sheds light on the community's rightful quest for dignity and justice, emphasizing their unbreakable bond with the land that defines their identity. The usurpation of their ancestral lands by dominant classes fuels their cries for recognition and survival, a theme resonant throughout the novel.

Rich in cultural nuance, *Pongudi* captures the raw emotions, language, and daily lives of a landless, laboring community, vividly portraying their resilience and defiance. With its innovative blend of language and genre, the novel serves as a polemical masterpiece, celebrating the ancestral ties and cultural heritage that empower the Pongudi's enduring fight for identity.



Genre: Fiction

Pages: 320

Publisher: Vetri Mozhi Publication

ISBN: 978-93-92705-49-6

Language Availability: Tamil.

KAL VEEDU

transl. The Stone House or The Fleshy Home

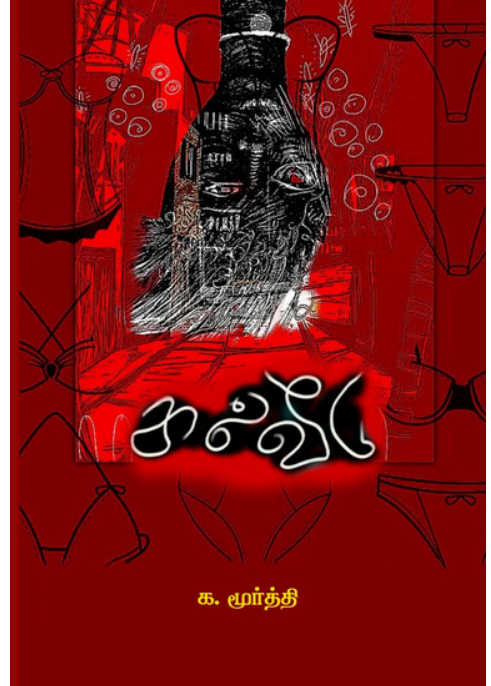
By Dr. G. Moorthy

Synopsis:

In *A Rare Gold*, the author paints a poignant portrait of the suffering endured by women in a marginalized village where alcohol and irresponsibility destroy families. Ariyathangam, a steadfast mother, carries the weight of her family's collapse due to her husband Perumal's alcoholism. As generations pass, male negligence continues through Perumal's sons and Panchali's husband, Loku, leaving women to shoulder the burden of survival.

The novel powerfully explores the emotional turmoil faced by these women, from Panchali's painful experiences with Loku to the misguided choices of others like Jyothilaxmi and Chandramathi.

Through the raw, vernacular narrative, the author exposes the deep-seated societal decay, emphasizing the quiet strength of women like Ariyathangam and Panchali, who endure in silence. Alcoholism emerges as a central catalyst, and the cycles of betrayal, pain, and survival reflect the harsh realities faced by women, making this a heartbreaking and evocative story of resilience.



Genre: Fiction

Pages: 231

Publisher: Vetri Mozhi Publication

ISBN: 978-93-89384-68-0

Language Availability: Tamil.

MOZHI KARUPPAN

transl. The Dark Tribe

By Dr. G. Moorthy

Synopsis:

A poignant collection of fifteen short stories that brings to light the untold struggles of marginalized individuals. Set in the vernacular and grounded in the everyday lives of ordinary people, the author weaves a tapestry of emotions, struggles, and resilience. Each story draws from the landscapes where these silent lives unfold, creating vivid portrayals of pain, loss, and hope.

Through the raw authenticity of the characters' conversations and the setting, the collection uniquely captures their personal hardships. The stories speak most poignantly of the sorrows of women, exploring their unseen battles with grace and subtlety. The characters' lives, though distinct, reflect a common thread of vulnerability, portraying the complexities of existence for those who are often overlooked.

With the vernacular language enriching every sentence, from the titles to the character names, this collection resonates with authenticity, inviting readers to engage with the everyday reality of the marginalized. Each story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, even in the face of overwhelming adversity.



Genre: Short Story Collection

Pages: 160

Publisher: Vetri Mozhi Publication

ISBN: 978-93-89384-70-3

Language Availability: Tamil.

MONOLAAK KATHAIGAL

transl. Monologue Stories

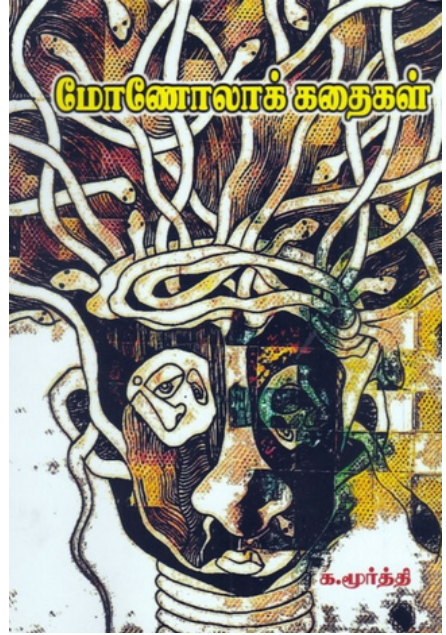
By Dr. G. Moorthy

Synopsis:

"Monologue Kathaigal" (Monologue Stories) is an evocative collection of 15 short stories that intricately explore the lives of women and the struggles of marginalized communities. Stories like *Asunakudi* (Fantasy Believers) reflect on life's paradoxes through a bedridden woman's foretelling of her death, while *Neerkannigal* (Mermaids of the Land) delves into the emotional landscapes of widowed women.

Themes of landlessness and systemic exploitation resonate powerfully in *Manpunar Kalum* (Land and Exploitation), *VettaiKadu* (Land of Hunt), and *Saavattai* (The Falsehood). The anthology also shines a spotlight on women protagonists grappling with male chauvinism in tales such as *Kurippugal* (Scribbling of Life), *Antheenin Padal* (The Song of Evening), and *Ananyavin Paachi Kal Mothiram* (Ananya's Emerald Possession).

Blending personal and socio-temporal narratives, *Monologue Kathaigal* is a poignant *gynotext* that vividly captures voices of agony, resilience, and transformation, making it a compelling tribute to the silenced and the unseen.



Genre: Short Story Collection

Pages: 146

Publisher: Vetri Mozhi Publication

ISBN: 978-93-92705-50-2

Language Availability: Tamil.

DR. MEENAA SUNDHAR



Dr. Meenaa Sundhar is a distinguished Tamil poet, writer, and educator, currently serving as an Assistant Professor at A.P.A. College of Arts and Culture, Palani, under the Tamil Nadu Government's Hindu Religious Administration Department. With a doctorate in Tamil language, he has devoted his career to enriching Tamil literature and promoting cultural heritage.

As the founder and president of Potini Tamil Sangam, affiliated with the World Tamil Sangam, Dr. Sundhar has been instrumental in nurturing Tamil language and literature on an international scale. His poetic works are deeply resonant, exploring themes of resilience, human struggle, and the beauty of language. Notable collections such as *Theekkul Manathai Vaithaal* and *Thimir Pidithalaiyum Sorkal* have earned critical acclaim.

Dr. Sundhar's literary contributions have been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including the Tamil Nadu Government Short Story Book Award, Dinamalar-DVR Memorial Prize (twice), and Kalaimagal Novel Award. His works have captivated readers with their profound emotional depth and timeless relevance.

A visionary advocate for Tamil literature, Dr. Sundhar inspires audiences worldwide, embodying the richness of Tamil culture. His writings hold universal appeal, poised to transcend borders and reach a global readership.

Awards:

- Government of Tamil Nadu Short Story Book Prize,
- Dinamalar - DVR Memorial Short Story First Prize (Twice),
- Dinamani Short Story Prize,
- TMEKS Kantharvan Memorial Short Story Prize,
- Star Book Award,
- Kalaimagal Novel Prize,
- Amuthasurabi Vinthan Short Story Prize and many literary awards and prizes.

PULAN KADAVUL

transl. The God of Senses

By Dr. Meena Sundhar

Synopsis:

Pulan Kadavul is a powerful collection of short stories that explores the deep, often painful realities of life through compelling characters and poignant narratives. In the title story, Govind venerates the tea vendor as a god, symbolizing his obsession with sensory pleasure and the longing for simple comforts.

Other stories confront issues of social injustice, such as *Senguthai Thonkum Manjal Sarakkonrai*, where a widowed woman teaches a corrupt office worker a lesson in integrity. *Malargal* highlights the pain of a Nathashwara artist and *Negizhnilachunai* explores the emotional pain of a mother's sacrifices for her family, while *Theimei* critiques the impact of mobile phones on human relationships.

Themes of false friendships and relationships permeate stories like *Perugum Vadhaiyin Thuyara Nizhal* and *Pathiyam*. Each story delves into the complexities of human emotions, struggles, and triumphs, offering a raw and authentic reflection on life's hardships. Winner of four state-level awards and also published internationally, this collection has been praised for its depth and emotional resonance.



Genre: Short Story Collection

Pages: 160

Publisher: Discovery Book Palace (P)Ltd

ISBN: 978-93-91994-16-7

Language Availability: Tamil.

MANJAL PURAVIKKU MUTHAMITTAVAN

transl. A Man Who Kissed a Yellow Truck

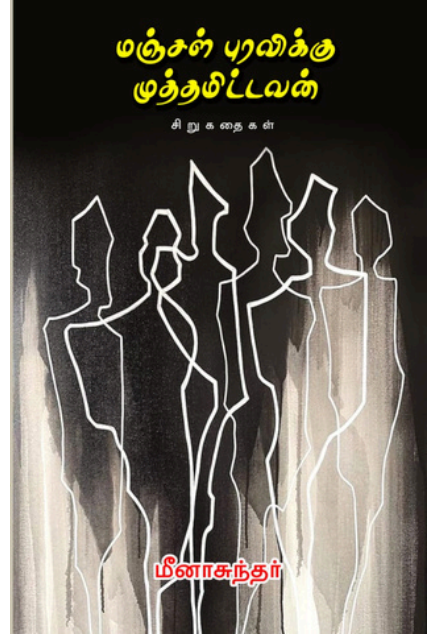
By Dr. Meenaa Sundhar

Synopsis:

Manjal Puravikku Muthamittavan is a captivating collection of 14 stories that traverse diverse themes, from social issues to personal struggles. In the science fiction tale *Evvazhi Ariyom*, the author imagines a world where a facility to save lives exists, ultimately weaving in a critique of corruption. *Manjal Puravikku Muthamittavan* explores betrayal, where the ultimate punishment is as symbolic as it is tragic.

Nirambatha Idaiveligal delves into the disturbing thoughts of an elderly woman, while *Vendhu Thaniya Kaadan* critiques the deterioration of education. *Thuyilattam* is a powerful narrative of women's liberation, portraying a woman's decision to light up her father's funeral pyre amidst resistance. *Anthanam* praises the noble act of teaching, contrasting it with the unique bond students share with their teachers. *Annalakshmi - Ki.Pi. 2023* sheds light on a family torn apart by alcoholism.

With stories reflecting life during the pandemic, this collection resonates with contemporary issues and human resilience. Four stories in this collection have already won state-level awards, adding further acclaim to its poignant narrative.



Genre: Short Story Collection

Pages: 195

Publisher: Yappu Books

ISBN: 978-81-974331-3-9

Language Availability: Tamil.

ABATHANGALIN UCHIYIL NIGAZHUM THUYILAATTAM

transl. The Spectacle At the Peak of Absurdity

By Dr. Meenaa Sundhar

Synopsis:

Abathangalin Uchiyil Nigazhum Thuyilaattam is a thought-provoking collection of 19 insightful essays that tackle a wide array of societal issues. The collection opens with *Vilaguma Velaan Thuyaram?*, a poignant examination of the harsh realities faced by farmers and the struggles of agriculture. Other essays shed light on critical topics, such as the state of primary education, the pressing need to care for elderly parents, and the exploration of the World Tamil Research Conference in Malaysia.

In *Manitha Valathin Saripaathi Penn*, the author eloquently advocates for the recognition of women as equals, emphasizing their necessity in societal progress. Further articles discuss the educational plight of the oppressed and the Tamil Nadu Government's Breakfast Scheme, which addresses hunger and education. A deeply analytical piece on word usage and a literary exploration of a child's creative mind offer profound insights into language and imagination.

Essays like *Rajaraja Cholanin Meikeerthi* and *Kalvi Nammai Engay Azhaithu Chelgirathu?* stand out as significant contributions to understanding cultural heritage and educational reform, making this collection an invaluable read for anyone interested in contemporary social issues.



Genre: Essay Collection

Pages: 155

Publisher: Yappu Books

ISBN: 978-81-963400-1-8

Language Availability: Tamil.

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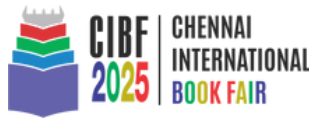
The Tamil Nadu Translation Grant Program, launched by the Government of Tamil Nadu, aims to promote Tamil literature worldwide and facilitate its broader reach. Through this program, non-Tamil publishers in India as well as foreign countries will be able to translate and publish Tamil titles into their languages, thus making these works accessible to readers everywhere. More details: <https://chennaiinternationalbookfair.com/tamilnadu-translation-grant/>

Global Literary Agent Training Program

The Tamil Nadu Government's Global Literary Agent Training Program is a comprehensive initiative designed to equip literary agents with essential skills. Led by accomplished resource persons, the program covers diverse subjects crucial to the profession. Classes incorporate various activities, fostering practical insights and hands-on experience. Participants engage in interactive sessions, workshops, and case studies, gaining a nuanced understanding of global literary dynamics. Beyond traditional aspects like negotiation and rights management, the program addresses emerging trends and technologies. With a dynamic learning approach, it empowers literary agents to navigate the evolving landscape, ensuring they are adept at meeting the demands of the global literary market. A literary agent plays a pivotal role in securing translation grants, as they also oversee both inward and outward rights.



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