

## The Room On Roof Ruskin Bond

The residents of Pipalnagar, a dull and dusty small town, hope to one day leave behind their humdrum lives for the thrills of Delhi. Deep Chand, the barber, dreams of giving the prime minister a haircut; Pitamber wishes to ride an autorickshaw instead of pulling a cycle-rickshaw; and Aziz will be happy with a junk shop in Chandni Chowk. Sharing their dreams of escape is the narrator Arun, a struggling detective-fiction writer. As he waits for inspiration to write a blockbuster, he seeks and discovers love in unusual places—with the young prostitute Kamla, wise beyond her years, and the orphan and epileptic Suraj, surprisingly optimistic despite his difficult circumstances. In *Delhi Is Not Far*, one of his most enduring novels, Ruskin Bond sketches a moving portrait of small-town India with characteristic sympathy and quiet wisdom.

This is Ruskin Bond's own collection of short stories, essays and poems. The theme for the collection is of course the hills. Whether it is nature, people, places or even animals, Ruskin Bond is keenly observant of all forms of life and activity in the hills. Over sixty years, for numerous readers--of all ages; in big cities, small towns and little hamlets--Ruskin Bond has been the best kind of companion. He has entertained, charmed and occasionally spooked us with his books and stories, and opened our eyes to the beauty of the everyday and the natural world. He has made us smile when our spirits are low, and steadied us when we've stumbled. Now, in this brilliantly readable autobiography--his book of books--one of India's greatest writers shows us the roots of everything he has written. He begins with a dream and a gentle haunting, before taking us to an idyllic childhood in Jamnagar by the Arabian Sea--where he composed his first poem--and New Delhi in the early 1940s--where he found material for his first short story. It was a brief period of happiness that ended with his parents' separation and the untimely death of his beloved father. A search for companionship and security, undercut by a fierce independence and a tendency for risk-taking, would inform every choice he made for the rest of his life. With effortless intimacy and candour, Bond recalls his boarding school days in Shimla and winter holidays in Dehradun, when he tried to come to terms with a sense of abandonment, made friends, discovered great books and found his true calling. Determined to be a writer, he spent four difficult years in England, from 1951 to 1955, and he writes poignantly of his loneliness there, even as he kept his promise to himself and produced a book--the classic novel of adolescence, *The Room on the Roof*. It was born of his longing for 'the atmosphere that was India'--the home he would return to even before the novel was published, taking a gamble that would prove to be the best decision he made. In the final, glorious section of the autobiography, he writes about losing his restlessness and settling down in the hills of Mussoorie, surrounded by generous trees, mist and sunshine, birdsong, elusive big cats, new friends and eccentrics--and a family that grew around him and made him its own. Full of anecdote, warmth and gentle wit; often deeply moving and always with a magnificent sense of time and place--and containing over fifty photographs, some of them never seen before--*Lone Fox Dancing* is a book of understated, enduring magic, like Ruskin Bond himself.

From Conan Doyle and Rudyard Kipling to Satyajit Ray and R. K. Narayan, this text is a collection of spine-chilling tales of the supernatural from India.

An evergreen classic about friendship and growing up, by a master storyteller This book catches up with our favourite Rusty as he plunges not just into the cold pools of Dehra but into an exciting new life, dipping his toes into adulthood. Winding his way back to the city with Kishen, Rusty discovers that his beloved room is no longer his! Undaunted, however, and in his trademark style, he forges new homes and new friendships as he embarks on a journey of self-discovery that spans the beautiful hillsides of India. By turns thrilling and nostalgic, this heart-warming sequel is Rusty is at his best as he navigates the tightrope between dreams and reality, all the time maintaining a glorious sense of hope. Striking, evocative, witty and wise--this is an ode to youth and all its complexities, amidst the colours, sights and smells of Bond's India.

A chronicle of Rusty's rebellious, eventful progression into manhood. Rusty, having run away from his guardian's home, is now trying to define his identity as he lives with the Kapoor family, tutoring their son Kishen and occupying the room on the roof. Soon, he becomes close to Kishen and, in the company of Meena Kapoor, begins to come into his own as an individual. Then tragedy strikes—Meena's death devastates Rusty, and he leaves Dehra. Rusty and Kishen take to the open road, and their adventures accumulate as they tramp through the Doon valley and the Garhwal hills. Full of incident as well as introspection, this is a book older children will thoroughly enjoy.

Rusty is a quiet, imaginative and sensitive boy who lives with his grandparents in pre-Independence Dehra Dun. Though he is not the adventurous himself, the strangest and most extraordinary things keep happening around him. The house in Dehra is full of strange creatures. Rusty has to deal with everything from his grandfather's pet python to the ever-inventive Uncle Ken. Visiting his father in wartime Java, Rusty narrowly escapes enemy bombardment, and survives a plane crash in the Arabian Sea. Back in India, he spends his time encountering a ghost in the garden and recreating his grandmother's youthful days from an old photograph. Then, something totally unexpected happens and Rusty is forced to leave Dehra, his future uncertain ... This volume of Rusty stories, the first in a series, traces Rusty's development from early childhood to his early teens and is a riveting read for younger and older children alike.

Ruskin Bond emerges again, with a delightful set of sketches set in and on the way to his beloved Mussoorie. With an endearing affection and nostalgia for his home of over forty years, Mr Bond describes his journeys to and from Mussoorie over the years, and then delves into the daily scandals surrounding his life and friends in the (not so) sleepy hill town. The pieces in this collection are characterised by an incorrigible sense of humour and an eye for ordinary--and most often unnoticed--details that are so essential to the geographic, social and cultural fabric of a place. Accompanied by beautiful illustrations, *Roads to Mussoorie* is a memorable evocation of a writer's surroundings and the role they have played in his work and life.

Two classic novels of adolescence by one of India's finest writers. In *The Room on the Roof*, Rusty, a sixteen-year-old Anglo-Indian boy, decides he has had enough of the tiny, diminishing European community and his tyrannical guardian, and runs away. To his delight, Rusty finds that life on the open road is packed with excitement and high adventure.... In *Vagrants in the Valley*, which picks up from where the first book ends, Rusty is joined in his travels by Kishen, another 'runaway'. As they venture further into the unknown, they discover new friends and participate in more escapades but also begin to understand the complexities of growing up and the boundaries that circumscribe even the freest spirits... Sharply observed, witty and wise, haunted on every page by the sights, smells and sounds of India, this evocation of youth, innocence and friendship will be read for a long time to come with deep, lasting pleasure.

A CLASSIC COMING-OF-AGE STORY WHICH HAS HELD GENERATIONS OF READERS SPELLBOUND Rusty, a sixteen-year-

old Anglo-Indian boy, is orphaned, and has to live with his English guardian in the claustrophobic European part in Dehra Dun. Unhappy with the strict ways of his guardian, Rusty runs away from home to live with his Indian friends. Plunging for the first time into the dream-bright world of the bazaar, Hindu festivals and other aspects of Indian life, Rusty is enchanted . . . and is lost forever to the prim proprieties of the European community. This special edition marks the 60th anniversary of this award-winning book, written when the author was just seventeen. Poignant, heart-warming and an absolute classic, this book is forever a joy to read.

A collection of Ruskin Bond's six novels evoking nostalgia for time gone by This collection of six novels sparkles with the quiet charm and humanity that are the hallmarks of Ruskin Bond's writing. Evoking nostalgia for a time gone by, these poignant chronicles of life in India's hills and small towns describe the hopes and passions that capture young minds and hearts, highlighting the uneasy reconciliation of dreams and destiny. The six novels included in the collection are: *The Room on the Roof*, *Vagrants in the Valley*, *Delhi Is Not Far*, *A Flight of Pigeons*, *The Sensualist*, *A Handful of Nuts*.

For over six decades, Ruskin Bond has celebrated the wonder and beauty of nature as few other contemporary writers have, or indeed can. *The Book of Nature* brings together the best of his writing on the natural world, not just in the Himalayan foothills, but also in the cities and small towns that he has lived in or travelled through. In these pages, you will find leopards padding down the lanes of Mussoorie after dark, the first shower of the monsoon that brings with it a tumult of new life, the chorus of insects at twilight, ancient banyan trees and the short-lived cosmos flower, among other fascinating beings. This volume proves, yet again, that for the serenity and lyricism of his prose and his sharp yet sympathetic eye, Ruskin Bond has few equals.

The squirrel family must move to a new house, but Nonu's not happy Little Nonu Squirrel, playful and daring, has just moved into his new house with Papa Squirrel and Mummy Squirrel. As he starts exploring his new neighbourhood, he realizes there are many exciting adventures in store. He learns to skate with his newly-found friend Nicole, enjoys being fed tasty nut cakes by her Grandma, eats juicy mangoes with the Mango Gang and indulges in some crazy shenanigans with Cousin Danny. But life's not all mangoes and skateboards. Voracious Goonda cat is on the hunt—will Nonu become his next meal?

Ruskin Bond wrote his first short story, 'Untouchable', at the age of sixteen, and has written memorable fiction ever since. He is famous not only for his love of the hills, but for imbuing the countryside with life and vibrancy through moving descriptions. The simple people who inhabit his stories evoke sympathy and laughter in equal measure. This wonderful collection of seventy stories, including classics like 'A Face in Dark', 'The Kitemaker', 'The Tunnel', 'The Room of Many Colours', 'Dust on the Mountain' and 'Times Stops at Shamli', is a must-have for any bookshelf.

Fourteen engaging stories from one of India's master story-tellers Semi-autobiographical in nature, these stories span the period from the author's childhood to the present. We are introduced, in a series of beautifully imagined and crafted cameos, to the author's family, friends, and various other people who left a lasting impression on him. In other stories we revisit Bond's beloved Garhwal hills and the small towns and villages that he has returned to time and again in his fiction. Together with his well-known novella, *A Flight of Pigeons* (which was made into the film *Junoon*), which also appears in this collection, these stories once again bring Ruskin Bond's India vividly to life.

*Rusty Comes Home* chronicles Rusty's exploits after his return from London, as he explores Delhi, Dehra and the small, dusty town of Shahganj before settling down in Mussoorie, making his living as a writer, revelling in his beloved hills. This collection contains some captivating stories about Rusty's friends and fleeting acquaintances, about human nature and the supernatural. He meets a motley bunch of people including Suresh, a disabled child with whom Rusty strikes up a close bond, Uncle Bill, who makes it his habit to poison people with arsenic, and the incredible Jimmy, a jinn who can extend his arms at will to infinite lengths. Full of charming and idiosyncratic characters, these stories of love, loss and adventure will appeal to readers of all ages.

For over five decades, Ruskin Bond has written charming tales that have mesmerized readers of all ages. This collection brings together his finest stories for children in one volume. Published previously as *A Treasury of Stories for Children*, this attractive rejacketed edition includes two new stories, 'The Big Race' and 'Remember This Day'. Filled with a rich cast of characters and superb illustrations, *The Room of Many Colours: A Treasury of Stories for Children* is the definitive book for all Ruskin Bond fans and truly a collector's item.

Ruskin Bond's life - and, for that matter, his semi-autobiographical works - are allegories of the colonial aftermath. His is an odd but exemplary attempt at absorption as a member of the Anglo-Indian ethnic minority, a community whose role in the shaping of the postcolonial Indian psyche has yet to be systematically analysed. This study explores the dialogue between the biographical and authorial selves of Ruskin Bond, whose subjectivity is informed by the fantasies of space and time. Bond's experiences of socio-political discrimination underwrite his repressed concerns. He seeks to allay his anxieties through an attempt to signify defiance of the functional agencies of those parameters, which ironically become more active as he attempts a symptomatic mastery of their inductive agencies. Nevertheless, for a nostalgic writer the unconscious - which is shaped by the impressions of the experiences of negotiation between double inheritances - exerts a problematic yet discerning influence on Bond's literary self. This study offers a chronological reading of Bond's texts, seeking to bring out the constant presence of this repressed anxiety and the psychological compulsion to dramatize the Self-Other dynamics as a symptomatic method to acquire a conviction of the self.

Writing for me is the simplest and greatest pleasure in the world. How to be a Writer is peppered with nuggets of practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published, all told in Ruskin Bond's characteristic understated, tongue-in-cheek, humorous style. So, what is it that a person requires the most to become a writer? A love of books, of language, of life, an observant eye and a good memory along with enthusiasm, optimism and persistence. This book is an exclusive glimpse into the writing credo of Ruskin Bond, an author who has had an incredibly successful writing career spanning over seventy years.

In his early twenties now, Rusty finally leaves Dehra and books a passage to England, dreaming of writing and selling his novel abroad. First in Jersey, and then in London, he works as a clerk by day and writes in the evenings. Eventually, the novel is finished and Rusty even finds a publisher. But this, he discovers, does not mean that his book will see the light of day soon. But London has many adventures in store for Rusty. Strolling down Baker Street, he runs into Sherlock Holmes, is accosted by Rudyard Kipling and has an escapade in the Chinese quarter! After three years abroad, however, Rusty realizes that he wants to make India his permanent home. Returning to Dehra, he renews some acquaintances and makes a few new ones, and settles into his role as full-time author. Full of interesting stories and memorable characters, *Rusty Goes to London* will delight all of Ruskin Bond's fans.

The essential Ruskin Bond *Delhi Is Not Far* brings together the best of Ruskin Bond's prose and poetry. For over four decades, by way of innumerable novels, essays, short stories, and poems, the author has mapped out and peopled a unique literary landscape. This anthology has selections from all of his major books and also features an unpublished novella, *Delhi Is Not Far*. 'Bond's sentences are moist with dew and the mountain air, with charm, nostalgia and underplayed humour...(he is) our resident Wordsworth in prose.' --India Today

Bisnu finds how dangerous and lonely life can be for a boy who has to leave his home to earn money for his family. As he sets to work on the limestone quarries with the choking dust enveloping the beautiful mountain air, he longs for home

more than ever.

THE ROOM ON THE ROOF 60th Anniversary Edition Penguin UK

The Sensualist is the story of a man enslaved by his libido and spiralling towards self-destruction. Gripping, erotic, even brutal, the book explores the demons that its protagonist must grapple with before he is able to come to terms with himself. In this fascinating account of the pleasures and perils that attend a young man's coming of age, Ruskin Bond displays his felicity in exploring the dark aspects of the human psyche. Bold and powerful, The Sensualist is a compelling read.

One of India's finest and most prolific writers, Ruskin Bond has been putting pen to paper for well over six decades. Since The Room on the Roof—his award-winning debut novel which introduced readers to the unforgettable Rusty, the orphan from Dehradun—Bond has created characters both charming and eccentric, which have endured in popular imagination. And, in what is perhaps his most towering achievement, Bond has brought to pulsing life the mountains, valleys and rivers of Garhwal, as well as the quiet magic of small, tucked-away places, in book after book. The Writer on the Hill is a comprehensive selection of Bond's fiction and non-fiction, both popular and little-known. In 'Masterji', a young man meets his old Hindi teacher on a train platform, in handcuffs. In the excerpt from The Room on the Roof, Rusty stands up to his bullying guardian. 'Man and Leopard' describes, in mesmerizing prose, a heart-breaking encounter between man and the wild. And, in 'Once upon a Mountain Time', Bond creates a charming portrait of his little patch of earth in Mussoorie. A tribute to one of the most popular and loved writers of India, The Writer on the Hill is also a celebration of the quiet, unhurried life, lived at one's own pace. This volume will delight Bond's fans everywhere.

Rusty, the boy whose stories have charmed and entertained children for years, brings together his best adventures in one volume! From the time he was a boy living with his grandparents in Dehra, surrounded by an assortment of odd animals, people and relatives, to when he gets sent away to school, then makes his way to London and becomes a writer, Rusty's had more adventures than we can count. This omnibus edition contains his best, funniest, most exciting escapades. In these pages, there's Toto, the monkey that travelled in a bag on a train; an encounter with a leopard; life as a young writer in faraway London; and the return home to roots that were always loved and never forgotten. An evergreen classic of children's writing in India, The Adventures of Rusty will be enjoyed like never before.

It was hardly the time for homespun philosophy, as a pretty young thing was trying to take a selfie of the two of us, so all I could say was: 'Signing books for young readers. It would make any writer happy.' 'But I'm not a writer, ' he said, 'I'm a psychiatrist.'

Features playful tigers, ghosts, elephants, and crows, as well as old favorites like Uncle Ken, and Miss Bun. The author's slightly eccentric grandfather and Bond himself ease in and out of these pages.

Ten unforgettable tales of fascinating human encounters with animals and birds—of a man-eater that terrorizes an entire village; the strange and wonderful trust that develops between a fierce leopard and a boy; revengeful monkeys who never forgive a woman who grows dahlias; a crow who genuinely thinks human beings are stupid; and many others— that create a world in which men and wild creatures struggle to survive despite each other: a world where, in the end, one is not quite sure which side one is on. Panther's Moon and Other Stories is another marvellous collection of stories from India's most-loved author that will once again amuse, enchant, and delight readers of all ages. 'It's the simple things in life that keep us from going crazy,' Ruskin Bond writes in this enchanting collection of essays; a celebration of the uncomplicated pleasures of a life well-lived. In 'A Good Philosophy' we learn of Bond's life philosophy; or the lack of it; and 'In Search of the Perfect Window' we join him in meditating on the qualities of a good window and its importance to a room. Whether contemplating the sound of a tropical downpour; on the fragrance of lime trees in the Himalayas or on a year spent with his cat Suzie; Ruskin Bond transports us to a quieter; more elegant world where time moves at a gentle pace. He invites us to revel in the intricacies of life and to poke fun at its absurdities; with insight; wisdom and wit.

All Time Favourites for Children celebrates Ruskin Bond's writing with stories that are perennially loved and can now be enjoyed in a single collectible volume. Curated and selected by India's most loved writer, this collection brings some of the evocative episodes from Ruskin's life, iconic Rusty, eccentric Uncle Ken, ubiquitous grandmother, and many other charming, endearing characters in a single volume while also introducing us to a smattering of new ones that are sure to be firm favourites with young readers. Heart-warming, funny and spirited, this is a must-have on every bookshelf!

This play by one of India's foremost playwrights and actors is based on a story from the Mahabharata which tellingly illuminates universal themes - alienation, loneliness, love, family, hatred - through the daily lives and concerns of a whole community of individuals.

This volume brings together the best of Ruskin Bond's prose and poetry. For over four decades, by way of innumerable novels, essays, short stories and poems, the author has mapped out and peopled a unique literary landscape. This anthology has selections from all of his major books and includes the classic novella Delhi Is Not Far.

H.H. is the spoilt, selfish, beautiful widow of the Maharaja of Mastipur. She lives with her dogs and her caretaker, Hans, in an enormous old house in Mussoorie, taking lovers and discarding them, drinking too much and fending off her reckless sons who are waiting hungrily for their inheritance. The seasons come and go, hotels burn down, cinemas shut shop and people leave the hill station never to return, but H.H. remains constant and indomitable. Observing her antics, often with disapproval, is her old friend Ruskin, who can never quite cut himself off from her. Melancholic, wry and full of charm, Maharani is a delightful novella about love, death and friendship.

In the five years of his life that this book traces, Rusty's story is taken forward to his adolescent years. His world is turned topsy-turvy as many upheavals besiege him. After his father and grandmother pass away in quick succession, the twelve-year-old is left in the care of a guardian, Mr Harrison, in Dehra. But after a mysterious incident involving his stepfather and the gardener, he is sent away to boarding school. Restlessness compels him to run away from school, with an ambition to travel the world. But the plan fails, and he is soon back in Dehra, with his strict guardian. Rusty is now seventeen. He rebels and leaves home again, this time for good. Adventurous and thought-provoking, Rusty Runs Away is a book that children and young adults everywhere will enjoy.

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