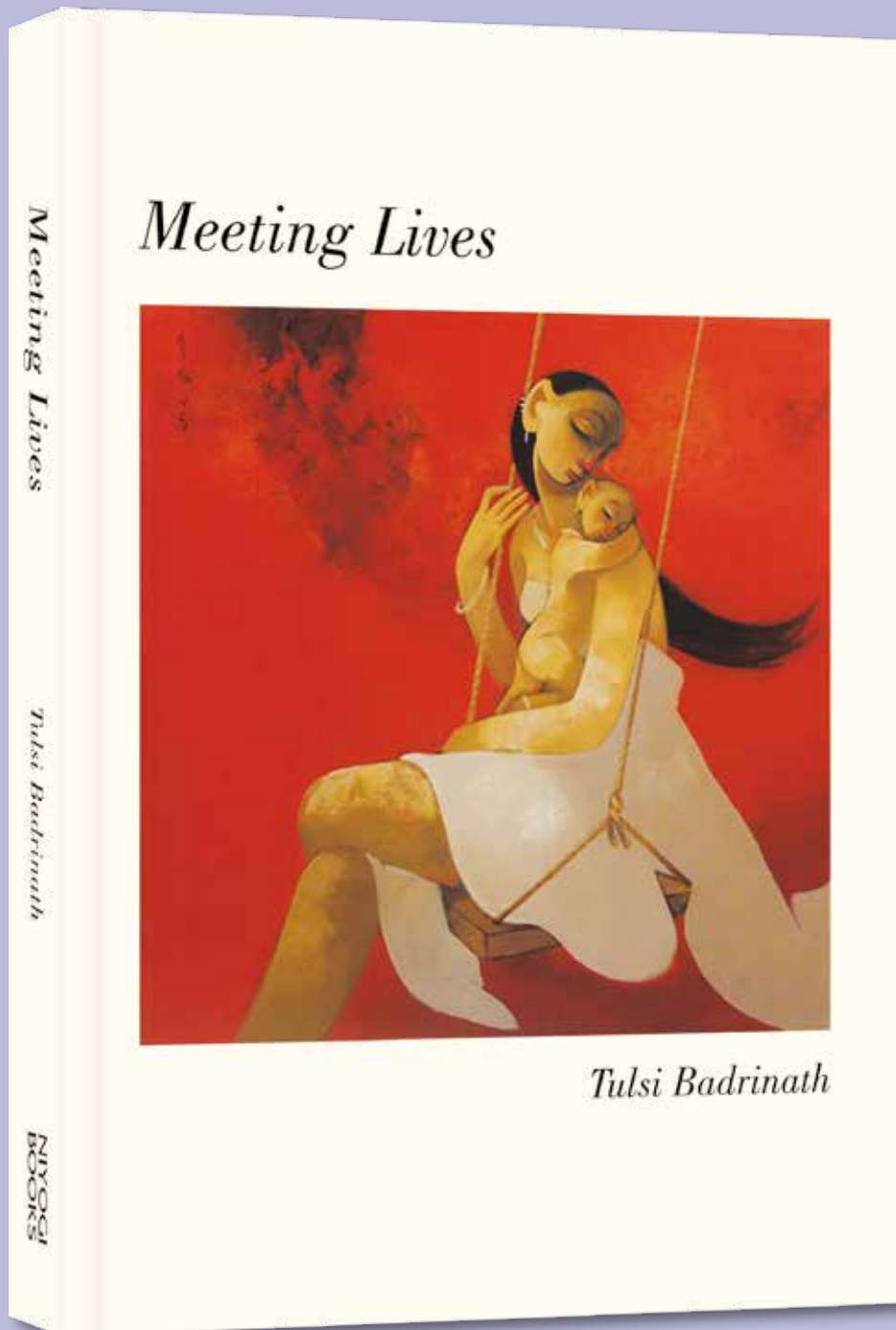


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Meeting Lives

Author: Tulsi Badrinath



Meeting Lives telescopes the time and space of myths, history and reality to recreate Aditi's experience of life. But who is Aditi? A carefree daughter cocooned in her idyllic childhood of parental love; a friend among school friends who once charted out imaginary plots for their lives as grown-ups; a young dancer for whom art paves a path to freedom from worldly concerns; an educated woman who gives up a career to become a mother; a wife and a mother trying to articulate her emotions in a cultural ethos that sanctifies matrimony and deifies motherhood; a seeker trying to live out her theoretical understanding of Vedanta gained from her father while observing Thayee, an abandoned mother, the neighbourhood driver who loses his job...

Self-discovery is a process of growth, of travelling in the mind. The meaning of life is not immediately grasped by Aditi even as it unfolds before her. However, when she looks back into her past, happenings arrange themselves to suggest a story, the story of her life that exists simultaneously with other narratives, other lives. This sets Aditi off in search of lost time, while propelling her slowly towards time regained, and a crucial decision...

Meeting Lives throws up questions largely considered taboo in traditional societies, and addresses them honestly.

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About the Author:

Tulsi Badrinath has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from Stella Maris College, Madras and a Master's in Business Administration from Ohio University, Athens. Tulsi quit her job at a multinational bank to devote herself to dance and writing. Her poems, articles, reviews and short story have appeared in various newspapers and publications. She lives in Madras.

From the age of eight, Tulsi learnt Bharatanatyam from her gurus, the Dhananjayans, and performed, at events such as the Festival of India, USSR, 1987, as part of their troupe.

Meeting Lives, which was on the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize longlist as *The Living God*, is her first novel. Her second novel, *Melting Love*, was also on the 2008 Man Asian Literary Prize longlist.

A new voice that arm-twists the reader to not merely listen but to think, this book, mainly an acute investigation of human relations, challenges conventionalities and flouts expectations on many fronts. Tulsi Badrinath's debut may well turn out to be an event.

Ashis Nandy

A moving portrait of an Indian mother, mixing her parental feelings and her search for the divine.

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