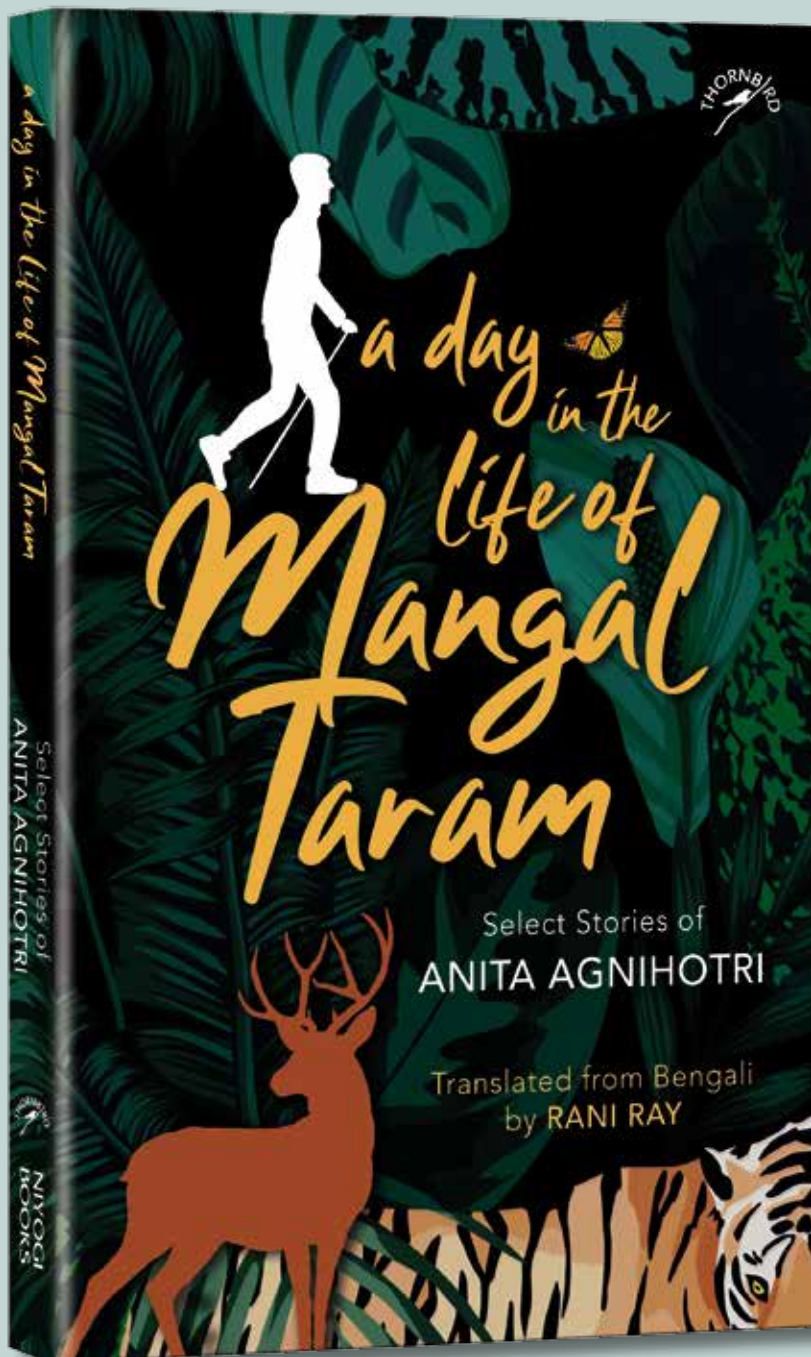


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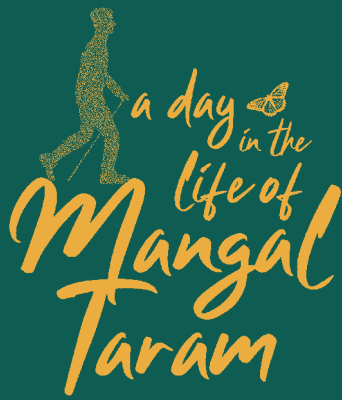
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a day in the
life of
**Mangal
Taram**

Select Stories of
ANITA AGNIHOTRI

Translated from Bengali
by RANI RAY

TRANSLATION | FICTION

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₹395

ISBN: 978-93-85285-96-7

Size: 216mm x 140mm; 204pp

Book Print Paper

Black and white

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Mangal Taram, a Gond tribal boy, is a beat forest guard in the dense and mysterious forest of Central India, spread at the foothills of the Maikal mountain range. While he observes, watches, and keeps record of the wild life, flora, and fauna of the all-encompassing forest, his mind is trapped in inexplicable fear and anxiety.

At Batasia loop in Darjeeling, a young hill girl Hema, lost in the childhood memories of a middle-aged man resurfaces and transforms his life irreversibly.

A possessive lover and a ruthless husband treasures his first love, in the brick and mortar cage of his ancestral house.

Anita Agnihotri's stories traverse a wide range of human emotions, discovers the myriad complexities of relationships, and also takes the reader through a journey into the dynamics of an Indian reality, where the unheard voices still wait to be deciphered by a sensitive writer. *A Day in the Life of Mangal Taram* is a careful selection of 14 stories out of over 200 short stories written by Anita Agnihotri spanning over three decades.

This collection presents a unique combination of everyday characters, relaying life experiences relatable and common, which yet hark at the heart of the reader in the most extraordinary way.

Narrating the pangs of an aged artist or a yester-year writer, the silent angst of a little girl on being abandoned by her mother or the struggles of a man trapped in the guilt of losing his first wife, this book will pique the interest of every reader.

These stories traverse through a range of human emotions, discovers the myriad complexities of relationships, and explores the dynamics of an Indian reality where unheard voices still wait to be deciphered by a sensitive writer.



Anita Agnihotri's literary oeuvre spans across all genres—poetry, novels, writing for children, and critiques of development; but short story is the genre that stimulates her creative vein the most. She has authored over 30 volumes by now and has received several awards, including the *Bangiya Sahitya Parishad* felicitation, the *Sarat Puraskar*, *Pratibha Basu Sahitya Puraskar*, and the *Bhuban Mohini Dasi Gold Medal* by the University of Calcutta. She returned the Bangla Academy literary award in protest over the killing of innocent protesters in Nandigram, West Bengal.

Anita's writing explores the vast and complex Indian reality, many facets of human relations, and brings out the unheard voices of the marginalized and the underprivileged, and has been translated into several Indian languages, in English, and also in German and Swedish.



Rani Ray studied English at Bedford College, London and University of California. She has taught English at universities in India and abroad. She has rendered into English a substantial volume of Bengali fiction, including short stories of eminent writers like Rabindranath Tagore, Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, Ritwik Ghatak Sunil Gangopadhyay, and many others.