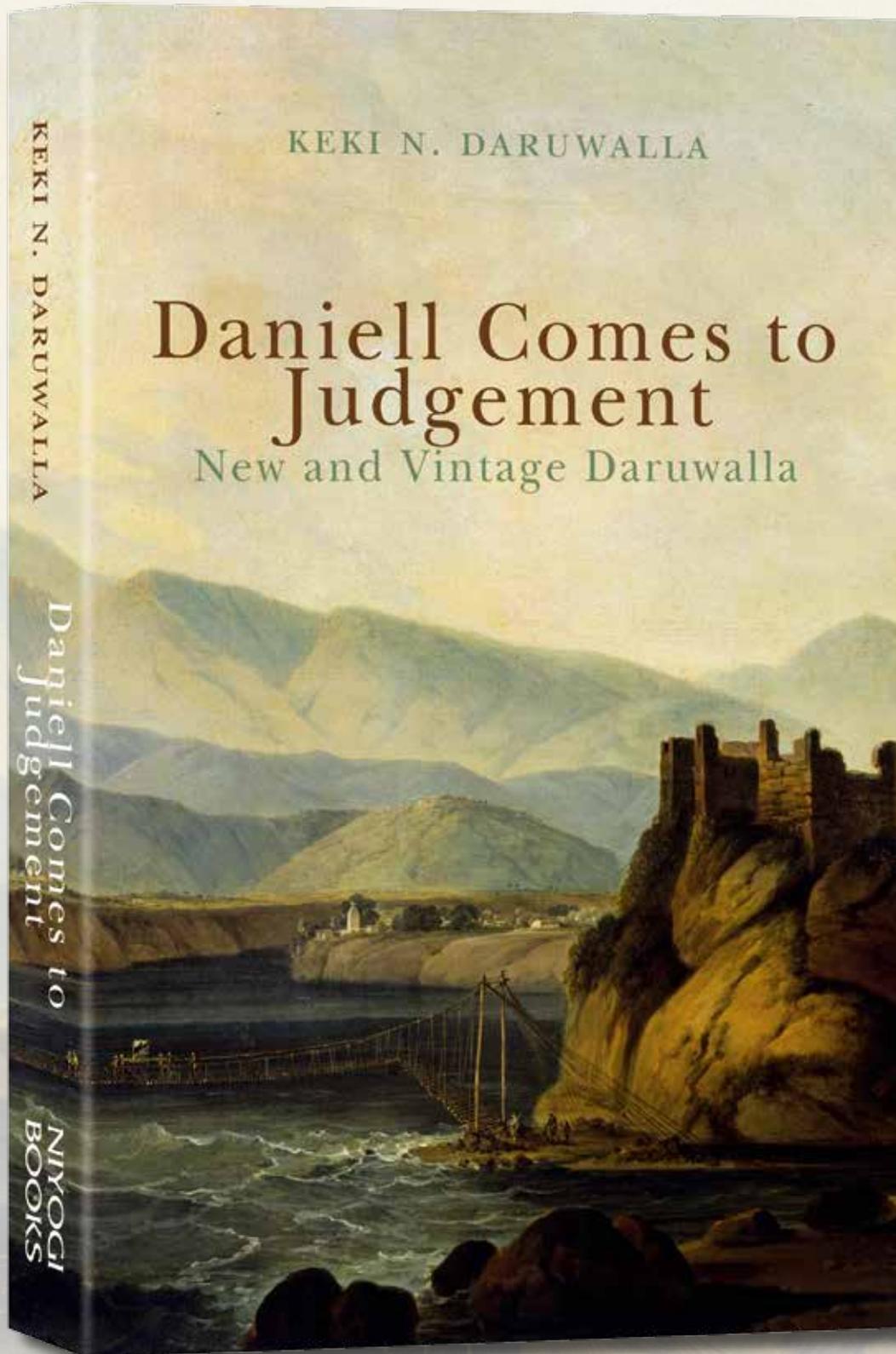


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Daniell Comes to Judgement

New and Vintage Daruwalla

by
Keki N Daruwalla

FICTION

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D*aniell Comes to Judgement: New and Vintage Daruwalla* a collection of short stories by Keki N Daruwalla, the acclaimed poet-cum-novelist at his very best. There are new stories here written especially for this book in a span of less than two months and perennial favourites [of vintage worth] still relevant in today's changed times. The collection showcases the author's enduring range.

The new stories are first person narratives and, with the exception of one, voices of women – city women – putting into words their moods and memories. The author has deliberately shunned the violence-factor in this collection. In fact 'Bars,' a new story written for another volume and included in this, is a commentary on the strains of intolerance staining the social fabric.

Coming to the, the perennial favourites, they are Vintage Keki Daruwalla; vignettes from the vast repository of a wordsmith who can straddle myth and reality with ease and finesse, breathe life into metaphors, coalesce fact and fancy and still sound fascinatingly credible, with his patent black humour well in place. The collection includes stories where fantasy and myth transport one to the pre-language, pre-script, era; to amphibious trains and an island of birds.

In short, the master storyteller weaves his magic yet again. A must read sure to tempt the reader to not just a good read but repeat- and-repeat reads ...



Keki N Daruwalla, poet and writer, lives in Delhi, and has written over ten poetry volumes, a novella, two novels and half a dozen short story collections. His works have been translated into various European languages – Spanish, Swedish, Magyar, German and Russian. Born in 1937, Daruwalla did his Masters in English Literature from Punjab University and also spent a year in Oxford as a Queen Elizabeth House Fellow. A career bureaucrat with the central government, he has been a Member of the National Commission for Minorities. He retired from government service as Chairman JIC.

Daniell Comes to Judgement: New and Vintage Daruwalla is just a story collection by a very well known writer who has been writing short stories for over forty years.

●
The book has 6 new stories. And 4 of these are first person narratives and voices of city women dealing with changing values and mores, urban stress and greed.

●
The 14 perennial favourites are on issues that are relevant and topical even in the so-called changed times.

For e.g. 'Crossroads' deals with triple talaq, an issue currently being debated upon

Daruwalla's prose sparkles and delights ... [his] fiction displays an impeccable command over fact and detail. Both engrossing and memorable it certainly makes for very good reading.

—Makarand Paranjape

One is tempted to quote Daruwalla at length, because he speaks for himself and it does not really need a reviewer to point out the charm, wit, erudition and basic sympathy for the foibles of both India and Indians with which Daruwalla races from story to story and keeps us glued till the end.

—Namita Gokhale