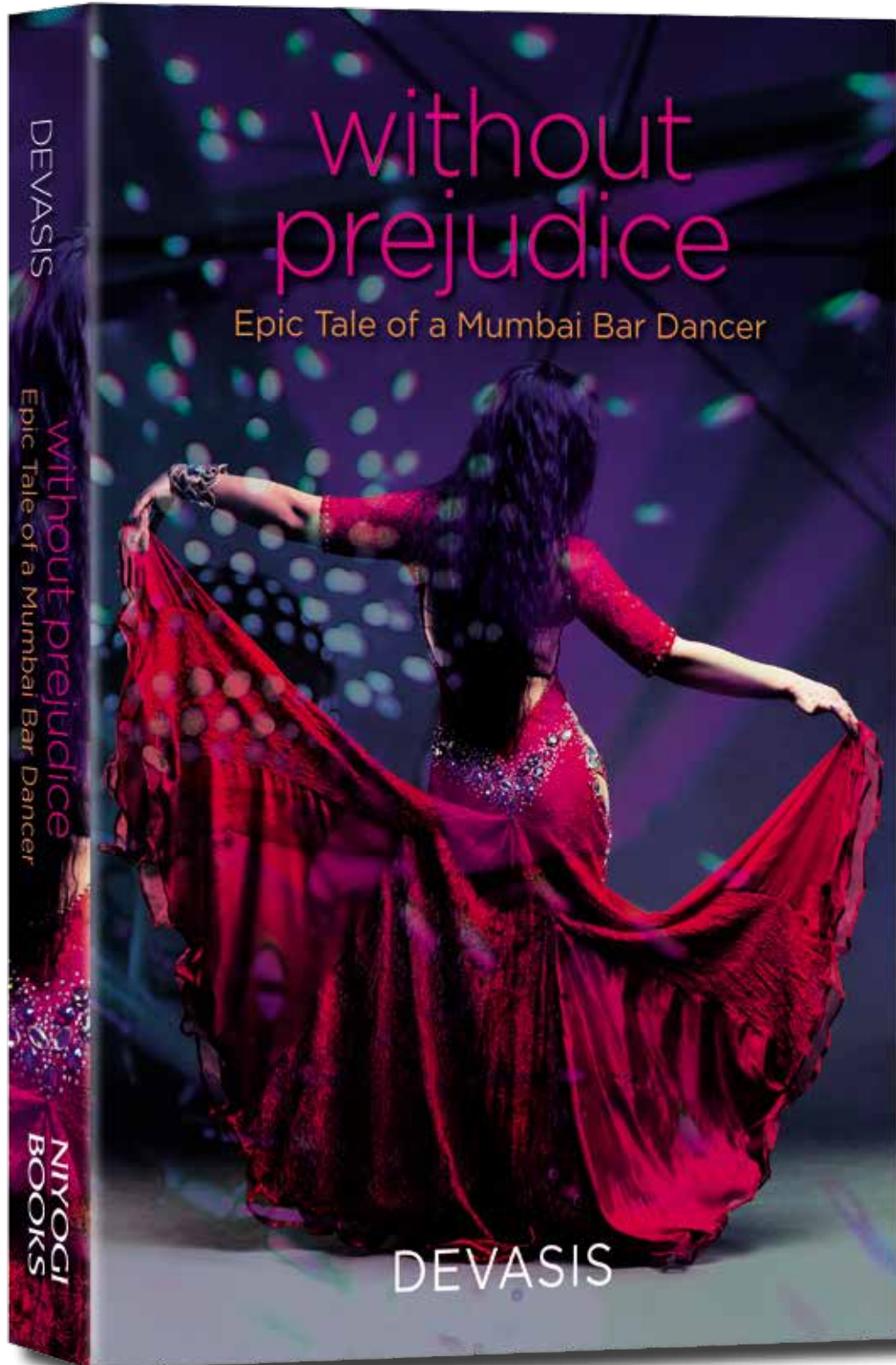


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without prejudice

Epic Tale of a Mumbai Bar Dancer

by
Devasis

Is a woman's body her own? How far does her freedom extend? What can she do when social traditions, laws of the land and above all, prejudices of individuals, bind her down; make her a slave to her own identity and turn her into a commodity to be bought and sold? How can she turn back the tidal wave of social events set loose by the origins and consequences of various social traditions? These and other questions rise in the mind of the reader who navigates the pages of the novel and follows the life of Pallavi, through her eyes and the eyes of the two men who play pivotal roles in her odyssey – Rajkumar and Roy, characters the author has lovingly sketched, as he takes the reader through a journey in time.

A novel on the life sketch of a fictional Mumbai Bar Dancer, a Dance Bar girl, the book delves deep into the roots of their evolution as dancers.

How the sudden decision of closure of the Dance Bars ran the danger and risk of depriving a section of the populace of a dignified (albeit not being seen so by some sections of the society) way of earning their living.

The damage caused by certain archaic laws to certain sections of the Indian populace and how the government, administration and general public are completely unaware of the injustice meted to women from these communities.

Highly informative providing insight into the whole Mumbai Dance Bar Scene and the social injustices.

Highlights the general apathy of the government and media to deal with or find solutions for social problems having wide repercussions and ramifications and hiding under the cloak of not interfering in caste or community related issues.



Communicator, Corporate Reputation Advisor and Brand Strategist, Devasis did his graduation in commerce from Calcutta University.

Thereafter, he did his post-graduate diploma in PR. Initially, he chose his career in advertising, later on he took up Public Relations as his calling. He began writing free-lance non-fiction features just after his graduation since early 1980s, during his spare time, and continued writing them in various Indian newspapers and magazines for nearly two decades. Thereafter, because of varied domestic and overseas senior executive roles and assignments, his articles became few and far between. Devasis currently lives in Mumbai with his family. Without Prejudice is his maiden novel.

Provocative combination of ambition, imagination and intrigue - Marrying fiction with facts, this maiden novel's spotlight is on the very long and deep roots of Mumbai's dance bar world. Driven by a desire to get to the bottom of this elusive and enigmatic microcosm, the novel is a provocative combination of ambition, imagination and intrigue.

—Anuja Agrawal Associate professor Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economic