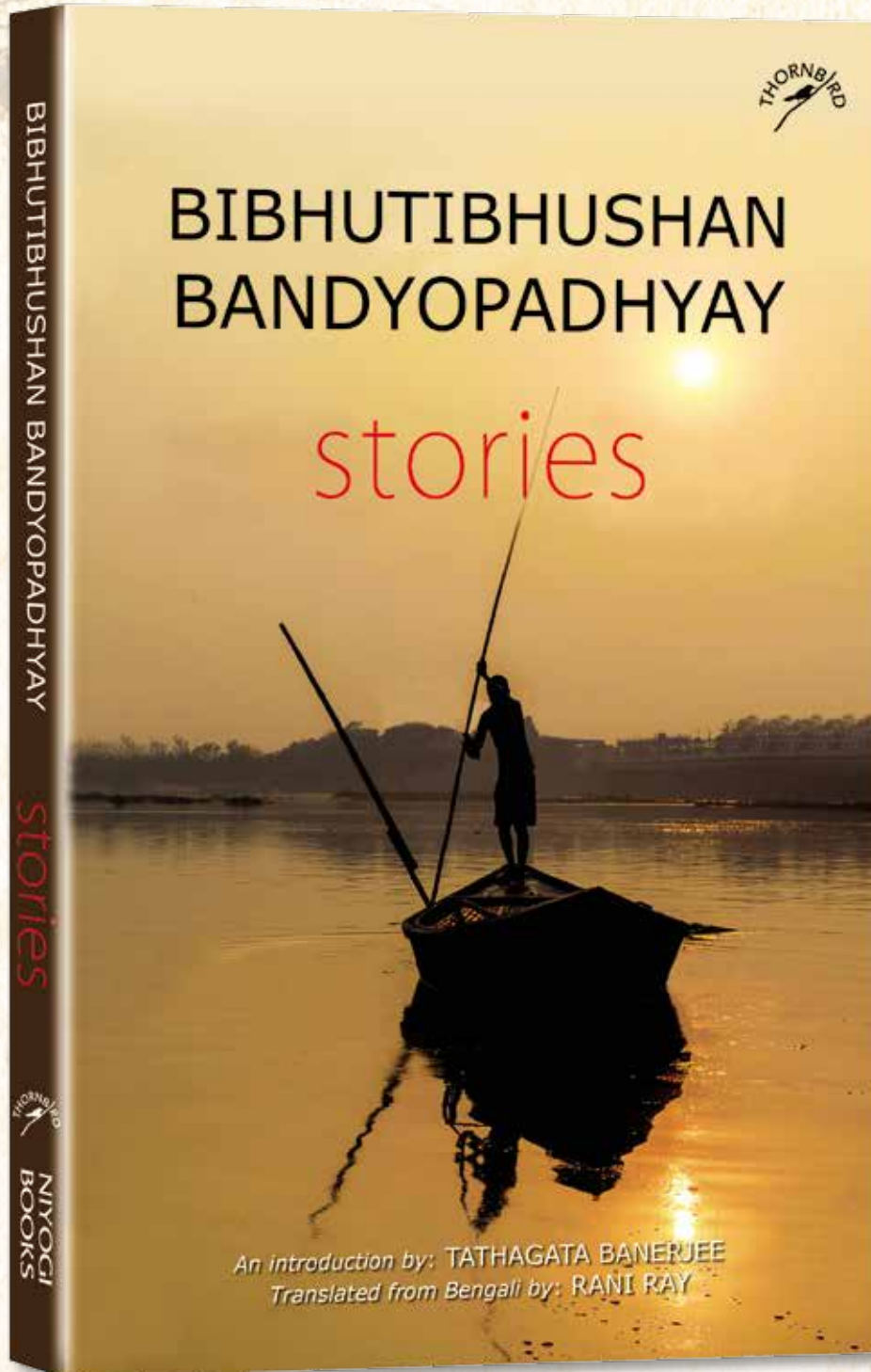


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# BIBHUTIBHUSHAN BANDYOPADHYAY stories

Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay

Translated from Bengali by Rani Ray

Introduction by Tathagata Banerjee

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**B**ibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay Stories are a collection of tales that convey the homely and quintessentially Bengali style of the author's writing. Although his works are too varied and voluminous to describe exactly what he writes about, the short stories in this volume have a semblance of a theme running through them—that of 'persistence' and 'recalcitrance'. From Krishnalal, the salesman who loses his job but succeeds in returning after a period of strife, to the old Muslim woman who calls on the man she considers her son, despite his reluctance and continued irritation, and to Lalit Babu, the would-be author who returns, time and time again, to the house of the girl he exploits. The brilliance of Bibhutibhushan's stories lies in his preoccupation with a whole universe of human beings discovering their destinies amidst their complicated circumstances, as well as for the feeling of intimacy he invokes among his readers, making even ordinary life seem extraordinary.



**Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay** (1894–1950), one of the prominent fiction writers in Bengali literature, is best known for his novel *Pather Panchali* (Songs of the Little Road), and its sequel, *Aparajito* (The Unvanquished). After completing his undergraduate degree from Ripon College, Kolkata, the author worked as a publicist, a secretary, and a teacher, before penning *Pather Panchali* in 1928, for which he gained critical acclaim. The novel was adapted into an award-winning film in 1955 by the famous director, Satyajit Ray. He was posthumously awarded the Rabindra Puraskar, West Bengal's most prestigious literary award, in 1951.



**Rani Ray** studied English at Bedford College, London and University of California. She has taught English at the University of Delhi, University of California at Santa Barbara, and the Institute of English Studies in Poland. She has rendered into English a substantial volume of Bengali fiction, including short stories of eminent writers like Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Joy Goswami, Suchitra Bhattacharya, Anita Agnihotri and above all, Rabindranath Tagore.

*'Bibhutibhushan has a unique style of speaking, homely and laid-back. Listening to his voice, one thinks of things like an informal gathering of friends, lazy afternoons, rainy spells, story-telling sessions and hookahs... The rambling, intimate style is the perfect frame for the kind of tale he tells.'*

—Tathagatha Bandyopadhaya

*A collection of short stories by one of Bengali literature's most eminent and beloved writers.*

*The author's writing is renowned for its unique tone—homely, intimate, and informal.*

*The book has an introduction by the author's grandson, giving the reader insight into Bibhutibhushan's writings.*