

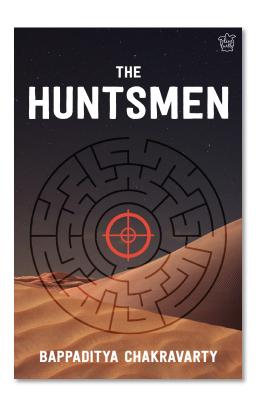
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Born in 1951, **Bappaditya Chakravarty** was educated at Delhi University and at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. He has been an educationist, an executive in the public and private sectors, as well as a consultant, and returned to India in 2020 after

spending nearly two decades in various countries. He has written four books in English, Samudragupta — The Making of an Emperor, which was released at the Dhaka LitFest (2016), two thrillers The Goa Connection (2013) and Swordplay (2023) and an immersive travel-fiction Two Wanderers (2023). He has published three fictional books in Bengali. He has also written a number of essays, articles and short stories in Bengali, published in reputed journals and magazines.

He is married to a Danish diplomat and currently lives in Delhi and Kyrgyzstan.

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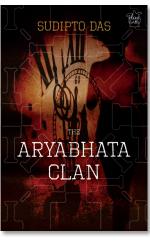
There was an aircraft parked crosswise in the middle of the road. Murtaza was a middle-aged man. A family man with three sons. He was no racing driver and did not have those kinds of reflexes. Consequently, the van went completely out of control, ran on for a few meters, and then stalled. He was about to open the door after taking off the safety belt when the cold muzzle of a gun touched his temple. The man's face was covered. In a deep voice, the man said, 'Don't mind, dost, I need your car for the night. You can use my plane if you want.'

And then everything went dark.

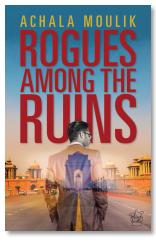
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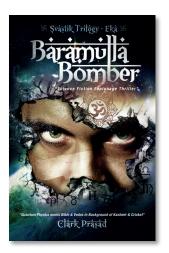
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