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# The Novels Of Anita Desai A Critical Study

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The Fiction of Anita Desai  
Anita Desai and Her Fictional World  
The Novels of Anita Desai  
The Impact of Virginia Woolf on Anita Desai  
Bye-Bye Blackbird  
Journey to Ithaca  
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Critical Responses to Anita Desai  
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Existential Dimensions in the Novels of Anita Desai  
Anita Desai, Fire on the Mountain

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## SULLIVAN HEATH

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**The Fiction of Anita Desai** Atlantic Publishers & Dist

This Book Is A Pioneer Study In Objective Criticism Of The Novels Of Anita Desai. An Electro-Cardiogram Records The Vibrations Of The Heart, Stylistics Does The Same For Literary Texts. Words Are The Symbols Of The Vibrations Of A Writer S Thought. Modern Criticism Acknowledges That Form And Idea In Any Literary Text Are Inseparable. This Study Successfully Proves That The Objective And The Subjective Merge Into One Another To Make A Complete Whole. The Detailed Textual Analysis Of The Beginnings Of The Eight Novels Of Anita Desai Is Both Revealing And Enjoyable Because The Findings Are Objectively Based And Are In Concord With The Opinion Of Other Critics On The Subject. The Chapters On Form And Structure And The Rhetoric Of The Novels Including Fictional Sequencing, Discourse And Discourse Situation, Types Of Narration, The Narrative Voice, Tone, Speech And Thought Presentation, And Point Of View, Are Equally Penetrating And Illuminating. The Book Has Much To Offer To Professionals And Non-Professionals Alike As It Combines Sound Scientific Approach With Keen Critical And Aesthetic Judgement In Literary Art.

*Anita Desai and Her Fictional World* New Delhi : Prestige Books

This book is the story of a young girl obsessed by a childhood prophecy of disaster. The author builds up an atmosphere of tension and oppression, in the middle of an Indian summer.

*The Novels of Anita Desai* Oxford University Press

Anita Desai, A Recipient Of Many Literary Awards In India And Abroad, And A Creative Writing Teacher At Massachusetts Institute Of Technology Since 1993, In Addition To Being A Fellow Of The Royal Society Of Literature In London And Honorary Fellow Of The University Of Cambridge, Has Proved Herself To Be A Major Indian Novelist Of The Post-Seventies India, Whose Novels Epitomize The Emerging Women S Search For Self-Hood In The Indian Context. *Fire On The Mountain* (1977), Winner Of The 1978 National Academy Of Letters Award, And Generally Considered Desai S Masterpiece, Is A Beautiful Novel, Focused On Two Elderly Ladies And One Small Girl. Nanda Kaul Retires To A Hill Station House In Her Old Age, And Leads An Isolated Life There, When Her Great-Granddaughter Comes To Stay. With The Arrival Of Raka The Story Takes A New Turn, Gathers Momentum, And Unfurls Quickly To A Symbolic End When The Mountain Has Been Set On Fire. The Atlantic Critical Study Of *Fire On The Mountain*, Which Is Primarily Meant For The Students Of English Literature Of Indian Universities, Is A Comprehensive, Self-Sufficient And In-Depth Study Of The Text. The Author, A Distinguished Scholar In The Area, Has Taken Special Care To Combine Lucidity And Profundity In Her Treatment Of The Text. In Its Eight Chapters The Present Study Examines The Text From Various Angles Such As The Title, Themes, Characters, Images And Symbols, Narrative Technique, And Feminist Discourse, In Addition To Providing An Introduction , A Brief Story-Outline , And A Detailed Critical Summary Of The Entire Text In Its Three Parts, Along With A Select Bibliography And Sample Questions. The Book Will Be Immensely Useful For Students, Scholars And

Teachers In The Area.

**The Impact of Virginia Woolf on Anita Desai** Lulu.com

Buried resentments, unexpected disappointments, new friendships, small acts of cruelty, journeys that take you back to where you started. With trademark compassion and tender irony, Anita Desai's short stories give us familiar worlds made unfamiliar, to wonderful effect. An ageing couple is stranded in a stultifying Delhi summer by the visit of a roguish old Oxford friend, who trades on his charm; an American woman turns to hippies living in the Indian hills, homesick for the farmlands of Vermont; a dog terrorizes the neighbourhood but is cherished by his stern master; a Delhi girl of slender means finds a new kind of freedom with her young friends, in her barsati home; a peaceful game of hide and seek turns into a nightmare; a businessman sees his own death. In one masterly volume, for the first time ever, here are Anita Desai's collected stories—including *Diamond Dust* and *Games at Twilight*.

*Bye-Bye Blackbird* Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Contributed articles.

**Journey to Ithaca** Atlantic Publishers & Dist

Anita Desai Is The Foremost Indian Novelist Of Te Post-Independence Era. A Close Reading Of Her Novels Reveals That Her Concern Is With The Exploration Of Human Psyche. The Book Is The First Study Of Its Kind That Assesses Her Characters In The Light Of Third Force Psychology.

*Quest for Self-fulfilment in the Novels of Anita Desai* New Delhi : Creative Books

Anita Desai, b. 1937, Indo-English novelist.

*Cry, the Peacock* Random House India

To the family living in the shabby, dusty house in Delhi, Tara's visit brings a sharp reminder of life outside tradition. For Bim, coping endlessly with their problems, there is a renewal of the old jealousies for, unlike her sister, she has failed to escape. Looking at both the cruelty and the beauty of family life and the harshness of India's modern history, *Clear Light of Day* brilliantly evokes the painful process of confronting and healing old wounds.

**Three Novels of Anita Desai** Random House India

Anita Desai S Work Represents A Unique Blending Of The Indian And The Western. Her Novels Catch The Bewilderment Of The Individual Psyche Confronted With The Overbearing Socio-Cultural Environment And The Ever-Beckoning Modern Promise Of Self-Gratification And Self-Fulfilment. In The Face Of This Dual Onslaught, Her Protagonists, Male Or Female Maya, Sita, Monisha And Amla; Sarah, Nanda And Raka; Bim And Tara; Devan, Baumgartner Are Seen Poised Rentalizingly At Different Junctures Of The Philosophic Spectrum. Applying Sociological, Psychoanalytic, Structural And Other Approaches Of Formal Textual Analysis, The Essays In The Present Anthology Take A Fresh Look At Established Works, Revealing Aspects Of Study Hitherto Unexplored, Offer Critically Insightful Probes Into Individual Novels And Explore The Deployment Of Images, Symbols And Other Poetic Devices, Besides Diverse Narrative Strategies. An Indispensable Source-Book For Students, Researchers And Teachers Of Indian English And Commonwealth Literature In General And Fiction

And Anita Desai In Particular. An Insightful Companion For Research In Sociology And Women-Studies.

*Voices in the City* Abhinav Publications

A triptych of beautifully crafted novellas make up Anita Desai's new book. Set in modern India, but where history still casts a long shadow, the stories move beyond the cities to places still haunted by the past, and to characters who are, each in their own way, masters of self-effacement.

*Human Bonds and Bondages* RUT Printer and Publisher

Gone are the days when Nanda Kaul watched over her family and played the part of Vice-Chancellor's wife. Leaving her children behind in the real world, the busier world, she has chosen to spend her last years alone in the mountains in Kasauli, in a secluded bungalow called Carignano. Until one summer her great-granddaughter Raka is dispatched to Kasauli – and everything changes. Nanda is at first dismayed at this break in her preciously acquired solitude. Fiercely taciturn, Raka is, like her, quite untamed. The girl prefers the company of apricot trees and animals to her great-grandmother's, and spends her afternoons rambling over the mountainside. But the two are more alike than they know. Throughout the hot, long summer, Nanda's old, hidden dependencies and wounds come to the surface, ending, inevitably, in tragedy. Marvellous yet restrained, *Fire on the Mountain* speaks of the past and its unshakable hold over the present.

**The Fiction of Margaret Drabble and Anita Desai** Random House

A story of survival set in a small fishing village near Bombay. Lila and Hari, aged 13 and 12, struggle to keep the family, including two young sisters, going when their mother is ill and their father usually the worse for drink. When Hari goes to Bombay to find work, Lila seems to be responsible for everything. Although the book paints a picture of extreme poverty, it demonstrates the strength of the family even in the most extreme circumstances and offers a powerful picture of another culture.

*Fasting, Feasting* Random House

Contributed articles.

*Collected Stories* Random House India

Written in vivid narrative and chiselled prose, *Bye-Bye Blackbird* explores the lives of the outsiders seeking to forge a new identity in an alien society. Set against England's green and grisly landscape, enigmatic and attractive to some, depressing and nauseating to others, it is a story of everyday heroism against subtle oppression, crumbling traditions and homesickness. 'Characters grow with life, the scenes are delicately painted and the nuances of changing mood skilfully transmitted.' — Hindu 'More than a novel, it is a psychological study of the love-hate relationship the immigrants have towards their country of adoption.' — Indian Express

*The Artist of Disappearance* HMH

Plain, unmarried Uma has failed to outgrow her childhood home, with its bittersweet treats of puri-alu and barfi. Overprotected and starved for a life, she is smothered by her overbearing parents, successful sister Aruna, and Arun, the family's disappointment of a son. Across the world in Massachusetts, where Arun has gone as a student, family life in an American suburb is bewilderingly different. The Pattons, who he lives with, appear strange and terrible. The women don't appear to cook at all, though they stuff their shopping carts; the men barbecue huge chunks of meat; their daughter binges on innumerable candy bars. Increasingly, Mrs Patton is desperate to be a

vegetarian, like Arun. But what Arun wants most is to be invisible. Moving from a traditional Indian household to an American one, *Fasting, Feasting* is a powerful exploration of hunger and plenty, and one of Anita Desai's most socially acute novels.

*Clear Light of Day* Orient Paperbacks

Today Anita Desai is recognised for her originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of her character-portrayal that she brings to her work. Her women characters are real flesh and blood protagonists who make you look at them with awe and with their relationships to their surroundings, their society, their men, their children, their families, their mental and psychological make-ups and themselves. The present book purports to be a pioneering attempt to evaluate Desai's fiction and fictional art from various points of view and assesses her contribution to the Indian-English fiction. What is unique about this book is the attempt to include Desai's complete fictional oeuvre from her maiden attempt *Cry, The Peacock* (1963) till her latest published work *The Zigzag Way* (2004). Her novels of four decades have been divided into different sections for a focused study. The present critical anthology of Dr. Neeru Tandon on Anita Desai is an admirable effort on the presentation of a coherent and comprehensive assessment of Anita Desai as a powerful Indian English fiction writer. In her collection she has included certain burning topics of the day such as male-female dichotomy, existentialist vision, religion and culture, concept of marriage and narrative technique in the fiction of Anita Desai. The uncomplicated language and the natural flow of words make for easy reading. Since Desai is prescribed in the syllabus in most of the universities of India, both the teachers and the students will find this book extremely useful, and the research scholars will also find it very interesting and purposeful.

**The Complete Stories** Penguin UK

Sophie and Matteo are young and in love, sharing a dissatisfaction with their bourgeois Italian upbringing. Naturally, like so many other young Westerners in the sixties and seventies, they go to India. But the realities of life in an ashram ignite their differences; Sophie wants to be a tourist and go to Goa and eat shrimp, which Matteo scorns, seeking the 'real' India. Pragmatic Sophie is disillusioned by the hardships they encounter, while her husband, who yearns for spiritual fulfillment, sees only the purity of ascetic life, leading him to Mother, a charismatic guru. Trying to reclaim an ailing Matteo, Sophie embarks on a new journey in search for a different truth; that of Mother's mysterious past. Soon, she finds that the immortal has a history of her own; born in Cairo, she was once Laila, a dancer who toured the world before coming to Bombay to search for 'divine love'. What each of the three people discover, on their individual quests, is at its heart that ancient truth: that wisdom is found in the journey itself. A stirring, profound exploration of emotional exile, of sacred and profane loves, *Journey to Ithaca* is a masterful novel.

**The Fiction of Anita Desai: From escapism to realism : a study of in custody** Random House India

The Complete Stories gathers together Anita Desai's short story collections *Diamond Dust* and *Games at Twilight* and the novellas of *The Artist of Disappearance*, with a new preface from the author. From the icy suburbs of Canada to the overcrowded B&Bs of Cornwall, via the hill towns and cities of India, Anita Desai observes human behaviour unflinchingly but not unkindly, recognising our

ordinariness and our strangeness, and capturing both with quiet precision.

[Symbolism in Anita Desai's Novels](#) HMH

The Book Is A Pioneering Study Of Its Kind, Chronologically Examining The Novels Of Anita Desai Mostly From A Feminist Point Of View. The Book Excels In Formally Analysing Indian And Western Traditions Of Feminism, Man-Woman Relationship And Art Of Characterisation In The Overall Context Of The Feminine Psyche Which It Thoroughly Examines. Anita Desai S Is A World Of Married Women Who Combat To Get Out Of The Manacles That Bind Them; To Evolve From Being A Mere Nonentity Victim To A Vibrant Individual Capable Of Breaking The Fetters Without Breaking The Relationship.

The Book Is A Voyage From A Sense Of Incompetence And Paranoia To Self-Awareness And Resilience, To Self-Poise And Concord Within The Family Matrix. Dr. Gupta Shows How Anita Desai Has Depicted The Depths Of Human Consciousness And Subconsciousness In Her Existential Concern Which Makes Her Writings Uniquely Powerful Through Feminism. Hence, The Need And Justification Of The Book To Undertake The Present Study Of Her New Perspective On Feminism.

[Critical Essays on Anita Desai's Fiction](#) Atlantic Publishers & Dist

A study of the short stories and novels of Anita Desai in the context of postcolonial debates about gender, identity, the local and the global and some aspects of Indo-English writing.

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