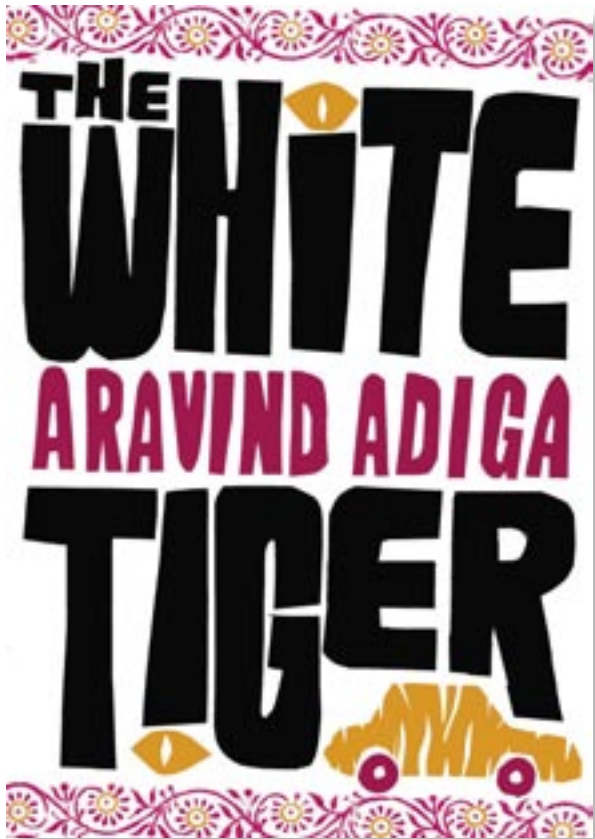




Reader's Guide



The White Tiger
is Aravind Adiga's first novel

The White Tiger by Aravind Adiga

Published by Atlantic Books
Hardback RRP £12.99

www.themanbookerprize.com

About the author

Aravind Adiga was born in Madras in 1974 and was raised partly in Australia. He studied at Columbia and Oxford Universities. A former correspondent in India for TIME magazine, his articles have also appeared in publications like *The Financial Times*, *The Independent*, and *The Sunday Times*. He lives in Mumbai.

The White Tiger

Born in a village in heartland India, the son of a rickshaw puller, Balram is taken out of school by his family and put to work in a teashop. As he crushes coals and wipes tables, he nurses a dream of escape – of breaking away from the banks of Mother Ganga, into whose depths have seeped the remains of a hundred generations.

The White Tiger is a tale of two Indias. Balram's journey from darkness of village life to the light of entrepreneurial success is utterly amoral, brilliantly irreverent, deeply endearing and altogether unforgettable.

Discussion points

Balram's narrative takes the form of a series of letters to Wen Jiabao, premier of China, why do you think Aravind Adiga's chose this device to tell Balram's story?

Balram describes himself as "a man of action and change," "a thinking man," "an entrepreneur," "a man who sees tomorrow," and a "murderer." How would you describe him?

Do you agree with one reviewer who said "my main criticism is that the writing is almost too good"?

The White Tiger gives us an insight into the rapidly changing India. What does the reader learn about Balram's definition of entrepreneurship?

Do you think *The White Tiger* is a cautionary tale or an optimistic one?

Themed reading

The Death of Mr Love Indra Sinha
A Fine Balance Rohinton Mistry
The Death of Vishnu Manil Suri

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