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AFTER THE TSUNAMI, A POWERFUL NOVEL OF SURVIVAL AND REDEMPTION

Nacogdoches, TX – September 30, 2011 -- Stephen F. Austin State University Press announces the release of *After the Tsunami*, a first-person account of a young boy's life in a brutal orphanage in India after a tsunami washes away his family. This is Annam Manthiram's first novel and though entirely fictional, the story is inspired by her sisters' experiences in a boarding school in India.

After the Tsunami follows Siddhartha, an Indian man who cannot stop reliving his harrowing youth in India. He appears to have it all: a successful career as a schoolteacher in the United States, a perceptive wife, and a son and daughter who respect him as much as they adore him. But inside he struggles to find purpose in the brutality that continues to haunt him – the terror he faced as a child during his time spent in an orphanage in India.

“*Jane Eyre*, move over!” writes Mel Freilicher, author of *The Unmaking of Americans: 7 Lives*. “In *After the Tsunami*, Manthiram has rendered a deeply imagined, wholly engrossing world of an Indian orphanage for boys. Malnourished, sadistically punished by corrupt and pedophilic ‘Mothers,’ armed with vicious, mauling dogs, the boys realize early on that ‘we have each other, that’s all we have.’ Complex, shifting alliances and enmities are deftly detailed in astonishing realism, with caste differences washing through their lives as surely and starkly as the tsunami which originally demolished their families.”

Professor Emeritus Hugh Fox, founding member of the Pushcart Prize and one of the most widely published poets in America, calls Manthiram's novel “well within the believable, so it gets to you emotionally like no other work can.”

Sita Bhaskar, author of *Shielding Her Modesty*, describes *After the Tsunami* as “a poignant tale of endurance,” and a “stark and chilling tale of a betrayed childhood.” Dr. Indira Chandrasekhar, founder and editor of *Out of Print*, recounts the “scarred landscape” into which the boys are thrust, “dominated by a brutal and complex interplay of power and corruption.”

Cutting in its clarity and profoundly insightful, *After the Tsunami* constructs an astute landscape of friendship despite depravity, compassion amidst horror, resiliency above misfortune. Its honest, straightforward, and unflinching prose will haunt and move readers everywhere.

After the Tsunami

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About Annam Manthiram

Annam Manthiram is the author of the novel *After the Tsunami* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2011) and a short story collection (*Dysfunction: Stories*). Annam's short work has been published in over twenty literary journals, and she is the Associate Editor of *Grey Sparrow Journal*, the recipient of the 2011 Council of Editors of Learned Journals' (CELJ) Best New Journal Award. A graduate of the M.A. Writing program at the University of Southern California, Ms. Manthiram resides in Rio Rancho, New Mexico with her husband, Alex, and son, Sathya. You can visit her online at AnnamManthiram.com.

For more information about *After the Tsunami*, or to download a full media kit, please visit www.annammanthiram.com or contact Annam Manthiram at (818) 426-1395 or annam@annammanthiram.com.

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