

After the Tsunami by Annam Manthiram

Reviews/Blurbs

"I've never read a book that gets more into the despairing mind of a boy caught in an orphanage in India. *After the Tsunami* is real, personal, and felt with a certain sense of sociological objectivity. What really hits you here is a sense of hopelessness and despair, though Manthiram never gets cornily overdramatic or overdone, keeping the whole world here well within the believable so it gets to you emotionally like no other work can."

-- Professor Emeritus [Hugh Fox](#), founding member of the Pushcart Prize and one of the most widely published poets in America

"*Jane Eyre*, move over! 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. Although Siddhartha, who survived to become a happily married father, and teacher, is writing this powerful account, his present day existence is almost entirely eclipsed by the intense, precise, obsessive memories of his youth-- leaving him (and us) with a yearning, persistent and compelling as his revulsion for those who bullied and tortured him, for the companions who kept his sensitive spirit alive."

-- Professor Mel Freilicher, author of [THE UNMAKING OF AMERICANS: 7 Lives](#)

"In this searing examination of resilience and survival, a group of boys in India, thrust into an orphanage following a tsunami, must each negotiate a scarred landscape dominated by a brutal and complex interplay of power and corruption."

-- Dr. Indira Chandrasekhar, founder and editor of [Out of Print](#) magazine

"How do you teach what you do not know? How do you learn when books tear away the past you keep in your head? The story of a man who struggled to keep his story true so that the listeners could believe it, *After the Tsunami* is a poignant tale of endurance amidst physical and psychological suffering, of resilience in the face of evil. A stark and chilling tale of a betrayed childhood."

-- [Sita Bhaskar](#) was born and educated in India. She lives in Madison, Wisconsin. [Shielding Her Modesty](#) is her first book.

"Siddhartha is living the good American life complete with a loving wife, a rewarding career, and adoring children, but he cannot escape the memories of his childhood in India, of being a low caste orphan bullied by friends and sexually abused by the "Mothers" who run the orphanage. *After the Tsunami* is the story of the harrowing journey Siddhartha must make into his past, so that he can heal in the present."

-- [Sonal Aggarwal](#) is a Delhi-based fiction writer working on her first book. Her work has appeared in *Open Wide magazine*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, and at <http://thedelhiwalla.com/>.