



# Reader's Guide



Other novels by Anuradha Roy  
*An Atlas of Impossible Longing* (2008)  
*The Folded Earth* (2011)

## Sleeping on Jupiter Anuradha Roy

MacLehose Press, Querus

[www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)

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## About the author

Anuradha Roy was born in Calcutta, India, in 1967.

She has won *The Economist* Crossword Prize for Fiction for her novel *The Folded Earth*, which was also nominated for several other prizes, including the Man Asian Literary Prize, the D.S.C. Prize for South Asian Literature and the Hindu Literary Award.

Her first novel, *An Atlas of Impossible Longing* (2008), has been widely translated and was named by World Literature Day as one of the 60 essential books on modern India.

She has worked as a publisher and journalist and is now editor at Permanent Black, an independent press in New Delhi.

## *Sleeping on Jupiter*

A stark and unflinching novel by a spellbinding storyteller about religion, love and violence in the modern world.

A train stops at a railway station. A young woman jumps off. She has wild hair, sloppy clothes, a distracted air. She looks Indian, yet she is somehow not. The sudden violence of what happens next leaves the other passengers gasping.

The train terminates at Jarmuli, a temple town by the sea. Here, among pilgrims, priests and ashrams, three old women disembark only to encounter the girl once again. What is someone like her doing in this remote corner, which attracts only worshippers?

Over the next five days, the old women live out their long-planned dream of a holiday together; their temple guide finds ecstasy in forbidden love; and the girl is joined by a photographer battling his own demons.

The full force of the evil and violence beneath the serene surface of Jarmuli becomes evident when their lives overlap and collide. Unexpected connections are revealed between devotion and violence, friendship and fear, as Jarmuli is revealed as a place with a long, dark past that transforms all who encounter it.

## Discussion points

In what ways does *Sleeping on Jupiter* expose the hypocrisies of Indian society?

First-person narration is limited to Nomi's memories of her childhood in the ashram and growing up in Norway. How does this affect the reader's perception of Nomi's present?

*Sleeping on Jupiter* has many intense, visual scenes. Which of these do you remember most vividly?

Having read *Sleeping on Jupiter* can you envisage a situation where Indian women can confront gender-based violence without needing to resort to escaping to the West?

Do you think that the last chapter, 'The Eighteenth Day', offers some kind of closure, for Nomi? What was your reaction to the end of the novel?

## Themed reading

R. K. Narayan *Mahabharata*  
Sameera Khan *Shilpa Ranade*  
Shilpa Phadke *Why Loiter?*

## Useful links

[www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)  
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