

## APPENDICES

### Summary of The White Tiger

Balram Halwai comes from a poor family in a remote village of Laxmangarh, India. His father is a rickshaw puller who is too poor to pay for Balram's education. Even though Balram is a smart boy, he could not finish his schooling. Instead, he must work at the teashop, wiping tables and breaking coals since a very young age to help his family.

When Balram gets older, he goes to Dhanbad to learn how to drive. He knows that a driver's salary is higher than that of a servant in a small teashop. After making a lot of efforts, he finally gets a job as a driver for a rich landlord's family. He moves to New Delhi to serve the family's second son, Ashok, who has recently returned from America.

Working for Ashok, and his wife, Pinky, Balram learns about political and economic matters. He pays attention to his master's family business and realizes that corruption is very common in this world. Being a driver of a rich and powerful family also makes him aware of the wealth gap between the rich and the poor. Balram becomes ambitious; he wants to live the life of a master and does not want to be a servant anymore.

To get his independence and start a new life, Balram decides to kill Ashok and steal his money. He abandons his responsibility for protecting his family from his master's family who obviously will take revenge. He becomes a fugitive and finally is settled in Bangalore, one of the largest business centres in India.

With the money he has stolen, he starts a new business with a new identity. No one in his new place realizes that he is a murderer whom the police are looking for. Using his knowledge and lessons from his experiences when working as a servant, Balram manages to become a successful entrepreneur with many employees. He is finally a master.

### **Synopsis of Slumdog Millionaire**

An orphan boy named Ram Mohammad Thomas is abandoned in the Church of St. Mary, Delhi. Ram ends up being raised by the parish priest of the church, Father Timothy Francis, until the age of six when Father Timothy is killed.

After that time, Ram gets sent to a juvenile home in Delhi. The condition of that home is terrible, but there he meets his best friend, Salim. They are very close like brothers, and together they escape from a criminal gang who tries to make them earn money as handicapped beggars in Goregaon, Mumbai. They live together and work hard to survive on their own in another side of Mumbai city, Ghatkopar.

At the age of thirteen, Ram and Salim get separated. Ram leaves Mumbai to Delhi and does various jobs to survive. Ram experiences so many things and at the age of seventeen he lives in Agra, working as a tourist guide at the Taj Mahal. He is happy living in Agra with his friends and his girlfriend who is a prostitute, Nita.

Ram needs a large amount of money to free Nita from her pimp. Moreover, Nita is badly injured by the violent action done by one of her customers. The man is the host of the TV quiz show *Who Will Win a Billion?* In revenge for Nita's suffering, Ram plans something by participating in the show.

Luckily, he can answer all the questions on the quiz because they are related to the real events that have happened in Ram's life. He wins the top prize of the quiz, one billion rupees.

The producers of the show do not believe that Ram really knows the answers because he is not educated. They also do not really have one billion rupees so they do not want to pay Ram. They ask corrupt police officers to arrest Ram and force him to admit that he has cheated. A lawyer comes to help Ram. Finally, Ram can claim his prize, marry Nita, and helps friends and the people he cares about with the money.

### **Biography of Aravind Adiga**

Born in the year 1974 in Madras, present day Chennai, Adiga grew up in Mangalore and received his basic education at Canara High School and at St. Aloysius High School from where he graduated in 1990. He studied at James Ruse Agricultural High School in Sydney, Australia where he and his family emigrated to during the 90s. He further went on to study English Literature at Columbia College, Columbia University in New York, from where he graduated in the year 1997.

Adiga's career in journalism began as a financial journalist as an intern at Financial Times, Money and the Wall Street Journal. His area of coverage was the stock market and investment. He wrote a review on Peter Carey's book; he also wrote about the winner of Booker Prize 1998, Oscar and Lucinda. The article appeared in an online literary review called The Second Circle. He was eventually appointed by TIME, where he worked as a South Asia correspondent for about three years before he started freelancing. This was the time when he wrote The White Tiger. Adiga currently lives in Mumbai, India.

Winning the Man Booker Prize of 2008 for his debut novel, The White Tiger, made Adiga the fourth Indian born author to win the prize since Arundhati Roy, Salman Rushdie and Kiran Desai.

Between the Assassinations, Adiga's second book featuring 12 short stories was released in India on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2008.

Source: “Biography of Aravind Adiga”

### **Biography of Vikas Swarup**

Vikas Swarup was born in Allahabad (India) in a family of lawyers. After his schooling, Vikas attended Allahabad University and studied History, Psychology and Philosophy. He also made his mark as a champion debater, winning National level competitions. After graduating with distinction, he joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1986, motivated by an interest in international relations and a desire to explore different cultures.

In his diplomatic career, Vikas has been posted to various countries such as Turkey (1987-1990), the United States (1993-1997) Ethiopia (1997-2000), the United Kingdom (2000-2003) and South Africa (2006-2009). Since August 2009, he has become the Consul General of India in Osaka-Kobe, Japan.

He penned his first novel, Q&A, in two months, when he was posted in London. Published in 2005 by Doubleday/Random House (UK & Commonwealth), Harper Collins (Canada) and Scribner (US), it has been published in 42 languages. It was short listed for the Best First Book by the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and won South Africa’s Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006 as well as the Paris Book Fair's Reader's Prize, the Prix Grand Public,

in 2007. It was voted the Most Influential Book of 2008 in Taiwan, and winner of the Best Travel Read (Fiction) at the Heathrow Travel Product Award 2009.

The film version of Q&A, titled 'Slumdog Millionaire', directed by Danny Boyle, took the world by storm, winning more than 70 awards including four Golden Globes, 7 BAFTAs and a staggering 8 Oscars, including Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Picture.

Vikas's second novel, Six Suspects, was released in the UK and the Commonwealth by Transworld in August 2008. Published by Harper Collins in Canada and St Martin's Press in the US, it has sold translation rights in 27 languages.

He has written for TIME, The Guardian, The Telegraph (UK), Outlook magazine (India) and Liberation (France).

Source: "Vikas Swarup Biography"