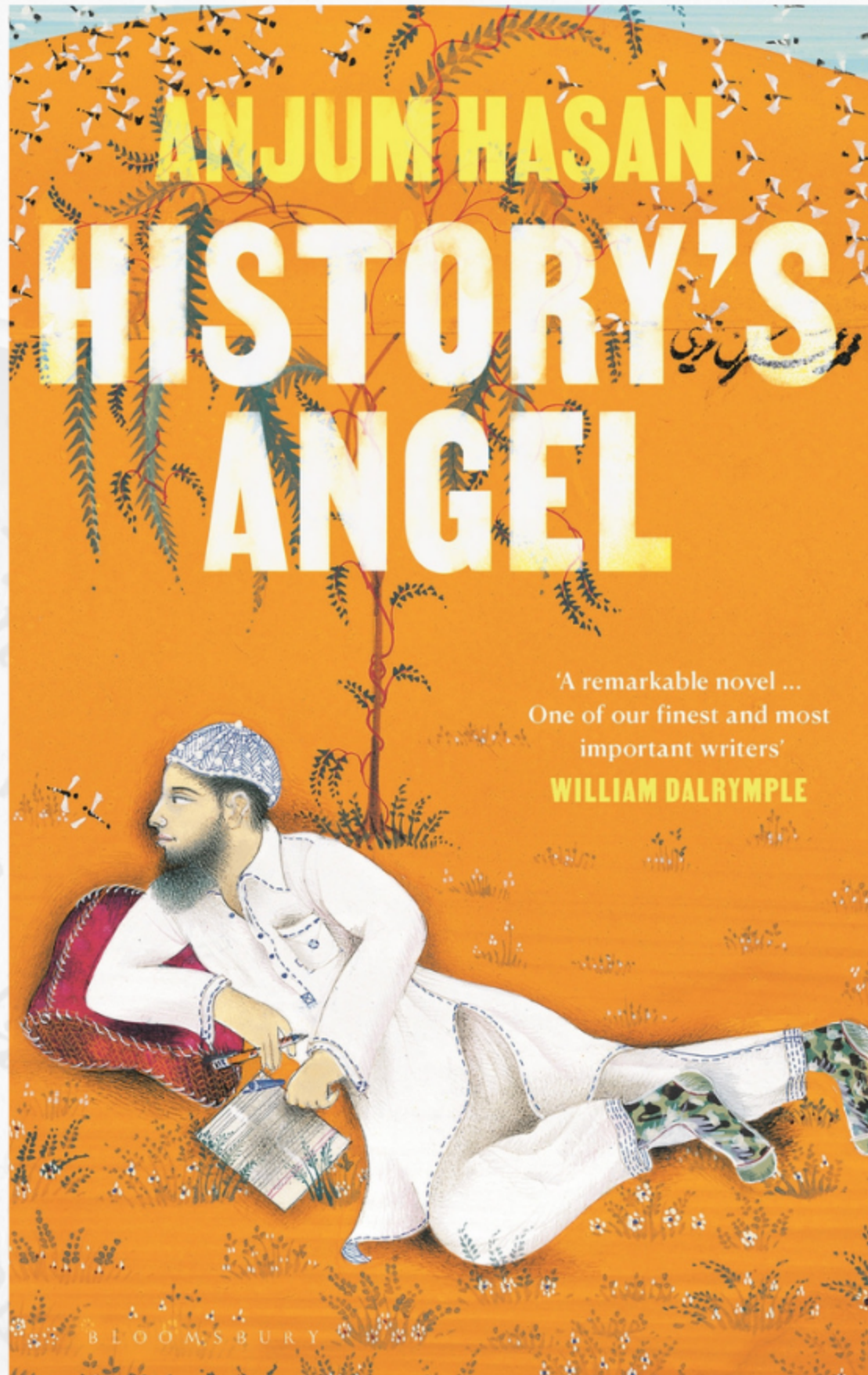




Dept. of HSS, IIT Guwahati

MEET THE AUTHOR

BOOK DISCUSSION AND Q&A



“A darkly funny and sharply observed novel that captures the glory and gloom of India past and present like no other.”

Alif is a middle-aged, mild-mannered history teacher, living in contemporary Delhi, at a time in India's history when Muslims are seen as either hapless victims or live threats. Though his life's passion is the history he teaches, the present is pressing down on him: his wife is set on a bigger house and a better car while trying to ace her MBA exams; his teenage son wants to quit school to get rich; his supercilious colleagues are suspicious of his perorations; and his old friend Ganesh has just reconnected with a childhood sweetheart with whom Alif was always rather enamoured himself.

And then the unthinkable happens. While Alif is leading a school field trip, a student goads him and, in a fit of anger, Alif twists his ear. His job suddenly on the line, Alif finds his life rapidly descending into chaos. Meanwhile, his home city, too, darkens under the spreading shadow of violence.

In this darkly funny, sharply observed and deeply moving novel, Anjum Hasan deftly and delicately explores the force and the consequences of remembering your people's history in an increasingly indifferent milieu.

B L O O M S B U R Y



**TALK TO ANJUM HASAN AT THE
HSS SEMINAR HALL, WED. 23
AUG. 2023, 4:30 P.M.**

Anjum Hasan's latest novel is *History's Angel*. She is the author of the fiction titles *The Cosmopolitans*, *Neti, Neti*, *Lunatic in my Head*, and *Difficult Pleasures* which have been shortlisted for the Sahitya Akademi Award, the Hindu Literary Prize, and the Crossword Fiction Award. "A Day in the Life" won the Valley of Words Fiction Award 2019. She has also published a book of poems called *Street on the Hill*. She has been a Homi Bhabha Fellow, a Charles Wallace Writer-in-Residence, and is currently a New India Foundation Fellow.



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