

me of the Paper : SUNDAY MID-DAY  
ice of Publication : MUMBAI  
ted : 26 OCT 2003

book



Outcaste: A Memoir by Dr Narendra Jadhav, Viking

Price Rs 395

Rating: 7/10

THIS book is worth a read. Because:

1. A book, it is said, loses its essence in translation. This one, an expanded version of Dr Jadhav's critically acclaimed 1993 Marathi bestseller Aamcha Baap Aan Amhi, hasn't.
2. It's a story told simply and poignantly and is in keeping with good Indian storytelling tradition.
3. You get to know all about the social transformation of Dalits through the story of one Dalit family. Dalits belonging to three generations narrate their own tales in gripping fashion and bring to light the obvious and subtle changes in the individual and collective Dalit consciousness over the decades.
4. Dr Ambedkar's philosophy has been brought in extensively but engagingly, without disturbing the thread of the tale. You can easily figure out what a terrific man Ambedkar must have been.
5. The author draws richly from life, and yet does not compromise on the values of literature.
6. Caste is evil and ruinous, Dr Jadhav proves it. So will be the casteist politics that currently threatens to run amok in India.

*Vaibhav Purandare*

