Suresh Kanekar Releases His Debut Novel: Of Mangoes and Monsoons

A gripping novel of a young man's academic, athletic, and amatory adventures set against the backdrop of a freedom movement

San Diego, CA (Vocus) February 24, 2010 -- A fascinating literary work on ideals, civil rights, independence, and a young man’s determination awaits readers as author Suresh Kanekar presents his debut novel, Of Mangoes and Monsoons. Released through Xlibris, this endearing narrative takes readers back in time to the Goa and India of fifty years ago and gives a compelling factual description of the freedom movement of Goa which ended with the liberation of Goa by the Indian army after 451 years of colonial rule.

The novel is the story of Ramesh Natekar, born into a Hindu Vaishya family of Goa, who has to face the caste prejudice of people around him to the point of losing his sweetheart because of her superior caste. Ramesh holds a degree in philosophy and is committed to a life of scholarship when he finds himself drawn into the freedom movement of Goa. His participation in the freedom struggle lands him in jail for more than five years, and also into minor and major conflicts with police and prison authorities. The novel describes with accuracy the historical events of the middle of the last century and presents snapshots of the history, geography, and culture of the Goa and India of that period. The narrative is full of digressions into ethics, philosophy, and religion, along with a sprinkling of linguistic escapades.

The novel is partly based on actual events including the personal experiences of the author, who himself had been a participant in the freedom struggle and a political prisoner for more than five years. He also had the rare privilege of being present at the formal surrender of the Portuguese governor-general of Goa, Vassalo e Silva, to Brigadier Dhillon of the Indian army, on the night of December 19, 1961.

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About the Author
Suresh Kanekar received his B.A. (Honors) in philosophy and M.A. in psychology from the University of Poona, and his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Iowa. He has taught at several Indian and American universities, and is currently a research professor of psychology at Alliant International University in San Diego, California. He has published over one hundred fifteen research articles and two books in the area of his specialization, apart from some short literary contributions including poems. Of Mangoes and Monsoons is his first novel.

Of Mangoes and Monsoons * by Suresh Kanekar
A Novel
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