

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
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UPAMANYU CHATTERJEE

Born 1959 Patna, Bihar, India

Life

Upamanyu Chatterjee is considered one of the most talented contemporary Indian novelists writing in English and is now in the middle of his career. He was born to a middle-class family in Patna, the capital of the state of Bihar in north India. He was then educated at the prestigious St Xavier's School and St Stephens College in New Delhi. Even while in high school, he composed a satirical stage play (based on a Hitchcock film) that won an award. Chatterjee later received an MA in English Literature from Delhi University. Shortly after completing that degree, he joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1983. In 1990, he left the IAS and accepted the post of 'Writer in Residence' at the University of Kent in the U.K. His debut novel (*English, August: An Indian Story*), which is a humorous 'coming-of-age' story based on his own experiences in the IAS, appeared in 1998 and became an international best-seller and a major film. In that same year, however, he went back into government service and took up a post in the Ministry of Human Resource Development in New Delhi. Since then, Chatterjee has published four more novels and a series of short stories. He is married with two daughters.

Achievements

In 2004, Upamanyu Chatterjee won an award from the Sahitya Academy (India's literary academy) for his novel *The Mammaries of the Welfare State*. In 2008, was honoured by the government of France with the Order of Officer des Arts et des Lettres. His most recent novel, *Way to Go*, won the fiction award from *The Hindu* newspaper in 2010.

List of novels

English, August: An Indian Story, 1998

The Last Burden, 1993

Mammaries of the Welfare State, 2000

Weight Loss, 2006

Way to Go, 2010