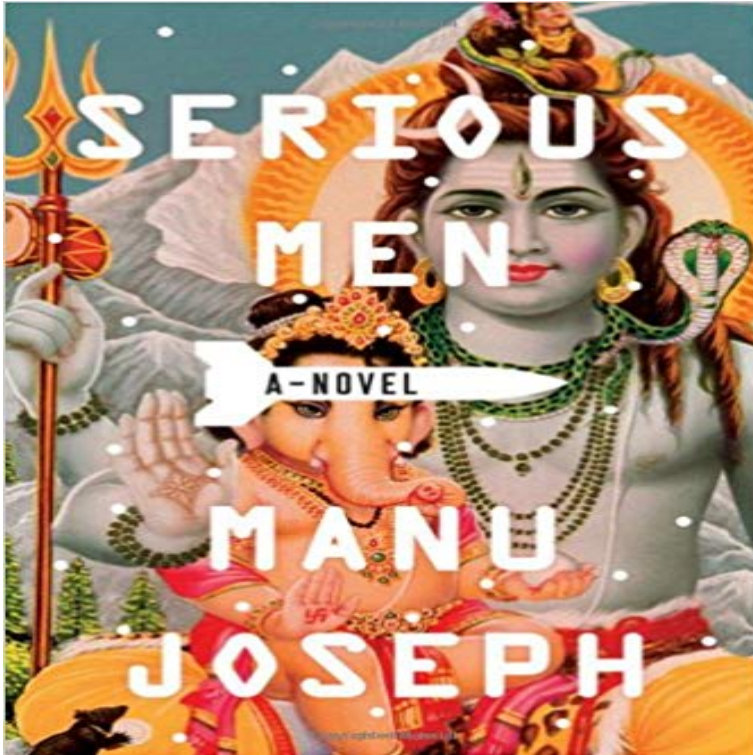


Serious Men: A Novel



A poignant, bitingly funny Indian satire and love story set in a scientific institute and in Mumbai's humid tenements. Ayyan Mani will not be constrained by Indian traditions. Despite working at the Institute of Theory and Research in Mumbai as the lowly personal assistant to a brilliant but insufferable astronomer, he dreams of more for himself and his family. Ever wily and ambitious, Ayyan weaves two plots: the first to cheer up his weary, soap-opera-addicted wife by creating outrageous fictions around their ten-year-old son; the other to sabotage the married director by using his boss's seeming romance with the institute's first female—and very attractive—researcher. Meanwhile, as the institute's Brahmins wage a vicious war over theories about alien life, Ayyan sees his deceptions intertwining and setting in motion a series of extraordinary events he cannot stop. Unfailingly funny and irreverent, *Serious Men* is at once a hilarious portrayal of runaway egos and ambitions and a moving portrait of love and its strange workings. One of 2010's First Novels to Savor. —Sunday Telegraph

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