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## Bedtime Story: A Play / Black Tulip: A Screenplay

Kiran Nagarkar

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**Kiran Nagarkar : Bedtime Story: A Play / Black Tulip: A Screenplay** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bedtime Story: A Play / Black Tulip: A Screenplay:

Kiran Nagarkar is one of India's most significant writers. Of a piece with his searing, dark, wickedly funny works are these experiments with form: the screenplay *Black Tulip* and the play *Bedtime Story*, both of which, in keeping with the author's virtuosity, push the boundaries of their forms. Meet *Black Tulip*, aka Rani, a seasoned con artist and yoga expert with a taste for expensive jewellery. Hot on her trail is ACP Regina Fielding, a daredevil cop whose style and panache Rani worships. Rani executes one eye-popping heist after another and the cat-and-mouse game between the two heats up. But even as things come to a head, Mumbai is held to ransom by terrorists, and the two ball syantagonists, along with Rani's new boyfriend, a computer whizkid and hacker, must come together. The fate of the city rests with them. *Black Tulip* is a pacy, entertaining caper with a host of seedy characters - corrupt ministers, mob bosses, petty criminals, religious fanatics - in a world where nothing is as it seems. In *Bedtime Story*, the author uses the epic Mahabharata as a peg on which to hang a shocking tale of injustice and oppression. As a grandmother narrates a bedtime story, giving delectable twists to the age-old stories of Karna, Ekalavya and Draupadi, we see the gender and class violence that underlies the old tales of valour. Traversing the landscape of wars across the centuries - the ancient war of Kurukshetra to the Second World War, from the Bangladesh war in 1971 and to modern-day wars in boardrooms, Nagarkar reveals how little has changed in the centuries since the Mahabharata. *Bedtime Story* has been targeted by religious fundamentalist groups ever since it was first written after the Emergency in 1975 and this edition includes a trenchant essay on censorship and freedom of expression. The two works in this collection are a testimony to the multifaceted genius of Kiran Nagarkar.

About the Author Kiran Nagarkar is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Ravan* and *Eddie*, *Cuckold* (for which he won the Sahitya Akademi Award), *God's Little Soldier* and *The Extras*, a sequel to *Ravan* and *Eddie*. His first book,

Saat Sakkam Trechalis, written in Marathi and translated into English as *Seven Sixes are Forty-three*, is considered a landmark in post-Independence Indian literature. His novels have been translated into German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Marathi. Nagarkar has also written several plays and screenplays in Marathi and English.