



Aleph Book Company is delighted to announce that it will be publishing Jeet Thayil's new novel, *The Book of Chocolate Saints*, in 2017. The book is a follow-up to his celebrated novel *Narcopolis* which won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2012 and was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize, the Man Asian Prize and the Commonwealth Prize.



In incandescent prose, award-winning novelist Jeet Thayil tells the story of Newton Francis Xavier, blocked poet, serial seducer of young women, reformed alcoholic (but only just), philosopher, recluse, all-round wild man, and India's greatest living painter. At the age of sixty-six, Xavier, who has been living in New York, is getting ready to return to the land of his birth to stage one final show of his work (accompanied by a mad bacchanal). As we accompany Xavier and his partner and muse Goody on their unsteady, and frequently sidetracked, journey from New York to New Delhi, the venue of the final show, we meet a host of memorable characters—journalists, conmen, alcoholics, addicts, artists, poets, whores, society ladies, thugs—and are also given unforgettable (and sometimes unbearable) insights into love, madness, poetry, sex, painting, saints, death, God and the savagery that fuels all great art.

Jeet Thayil was born in Mamalasserie, Kerala, and educated in Bombay, Hong Kong and New York. His first novel *Narcopolis* won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2012 and was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize, the Man Asian Prize and the Commonwealth Prize. His five poetry collections include *Collected Poems, English and These Errors Are Correct*, which won the 2013 Sahitya Akademi Award for poetry. He is the editor of *60 Indian Poets* and *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*. Jeet Thayil wrote the libretto for *Babur in London*, which toured Switzerland and the United Kingdom in 2012.

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