

# Ruskin Bond The Blue Umbrella

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## CASSIDY REED

*Malgudi Adventures* Penguin UK

Rain in the Mountains brings together some of Ruskin Bond's most beautiful works from his years spent in the foothills of the Himalayas in the town of Mussoorie. Through vivid images and lucid writing, Bond evokes the everyday sights and sounds, and captures the essence of mountain life. The musings on his natural habitat, in both prose and poetry, offer a view of that simple and affable world. Some of his writings featured in the book are 'Once Upon a Mountain Time', 'Sounds I Like to Hear', 'How Far Is the River' and 'After the Monsoon'. Rain in the Mountains will transport the reader into the quiet world of the mountains, lit with an eternal charm.

**The Essential Collection for Young Readers** Random House India

Ruskin Bond, b. 1934, Indo-English litterateur.

*Crazy Times with Uncle Ken* David C Cook

Rakesh plants a cherry seedling in his garden and watches it grow. As seasons go by, the small tree survives heavy monsoon showers, a hungry goat that eats most of the leaves and a grass cutter who splits it into two with one sweep. At last, on his ninth birthday, Rakesh is rewarded with a miraculous sight—the first pink blossoms of his precious cherry tree! This beautifully illustrated edition brings alive the magical charm of one of Ruskin Bond's most unforgettable tales.

*A Gathering of Friends* Penguin UK

Rusty is a quiet, imaginative and sensitive boy who lives with his grandparents in pre-Independence Dehra Dun. Though he is not the adventurous himself, the strangest and most extraordinary things keep happening around him. The house in Dehra is full of strange creatures. Rusty has to deal with everything from his grandfather's pet python to the ever-inventive Uncle Ken. Visiting his father in wartime Java, Rusty narrowly escapes enemy bombardment, and survives a plane crash in the Arabian Sea. Back in India, he spends his time encountering a ghost in the garden and recreating his grandmother's youthful days from an old photograph. Then, something totally unexpected happens and Rusty is forced to leave Dehra, his future uncertain ... This volume of Rusty stories, the first in a series, traces Rusty's development from early childhood to his early teens and is a riveting read for younger and older children alike.

**Three Thousand Stitches** Penguin UK

In Ruskin Bond's stories, ghosts, jinns, witches—and the occasional monster—are as real as the people he writes about. This collection brings together all of his tales of the paranormal, opening with the unforgettable, 'A Face in the Dark', and ending with the shockingly macabre, 'Night of the Millennium'. Featuring thrilling situations and strange beings, A Face in the Dark and Other Hauntings is the perfect collection to have by your bedside when the moon is up.

**Susanna's Seven Husbands** Red Turtle

When Zac Sparks's mother dies, he's sent to live in Five Corners with his cruel old Aunties. It isn't long before Zac knows something strange is going on. Five Corners is populated with weird characters—a midget butler, a girl who doesn't speak, a blind balloon seller, a mysterious singer, and the Aunties' father, Dada. Zac's first encounter with Dada is so terrifying that he faints dead away. The one bright spot is Sky Porter, a friendly soul who encourages Zac and shows him kindness. But Sky isn't what he seems either, and when Zac learns Sky's amazing secret he sees that this wonderful man may have a very dark side as well. Discovering that Dada is an evil magician who is intent on stealing the ultimate treasure, Zac knows that many lives are at stake, including his own.

*Blue Umbrella* Penguin UK

Unforgettable Stories For Children From The Masterly Pen Of R.K. Narayan After The Stupendous

Success Of Malgudi Schooldays, R.K. Narayan S Chronicle Of The Escapades Of Swami And His Friends, Comes Malgudi Adventures, Which Contains More Delightful Stories Of Children S Adventures In The Magical South Indian Small Town Of Malgudi. There Are The Memorable Stories Of Babu, Who, In Trying To Set Up The Lights For His Sisters Navaratri Display, Manages To Plunge The Entire Household Into Darkness; Of A Snake Charmer Boy Who Grows Up With A Monkey Named Rama As His Companion; And Of Raju, Who Decides To Become A Guide When A Train Station Is Built At Malgudi. Also Included Are The Fascinating Stories Of Balu, Who Dumps His Father S Accounts Ledger In The Gutter; Of A Little Boy Who Finds Himself Lost On The Streets Of Malgudi Late One Night; Of Chandran, Who Falls Head Over Heels In Love On The Banks Of The Sarayu One Evening; And Of The Hilarious Sequence Of Events That Unfolds When Raja The Tiger Decides To Seek Refuge In The Local School.

*Collected Short Stories* Penguin UK

Writing for me is the simplest and greatest pleasure in the world. How to be a Writer is peppered with nuggets of practical advice for every person who is aspiring to write and be published, all told in Ruskin Bond's characteristic understated, tongue-in-cheek, humorous style. So, what is it that a person requires the most to become a writer? A love of books, of language, of life, an observant eye and a good memory along with enthusiasm, optimism and persistence. This book is an exclusive glimpse into the writing credo of Ruskin Bond, an author who has had an incredibly successful writing career spanning over seventy years.

**How to Be a Writer** Harper Collins

Since his childhood; Arun has secretly been in love with Susanna; his dangerously alluring neighbour; who becomes his friend despite the wide difference in their ages. But Susanna has a weakness for falling in love with the wrong men. Over the years; Arun watches as Susanna becomes notorious as the merry widow who flits from one marriage to another; leaving behind a trail of dead husbands. It is only a matter of time before he too begins to wonder if there is any truth to the slanderous gossip surrounding the woman he is in love with. In this gripping new novella of love and death; Bond revisits his previously published short story of the same name; included here in an appendix. This edition also features the screenplay Saat Khon Maaf; based on this novella and written by award-winning film-maker Vishal Bhardwaj and Matthew Robbins.

**The Blue Umbrella** Penguin UK

Ten unforgettable tales of fascinating human encounters with animals and birds—of a man-eater that terrorizes an entire village; the strange and wonderful trust that develops between a fierce leopard and a boy; revengeful monkeys who never forgive a woman who grows dahlias; a crow who genuinely thinks human beings are stupid; and many others— that create a world in which men and wild creatures struggle to survive despite each other: a world where, in the end, one is not quite sure which side one is on. Panther's Moon and Other Stories is another marvellous collection of stories from India's most-loved author that will once again amuse, enchant, and delight readers of all ages.

**STORIES FROM MY CHILDHOOD** Harper Collins

Rusty, the boy whose stories have charmed and entertained children for years, brings together his best adventures in one volume! From the time he was a boy living with his grandparents in Dehra, surrounded by an assortment of odd animals, people and relatives, to when he gets sent away to school, then makes his way to London and becomes a writer, Rusty's had more adventures than we can count. This omnibus edition contains his best, funniest, most exciting escapades. In these pages, there's Toto, the monkey that travelled in a bag on a train; an encounter with a leopard; life as a young writer in faraway London; and the return home to roots that were always loved and never forgotten. An evergreen classic of children's writing in India, The Adventures of Rusty will be enjoyed like never before.

**Panther's Moon and Other Stories** Rupa Publications India Pvt Limited

A collection of Ruskin Bond's six novels evoking nostalgia for time gone by. This collection of six novels sparkles with the quiet charm and humanity that are the hallmarks of Ruskin Bond's writing. Evoking nostalgia for a time gone by, these poignant chronicles of life in India's hills and small towns describe the hopes and passions that capture young minds and hearts, highlighting the uneasy reconciliation of dreams and destiny. The six novels included in the collection are: *The Room on the Roof*, *Vagrants in the Valley*, *Delhi Is Not Far*, *A Flight of Pigeons*, *The Sensualist*, *A Handful of Nuts*. **A Face in the Dark and Other Hauntings** Rupa Publications India Pvt Limited

When Bina shifts to a school in Nauti—which is a long way from Koli, her village—she must daily cross the mountain, the river and walk through the jungle to get there. She is accompanied by Prakash, a boisterous twelve-year-old, and Sonu, her excitable younger brother. Together, they have many adventures—from helping old Mr Mani save his potatoes from porcupines to visiting the town of Tehri; and from escaping a landslide to encountering a leopard in the jungle. A touching and warm story by Ruskin Bond, this beautifully illustrated book showcases life in the hills and the wonders of friendship and bravery.

**Rusty Comes Home** Rupa Publication

His tales of India are fresh yet age-old; the scents, sights and languor of the Indian scene have rarely been captured with such ease and authority?—National Herald 'Ruskin Bond has a magnificently simple and immensely moving style, compassion and a love and reverence for life'—Indian Express 'A writer of great gifts.'—New Statesman 'One of the country's foremost writers.'—Sunday Chronicle 'The country's best-loved English-language storyteller...seldom disappoints his readers... If you want the...pleasures of a good story, you can't go wrong with Bond.'—Live Mint 'One of India's best-loved storytellers.'—The Hindu 'The twenty-one stories in the book are the greatest pieces of fiction written by Ruskin Bond. Chosen by the author himself, from a body of work built over fifty years (starting with his award-winning first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, and ending with *Tales of Fosterganj*) this collection includes well-known masterpieces like 'The Night Train at Deoli', 'The Woman on Platform No 8', 'Rusty Plays Holi' (from *The Room on the Roof*), 'Angry River', 'The Blue Umbrella', 'The Eyes Have It', 'Most Beautiful', 'Panther's Moon', as well as newer stories like 'An Evening at the Savoy with H.H.' (from *Maharani*) and 'Dinner with Foster' (from *Tales of Fosterganj*). Taken together, the stories in *A Gathering of Friends* show why Ruskin Bond has long been regarded as one of the pillars of Indian literature. This is a book that will delight his legions of fans as well as those lucky few who are new to his fiction.

**THE ROOM ON THE ROOF** Random House Trade Paperbacks

*Rusty Comes Home* chronicles Rusty's exploits after his return from London, as he explores Delhi, Dehra and the small, dusty town of Shahganj before settling down in Mussoorie, making his living as a writer, revelling in his beloved hills. This collection contains some captivating stories about Rusty's friends and fleeting acquaintances, about human nature and the supernatural. He meets a motley bunch of people including Suresh, a disabled child with whom Rusty strikes up a close bond, Uncle Bill, who makes it his habit to poison people with arsenic, and the incredible Jimmy, a jinn who can extend his arms at will to infinite lengths. Full of charming and idiosyncratic characters, these stories

of love, loss and adventure will appeal to readers of all ages.

**The Gopi Diaries** Penguin UK

A gun-toting, violin-playing headmaster A homicidal barber A hungry leopard and about a hundred frogs on the loose Boys with a talent for pranks and jokes Mr Oliver, a history teacher, arrives in Simla with a trainload of hungry boys to start a new term at the prep school. As he records the antics of the amazing characters there, and all that they get up to, we quickly realize that there is never a dull moment. A fire, a missing Headmaster and runaway students make sure that not a day goes by when Mr Oliver has nothing to report in his diary. He writes about the eccentric teachers, the girls' school next door and the lovely Anjali Ramola, whom he secretly admires. Laugh-out-loud funny, with a core of old-world charm that is trademark Bond, *Mr Oliver's Diary* has stories and characters that have never appeared anywhere before. With his runaway wig, pet shrew and endearing dry wit, Mr Oliver is sure to become as well-loved as those other vintage Ruskin Bond characters, Uncle Ken and Rusty.

**The Blue Umbrella** Penguin UK

In exchange for her lucky leopard's claw pendant, Binya acquires a beautiful blue umbrella that makes her the envy of everyone in her village, especially Ram Bharosa, the shop-keeper. Ruskin Bond's short and humorous novella, set in the picturesque hills of Garhwal, perfectly captures life in a village, where both heroism and redemption can be found.

**Binya's Blue Umbrella** Rupa Publications

An enchanting collection of stories from the heartland of India Ruskin Bond's simple characters, living amidst the lush forests of the Himalayan foothills, are remarkable for their quiet heroism, courage and grace, and age-old values of honesty and fidelity. Residents of nondescript villages and towns, they lead lives that are touched by natural beauty as well as suffering—the loss of a loved parent, unfulfilled dreams, natural calamities, ghostly visitations, a respected teacher turned crooked, strangers who make a nuisance of themselves—which only reinforces their abiding faith in God, family and neighbour. Told in Bond's distinctive style, these stories are a magnificent evocation of an India that may be fast disappearing.

**The Blue Umbrella** Penguin UK

Childhood. A time of endless adventures and daring discoveries. A time when the worlds all its attendant fantasies, some good, some not so much—open up in front of the curious little eyes of impressionable minds. A time of both wonderment and bewilderment, and topsy-turvy tales. In this book, Ruskin Bond compiles just some such stories that he loved from his childhood. Join the mad Hatter in his crazy tea party and then rush off with Sindbad the sailor on another of his escapades. Meander with Mowgli and his furry friends in the jungles or be party to the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. A world of wonder awaits.

**A Long Walk for Bina** Penguin UK

This volume brings together the best of Ruskin Bond's prose and poetry. For over four decades, by way of innumerable novels, essays, short stories and poems, the author has mapped out and peopled a unique literary landscape. This anthology has selections from all of his major books and includes the classic novella *Delhi Is Not Far*.