

Author of the week: Ismat Chughtai



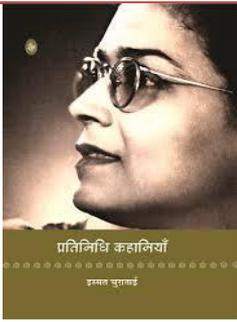
Ismat Chughtai is one of the most unconventional Urdu writers of the twentieth century. She was born on 15th August 1915 in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh. She has several short stories, novels and plays to her credit. Her stories are powerful and talk about the issues faced by common people like you and me. And to reach them, she uses the common tongue instead of elegant words and phrases. As Ismat Chughtai herself says that 'Perhaps my mind is not an artist but an ordinary camera that records reality as it is. The pen becomes helpless in my hand because my mind overwhelms it. Nothing can interfere with this traffic between the mind and the pen'.

Her life and career

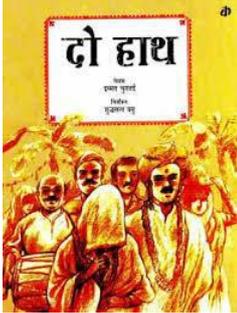
The power of her stories cannot be described in words. She was a hard core feminist in an era when the concept of 'Feminism' had not evolved. She mainly wrote about female sexuality, prostitution, and Child marriage. Her stories are not only about ordinary people, but also meant for ordinary people. It opened the doors to a new kind of literature which talked about the issues faced by a woman in her life. Anybody can relate to her stories and she brings you face to face to very harsh truths about you yourself. It maybe because of this that many people called her stories obscene and full of filth. She was charged in the Lahore High court for her story 'Lihaaf' which is one of the most popular stories written by her. The story talks about homosexuality in the pre-independence era where these things were not even talked about and Ismat Apa brought them to life. Many of her books have also been banned at various times during their publication history.

She was a rebel right since her childhood. Raised among 9 siblings, she always had to strive hard to get things done for her. She fought with her family to get schooling after 10th standard and then went forward to complete BA and then a Bed being the first Indian Muslim women to do so. She was also the member of the progressive writers' movement in India. Her stories are being read and translated in different languages and in different mediums. Maybe it is only now that we really understand what her stories meant and how differently she looked at the world in which we live.

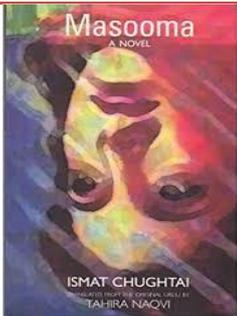
Books by Ismat Chughtai



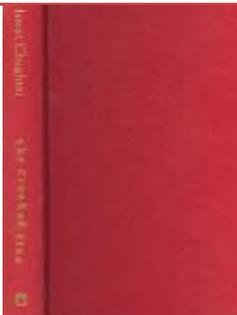
Title: Pratinidhi Kahaniyan
Author: Chughtai, I.
Publisher: New Delhi: Raj Kamal Publication
Call No.: 891.4337 CHU
Acc. No.: 023892



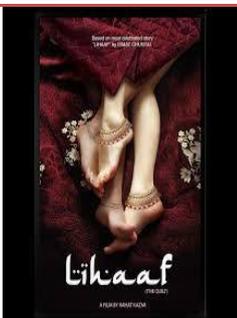
Title: Do haath
Author: Chughtai, I.
Publisher: New Delhi: Katha Prakashan
Call No.: 891.4337 CHU
Acc. No.: 023894



Title: Masooma: a novel
Author: Chughtai, I.
Publisher: New Delhi: Raj Kamal Publication
Call No.: 891.4393 CHU
Acc. No.: 023910



Title: The crooked line
Author: Chughtai, I.
Publisher: New York: Feminist Press at the City University of New York
Call No.: 891.43937 CHU
Acc. No.: 023920



Title: Lihaaf
Author: Chughtai, I.
Publisher: New Delhi: Raj Kamal Publication
Call No.: 891.4310 CHU
Acc. No.: 023909 & 023911

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