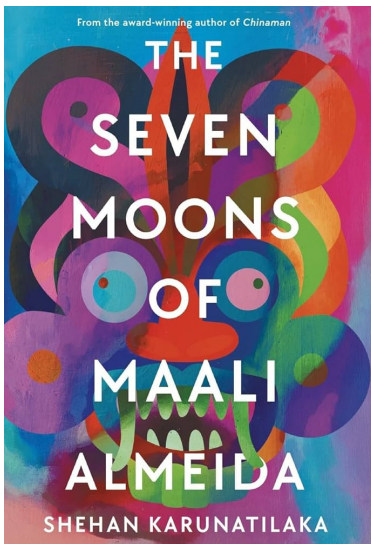




The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida

by Shehan Karunatilaka

Number of pages: 432



Steaming with satire and dark humour, Karunatilaka crafts a mysterious story that simultaneously explores magical realism and the challenging realities of 1980s Sri Lanka...

Amidst the chaos of Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1989, war photographer Maali wakes up in the afterlife. Brimming with questions and anxieties as to how he died, time is running out for Maali to contact those he loves the most and guide them to boxes of unseen photos that will expose Sri Lanka's corrupt politicians and perpetrators of bloody conflict.

This epic tale of violence, gambling and queer identities earned Karunatilaka the 2022 **Booker Prize**.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Glory* by NoViolet Bulawayo, or *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie.

Discussion Questions:

1. Before each new moon chapter there is a quote by another writer. Select one of these quotes and discuss why you think it is relevant to that moon and/or the story as a whole.

2. The book includes many aspects of 'magical realism', such as the blending between human characters and ghouls that can talk in the same scene. What did you think about this feature?

3. Would you class Maali as an admirable character?

4. Do you think Maali develops as a character throughout the novel?

5. What did you learn about 1980s Sri Lanka through reading this book?

Thank you to our volunteer Heidi for choosing this title and creating the resource.