

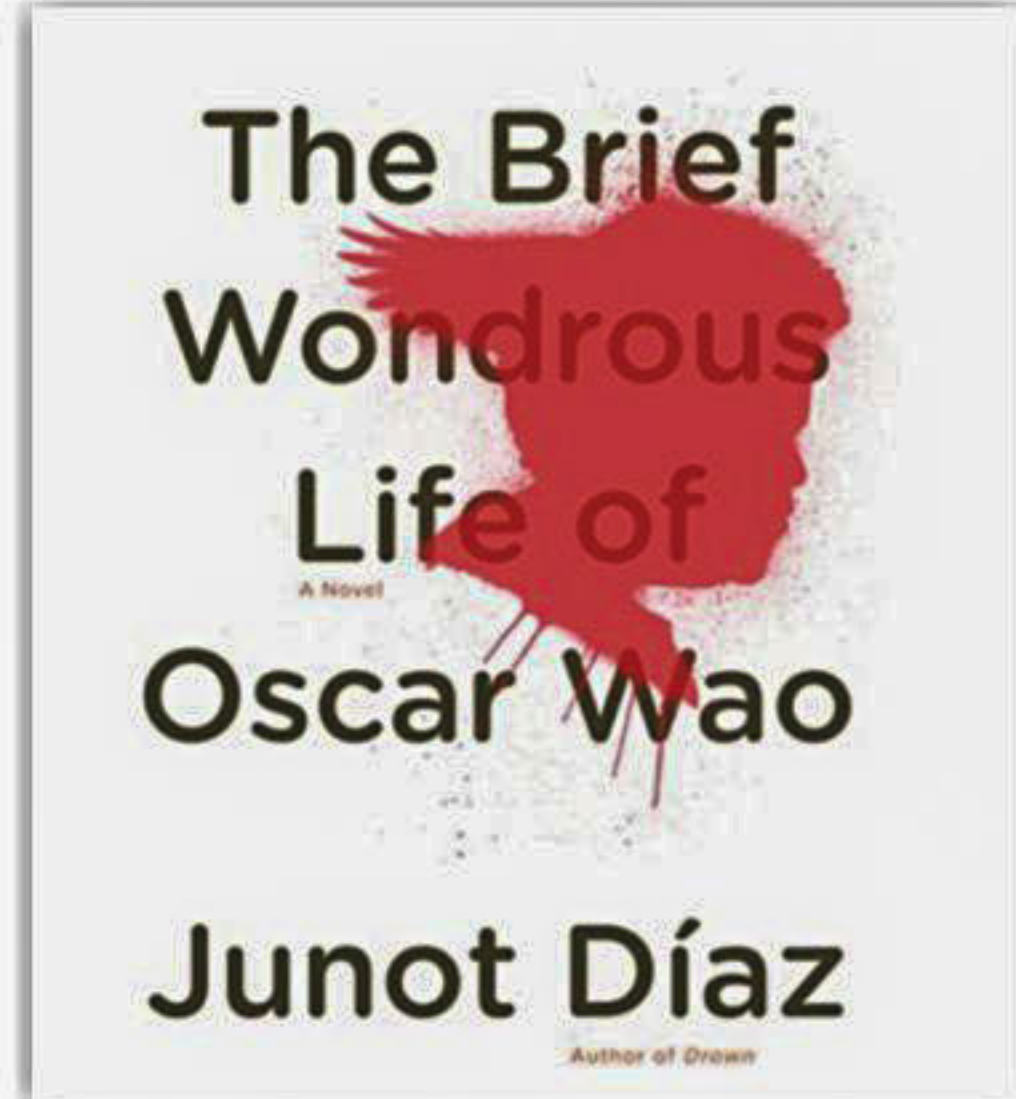
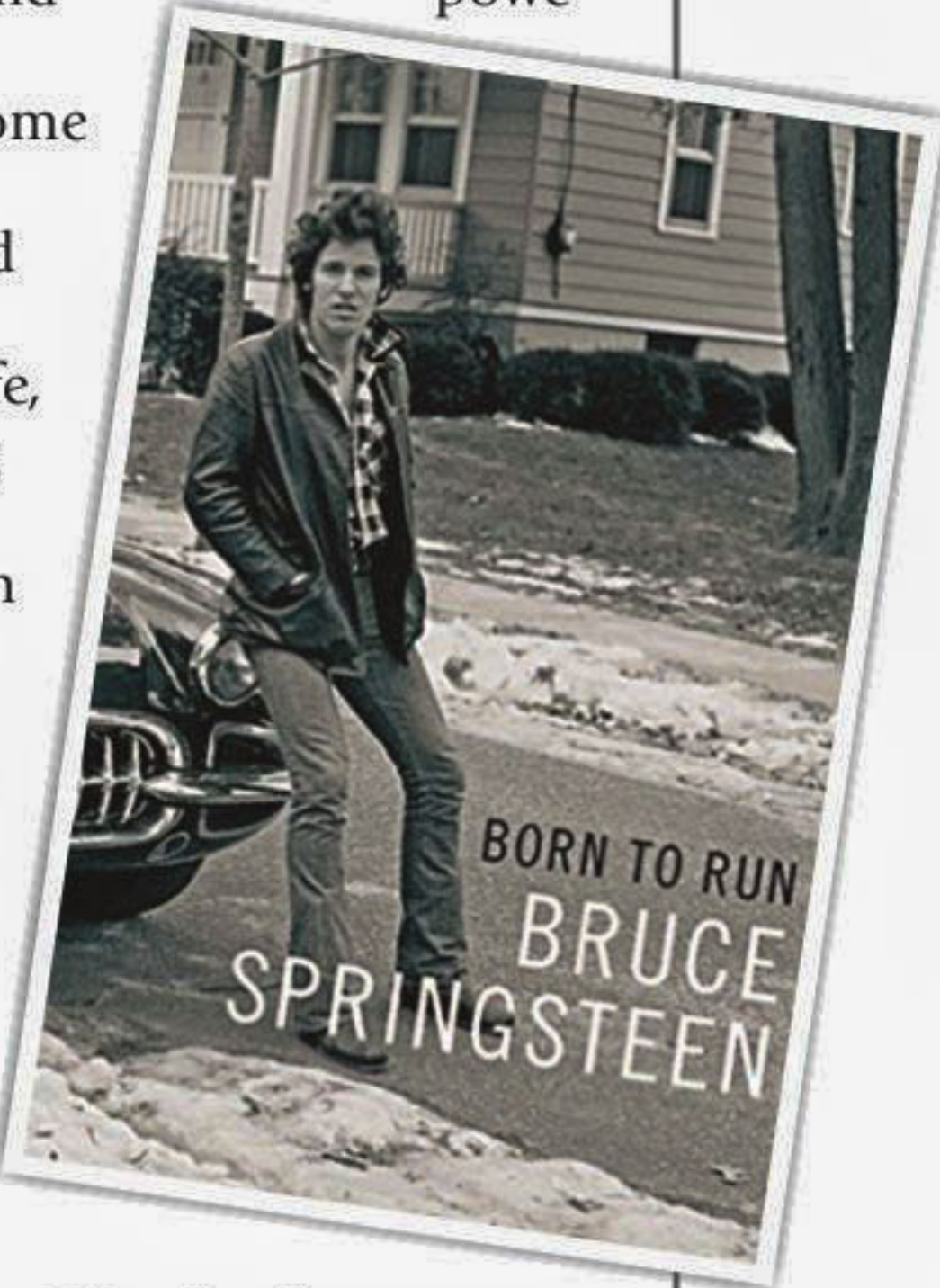


**SYED MANZOORUL ISLAM**  
*Academic, writer, novelist, translator, columnist, and critic*

The book I liked most that was published in 2016 was **Born to Run** by Bruce Springsteen.

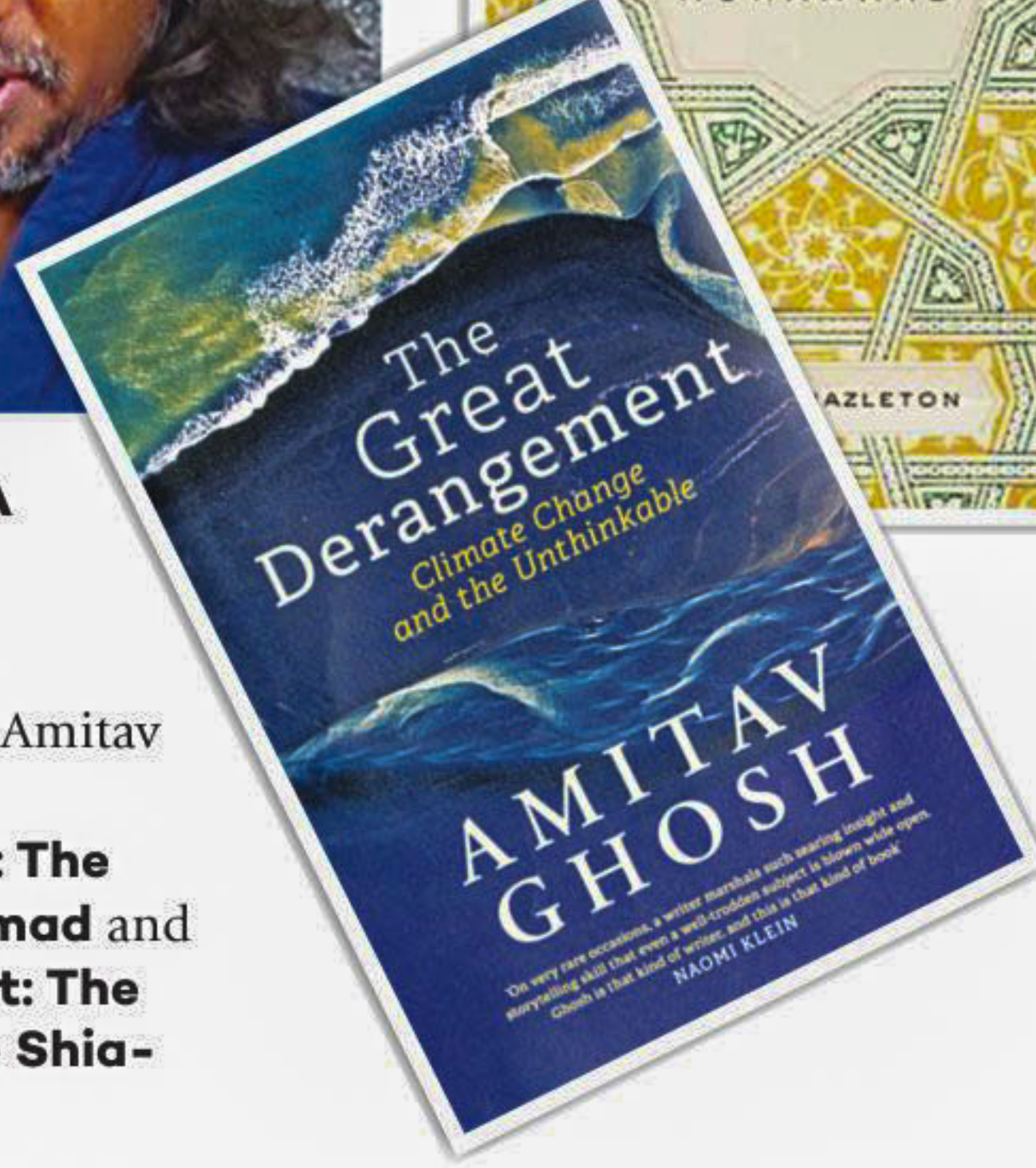
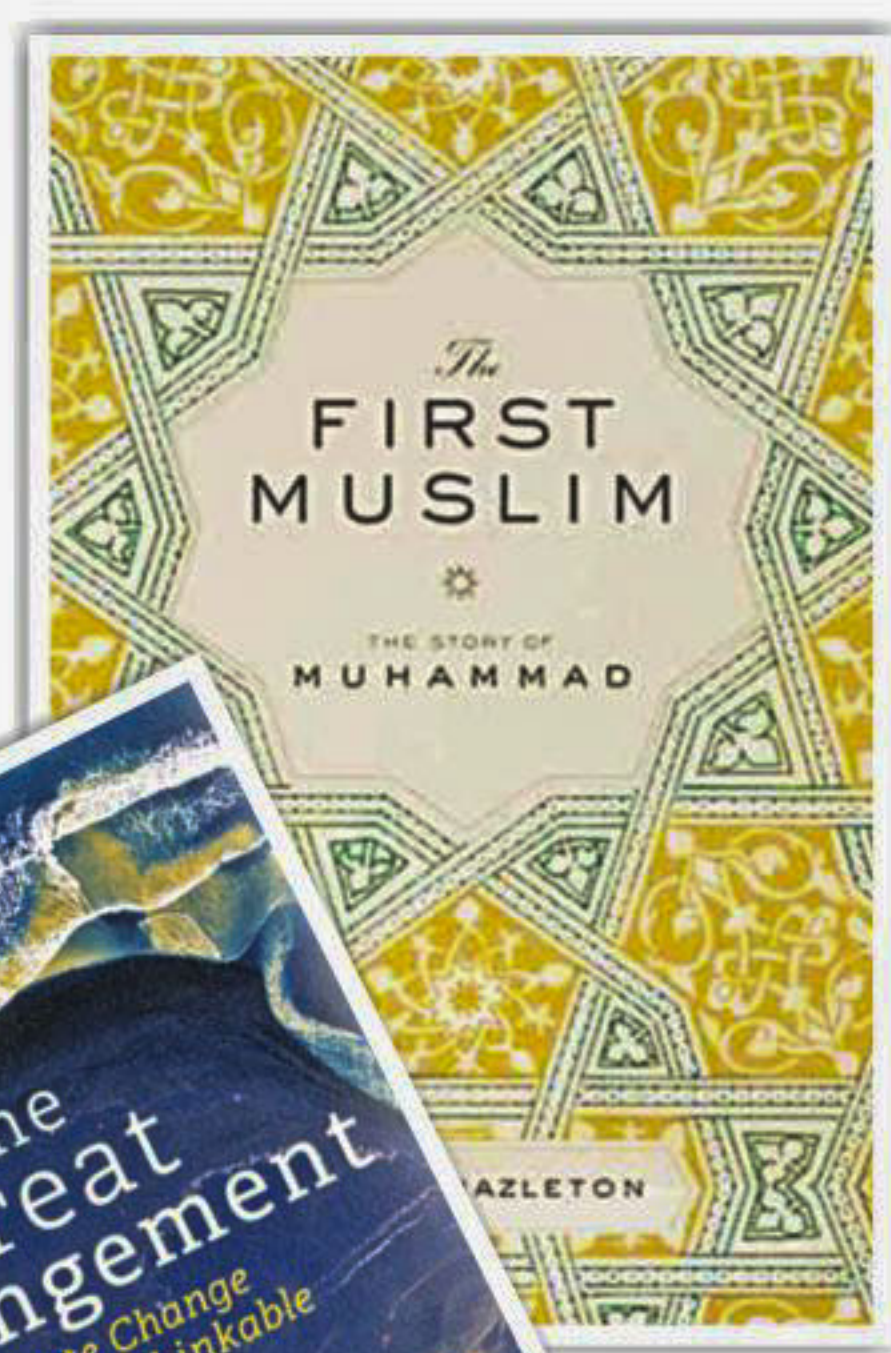
Ever since I heard Springsteen's first album Born to Run, which came out in 1974 I became a fan of him. He also performed with E Street Band and was called The Boss. I liked his powerful and resonant voice and his ability to transfer his passion to his audience. The book is a definitive memoir of the singer and tells his life history in a candid and powerful manner, recounting some epiphanic moments and events that shaped his life, like watching Elvis's fists appearance in Ed Sullivan Show which fired him up with the passion to perform.

The other book is **The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao** by the Dominican novelist Minot Diaz which came out in 2007. Written in the magic realist tradition the novel is set in Paterson, New Jersey where Oscar, the overweight boy obsessed with science fiction and fantasy, while falling in love, grows, struggling under a family curse. Diaz uses the technique of multiple character narration and intertextuality and a generous blending of English and Spanish and many neologisms to weave a tale of colonialism, violence and difficult relationships.



**AMITABH REZA**  
*Filmmaker*

**The Great Derangement** by Amitav Gosh  
**The First Muslim: The Story of Muhammad** and **After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-**

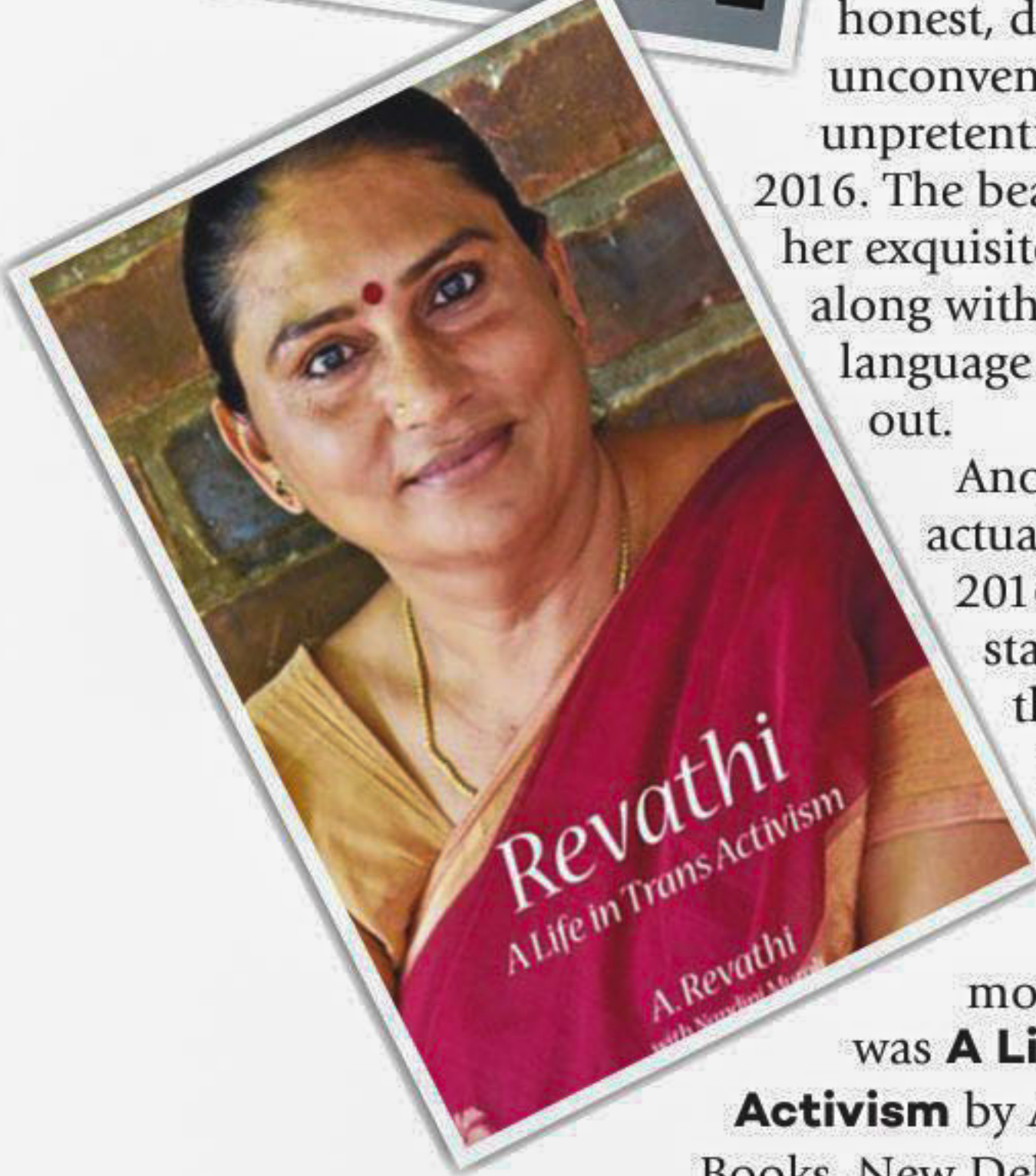


**KHUSHI KABIR**  
*Human rights activist*

What I enjoyed reading the most was **A Handbook for My Lover** written by Rosalyn D'Mello (Harper Collins, India). This book would definitely rate as the book that I enjoyed reading the most that was just recently published. I managed to get my copy as early as February 2016, and could not stop reading till the end.

It was the most brutally honest, deeply reflective, unconventional and unpretentious book I read in 2016. The beauty of her language, her exquisitely crafted words, along with her control of language easily made it stand out.

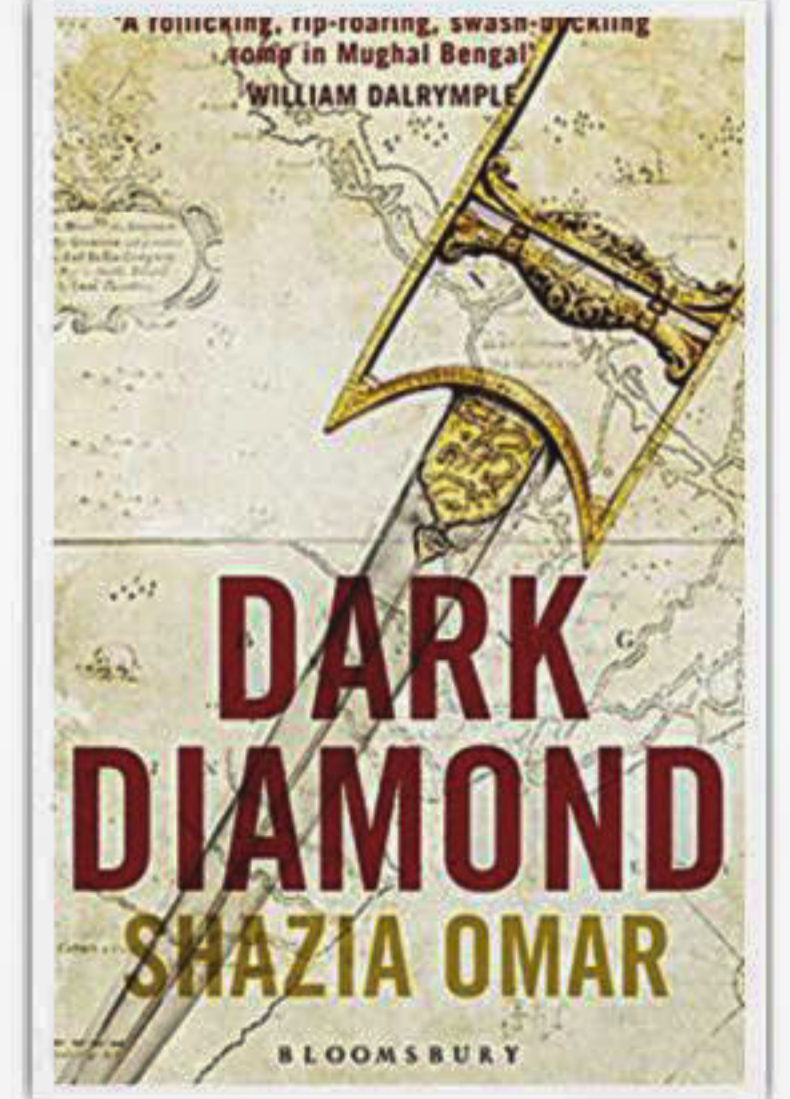
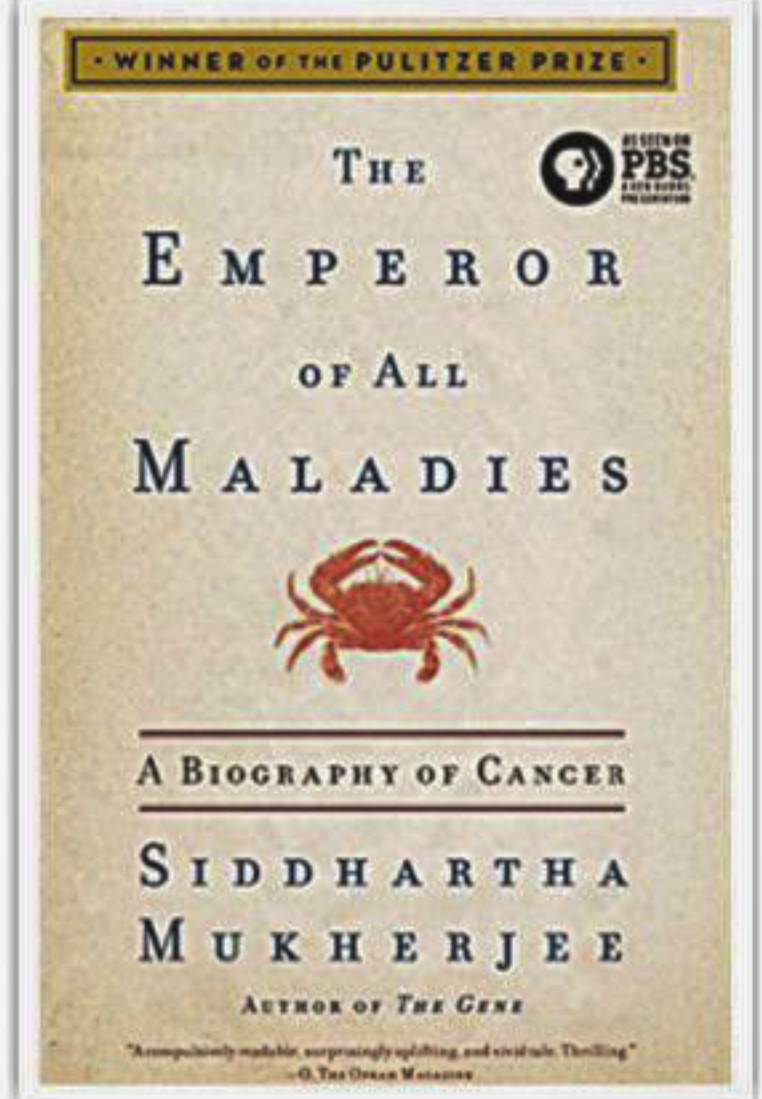
Another book that actually came out in 2016, which I cannot state I enjoyed reading the most, but a book that left a mark on me and really sensitised and educated me in more ways than one, was **A Life in Trans Activism** by A. Revathi (Zubaan Books, New Delhi).



**SONIA NISHAT AMIN**  
*Professor of History, University of Dhaka*

The best book (actually haunting) I read in 2016 but published in 2010 was Siddhartha Mukherjee's **The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer**.

The best book published in 2016, from Delhi, that I enjoyed was **Dark Diamond** by Shazia Omar.



**SADEKA HALIM**  
*Professor of Sociology, University of Dhaka*

**Jatiyotabad, Shamprodaikota o Jonogoner Mukti** by Serajul Islam Chowdhury  
**Jinnah: India Partition, Independence** by Jaswant Singh  
**Jinnah of Pakistan** by Stanley Wolpert

