



# Autobiography of An Unknown Indian

A memoir of a man caught between two cultures, and a book caught between two eras.

Author: Nirad C. Chaudhuri

Reviewer: Mayuresh Shilotri

# The Investment & The Return



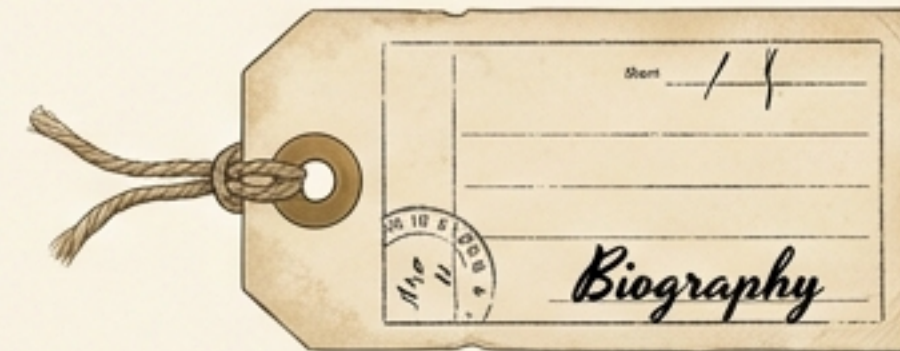
**4.6 / 5 Stars**



**580 Pages**



**15 Hours**



**Biography**

A substantial, time-tested journey into early Indian literature written in English.

# A Masterpiece Published at the Wrong Time

## Pre-Independence India

The narrative offers an authentic peek into the way India functioned during the last days of British rule.

## Post-Independence India

Published when Indian nationalist sentiments were at an all-time high.

## The Misinterpreted Dedication

A witty and sarcastic dedication to British rule was taken literally by a newly independent nation, leading to a profound personal ordeal for the author.

# The Anglophile Bengali



Born into an educated Bengali household.



A self-confessed Anglophile whose majority of influences came from the western part of the world.

**This fundamental duality allowed him to document the ordinary Indian experience while remaining intimately educated in the British way of life.**

# The Equal-Opportunity Critic

## Potshots at Indian Culture

---

Critiques and sharply observes the society he was born into.



## The Witty Outsider

Written in a highly sarcastic manner, his willingness to critique both sides makes this one of the most uniquely voiced early works of Indian literature in English.

## Potshots at British Culture

---

Mocks and satirizes the empire he so heavily admired.

# A Hemispheric Divide in Reception



## Unanimous Praise

The literary merits of the work were immediately recognized and celebrated.



## Harsh Criticism

The author was awarded intense backlash, cementing his alienation from his homeland.

# A Linguistic and Cultural Time Machine

*A masterclass in language.  
Personally, I felt my  
English improved after  
this book.*

*Transports you to a world at  
least a hundred years back,  
offering an unfiltered look  
at the complex psyche of  
colonial India.*

**Far more than just an autobiography, it is a brilliantly witty, deeply polarizing, and essential 15-hour immersion into an era that no longer exists.**