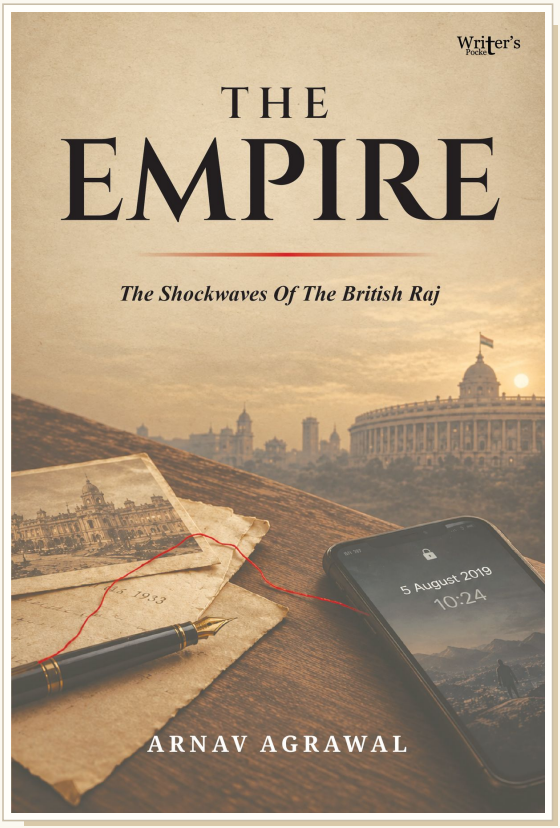
A READER'S GUIDE · POLITICAL-HISTORICAL FICTION

A NOVEL BY ARNAV AGRAWAL

EMPIRE

The Shockwaves of the Raj

A son asks what his father remembers. The answer opens a family archive—and a country's unfinished struggle.



TWO ERAS · ONE FAMILY HISTORY

2019
VIKRAM + RANJAN

1930s
BRITISH INDIA

THE STORY AT A GLANCE

In 2019, Vikram talks with his father, Ranjan, and is carried back to 1930s British India. Madhav Roy faces a charge of treason, while Mohan's loyalty to the Raj begins to fracture. A national struggle reaches into one family, where every choice leaves something for the next generation to inherit.

AT THE HEART OF THE STORY

- 01 Family memory
- 02 Colonial resistance
- 03 Inherited loyalty

THE STORY / TWO ERAS

One conversation. A history reopened.

The frame story moves from a father and son in 2019 into British-occupied India in the 1930s.

THE FRAME — THE HISTORICAL THREAD

THE PRESENT

2019

Vikram and Ranjan

When Vikram asks about the past, Ranjan's account becomes a bridge into a family history. What was lived years earlier still shapes what the next generation can understand.

COLONIAL INDIA

1930s

Madhav and Mohan

Madhav Roy faces an accusation of treason. As Mohan witnesses the realities of colonial rule, his faith in the Raj begins to fracture. Their choices pull resistance and family tension together.

WHAT CONNECTS THE ERAS

A father's telling carries the past into the present. An accusation and a changing loyalty become more than events in a history book: they shape what a family remembers, what it leaves unsaid, and what a son inherits.

QUESTIONS THE STORY OPENS

MEMORY

What does a family choose to remember?

LOYALTY

When does faith give way to conscience?

INHERITANCE

What remains for the next generation?

THE PEOPLE / CHARACTER GUIDE

Four lives.
One family history.

These characters give two timelines a human point of view: a son listening, a father remembering, and two men living through colonial rule.

CHARACTER FILE / 01

Vikram Roy

THE SON IN 2019

His conversation with Ranjan opens the family archive. Through Vikram, the past becomes something a new generation can question, understand and carry forward.

CHARACTER FILE / 02

Ranjan

THE FATHER AND STORYTELLER

Ranjan shares the account that carries his son into colonial India. What he remembers—and what he chooses to tell—shapes the history Vikram receives.

CHARACTER FILE / 03

Madhav Roy

THE ACCUSED INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

Madhav faces a charge of treason against the Crown. The accusation places his choices and loyalty under pressure inside the colonial system he serves.

CHARACTER FILE / 04

Mohan

A LOYALTY IN MOTION

Mohan's faith in the Raj begins to fracture as he witnesses colonial realities. His changing convictions bring the conflict into the lives around him.

THEMATIC THREADS

COLONIAL POWER · RESISTANCE · FAMILY MEMORY · IDENTITY

CONTINUE WITH THE STORY

Read the opening chapter.

Published by Writer's Pocket · 2026

EXPLORE THE BOOK PAGE ↗

OPEN THE SAMPLE ↗