

KSATRIYA

It is just three weeks after the terror of 9/11 when three dear friends meet in New York, at Ground Zero, for a long awaited reunion. Max and Diane and Shunya have not seen one another for more than twenty-five years, since they had spent their youths on a journey to the East of logic.

As their conversation progresses, the story digresses to Afghanistan, circa 1969. Max is on the desert road to India, alone, telling himself that he wants to find God. But he will learn about life through an astonishing process of osmosis and find wisdom at the very bottom of despair. He is the conscience of *KSATRIYA* and the keeper of record.

Shunya has no inclination to embrace himself; he is disposed to run away from his disillusionment with life. He is a promising young athlete, the best point guard in New York, who marries his high school sweetheart, fathers a child and becomes lost in the tumult of the times. The victim of a criminal misjudgment, Shunya is driven across the world to India by Interpol and becomes lost in the wanderlust of his belated youth.

Diane Adream is a remarkably beautiful woman who is punished by her own allure. She loves the power; she hates the pressure and eventually falls into the painful chasm of looking good and feeling ugly. It is in the process of learning to love her truer and deeper self that Diane breaks with spiritual tradition and challenges the impression of the patriarchal God. She is an unlikely heroine and a harbinger of women's freedom.

KSATRIYA is the story of these three people, their characters becoming a fascinating amalgam of the many people of their generation who had journeyed to the East in search of something miraculous. Through their experience we witness the dawn of the New Age in the shadows of war and terror in the Middle East.

In the end, Max and Shunya and Diane find themselves back in America with new husbands and wives and more children, struggling to pay the mortgage and put their kids through college – ordinary people living ordinary, middle-aged lives, wondering where the magic went. Their comments and judgments are interwoven with the idyllic memories of their youth, their middle-aged cynicism belying the mystery of their own becoming—until a child is killed in battle in Iraq and they return to India after thirty years to find the deeper meaning of life.

After all, it is the burden of life to bind the paradoxes and heal the heart in the relentless effort to know itself. *KSATRIYA* pays homage to that noble quest and bespeaks the soul of an entire generation.

It is the spiritual big chill.