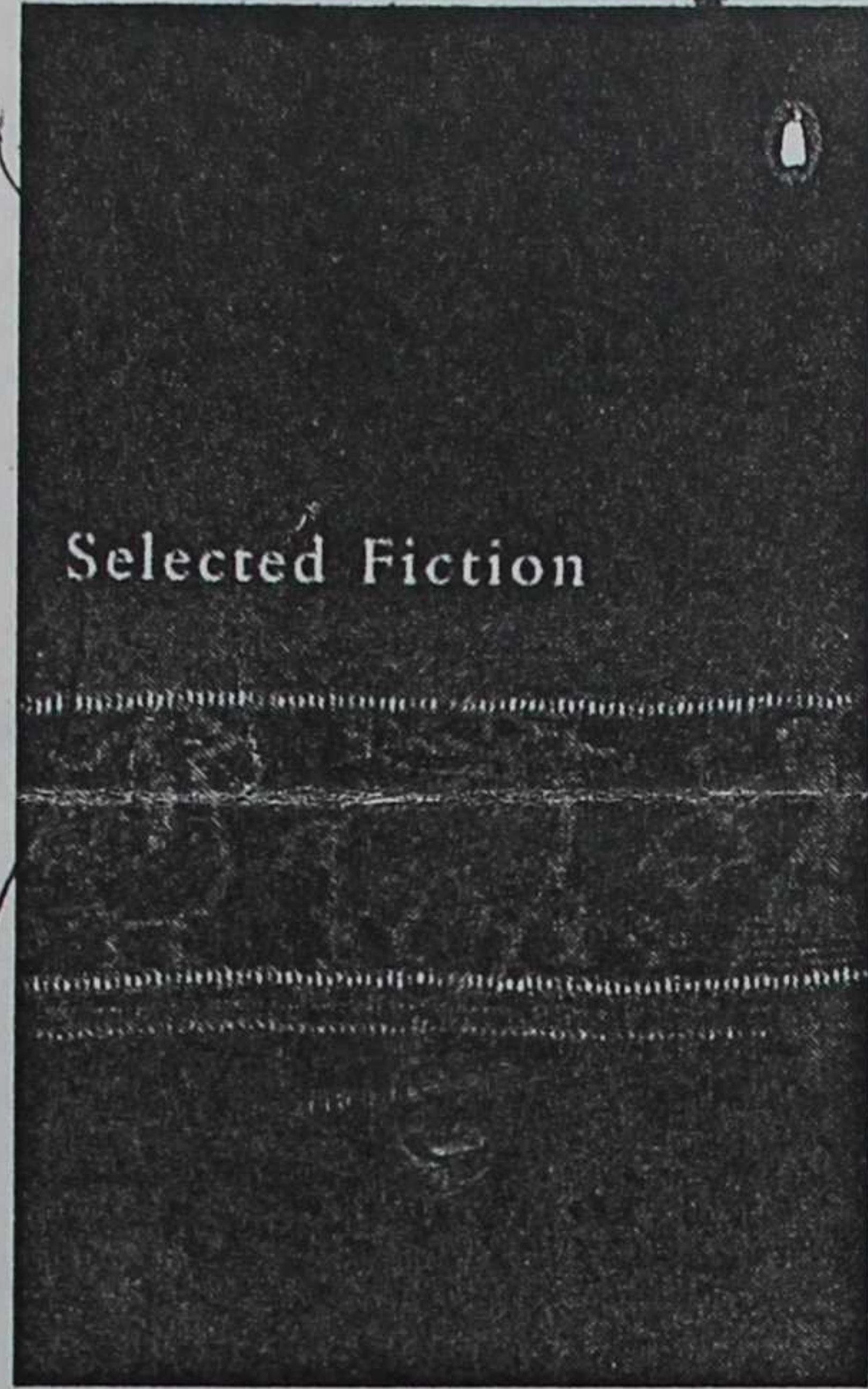


Name of the Paper : **FIRST CITY,  
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Place of Publication :  
Dated : **-- JUL 2001**

zamindari system and the essential superstitions that form part of the rural mindscape.



**SELECTED FICTION**

Short Stories and a Novella

Manoj Das

Penguin Books, Rs. 250

89

This collection of 28 short stories and a novella deals with a variety of themes. A rich mix of characters adds to the charm of the stories. Both, everyday people and fabulous fictional characters are part of the narrative. 'The Owl' takes an ironic look at the disintegrating

'The Bridge in the Moonlit Night' is a poignant tale of betrayed loyalties and the inevitability of ageing. 'Mystery of the Missing Cap' is witty and incisive and tells the tale of two politicians whose cap is stolen by a monkey. The novella 'The Tiger at Twilight' is the tale of a king who has lost his crown, his relationship with his melancholic daughter and a dangerous, man-eating tiger.

*Well-written and witty, this book promises to be*

*a rich and rewarding experience for the reader.*

**THE BOOK OF PRAYER**

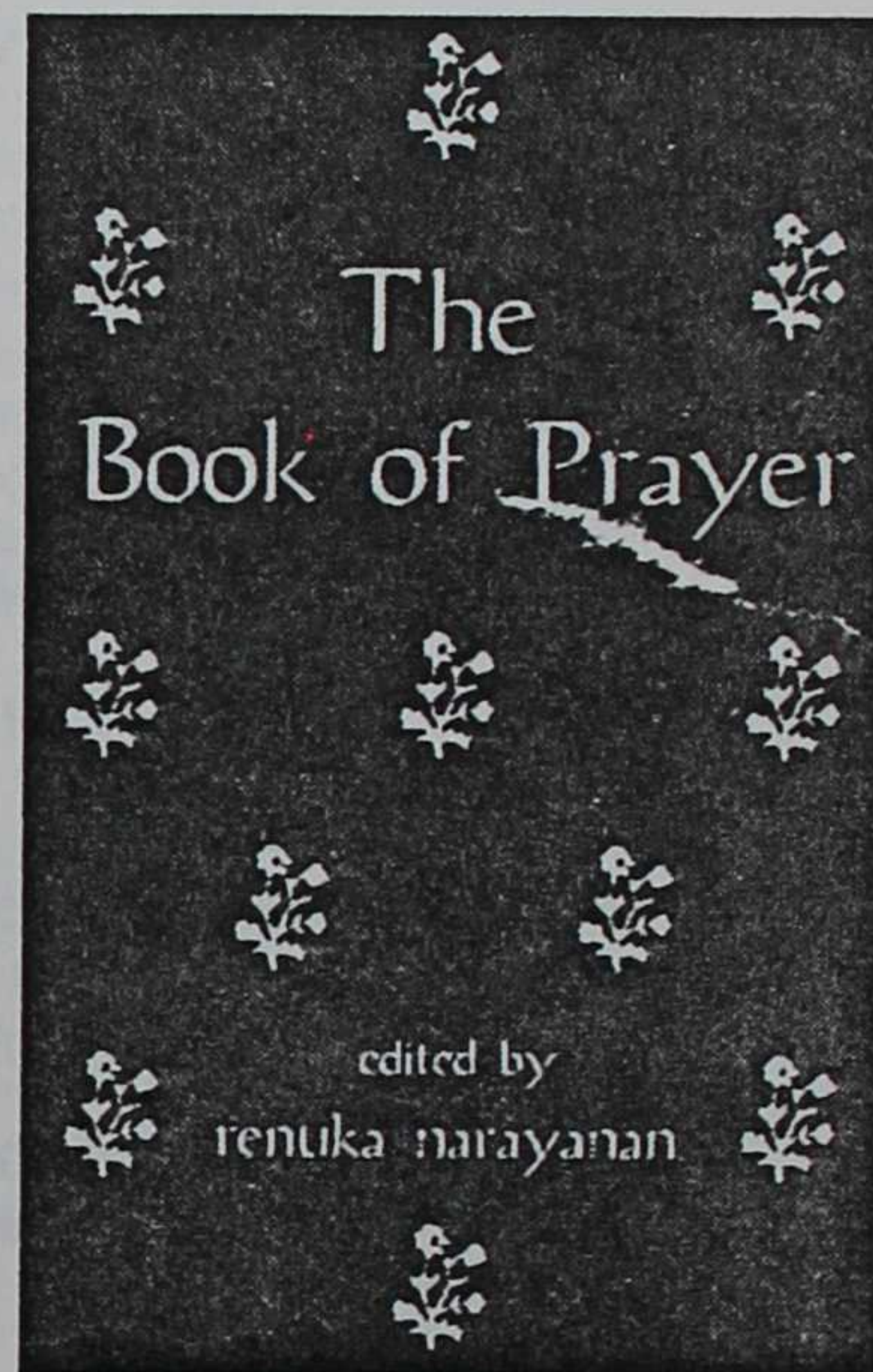
Compiled and edited by Renuka Narayanan

Viking, Rs. 295

A refreshing collection of prayers, sayings and devotional poems prompted by the need for a book

that would include multiple faiths and according to the author, 'reveals that human beings across time and space...crave the same protection and deliverance'.

There are verses by prophets, saint-poets, ordinary seekers and some known, others anonymous that at some point or other in our lives would or could hold very personal meaning. By poets like Christina Rosseti, John Donne, Hopkins or from religious texts or simple prayers said by farmers, or Ronald Ross at an important time in his life. It also includes songs of hope composed by people coping with the compulsions of everyday life



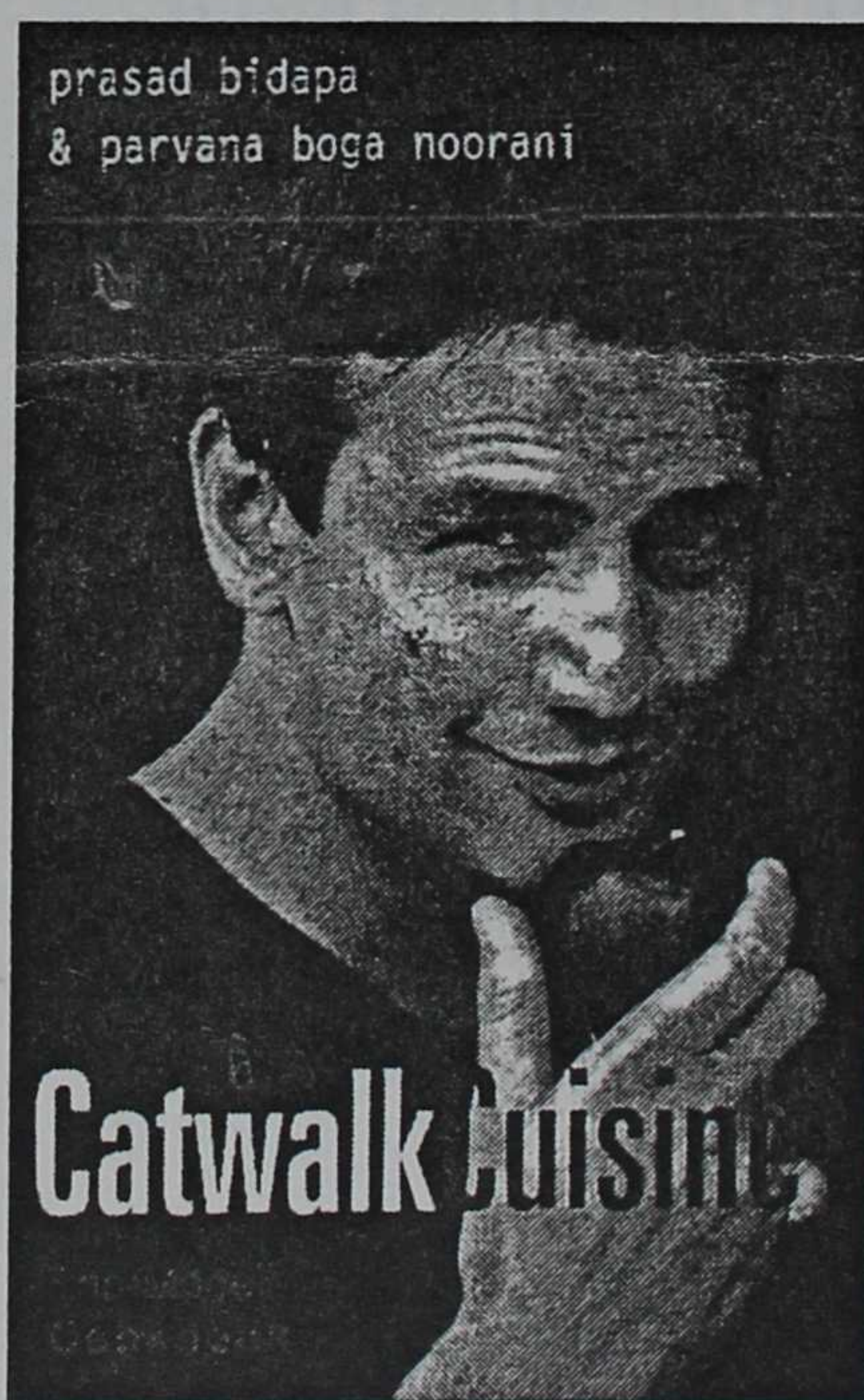
Here is a prayer for everyday of the year with brief details of where it comes from or how it was inspired.

*On the whole, a quaint collection excellently put together that could comfort you or just make for interesting reading.*

\*\*\*\* - Excellent. \*\*\*\* - Very Good. \*\*\* - Good. \*\* - Average. \* - Poor.

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enumerate the ounces of deliciousness in their salads or their sinful desserts. You have Aditi Govitrikar's basic soup, a base to add-on your preferences, or Anna Bredemeyer's favourites at her favourite eatery, Bipasha's Begun Bhaja or Edna Morea's Pomfret Masala Fry, her son's favourite. They are all there, from Mehr Jessia



Rampal to Nayanika Chatterjee to Meghana Reddy to Milind Soman (who swears by Sol Kadhi, a hot-and-sour coconut based digestive), it's a collection that cashes on the hunger of a media-fed society intending to capture their lifestyle by their food habits. Pictures of the model's portfolios add visual glamour. Parvana, a Mumbai based food writer comments on the chosen menu, gives tips, pointers and an overall gourmet air to the glamorous effort.

*Vicarious, gastronomic delight that entices your tastebuds while cashing in on a model's charisma in the current context.*

**CATWALK CUISINE**

Prasad Bidapa and Parvana Boga Noorani

Viking, Rs. 595

84

Smart. Very smart. *The Models' Cookbook* (by them and for all lesser mortals), offers a wide selection of recipes of the food they eat, and yes, do they eat! Sixty-three 'style icons' profiled by Bidapa

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