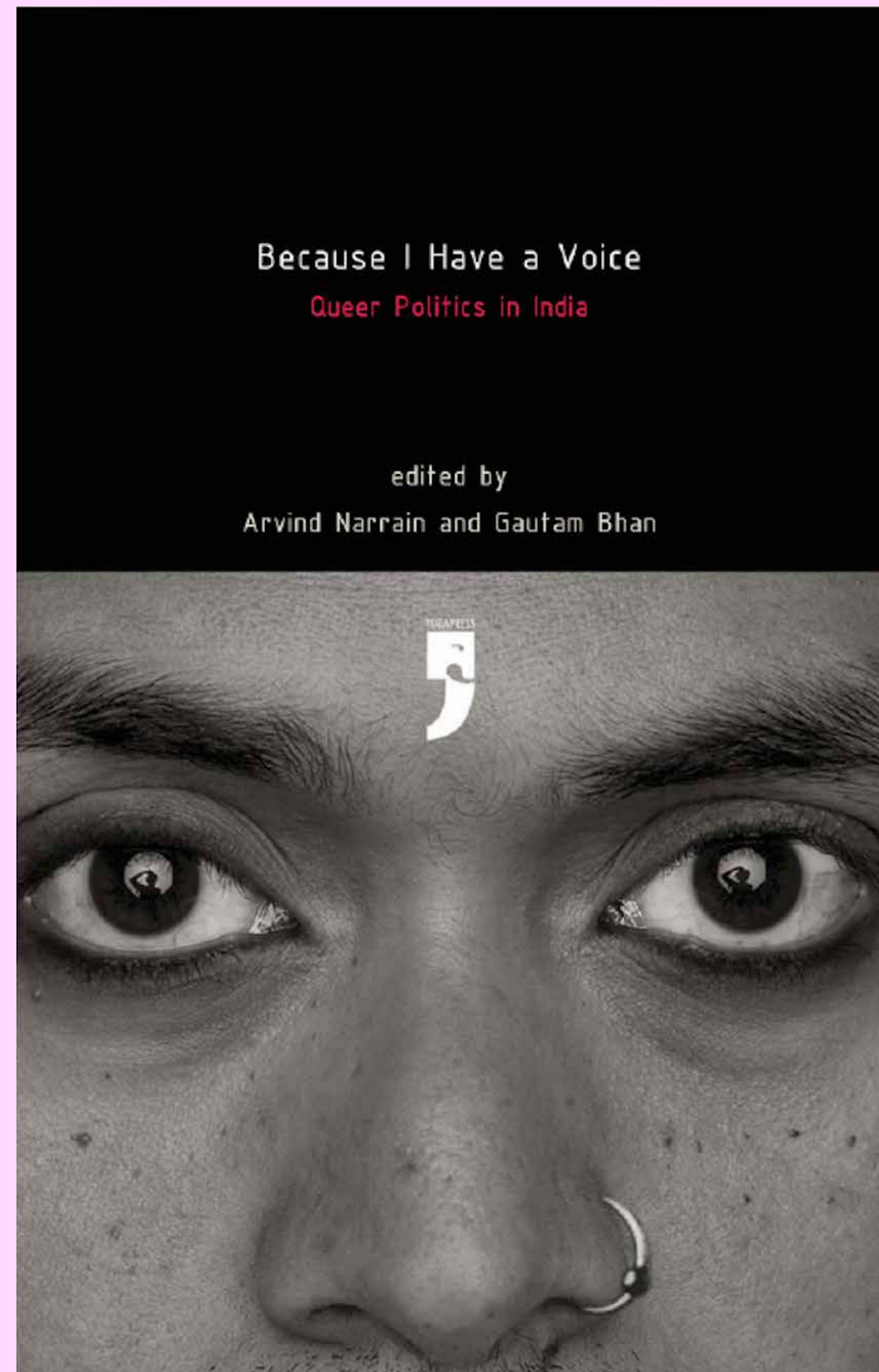


Yoda Press Manifesto

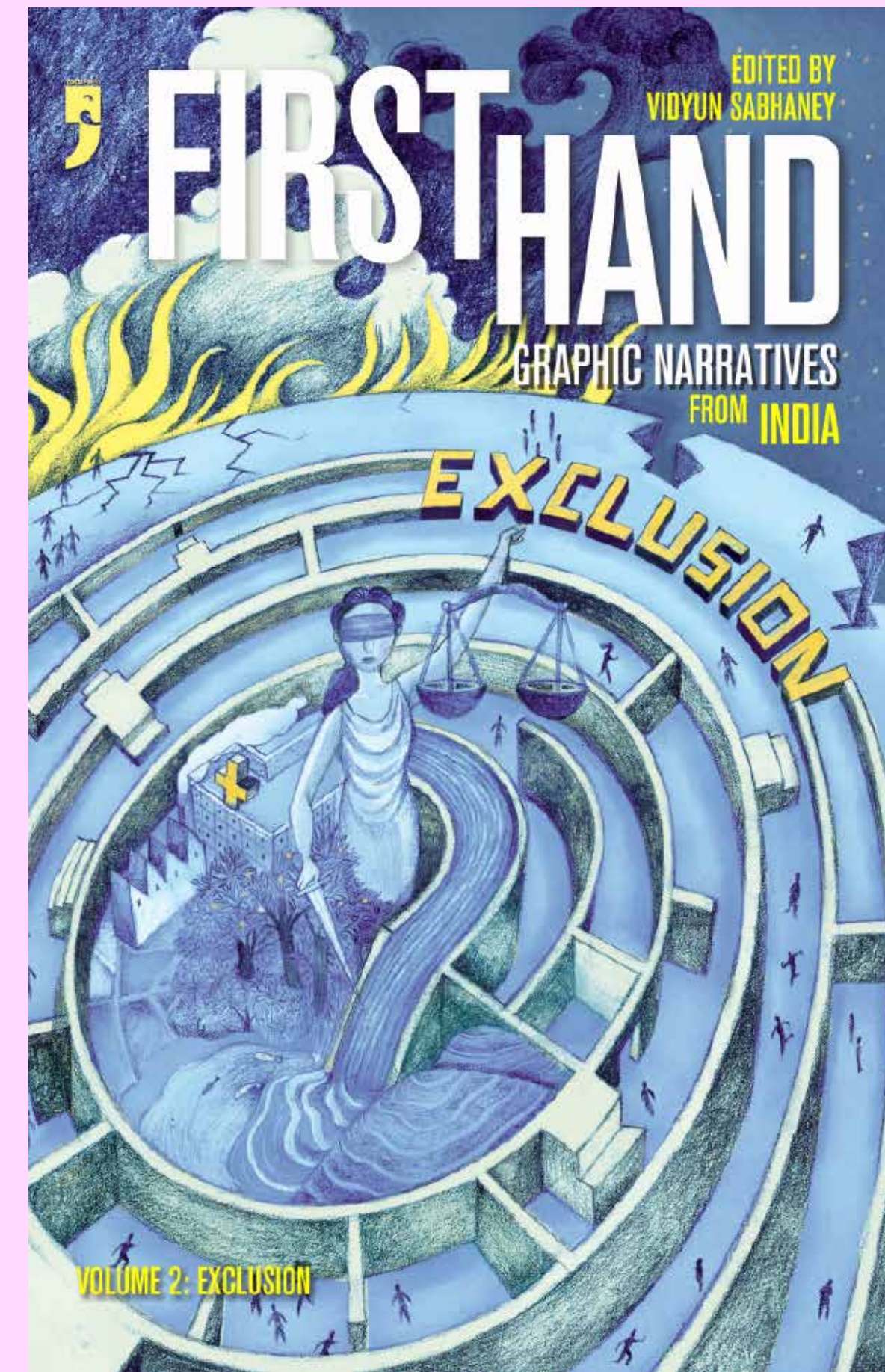
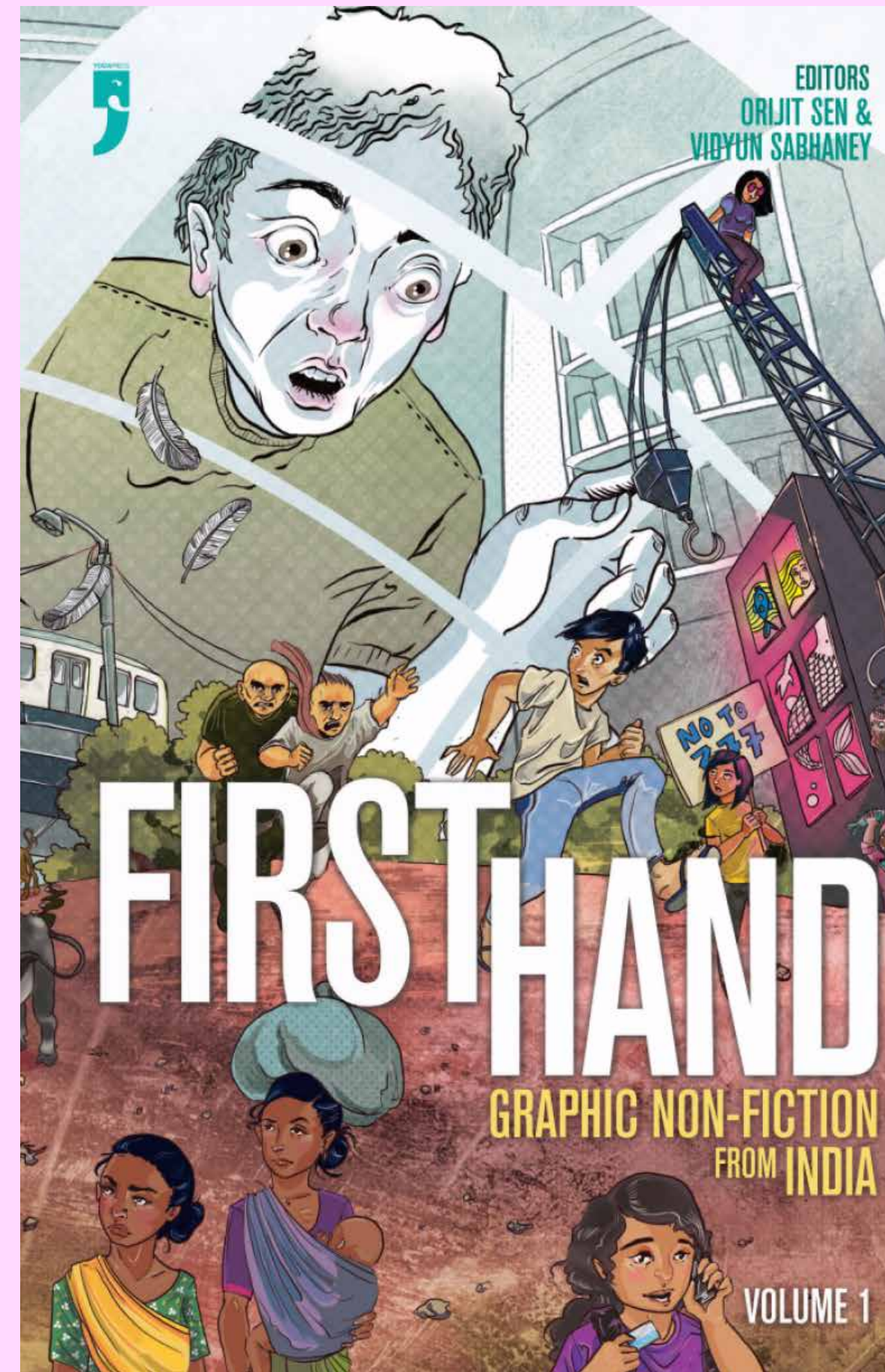
Critical publishing II, 2024
Sarah Choi

0. Yoda Press?

- Independent publishing house based in New Delhi, India
 - Founded by Arpita Das in 2004
- known for alternative works reflect critical issues in South Asia
 - focus on queer-affirmative and feminist literature
social justice, dissent, and visual culture
 - graphic novels, books on politics, and history, etc.



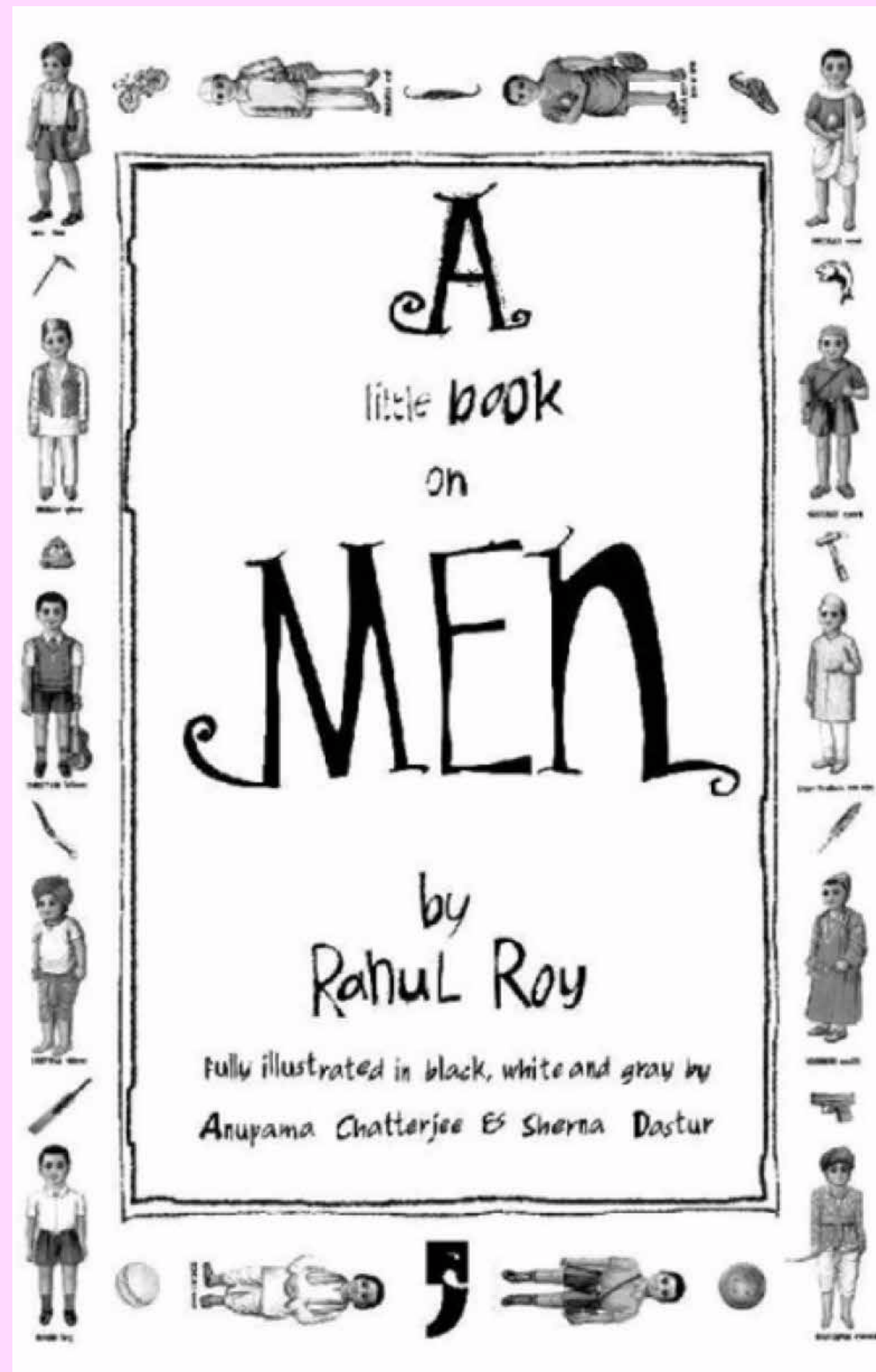
Because I Have a Voice: Queer Politics in India
Edited by Arvind Narain and Gautam Bhan, 2005



First Hand

Vol.1 Edited By Orijit Sen & Vidyun Sabhaney, 2016

Vol.2 Edited By Vidyun Sabhaney, 2019

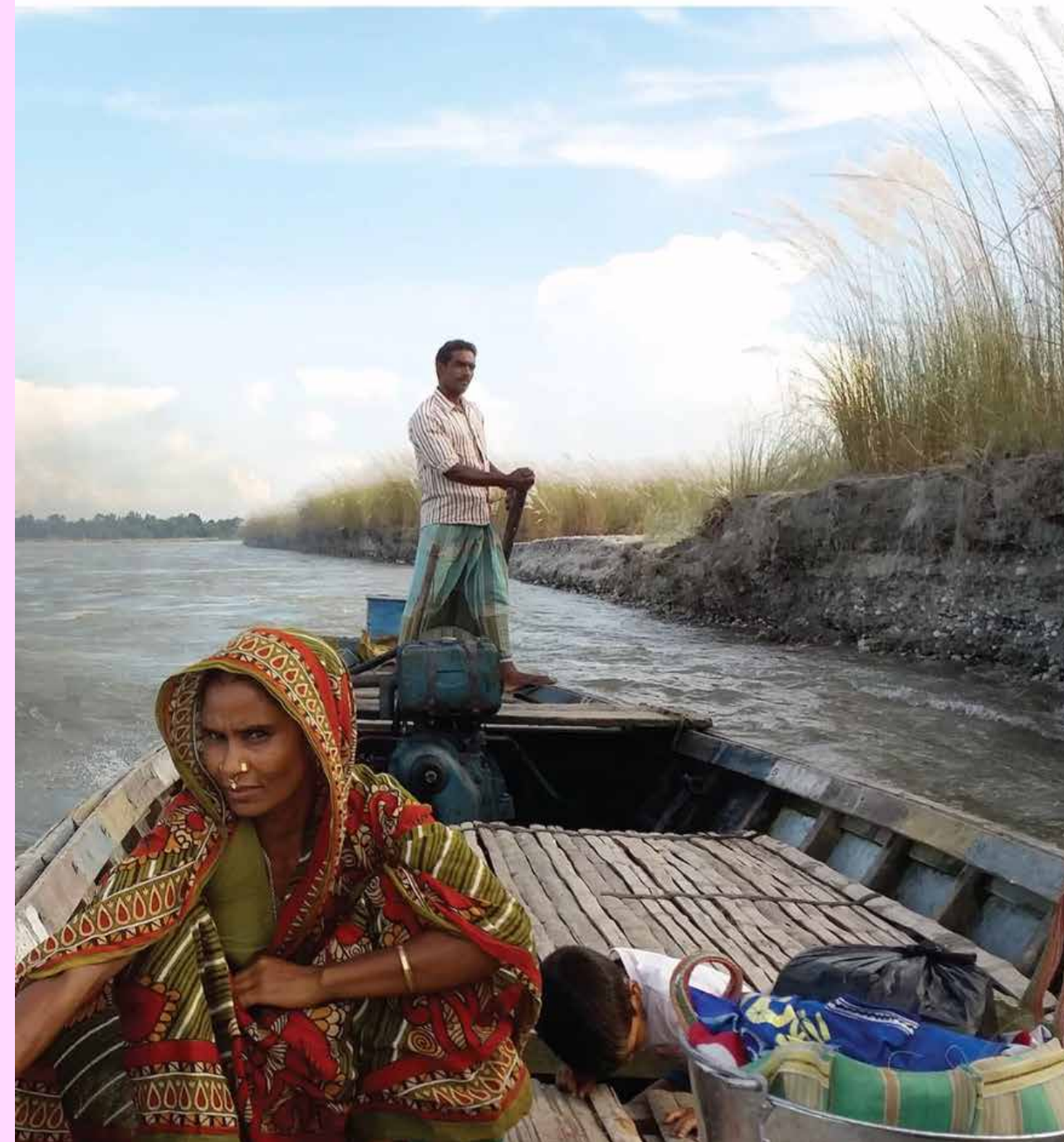


A Little Book on Men

Rahul Roy / Illustrated by Anupama Chatterjee & Sherna Dastur, 2009

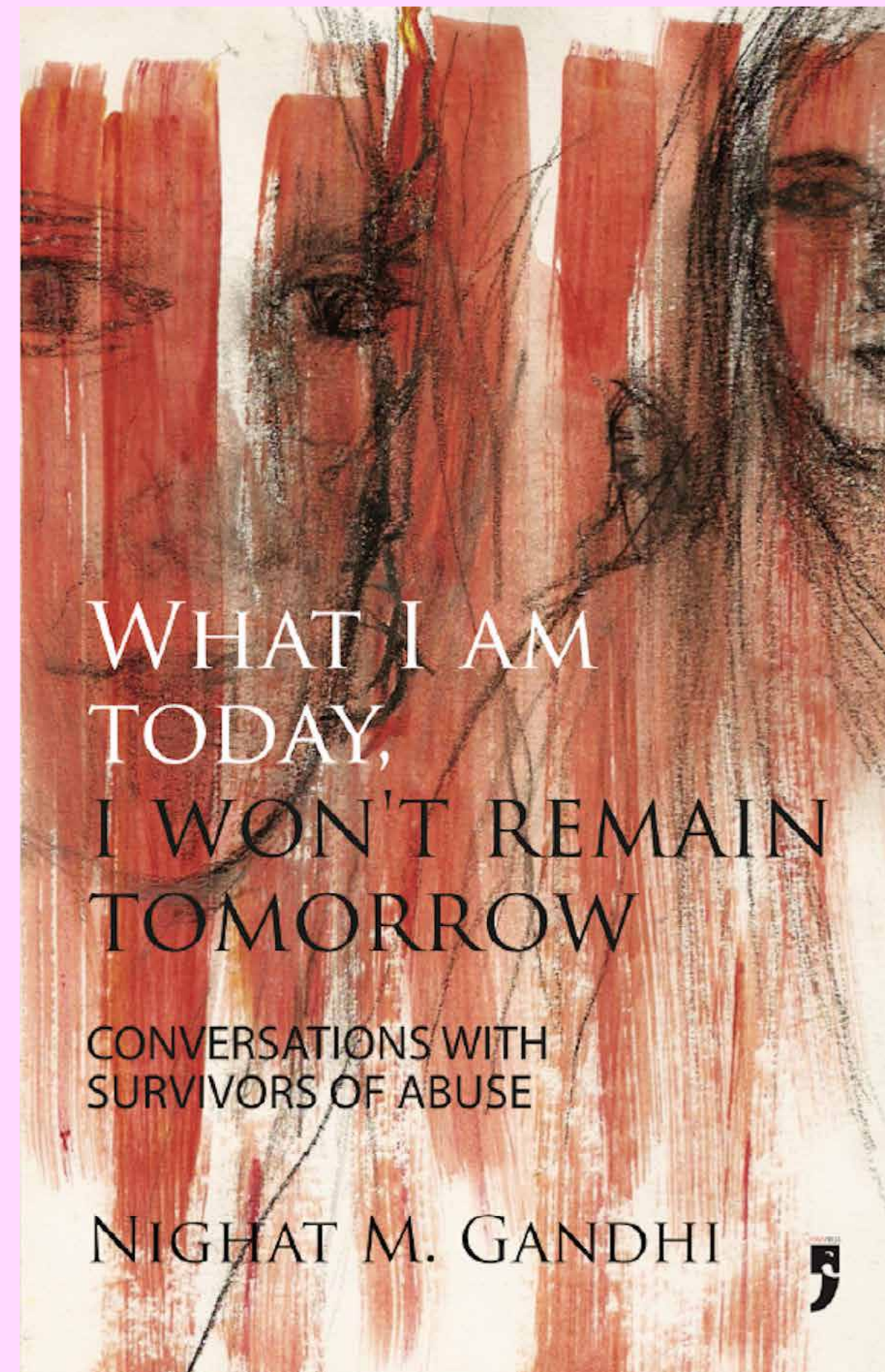
Centre for Equity Studies
Three Essays Collective

INDIA EXCLUSION REPORT, 2018-19



India Exclusion Report

Annal reports in partnership with the Centre for Equity Studies since 2016



**WHAT I AM TODAY, I WONT REMAINTOMORROW:
CONVERSATIONS WITH SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

Nighat M. Gandhi, 2009

1. Introduce and situate Yoda Press manifesto

- The vision of Yoda Press
- Commitment to publishing non-mainstream narratives
 - Non-mainstream, alternative works reflect critical issues in South Asia
 - Feminist and queer-affirmative literature
 - Supporting the LGBT+ movement in India
- Queer activism and dissent against patriarchy

2. What does it challenge? core proposals?

- smash aspects of patriarchy, heteronormativity, and social exclusion
 - Seeks to provide space for underrepresented perspectives
 - Emphasizing the importance of publishing in Indian languages, such as Hindi, to reach broader, more affected audiences

2. What does it challenge? core proposals?

“A non-Indian book prize shouldn’t be the driver for translating texts into other languages. There’s a giant corpus of writings and authors waiting to be discovered by readers in other Indian languages, and indeed readers in foreign languages, too.”

Arpita Das

3. How is the manifesto structured?

- **Narrative history of Yoda Press:**

founding principles, the early challenges, and its journey in publishing

- **The extension of the press's publication list:**

LGBT list, political dissent list, the Muslims of South Asia list, mental health and psychotherapy / nonfiction publisher -> added fiction titles

4. the style of the writing and the tone of the prose?

+

- **Clear** and **reflective**
- **Not angry** or **sarcastic** but **hopeful** and **committed**

-

- **Narrative-heavy** and **less dynamic**
- **Reflective** and **historical** than direct **call to action**

5. Was it influential? still relevant today?

- **Impactful in the Indian literary and activist community**
 - **Profound social and political influence**

especially LGBT issues were cited in landmark legal judgments in India
(2018 decriminalization of homosexuality)

- **Manifesto's values remain crucial**
especially in Indian & South Asian society
also in the contemporary publishing landscape

Thank you.