

### Chapter 1 : The Reading Life: "The Crocodile's Lady" by Manoj Das ()

*Manoj Das (born ) is an award-winning Indian author who writes in Odia and English. In , Manoj Das was awarded with Saraswati calendrierdelascience.com was awarded Padma Shri in , the fourth highest Civilian Award in India for his contribution in the field of Literature & Education.*

I think there is. It sticks to the traditional rules of the craft. It is in fact short and not a novella or an abridged novel. It revolves round one or at the most two or three characters and does not have a long list of dramatis personae as in novels. It is limited in time and space and does not span decades or spread out in different locales. It also has a well-formulated central theme and does not touch upon several topics or clashes of personalities. It has a distinct beginning, a build-up and usually a dramatic end, frequently an unexpected one which sums up the story. It is a delightful story which can fairly be called a work of magic realism. Some say magic realism was born in South America, in truth this tradition in India goes back at least to before Homer. As the story opens a Western professor visiting India wants to see a real village. He is taken deep country to a village where there are no other cars in eight miles, few residents have ever seen a movie and the village youngsters come just to look at him. They had a daughter who had been married at the age of three and had become a widow at four. She lived with her parents and, people say, grew up to be a beautiful damsel. She was given up for dead. But a decade later she suddenly reappeared in the village. Her father had died and her mother was dying. Their little hut on the river was in shreds. The earth, loose at one place, gave way under its weight. It slipped down on the village side of the embankment and the people thrashed it to death. It does an excellent job combining folk stories with magic realism techniques.

**Chapter 2 : Manoj Das - Manoj Das Biography - Poem Hunter**

*About Manoj Das For thousands of men, women and children of the past two or three generations, Manoj Das has been the very synonym of light and delight, whose writings in Odia and English inspire in his countless readers faith in the purpose of life and also open up concealed horizons of confidence and compassion in humanity a dire need today.*

A young couple want to earn some extra money, and come up with a grand plan to become rich overnight by finding someone with a carat diamond to sell. There are no poor, no slums, no prisons, no wars. There is no madness, disability or disease. Even aging has been cured. Everyone is happy except those who want to have children! All Summer in a Day is set on the planet Venus, where the climate features almost constant rain. The only break in the rain comes every seven years, when there are two hours of sunshine. The children on the planet are looking forward to playing outside during this break, and all but one if them gets to do it. The Ant and the Grasshopper takes its name from a famous Aesop fable. The fable carries the message that hard work is always rewarded while laziness is punished. The story presents a different, but perhaps more realistic, view of the world. The Ass, the Table and the Stick tells of a boy who works for a year and is given a magic donkey. A man tricks him out of it, so he works for another year and is given a magic table. The same man tricks him out of this. For his next job, the boy gets a magic stick. This helps him get his donkey and table back, as well as to marry his true love. There were only three people drinking, and one of them won a sheep-dog in a card game. At the end of the story the reader is left with a question. Who really owned the sheep-dog? The Best Thing for a King tells of an aging king who sends his three sons out into the world to bring back the best thing they can find to give to a king. Can you guess what it will be? The Bet made by a wealthy banker was for two million rubles. To win it a young lawyer had to survive being locked up for fifteen years with no contact with the outside world other than through books. However, he could walk out any time he wanted to. Could he do it? Could you do it? The Blind Men and the Elephant tells how six blind men come across an elephant for the first time and try to decide what it must look like by using their sense of touch. Each comes up with different idea, because they all put their hands on a different part. The Book of Sand is the story of a man who loves books and trades a very expensive family Bible for a strange book that he cannot understand, and which seems to have a never ending number of pages that open randomly. Brother and Sister is a well-known European folktale. Two children run away from home after years of being badly treated. As usual, after many adventures the girl becomes a Queen and they all except the bad guys live happily ever after. The Butler is about a newly rich man who tries to buy his way up the social ladder. He hires an expensive butler and French chef and has many dinner parties. Can-Can is about a seemingly happily married family man with a loving, trusting wife. So he makes plans to commit adultery with another woman. It is clear that he has no real love for this woman, which leaves the reader with a question: He throws her out of the house, which leads to some "Cinderella-like" adventures. There is no fairy god-mother in this story, but the girl still manages to turn her bad luck into a "happily ever after" type of ending. Cat and Mouse in Partnership is about a greedy cat which cheats a trusting mouse that had become its friend. In most folktales, something bad would happen to the cat to teach it a lesson. Cat in the Rain is about an American man and wife traveling in Italy. According to a biography of the author, it is based on a true event that happened in when his first wife found a kitten that had been hiding under a table in the rain. One day he trains a frog to jump. He keeps it in a wooden box and often brings it into town to find people to bet with. One day a stranger agrees to bet against the frog, provided the man can find another frog to jump for him. The man learns an expensive lesson when the new frog wins easily. The Chosen Vessel paints a graphic picture of the isolation and dangers faced by women living in outback Australia during the 19th century. A woman whose husband is away working is visited by a traveling swagman. She does not like the way he looks at her, and decides that she must lock herself and her baby in their house. The man does not get inside, but still gets what he wants. Christmas Day in the Morning is about an old man who remembers when, as a boy, he first learned how much his father loved him. He decided that the cheap tie he had bought his father for Christmas was not good enough, and came up with another gift which they both remember for the rest of their lives. Christmas Every Day is a story within a story. A young

girl demands that her busy father tell her a story. The father then tells the tale of another girl who made a selfish Christmas wish. The wish came true but in so doing caused big problems for almost everyone in the world. A Clean Well-Lighted Place involves two waiters and an old man. The story can be summed up in a line spoken by the young waiter: An old man is a nasty thing. Diamond Cuts Diamond Indian is about a man who travels to a far off land to seek his fortune. He is successful and decides to return home to live out his life with his family. He is worried about thieves, and leaves his riches in the care of someone he thought he could trust. To get them back he needs the help of a clever friend. He stops to eat his own lunch of plain rice, and enjoys it more than ever because he imagines eating it with the curry. It sees a farmer having a bad day and decides to bring him a moment of happiness. Although published in a book of stories meant to be read to preschool children, the story has a powerful message for people of all ages. All but two of the other girls in the town are invited to see it. Donkey Skin starts with a powerful king who wants to marry his daughter, as this is the only way he can keep a promise he made to his dying wife. Fortunately the brave girl and her fairy godmother have other ideas, which lead to some Cinderella-like adventures. The Drovers Wife deals with the difficult and often lonely life faced by women in mid-nineteenth century outback Australia. In the story, a woman remembers the many hardships and few good times in her life as she sits up all night with only a dog to help her to protect her children from a deadly snake. Edward and Charles follows the common "lesson about life" plot of two brothers who are very different. Edward behaves badly and is suitably punished when his father hears about it. Charles, on the other hand, is almost unbearably good and finds himself well rewarded. Although rejected at the time because the themes were considered too deep for children, it is now widely read in schools. The End of Something is about change. A lumber town dies and falls into ruin when there are no more trees to cut down. But this results in a new beginning as "second growth" forest establishes itself. We are left wondering if this is the real reason, and what his new beginning might be. Fairy Ointment is about a nurse who goes to a strange house to help a sick woman look after her baby boy. Being curious, the nurse puts some of the ointment on one of her own eyes. Until that time the house seemed normal enough, but the ointment helps the nurse to learn its secret. The False Prince and True starts off with an argument between a prince and a young noble. The noble lost his temper and hit the prince, which is punishable by death. As is often the case in folktales, there is a lot of magic around and many things turn out to be different to the way they first appeared. Farewell to a Ghost is not a horror story, even though one of the main characters is a ghost. Set in India, it shows how common superstitions once played an important part in traditional village culture. The story also shows how such beliefs, which helped bind communities together, are being cast aside in the modern world. The Fir Tree is about a tree that grows up never being satisfied with what it looks like or what it is doing. This leads to a sad ending which is enough to make you never want to have a real Christmas tree! The Fish and the Ring is an English folktale about a rich and powerful man who looks into the future and learns that the fate of his young son is to marry a girl from a very poor family. He wants a high society wife for his son and does everything that he can to stop the marriage, including trying to kill the poor girl twice. A hungry fish ends up teaching him the meaning of a popular s song. A Fish Story is an Australian aboriginal folktale which, like those of other ancient cultures, tries to explain the meaning of every-day things in the world. He plans to spend the days playing with two school friends who live near his aunt. When he gets to the city, he finds that his friends have been sent away to the countryside. I am sure you can guess who has the better holidays. The Frog is an Italian folktale in which a frog makes friends with a young man and helps him in his search for a wife.

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### Chapter 5 : Manoj Das | English Short Story Writer

Manoj Das is perhaps the foremost bilingual Oriya writer and a master of dramatic expression both in his English and Oriya short stories and novels. He says that, 'characters follow the theme of a story and the words are merely added by author to represent the thoughts of the character'.

### Chapter 6 : Manoj Das | Pitara Kids Network

Manoj Das: the short story writer Unexpected nuances of life and its vicissitudes - both luminous and dark - and their revelations and interpretations. "There are only a few good storytellers left in the world today and Manoj Das is one of them," said Ruskin Bond in *Imprint* and the statement can hardly be improved upon.

### Chapter 7 : Manoj Das (A Reader)

Born at Shankari, Balasore, Orissa, Manoj Das is perhaps the foremost bilingual Oriya writer and a master of dramatic expression both in his English and Oriya short stories and novels. He says that characters follow the theme of a story and the words are merely added by author to represent the.

### Chapter 8 : Farewell to a Ghost | calendrierdelascience.com

Manoj Das, a prolific author, is India's foremost short story writers. He writes both in Oriya and English, and is a Professor of English at the Sri Aurobindo International University, Pondicherry. Manoj Das was born in a small coastal village named Shankari in Balasore district, Orissa State.

### Chapter 9 : Manoj Das - Wikipedia

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