

Rakesh Kaul

Press Biography

Author · Novelist · Cultural Commentator

SHORT BIO

Rakesh Kaul is a Kashmiri-American novelist whose work joins Kashmir's civilizational memory to the crises of the modern world. He is the author of *The Last Queen of Kashmir* (HarperCollins India, 2016) and *Dawn: The Warrior Princess of Kashmir* (Penguin, 2019), and his forthcoming novel *WaterFire: Day Zero* arrives from Vitasta Publications in November 2026. His short story *The Last Delivery* was shortlisted for the Bridport Prize 2025.

FULL BIO

Rakesh Kaul writes fiction rooted in the queens, warrior heroines, and sacred geography of Kashmir, and comments widely on Kashmir's history, philosophy, politics, and diaspora. His work and talks have appeared at the Jaipur Literature Festival, the India International Centre, Asia Society Mumbai, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study Shimla, the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site, and Jammu Kashmir Study Centre events. He has published essays across The Times of India, The Indian Express, Swarajya, Fair Observer, HuffPost, and Penguin platforms.

He migrated to the United States in 1972 after graduating first in his class and as a gold medalist from IIT Delhi. Alongside a career as a CEO, board director, and venture incubator, he has served as Vice Chairman of the Indo-American Arts Council and on the boards of trustees of the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco and the Ordway Music Theater. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business (Leon Carroll Marshall Fellow) and an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Brown University.

SELECTED RECOGNITION

HarperCollins & Penguin author · Bridport Prize 2025 shortlist (short fiction) · Jaipur Literature Festival featured author · Co-Chairman, The Arts of Kashmir exhibition (Asia Society, 2008).

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