



FICTION

Published July 9th 2026

ANIMAL NIGHTLIFE

by Koushik Banerjea

Keynote

A rapturous, kaleidoscopic portrait of contemporary Britain and the myriad immigrant experiences that informed it, from the 1950s to a present-day landscape of racism, class division and economic decay, told through the voices of othered outsiders who just happen to be half-human, half-avian...

Selling points

- **A terrific, funny, angry, timely political novel with magic realist elements that follows three South East London school friends from the 1970s to an imagined present-day UK on the verge of cultural implosion.**
- Established author previously published by Jacaranda Books and London Books. *Animal Nightlife* won 2nd Prize in the 2023 Novel London Literary Competition.
- **Playful, genre-defying narrative voice with echoes of Hanif Kureishi and Salman Rushdie and an eclectic 'playlist' of the artists who have defined London for the past half-century.**
- Multi-generational novel on an immigrant community.
- **Deals with themes of friendship, love, prejudice, environmental destruction and belonging/exclusion.**

Summary

Vikram, Ravi and Sean, childhood friends from south London, seem to be the only ones who have noticed that they have wings. As adults and 'multiples' – their hybrid human/animal forms – they are all now dealing with the personal and political fallout of what is turning out to be an unexpectedly turbulent present in which 'singulars' – narrow-minded, non-syncretic - are the ones making the weather.

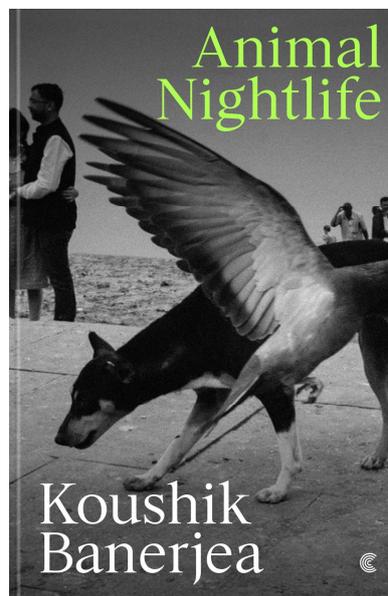
It feels like a dangerous time for anyone deemed an outsider. Human society has rarely been this reckless or rapacious, and the fragile ecosystem holding together all the unlikely alliances of 'animal nightlife' has been placed in mortal danger. Consumerism, greed, violence, and prejudice of every kind are ranged against the brave souls taking a stand by lining the telegraph wires as a final showdown draws ever closer.

Comparative authors/titles

In Our Mad and Furious City by **Guy Gunaratne**; *We Are Made of Diamond Stuff* by **Isabel Waidner**; *The Buddha of Suburbia* by **Hanif Kureishi**; *The Sellout* by **Paul Beatty**; *Erasure* by **Percival Everett**

Author

Koushik Banerjea is a London-based writer and novelist. His debut novel, *Another Kind of Concrete*, was published in 2020 by Jacaranda Books. His second novel, *Category Unknown*, was published by London Books in 2022. *Animal Nightlife* won 2nd Prize in the 2023 Novel London Literary Competition. His short stories and poetry have appeared in multiple magazines including *Minor Literatures*, *Writers Resist* and *Razor Cuts* and have been finalists for the London Independent Story Prize 2025, the REIGN Prize 2025 and the *Jerry Jazz Musician* Short Fiction Contest 2024. He was a youth worker, journalist and DJ before embarking upon his first two novels, written while he was the sole carer for his late mother.



Specifications

£12.99

B-format paperback original with French flaps

Page extent tbc

198 x 129 mm

ISBN 978-1-9191847-2-2

eBook ISBN 978-1-9191847-3-9

Print location: CMP, Poole, Dorset, UK

Rights

WEL & translation rights

FBA

Modern and

contemporary fiction

FXS

Narrative theme: social issues

FXP

Narrative theme: politics

FMM

Magical realism

JBFA1

Racial discrimination

JBFH

Migration, immigration and

emigration

1DDU-GB-ESL London

Contact

Publisher

Jude Cook

jude@conduitbooks.co.uk

Press & publicity

Claire Maxwell

clairesmaxwell@googlemail.com

US & translation rights

tbc

Distribution

Turnaround

T: 020 8829 3000

orders@turnaround-uk.com



CONDUIT BOOKS

ADVANCE PRAISE FOR ANIMAL NIGHTLIFE

'Prose as languid as 'Shangri-La' and as defiant as raisins in the flour... **a strange, wonderful novel.**'

Andy Polaris, lead singer of Animal Nightlife

PRAISE FOR CATEGORY UNKNOWN

'Deep-rooted and audacious, this is **a novel of great style and soul**, from a stylish, soulful writer.'

John King, author of *The Football Factory*

'**A fascinating, multi-layered story** of complex characters caught in a maelstrom of conflicting emotions as Britain moves into the era of Thatcherism and beyond... Through his magnificently eloquent prose, keen nose for dialogue and natural talent for intricate, modern-day storytelling, Banerjea seems to suggest that identity politics have been with us for longer than we might think – and that they're gradually undermining everything that is good around us.'

Morning Star

'A kaleidoscopic, exuberant journey across South London Badlands – and worse, during epochal decades – told with lashings of Koushik Banerjea's customary verve, wit and passion. **Simply unmissable.**'

Asian Culture Vulture

'Thirty years of London life in 350-odd pages... **Category Unknown has everything!** Banerjea's novel sucks you in and places you on the streets, full of nervous energy, wide-eyed and confused, as complicated, real life goes on around you. Nothing here is certain... An unsettling, engrossing read.'

International Times

'By turns exquisitely drawn and disturbing, *Category Unknown* is **a novel with something important to say about where we've ended up now**... This book somehow manages to make a distilled epic of its pop cultural subject and is both nerveless and unnerving in how it goes about this. It is funny, smart, sad and unresolved. The ghost of Samuel Selvon would surely approve.'

3AM Magazine

'With time comes hindsight, and Banerjea uses it here to reflect on cultural turning points, social patterns, and the imposter syndrome to which no one is immune... A dense and ambitious book.'

Bookcover2cover

PRAISE FOR ANOTHER KIND OF CONCRETE

'A story told with eloquence and a palpable joy in language, both English and Bengali. It's also beautifully and evocatively multi-layered, shot through with subtle complexity... **It's a dazzling debut that brilliantly explores the interconnections between race and class** and it deserves to be read as widely as possible.'

Morning Star

'Finally, we get a version of 1970s London told from something other than a white perspective...'

A fantastic novel.'

International Times