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When friends repeatedly encouraged me to publish, the tentative me took the same question 'Why publish' to my senior and well-wisher Prof. Jatin Nayak who in his inimitable style told me—You don't have to bother about who agrees or disagrees with your argument or point of view; it's your story and every story needs to be told. By publishing it you let people know about your perspectives.

That was emboldening.

So, here is my attempt to publish my thoughts before the world because I wanted to connect with a wider audience in a deeper and more meaningful way.

In this book, I share a collection of personal narrative essays written over a long period of time that explore various incidents across various themes of salience to me. Through these essays, I reveal a part of my mind and least aspire to influence my readers to align with my stance but rather encourage them to have their own and express that unique viewpoint—it matters.

Hope my maiden journey doesn't become my last.

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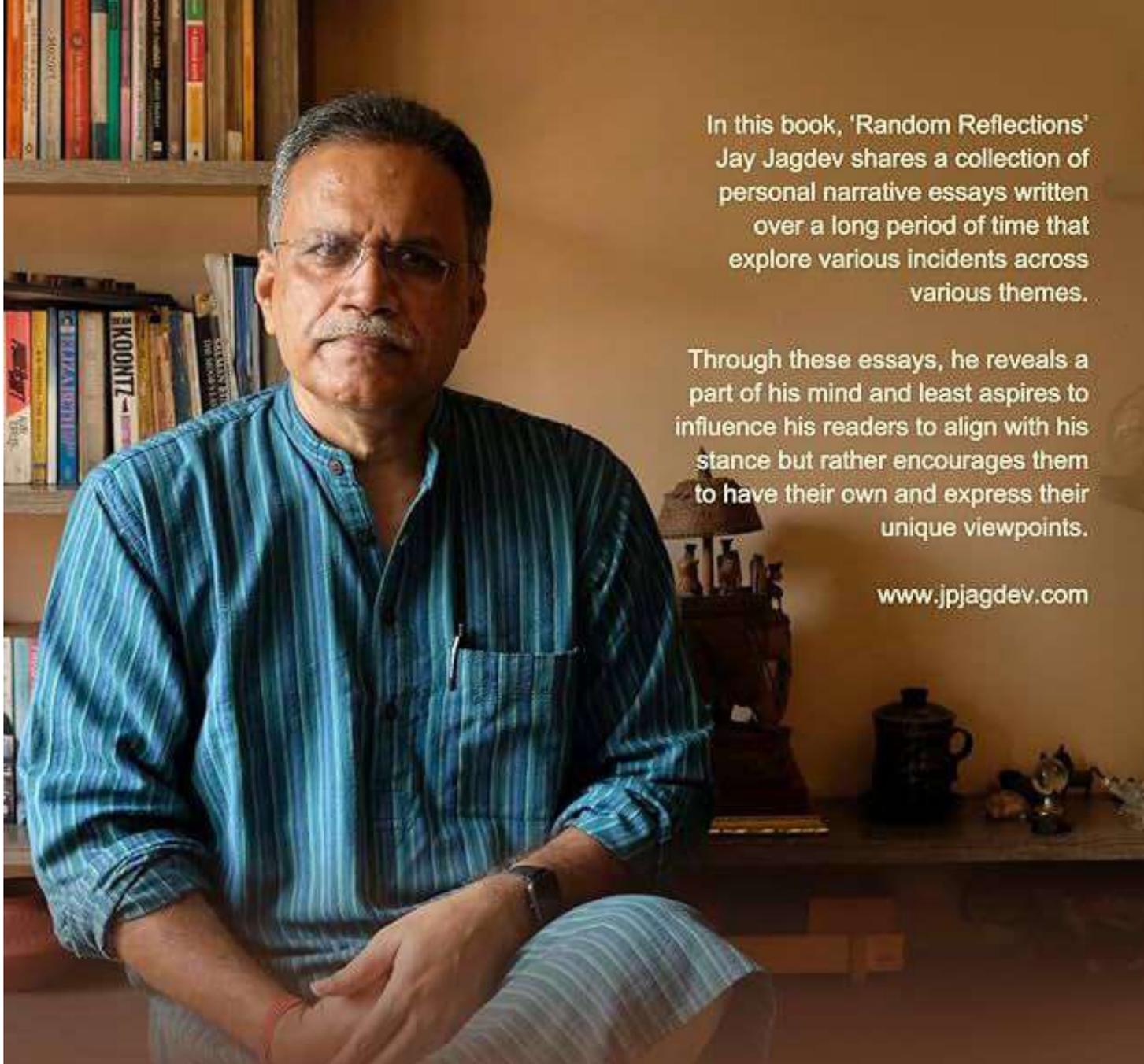
## INTRODUCTION

I HAVE always been an observer and a mental analyser of incidents. I always decoded and comprehended human behaviours and their interactions more through their latent emotional triggers than their stated intentions.

Mentally comprehending or speaking casually about it is one but taking to the keyboard to create a narrative by giving words to your thoughts, perspectives, and drawing inferences takes discipline. And sharing it with others requires courage. My journey as a writer began in 2014 after seeing the world in its highs and lows for forty-eight summers and spending innumerable solitary hours reflecting on the incidents happening around me – influencing me, teaching me, shaping me, re-shaping me, and affecting me. Before that I had none of it.

The more I wrote, the clearer it got.

A month back, if anyone had confronted me with the question about why I was contemplating publishing my personal reflective essays as a book, I would have had no definitive answer to that.



In this book, 'Random Reflections' Jay Jagdev shares a collection of personal narrative essays written over a long period of time that explore various incidents across various themes.

Through these essays, he reveals a part of his mind and least aspires to influence his readers to align with his stance but rather encourages them to have their own and express their unique viewpoints.

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# RANDOM REFLECTIONS

A COLLECTION OF PERSONAL NARRATIVE ESSAYS

**JAY JAGDEV**

## NOT SO JAWAN ANY MORE

**S**HE refused to buy tickets for the movie *Jawan* for the seventh time today.

*Jawan* was released on the 7th of this month and by now the global collection stands to cross 750 crores. Each time its collection crossed the 100-crore mark, I was curious to see what was attracting people in hordes and therefore goaded her to buy tickets. “My friends in Hyderabad have seen the movie and I know you and your preference; you will fret and fume and leave the hall halfway dragging all of us out with you. I don’t want to spoil my evening,” was her reply. She was clear and firm on her stand this time too.

With my sole online booking agent refusing to comply, I am left with the only option of counting the box office collection without contributing a rupee to it. Both my preference and opinion, and not buying a ticket are irrelevant to the success of the movie.

Our exposure to the world of cinema started in the early Eighties when we had an array of movies to choose