

#JLF Jaipur Literature Festival First Speakers For 20th Edition

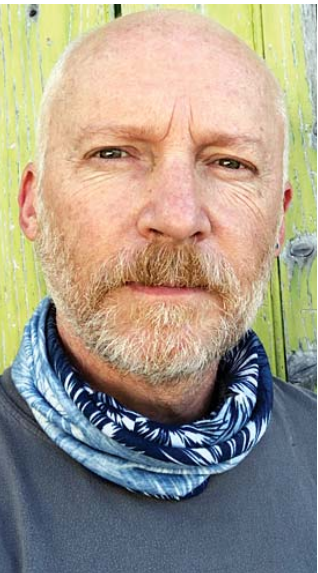
The scientific and intellectual voices are Marcus du Sautoy, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and Professor of Mathematics



Isabella Hammad



James Wood



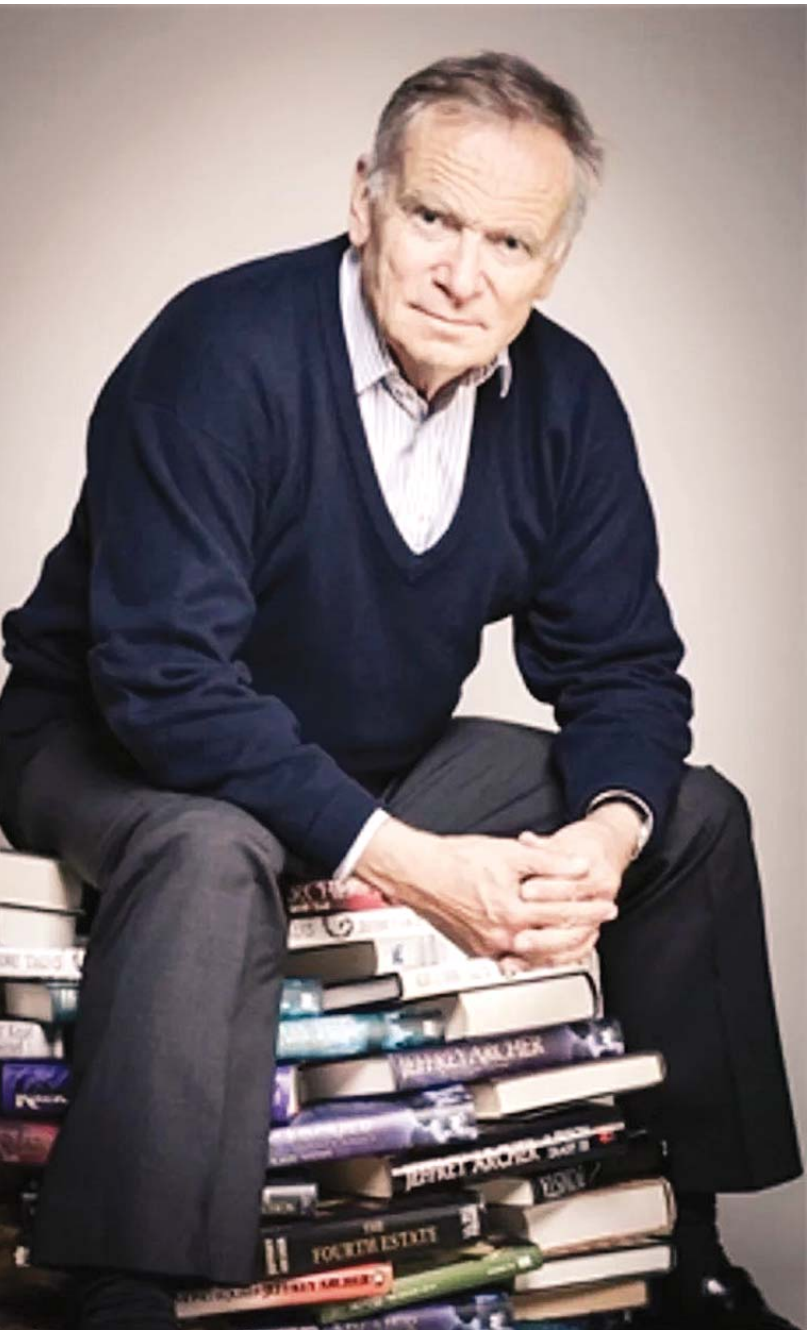
Marcus du Sautoy



Radhavallabh Tripathi

The iconic and much-awaited Jaipur Literature Festival announced its first list of speakers confirmed for its upcoming 20th edition, hosted at Hotel Clarks Amer. Among the first speakers announced are Anamika, Tahmina Anam, Omar El Akkad, Avni Doshi, Steve Brusatte, Drummond Money-Coutts, Homi K. Bhabha, Shrabani Basu, Louise Kennedy, Prabal Gurung, Sanjoy Hazarika, Isabella Hammad, S.Y. Quraishi, Indira Jaising, B. Jeyamohan, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Karan Mahajan, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Damodar Mauzo, Dame Meera Syal, Marcus du Sautoy, Geetanjali Shree, Molly Crabapple, Vali Nasr, Esther Dufo, David Van Reybrouck, Sudha Murty, Olga Tokarczuk, James Wood, Lyse Doucet, and Radhavallabh Tripathi, among many others. Among the scientific and intellectual voices are Marcus du Sautoy, Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, palaeontologist Steve Brusatte, and leading economists, academics and public intellectuals whose work engages with some of the defining questions of our time. The Festival will also spotlight India's rich and diverse literary traditions, bringing together writers from across its many linguistic cultures. The line-up includes Radhavallabh Tripathi, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and writer; Anamika, a renowned Hindi poet, Dhrubajyoti Borah, an acclaimed Assamese writer;

Makarand Sathe, a Marathi playwright and writer Paul Zacharia, one of Malayalam literature's leading voices; Damodar Mauzo, a celebrated Konkani writer; Vasudhendra, writing in Kannada; Gautam Choubey, a bilingual writer of Hindi and Malayalam. The Festival will also bring literature into conversation with other forms of creative expression, with voices such as Dame Meera Syal and Prabal Gurung representing the worlds of performance, popular culture and fashion, alongside magician and storyteller Drummond Money-Coutts. January is the month of the two-faced Janus, who looks at both the past and the future. Come January, the world will once again visit Jaipur, and Jaipur will visit the world, for "the Greatest Literary Show on Earth." William Dalrymple, Co-Director, Jaipur Literature Festival, said, "Twenty years of the Jaipur Literature Festival is a remarkable milestone for a festival that began as a small literary gathering and grew into one of the world's great celebrations of literature and ideas. What makes Jaipur unique is the extraordinary range of voices it brings together - from established literary figures to emerging writers, scientists, historians, artists and thinkers from across India and the world. The Festival has always been about the excitement of discovery, and this twentieth edition will celebrate that spirit while opening the door to the next chapter."



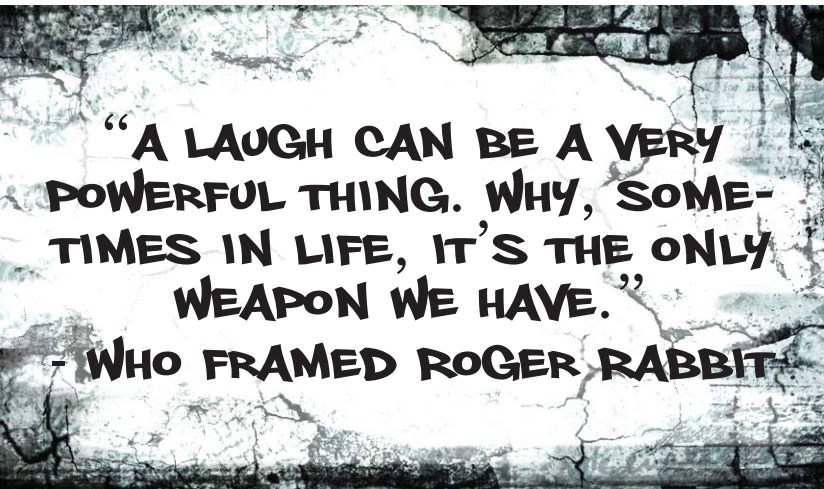
● Bulbul Joshi

British writer Jeffrey Archer, nickname Tuppence, who died at 86 on October 5, might have been the first to admit that his life was the sort of script that could have been rejected by an editor for being far too dramatic. Athlete, MP, political aspirant, best-selling novelist, convicted perjurer, comeback artiste, the arc of Archer's life showed a great talent for reinvention, a phoenix-like ability to rise from the ashes. He understood that public life, like fiction, runs on appetite, for money, power, recognition and redemption, and he had a keen instinct for all four. Even his death, arriving on the eve of the publication of Adam and Eve, carries the theatricality of a final twist. "Jeffrey Archer presents The Beatles in concert," and managed to get the band to actually visit the campus. Later, Ringo Starr famously remarked of him: "He strikes me as a nice enough fella, but he's the kind of bloke who would bottle your piss and sell it." And close to home, at the Jaipur Literature Festival in 2019, a young street vendor approached him with pirated copies and asked, "Sir, do you want the latest Jeffrey Archer?" Archer replied, "I am the latest Jeffrey Archer."



Jeffrey Archer and his wife Mary leaving the High Court, London, in 1987 after winning record damages at the time of £500,000 for the libel action against The Star Newspaper, which alleged that he had slept with a prostitute.

THE WALL



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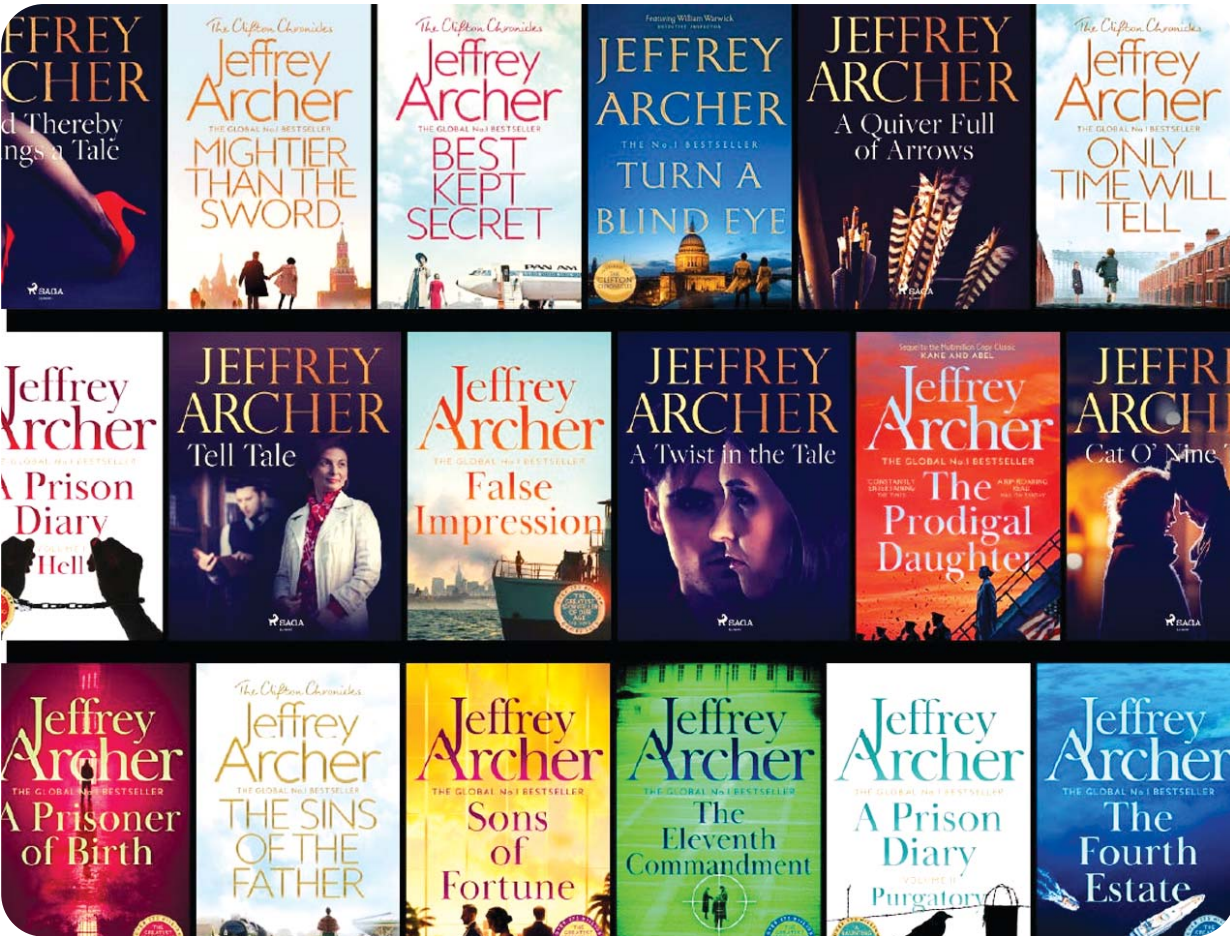
He Was A Thriller Who Wanted To Be A P. M.

#NOT A PENNY LESS



forever entangle the literary with the scandalous. How anyone can ever look at one without the other is a near impossibility. During an interview in India while promoting *A Prisoner of Birth*, Archer ordered a cocktail of orange and grape juice. When grape juice was unavailable, he became fascinated by watermelon juice, grilling the reporter with half a dozen questions about its origin, quality, and availability. He was a killer for work, Archer maintained an intense, clockwork work ethic across his career, breaking his day into strict writing blocks (6:00 to 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, and sometimes 6:00 to 8:00 PM), often churning out 12 to 14 drafts of a single novel. The former Conservative MP was jailed for perjury in 2001 after being found guilty of lying and cheating in his 1987 libel case against the Daily Star. Archer was born in north London in 1940 but soon moved to Weston-super-Mare in Somerset,

where his family bought a house from John Cleese's mother. In 1969, Archer was elected MP for the Lincolnshire constituency of Louth. He served as an MP for five years before becoming Conservative Party deputy chairman. He moved to the House of Lords in 1992 but was jailed for four years for perjury and perverting the course of justice in 2001. He was found to have lied in libel action he had brought against the Daily Star newspaper, in which he was awarded £500,000 in damages. The Star had alleged Archer had slept with a sex worker. The peer was found by the court to have perverted the course of justice by asking a former friend to give him a false alibi and producing fake diary entries to back up his story. He was also found to have perjured himself on oath during the libel trial. He was released in 2003 and returned to the House of Lords until he retired in 2024. Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch described Archer's death



in prison, but I think he became a nicer person in some ways, a gentler, milder person after the prison experience." Former Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith described Archer as "a remarkable man who did everything at full bore," adding: "There were simply no half measures with him." Other former ministers also paid tribute. Sajid Javid said that Archer had been a "dear friend," while Sir Jeremy Hunt said that Archer had "showed enormous kindness with his advice about how to become a writer." James Cleverly said that the author and politician had been "a huge personality and fantastic storyteller," and that he had been very supportive when his wife Suzie was recovering from cancer. Reform UK member and former Conservative minister Nadim Zahawi wrote: "Jeffrey Archer was a dear friend and an extraordinary human being. His gift for storytelling was matched by his wit, warmth and boundless energy. Life was never dull in Jeffrey's company." Michael Grade, who produced the TV adaptation of Archer's *Kane and Abel*, said that he "was a consummate storyteller in real life as



Jeffrey Archer and his wife arriving at the High Court in London for the libel trial brought by the novelist against The Star newspaper, July 1987.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS



#EARL GREY

A Tea Of Gratitude

Recognizing its appeal, Grey is said to have realized he was sitting on something special, almost like "liquid gold." He then partnered with Twinings tea Company

Few teas carry as much quiet prestige as Earl Grey tea. Fragrant, citrusy, and unmistakably refined, it has long been associated with British sophistication. But one popular story about its origins reads more like a dramatic tale of chance, courage, and reward.

According to legend, the story begins in the 1830s, when Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey was on a diplomatic mission in China. During his travels, he reportedly came across a young boy struggling along a river. Acting quickly, Grey saved the child from drowning, an act that would unexpectedly shape the future of tea.



The boy's father, as the story goes, was no ordinary man but a high-ranking mandarin who guarded a closely held family secret: a unique tea blend passed down through generations. In gratitude for saving his son, he presented Grey with this treasured recipe, a delicate black tea infused with oil from the bergamot orange, known for its bright, citrusy aroma. When Grey returned to England, he began serving the tea at dinner parties. Guests were immediately taken by its distinctive flavour, refreshing, aromatic, and unlike anything they had tasted before. It quickly became a favourite among his social circle. Recognizing its appeal, Grey is said to have realized he was sitting on something special, almost like "liquid gold." He eventually partnered with Twinings tea Company to produce the blend on a larger scale, making it available beyond elite gatherings. Thus, Earl Grey tea was born, going on to become one of the most beloved tea varieties in the world. The tale remains a captivating explanation for the tea's origin, a story that blends diplomacy, bravery, and a touch of mystery. Whether fact or folklore, it adds a rich layer of intrigue to every cup, reminding us that sometimes, the simplest pleasures can carry the most extraordinary stories.



#HARD FACTS

"Voters are just like this" - Hitler

"Voters are just like this. For four and a half years, we pluck their feathers. And then, in the last six months, we throw them a few grains. For those few grains, the voters forget all the injustices." - Hitler



One day, Hitler came to a cabinet meeting carrying a chicken. He held the chicken's head tightly under his arm. As he walked, he began plucking its feathers one by one. The chicken screamed in agony, struggling desperately to escape from Hitler's grip. But Hitler did not let go, nor did he pay any attention to its cries, he just kept plucking. The cabinet members said to him: "Don't torture that poor creature like this. Let it go." But Hitler refused to listen to anyone. Finally, after plucking all its feathers, he threw the chicken to



the ground. Then, he took some grains out of his pocket and began feeding them to the chicken. In that state, the chicken, desperate for food, started looking towards Hitler's hand again. Hitler called it closer, offering

the grains. After a while, the chicken came and sat near him, eating those few grains. The same chicken that had been struggling to escape from Hitler all this time now sat beside him again, for just a handful of grains. The cabinet members asked in astonishment: "What is this?" Hitler replied: "Voters are just like this. For four and a half years, we pluck their feathers. And then, in the last six months, we throw them a few grains. For those few grains, the voters forget all the injustices we committed over four and a half years, and they vote for us again."

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman