**Sir Ahmed Salman Rushdie** ([Kashmiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmiri_language): अहमद सलमान रुशदी ([Devanagari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Devanagari%22%20%5Co%20%22Devanagari)), احمد سلمان رشدی ([Nastaʿlīq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasta%CA%BFl%C4%ABq_script%22%20%5Co%20%22Nasta%CA%BFl%C4%ABq%20script)); [/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English)[sælˈmɑːn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key) [ˈrʊʃdi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English#Key)[/](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA_for_English);[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-3) born 19 June 1947[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-BritshC-4)) is a[British Indian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Indian) novelist and essayist. His second novel, [*Midnight's Children*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midnight%27s_Children) (1981), won the [Booker Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_Prize) in 1981. Much of his fiction is set on the[Indian subcontinent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_subcontinent). He is said to combine [magical realism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magical_realism) with [historical fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_novel); his work is concerned with the many connections, disruptions and migrations between East and West.

His fourth novel, [*The Satanic Verses*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses) (1988), was the centre of [a major controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses_controversy), provoking protests from Muslims in several countries, some violent. Death threats were made against him, including a *[fatwā](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatw%C4%81%22%20%5Co%20%22Fatw%C4%81)* issued by [Ayatollah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayatollah) [Ruhollah Khomeini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruhollah_Khomeini%22%20%5Co%20%22Ruhollah%20Khomeini), the [Supreme Leader of Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Leader_of_Iran), on 14 February 1989.

Rushdie was appointed Commandeur de l'[Ordre des Arts et des Lettres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordre_des_Arts_et_des_Lettres) of France in January 1999.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-5) In June 2007, [Queen Elizabeth II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II) [knighted him](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight_Bachelor)for his services to literature.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-6) In 2008, [*The Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Times) ranked him thirteenth on its list of the fifty greatest British writers since 1945.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-7)

Since 2000, Rushdie has lived in the United States, where he has worked at [Emory University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emory_University) and was elected to the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Academy_of_Arts_and_Letters). In 2012, he published [*Joseph Anton: A Memoir*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Anton%3A_A_Memoir), an account of his life in the wake of the controversy over *The Satanic Verses*.

Early life and family background[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=1&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Early life and family background)]

The son of Anis Ahmed Rushdie, a [University of Cambridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge)-educated lawyer turned businessman, and Negin Bhatt, a teacher, Rushdie was born in[Bombay](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombay), India, into a Muslim family of [Kashmiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kashmiri_people) descent.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-Kashmiri-1)[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-8)[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-9) Rushdie has three sisters.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-EmoryUniv-10) He wrote in his 2012 memoir that his father adopted the name Rushdie in honour of [Averroes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Averroes) (Ibn Rushd). He was educated at [Cathedral and John Connon School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathedral_and_John_Connon_School) in Mumbai, [Rugby School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rugby_School), and [King's College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_College%2C_Cambridge), [University of Cambridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Cambridge), where he studied history.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-BritshC-4)

**Copywriter**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=3&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Copywriter)]

Rushdie's first career was as a [copywriter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copywriting), working for the advertising agency [Ogilvy & Mather](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogilvy_%26_Mather), where he came up with "irresistibubble" for [Aero](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aero_%28chocolate%29) and "Naughty but Nice" for cream cakes, and for the agency Ayer Barker, for whom he wrote the memorable line "That'll do nicely" for [American Express](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Express).[[11]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-southasiandiaspora-11) It was while he was at Ogilvy that he wrote *Midnight's Children*, before becoming a full-time writer.[[12]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-12)[[13]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-13)[[14]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-14) John Hegarty of [Bartle Bogle Hegarty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartle_Bogle_Hegarty) has criticised Rushdie for not referring to his copywriting past frequently enough, although conceding: "He did write crap ads ... admittedly."[[15]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-15)

**Major literary work**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=4&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Major literary work)]

His first novel, [*Grimus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimus) (1975), a part-science fiction tale, was generally ignored by the public and literary critics. His next novel, *Midnight's Children* (1981), catapulted him to literary notability. This work won the 1981 [Booker Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_Booker_Prize) and, in 1993 and 2008, was awarded the Best of the Bookers as the best novel to have received the prize during its first 25 and 40 years.[[16]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-16) *Midnight's Children*follows the life of a child, born at the stroke of midnight as India gained its independence, who is endowed with special powers and a connection to other children born at the dawn of a new and tumultuous age in the history of the Indian sub-continent and [the birth of the modern nation of India](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Republic_of_India). The character of Saleem Sinai has been compared to Rushdie.[[17]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-17) However, the author has refuted the idea of having written any of his characters as autobiographical, stating, "People assume that because certain things in the character are drawn from your own experience, it just becomes you. In that sense, I’ve never felt that I’ve written an autobiographical character."[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-18)

After *Midnight's Children*, Rushdie wrote [*Shame*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shame_%28Rushdie_novel%29) (1983), in which he depicts the political turmoil in [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan), basing his characters on [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto) and General [Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Zia-ul-Haq).*Shame* won France's [*Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prix_du_Meilleur_Livre_%C3%89tranger) (Best Foreign Book) and was a close runner-up for the Booker Prize. Both these works of [postcolonial literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postcolonial_literature) are characterised by a style of[magic realism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_realism) and the immigrant outlook that Rushdie is very conscious of as a member of the [Indian diaspora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_diaspora).

Rushdie wrote a non-fiction book about [Nicaragua](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicaragua) in 1987 called [*The Jaguar Smile*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Jaguar_Smile). This book has a political focus and is based on his first-hand experiences and research at the scene of[Sandinista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandinista) political experiments.

His most controversial work, [*The Satanic Verses*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses), was published in 1988 (see [section below](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#Satanic_Verses_and_the_fatw.C4.81)).

In addition to books, Rushdie has published many short stories, including those collected in [*East, West*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East%2C_West) (1994). [*The Moor's Last Sigh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Moor%27s_Last_Sigh), a family epic ranging over some 100 years of India's history was published in 1995. [*The Ground Beneath Her Feet*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ground_Beneath_Her_Feet) (1999) presents an [alternative history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternate_history) of modern rock music. The [song of the same name](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ground_Beneath_Her_Feet_%28song%29) by [U2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U2) is one of many song lyrics included in the book; hence Rushdie is credited as the lyricist. He also wrote *[Haroun and the Sea of Stories](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haroun_and_the_Sea_of_Stories%22%20%5Co%20%22Haroun%20and%20the%20Sea%20of%20Stories)* in 1990.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*]



Salman Rushdie presenting his book [*Shalimar the Clown*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalimar_the_Clown)

Rushdie has had a string of commercially successful and critically acclaimed novels. His 2005 novel [*Shalimar the Clown*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalimar_the_Clown) received, in India, the prestigious [Hutch Crossword Book Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutch_Crossword_Book_Award), and was, in Britain, a finalist for the [Whitbread Book Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitbread_Book_Awards). It was shortlisted for the 2007 [International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_IMPAC_Dublin_Literary_Award).[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-19)

In his 2002 non-fiction collection *Step Across This Line*, he professes his admiration for the Italian writer [Italo Calvino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italo_Calvino%22%20%5Co%20%22Italo%20Calvino) and the American writer [Thomas Pynchon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Pynchon), among others. His early influences included [Jorge Luis Borges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jorge_Luis_Borges), [Mikhail Bulgakov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Bulgakov), [Lewis Carroll](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_Carroll), [Günter Grass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G%C3%BCnter_Grass), and [James Joyce](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Joyce). Rushdie was a personal friend of [Angela Carter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Carter)'s and praised her highly in the foreword for her collection *Burning your Boats*.

His novel [*Luka and the Fire of Life*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luka_and_the_Fire_of_Life) was published in November 2010. Earlier that year, he announced that he was writing his memoirs,[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-20) entitled [*Joseph Anton: A Memoir*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Anton%3A_A_Memoir), which was published in September 2012.

In 2012, Salman Rushdie became one of the first major authors to embrace [Booktrack](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booktrack%22%20%5Co%20%22Booktrack) (a company that synchronises ebooks with customised soundtracks), when he published his short story "[In the South](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_the_South_%28Short_Story%29)" on the platform.[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-21)

**Other activities**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=5&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Other activities)]

Rushdie has quietly mentored younger Indian (and ethnic-Indian) writers, influenced an entire generation of [Indo-Anglian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Anglian) writers, and is an influential writer in postcolonial literature in general.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-22) He has received many plaudits for his writings, including the European Union's [Aristeion Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristeion_Prize%22%20%5Co%20%22Aristeion%20Prize) for Literature, the [Premio Grinzane Cavour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premio_Grinzane_Cavour%22%20%5Co%20%22Premio%20Grinzane%20Cavour) (Italy), and the Writer of the Year Award in Germany and many of literature's highest honours.[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-23) Rushdie was the President of [PEN American Center](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEN_American_Center) from 2004 to 2006 and founder of the [PEN World Voices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEN_World_Voices) Festival.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-24)

He opposed the British government's introduction of the [Racial and Religious Hatred Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_and_Religious_Hatred_Act_2006), something he writes about in his contribution to *Free Expression Is No Offence*, a collection of essays by several writers, published by [Penguin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penguin_Group) in November 2005.



Salman Rushdie having a discussion with [Emory University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emory_University) students

In 2007 he began a five-year term as Distinguished Writer in Residence at [Emory University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emory_University) in [Atlanta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta), Georgia, where he has also deposited his archives.[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-25)

In May 2008 he was elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the [American Academy of Arts and Letters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Academy_of_Arts_and_Letters).[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-26)

Though he enjoys writing, Salman Rushdie says that he would have become an actor if his writing career had not been successful. Even from early childhood, he dreamed of appearing in Hollywood movies (which he later realised in his frequent cameo appearances).

Rushdie includes fictional television and movie characters in some of his writings. He had a [cameo appearance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameo_appearance) in the film [*Bridget Jones's Diary*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridget_Jones%27s_Diary_%282001_film%29) based on the [book of the same name](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridget_Jones%27s_Diary), which is itself full of literary in-jokes. On 12 May 2006, Rushdie was a guest host on [*The Charlie Rose Show*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Charlie_Rose_Show), where he interviewed [Indo-Canadian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indo-Canadian) filmmaker [Deepa Mehta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepa_Mehta%22%20%5Co%20%22Deepa%20Mehta), whose 2005 film, [*Water*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_%282005_film%29), faced violent protests. He appears in the role of [Helen Hunt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helen_Hunt)'s [obstetrician-gynecologist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obstetrics_and_gynaecology) in the film adaptation (Hunt's directorial debut) of [Elinor Lipman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elinor_Lipman%22%20%5Co%20%22Elinor%20Lipman)'s novel [*Then She Found Me*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Then_She_Found_Me). In September 2008, and again in March 2009, he appeared as a panellist on the HBO program "Real Time with Bill Maher". Rushdie has said that he was approached for a cameo in [Talladega Nights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talladega_Nights): "They had this idea, just one shot in which three very, very unlikely people were seen as [NASCAR](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASCAR) drivers. And I think they approached [Julian Schnabel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julian_Schnabel),[Lou Reed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lou_Reed%22%20%5Co%20%22Lou%20Reed), and me. We were all supposed to be wearing the uniforms and the helmet, walking in slow motion with the heat haze." In the end their schedules didn't allow for it.[[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-27)

Rushdie is currently[*[when?](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AManual_of_Style/Dates_and_numbers%22%20%5Cl%20%22Chronological_items%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3AManual%20of%20Style/Dates%20and%20numbers)*] collaborating on the screenplay for the cinematic adaptation of his novel *Midnight's Children* with director [Deepa Mehta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deepa_Mehta). The film will be called *Midnight's Children*.[[28]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-visits-28)[[29]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-29)[Seema Biswas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seema_Biswas), [Shabana Azmi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shabana_Azmi%22%20%5Co%20%22Shabana%20Azmi), [Nandita Das](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nandita_Das%22%20%5Co%20%22Nandita%20Das),[[30]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-30) and [Irrfan Khan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irrfan_Khan%22%20%5Co%20%22Irrfan%20Khan) are confirmed as participating in the film.[[31]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-31) Production began in September 2010;[[32]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-32) the film will be released on 26 October 2012.[[33]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-33)

Rushdie announced in June 2011 that he had written the first draft of a script for a new television series for the US cable network [Showtime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Showtime_%28TV_channel%29), a project on which he will also serve as an executive producer. The new series, to be called *The Next People*, will be, according to Rushdie, "a sort of paranoid science-fiction series, people disappearing and being replaced by other people." The idea of a television series was suggested by his US agents, said Rushdie, who felt that television would allow him more creative control than feature film. *The Next People* is being made by the British film production company [Working Title](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_Title), the firm behind such projects as [*Four Weddings and a Funeral*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Weddings_and_a_Funeral) and [*Shaun of the Dead*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaun_of_the_Dead).[[34]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-34)

Rushdie is a member of the advisory board of [The Lunchbox Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lunchbox_Fund),[[35]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-35) a non-profit organisation which provides daily meals to students of township schools in [Soweto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soweto) of South Africa. He is also a member of the advisory board of the [Secular Coalition for America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_Coalition_for_America),[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-36) an advocacy group representing the interests of atheistic and humanistic Americans in Washington, D.C. In November 2010 he became a founding patron of [Ralston College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralston_College), a new liberal arts college that has adopted as its motto a Latin translation of a phrase ("free speech is life itself") from an address he gave at Columbia University in 1991 to mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the first amendment to the US Constitution.[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-37)

He took on Facebook over the use of his name in 2011. He won. Rushdie had asked to use his middle name Salman, which he is most recognised by. He described his online identity crisis in a series of messages posted on Twitter, among them "Dear #Facebook, forcing me to change my FB name from Salman to Ahmed Rushdie is like forcing [J. Edgar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Edgar_Hoover) to become John Hoover" and "Or, if [F. Scott Fitzgerald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald) was on #Facebook, would they force him to be Francis Fitzgerald? What about [F. Murray Abraham](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._Murray_Abraham)?" Messages such as these were then circulated online. Facebook eventually relented and allowed him to use the name by which he is universally known.[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-38)[[39]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-39)

*The Satanic Verses* and the *fatwā*[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=6&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: The Satanic Verses and the fatwā)]

*Further information:*[*The Satanic Verses controversy*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses_controversy)

The publication of [*The Satanic Verses*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses) in September 1988 caused immediate controversy in the [Islamic world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_world) because of what was perceived as an irreverent depiction of the prophet [Muhammad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad). The title refers to a disputed [Muslim tradition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadith) that is related in the book. According to this tradition, Muhammad ([Mahound](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahound%22%20%5Co%20%22Mahound) in the book) added verses (*[sura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sura%22%20%5Co%20%22Sura)*) to the [Qur'an](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qur%27an) accepting three goddesses who used to be worshipped in [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca) as divine beings. According to the legend, Muhammad later revoked the verses, saying [the devil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_devil) tempted him to utter these lines to appease the Meccans (hence the "Satanic" verses). However, the narrator reveals to the reader that these disputed verses were actually from the mouth of the [Archangel Gibreel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gabriel). The [book was banned](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banned_books) in many countries with large Muslim communities. (12 total: India, Bangladesh, Sudan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Thailand, Tanzania, Indonesia, Singapore, Venezuela, and Pakistan.)

On 14 February 1989, a *[fatwā](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatw%C4%81%22%20%5Co%20%22Fatw%C4%81)* requiring Rushdie's execution was proclaimed on Radio Tehran by [Ayatollah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayatollah) [Khomeini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruhollah_Khomeini), the [spiritual leader of Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_leader_of_Iran) at the time, calling the book "[blasphemous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blasphemy) against Islam" (chapter IV of the book depicts the character of an [Imam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imamah_%28Shi%27a_doctrine%29) in [exile](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exile) who returns to incite revolt from the people of his country with no regard for their safety). A bounty was offered for Rushdie's death, and he was thus forced to live under police protection for several years. On 7 March 1989, the United Kingdom and [Iran](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran) broke [diplomatic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_%E2%80%93_United_Kingdom_relations) relations over the Rushdie controversy.

The publication of the book and the *fatwā* sparked violence around the world, with bookstores firebombed. Muslim communities in several nations in the West held public rallies, [burning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Book_burning) copies of the book. Several people associated with translating or publishing the book were attacked, seriously injured, and even killed.[[note 1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-40) Many more people died in riots in some countries. Despite the danger posed by the fatwā, Rushdie made a public appearance at London's [Wembley Stadium](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wembley_Stadium_%281923%29) on 11 August 1993 during a [concert by U2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoo_TV_Tour). In 2010, U2 bassist [Adam Clayton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Clayton) recalled that "[lead vocalist] Bono had been calling Salman Rushdie from the stage every night on the Zoo TV tour. When we played Wembley, Salman showed up in person and the stadium erupted. You [could] tell from [drummer] Larry Mullen, Jr.'s face that we weren't expecting it. Salman was a regular visitor after that. He had a backstage pass and he used it as often as possible. For a man who was supposed to be in hiding, it was remarkably easy to see him around the place."[[40]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-41)

On 24 September 1998, as a precondition to the restoration of diplomatic relations with Britain, the Iranian government, then headed by [Mohammad Khatami](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Khatami), gave a public commitment that it would "neither support nor hinder assassination operations on Rushdie."[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-Tomb-42)[[42]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-43)

Hardliners in Iran have continued to reaffirm the death sentence.[[43]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-44) In early 2005, Khomeini's *fatwā* was reaffirmed by Iran's current spiritual leader, [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayatollah_Ali_Khamenei), in a message to Muslim pilgrims making the [annual pilgrimage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj) to [Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mecca).[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-webster-bbc-45) Additionally, the [Revolutionary Guards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Revolutionary_Guards_Corps) declared that the death sentence on him is still valid.[[45]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-46) Iran rejected requests to withdraw the*fatwā* on the basis that only the person who issued it may withdraw it,[[44]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-webster-bbc-45) and the person who issued it – Ayatollah Khomeini – has been dead since 1989.

Rushdie has reported that he still receives a "sort of [Valentine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day)'s card" from Iran each year on 14 February letting him know the country has not forgotten the vow to kill him. He said, "It's reached the point where it's a piece of rhetoric rather than a real threat."[[46]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-47) Despite the threats on Rushdie, he publicly said that his family had never been threatened and that his mother (who lived in[Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) during the later years of her life) even received outpourings of support.[[47]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-48)

A former bodyguard to Rushdie, Ron Evans, planned to publish a book recounting the behaviour of the author during the time he was in hiding. Evans claimed that Rushdie tried to profit financially from the *fatwa* and was suicidal, but Rushdie dismissed the book as a "bunch of lies" and took legal action against Evans, his co-author and their publisher.[[48]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-49) On 26 August 2008, Rushdie received an apology at the High Court in London from all three parties.[[49]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-50) A memoir of his years of hiding, *Joseph Anton*, was released on 18 September 2012. Joseph Anton was Rushdie's secret alias.[[50]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-fatwa_memoir-51)

In February 1997, Ayatollah Hasan Sane'i, leader of the bonyad panzdah-e khordad (Fifteenth of Khordad Foundation), reported that the blood money offered by the foundation for the assassination of Rushdie would be increased from $2 million to $2.5 million.[[51]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-buchta-52) Then a semi-official religious foundation in Iran increased the reward it had offered for the killing of Rushdie from $2.8 million to $3.3 million dollars.[[52]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-53)

**Failed assassination attempt and Hezbollah's comments**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=7&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Failed assassination attempt and Hezbollah's comments)]

On 3 August 1989, while Mustafa Mahmoud Mazeh was priming a book bomb loaded with [RDX](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RDX) explosive in a hotel in [Paddington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paddington), Central London, the bomb exploded prematurely, destroying two floors of the hotel and killing Mazeh. A previously unknown [Lebanese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lebanon) group, the Organization of the Mujahidin of Islam, said he died preparing an attack "on the [apostate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apostate) Rushdie". There is a shrine in Tehran's [Behesht-e Zahra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behesht-e_Zahra%22%20%5Co%20%22Behesht-e%20Zahra) cemetery for Mustafa Mahmoud Mazeh that says he was "Martyred in London, 3 August 1989. The first martyr to die on a mission to kill Salman Rushdie." Mazeh's mother was invited to relocate to Iran, and the Islamic World Movement of Martyrs' Commemoration built his shrine in the cemetery that holds thousands of Iranian soldiers slain in the[Iran–Iraq War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran%E2%80%93Iraq_War).[[41]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-Tomb-42) During the 2006 *[Jyllands-Posten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy%22%20%5Co%20%22Jyllands-Posten%20Muhammad%20cartoons%20controversy)*[Muhammad cartoons controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy%22%20%5Co%20%22Jyllands-Posten%20Muhammad%20cartoons%20controversy), Hezbollah leader [Hassan Nasrallah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hassan_Nasrallah) declared that "If there had been a Muslim to carry out Imam Khomeini's*fatwā* against the renegade Salman Rushdie, this rabble who insult our Prophet Mohammed in Denmark, Norway and France would not have dared to do so. I am sure there are millions of Muslims who are ready to give their lives to defend our prophet's honour and we have to be ready to do anything for that."[[53]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-54) James Phillips of the [Heritage Foundation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heritage_Foundation) testified before the [United States Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) that a "March 1989" [[*sic*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sic)] explosion in Britain was a [Hezbollah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hezbollah) attempt to assassinate Rushdie that failed when a bomb exploded prematurely, killing a Hezbollah terrorist in London.

***International Guerillas***[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=8&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: International Guerillas)]

In 1990, soon after the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, a [Pakistani film](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_Pakistan) entitled [*International Gorillay*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Guerillas_%28film%29) (*International Guerillas*) was released that depicted Rushdie as plotting to cause the downfall of [Pakistan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan) by opening a chain of casinos and discos in the country. The film was popular with Pakistani audiences, and it "presents Rushdie as a [Rambo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Rambo)-like figure pursued by four Pakistani guerrillas".[[54]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-Tamney-55) The [British Board of Film Classification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Board_of_Film_Classification) refused to allow it a certificate, as "it was felt that the portrayal of Rushdie might qualify as criminal libel, causing a breach of the peace as opposed to merely tarnishing his reputation." This effectively prevented the release of the film in Britain. Two months later, however, Rushdie himself wrote to the board, saying that while he thought the film "a distorted, incompetent piece of trash", he would not sue if it were released. He later said, "If that film had been banned, it would have become the hottest video in town: everyone would have seen it". While the film was a great hit in Pakistan, it went virtually unnoticed elsewhere.[[55]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-IGlibel-56)

**2012 Jaipur Literature Festival events**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=9&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: 2012 Jaipur Literature Festival events)]

*Main article: [Jaipur Literature Festival](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaipur_Literature_Festival%22%20%5Co%20%22Jaipur%20Literature%20Festival)*

Rushdie was due to appear at the Jaipur Literature Festival in January 2012.[[56]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-57) However, he later cancelled, and indeed cancelled his complete tour of India citing a possible threat to his life as the primary reason.[[57]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-58)[[58]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-59) He investigated police reports that paid assassins had been hired to kill him and suggested the police might be lying.[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-virtual_rushdie_unwelcome-60)

Meanwhile, the police, on the advice of officials, sought [Ruchir Joshi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruchir_Joshi%22%20%5Co%20%22Ruchir%20Joshi), [Jeet Thayil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeet_Thayil%22%20%5Co%20%22Jeet%20Thayil), [Hari Kunzru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hari_Kunzru%22%20%5Co%20%22Hari%20Kunzru) and [Amitava Kumar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amitava_Kumar%22%20%5Co%20%22Amitava%20Kumar). They fled from Jaipur after reading excerpts from *The Satanic Verses* at the Jaipur Literature Festival. In India the import of the book is banned via customs. However, reading from an existing copy of the book is not illegal.[[60]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-61)

A proposed video link session between Rushdie and the Jaipur Literature Festival was cancelled at the last minute[[61]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-62) after the government pressured the festival to stop it.[[59]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-virtual_rushdie_unwelcome-60) Rushdie returned to India to address a conference in Delhi on 16 March 2012.[[62]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-63)

Knighthood[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=10&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Knighthood)]

*Main article:*[*Knighthood of Salman Rushdie*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knighthood_of_Salman_Rushdie)

Rushdie was [knighted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knight_Bachelor) for services to literature in the [Queen's Birthday Honours](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen%27s_Birthday_Honours) on 16 June 2007. He remarked, "I am thrilled and humbled to receive this great honour, and am very grateful that my work has been recognised in this way."[[63]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-64) In response to his knighthood, many nations with Muslim majorities protested. Parliamentarians of several of these countries condemned the action, and Iran and Pakistan called in their British envoys to protest formally. Controversial condemnation issued by Pakistan's Religious Affairs Minister [Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_Ijaz-ul-Haq) was in turn rebuffed by former Prime Minister [Benazir Bhutto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benazir_Bhutto). Ironically, their respective fathers [Zia-ul-Haq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zia-ul-Haq) and [Zulfikar Ali Bhutto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulfikar_Ali_Bhutto%22%20%5Co%20%22Zulfikar%20Ali%20Bhutto) had been earlier portrayed in Rushdie's novel *Shame*. Mass demonstrations against Rushdie's knighthood took place in Pakistan and [Malaysia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia). Several called publicly for his death. Some non-Muslims expressed disappointment at Rushdie's knighthood, claiming that the writer did not merit such an honour and there were several other writers who deserved the knighthood more than Rushdie.[[64]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-65)

[Al-Qaeda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda) condemned the Rushdie honour. The Al-Qaeda leader [Ayman al-Zawahiri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ayman_al-Zawahiri%22%20%5Co%20%22Ayman%20al-Zawahiri) is quoted as saying in an audio recording that Britain's award for Indian-born Rushdie was "an insult to Islam", and it was planning "a very precise response."[[65]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-66)

Religious and political beliefs[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=11&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Religious and political beliefs)]

Rushdie came from a [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) family though he is an [atheist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheist) now. In 1990, in the "hope that it would reduce the threat of Muslims acting on the fatwa to kill him," he issued a statement claiming he had renewed his Muslim faith, had repudiated the attacks on Islam made by characters in his novel and was committed to working for better understanding of the religion across the world. However, Rushdie later said that he was only "pretending".[[66]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-67)

His books often focus on the role of religion in society and conflicts between faiths and between the religious and those of no faith.

Rushdie advocates the application of [higher criticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_criticism), pioneered during the late 19th century. Rushdie called for a reform in Islam[[67]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-68) in a guest opinion piece printed in [*The Washington Post*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Washington_Post) and[*The Times*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Times) in mid-August 2005:

What is needed is a move beyond tradition, nothing less than a reform movement to bring the core concepts of Islam into the modern age, a Muslim Reformation to combat not only the jihadist ideologues but also the dusty, stifling seminaries of the traditionalists, throwing open the windows to let in much-needed fresh air. (...) It is high time, for starters, that Muslims were able to study the revelation of their religion as an event inside history, not supernaturally above it. (...) Broad-mindedness is related to tolerance; open-mindedness is the sibling of peace.

Rushdie supported the [1999 NATO bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_NATO_bombing_of_the_Federal_Republic_of_Yugoslavia), leading the leftist [Tariq Ali](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariq_Ali) to label Rushdie and other "warrior writers" as "the belligerati'".[[68]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-69) He was supportive of the US-led campaign to remove the [Taliban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taliban) in Afghanistan, which began in 2001, but was a vocal critic of the 2003 [war in Iraq](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Iraq). He has stated that while there was a "case to be made for the removal of [Saddam Hussein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saddam_Hussein)", US [unilateral](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unilateral) military intervention was unjustifiable.[[69]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-70)



[Paul Auster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Auster) and Rushdie greeting Israeli President [Shimon Peres](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimon_Peres) with Caro Llewelyn in 2008.

In the wake of the [Jyllands-Posten Muhammad cartoons controversy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jyllands-Posten_Muhammad_cartoons_controversy) in March 2006—which many considered an echo of the death threats and *fatwā*that followed publication of *The Satanic Verses* in 1989—Rushdie signed the manifesto [*Together Facing the New Totalitarianism*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manifesto%3A_Together_Facing_the_New_Totalitarianism), a statement warning of the dangers of [religious extremism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_extremism). The Manifesto was published in the left-leaning French weekly [*Charlie Hebdo*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Hebdo) in March 2006.

In 2006, Rushdie stated that he supported comments by the then-Leader of the House of Commons [Jack Straw](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Straw), who [criticised the wearing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_debate_over_veils) of the [niqab](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niqab%22%20%5Co%20%22Niqab)(a veil that covers all of the face except the eyes). Rushdie stated that his three sisters would never wear the veil. He said, "I think the battle against the veil has been a long and continuing battle against the limitation of women, so in that sense I'm completely on [Straw's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Straw) side."[[70]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-71)

The [Marxist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism) Catholic critic [Terry Eagleton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_Eagleton), a former admirer of Rushdie's work, attacked him for his positions, saying he "cheered on [the Pentagon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pentagon)'s criminal ventures in Iraq and Afghanistan".[[71]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-72) However, Eagleton subsequently apologised for having misrepresented Rushdie's views.

At an appearance at [92nd Street Y](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/92nd_Street_Y), Rushdie expressed his view on copyright when answering a question whether he had considered copyright law a barrier (or impediment) to free speech.

No. But that's because I write for a living, [laughs] and I have no other source of income, and I naïvely believe that stuff that I create belongs to me, and that if you want it you might have to give me some cash. [...] My view is I do this for a living. The thing wouldn't exist if I didn't make it and so it belongs to me and don't steal it. You know. It's my stuff.[[72]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-73)

When [Amnesty International](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amnesty_International) (AI) suspended human rights activist [Gita Sahgal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gita_Sahgal%22%20%5Co%20%22Gita%20Sahgal) for saying to the press that she thought AI should distance itself from [Moazzam Begg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moazzam_Begg%22%20%5Co%20%22Moazzam%20Begg) and his organisation, Rushdie said:

Amnesty ... has done its reputation incalculable damage by allying itself with Moazzam Begg and his group Cageprisoners, and holding them up as human rights advocates. It looks very much as if Amnesty's leadership is suffering from a kind of [moral bankruptcy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moral_bankruptcy), and has lost the ability to distinguish right from wrong. It has greatly compounded its error by suspending the redoubtable Gita Sahgal for the crime of going public with her concerns. [Gita Sahgal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gita_Sahgal%22%20%5Co%20%22Gita%20Sahgal) is a woman of immense integrity and distinction.... It is people like Gita Sahgal who are the true voices of the human rights movement; Amnesty and Begg have revealed, by their statements and actions, that they deserve our contempt.[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-74)

Rushdie is a supporter of [gun control](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_control), blaming a [shooting at a Colorado cinema](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_Aurora_shooting) in July 2012 on the American right to keep and bear arms.[[74]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-75)[[75]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-76)

Personal life[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=12&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Personal life)]

Rushdie has been married four times. He was married to his first wife Clarissa Luard from 1976 to 1987 and fathered a son, Zafar (born 1980). His second wife was the American novelist [Marianne Wiggins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marianne_Wiggins); they were married in 1988 and divorced in 1993. His third wife, from 1997 to 2004, was Elizabeth West; they have a son, Milan (born 1999). In 2004, he married the Indian American[Padma Lakshmi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Lakshmi), an actress, model, and host of the American reality-television show [*Top Chef*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Top_Chef). The marriage ended on 2 July 2007, with Lakshmi's indicating it was her desire to end it. In 2008, the [Bollywood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bollywood%22%20%5Co%20%22Bollywood) press romantically linked him to his friend, Indian model [Riya Sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riya_Sen%22%20%5Co%20%22Riya%20Sen).[[76]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-77) In response to the media speculation about their relationship, she simply stated: "I think when you are Salman Rushdie, you must get bored with people who always want to talk to you about literature."[[77]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-78)

In 1999, Rushdie had an operation to correct [ptosis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptosis_%28eyelid%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Ptosis%20%28eyelid%29), a tendon condition that causes drooping eyelids and that, according to him, was making it increasingly difficult for him to open his eyes. "If I hadn't had an operation, in a couple of years from now I wouldn't have been able to open my eyes at all," he said.[[78]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-79)

Since 2000, Rushdie has "lived mostly near [Union Square](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Square_%28New_York_City%29)" in New York City.[[79]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-80)

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**Novels**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=14&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro" \o "Edit section: Novels)]

* [*Grimus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grimus) (1975)
* [*Midnight's Children*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Midnight%27s_Children) (1981)
* [*Shame*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shame_%28Rushdie_novel%29) (1983)
* [*The Satanic Verses*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Satanic_Verses) (1988)
* [*The Moor's Last Sigh*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Moor%27s_Last_Sigh) (1995)
* [*The Ground Beneath Her Feet*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ground_Beneath_Her_Feet) (1999)
* [*Fury*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fury_%28novel%29) (2001)
* [*Shalimar the Clown*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shalimar_the_Clown) (2005)
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* [*Joseph Anton: A Memoir*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Anton%3A_A_Memoir) (2012)

Awards[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Salman_Rushdie&action=edit&section=18&editintro=Template:BLP_editintro)]

* [Aristeion Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristeion_Prize) (European Union)
* [Arts Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts_Council) Writers' Award
* Author of the Year ([British Book Awards](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Book_Awards))
* Author of the Year (Germany)
* [Booker Prize for Fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_Prize_for_Fiction)
* [Booker of Bookers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_of_Bookers) for the best novel among the Booker Prize winners for Fiction awarded at its 25th anniversary (in 1993)
* [The Best of the Booker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Best_of_the_Booker) awarded to commemorate the [Booker Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_Prize)'s 40th anniversary (in 2008), winner by public vote
* Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France)
* [English-Speaking Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English-Speaking_Union) Award
* [Golden PEN Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_PEN_Award)[[80]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-81)
* [Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Christian_Andersen_Literature_Award) (2014)[[81]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salman_Rushdie#cite_note-politiken-82)
* Honorary Patron, [University Philosophical Society](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_Philosophical_Society), [Trinity College, Dublin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity_College%2C_Dublin).
* [Hutch Crossword Book Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hutch_Crossword_Book_Award) (India)
* India Abroad Lifetime Achievement Award (USA)
* [James Tait Black Memorial Prize](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Tait_Black_Memorial_Prize) (Fiction)
* Kurt Tucholsky Prize (Sweden)
* Mantua Prize (Italy)
* [James Joyce Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Joyce_Award) – [University College Dublin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_College_Dublin)
* [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology) Honorary Professorship
* [Chapman University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chapman_University) Honorary Doctorate – Doctor of Humane Letters
* Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Cultural Humanism (Harvard University)
* [Premio Grinzane Cavour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Premio_Grinzane_Cavour) (Italy)
* Prix Colette (Switzerland)
* [Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prix_du_Meilleur_Livre_%C3%89tranger)
* [St. Louis Literary Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Literary_Award) – [Saint Louis University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Louis_University)
* State Prize for Literature (Austria)
* [Whitbread Novel Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitbread_Novel_Award) (twice)
* [Writers' Guild of Great Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writers%27_Guild_of_Great_Britain) Award for Children's Fiction
* [University of Liège](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Li%C3%A8ge) Doctor honoris causa