In a remote village in the foothills of the Himalayas, a gifted but unknown poet named Kalidas has nurtured an unconventional romance with his youthful muse, Mallika. When the royal palace at Ujjayini offers him the position of court poet, Kalidas hesitates, but Mallika persuades him to leave for the distant city so that his talent may find recognition. Convinced that he will send for her, she waits. He returns years later, a broken man trying to reconnect with his past, only to discover that time has passed him by. Titled *Ashadh ka ek din* in the original Hindi, Mohan Rakesh’s play is a poignant story of love, separation, and abandonment, and a modernist reimagining of the life of India’s greatest classical poet. The new English translation by Aparna Dharwadker and Vinay Dharwadker was authorized by the author’s estate, and contains a full editorial apparatus aimed at readers, teachers, dramaturgs, and theatre directors.

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**PUBLICATION INFORMATION**


Price: INR 499; $16.83 (hardcover), $18.00 (Kindle)

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