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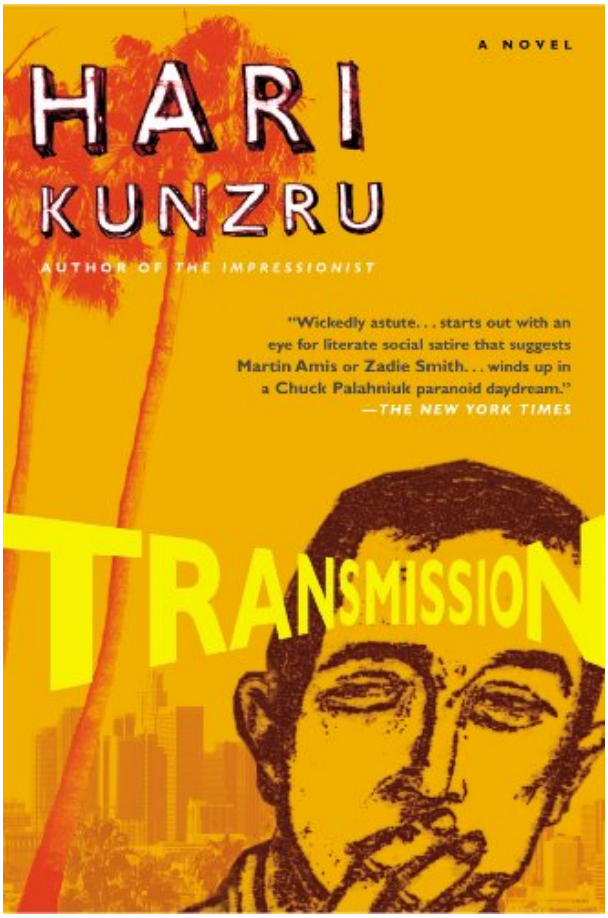

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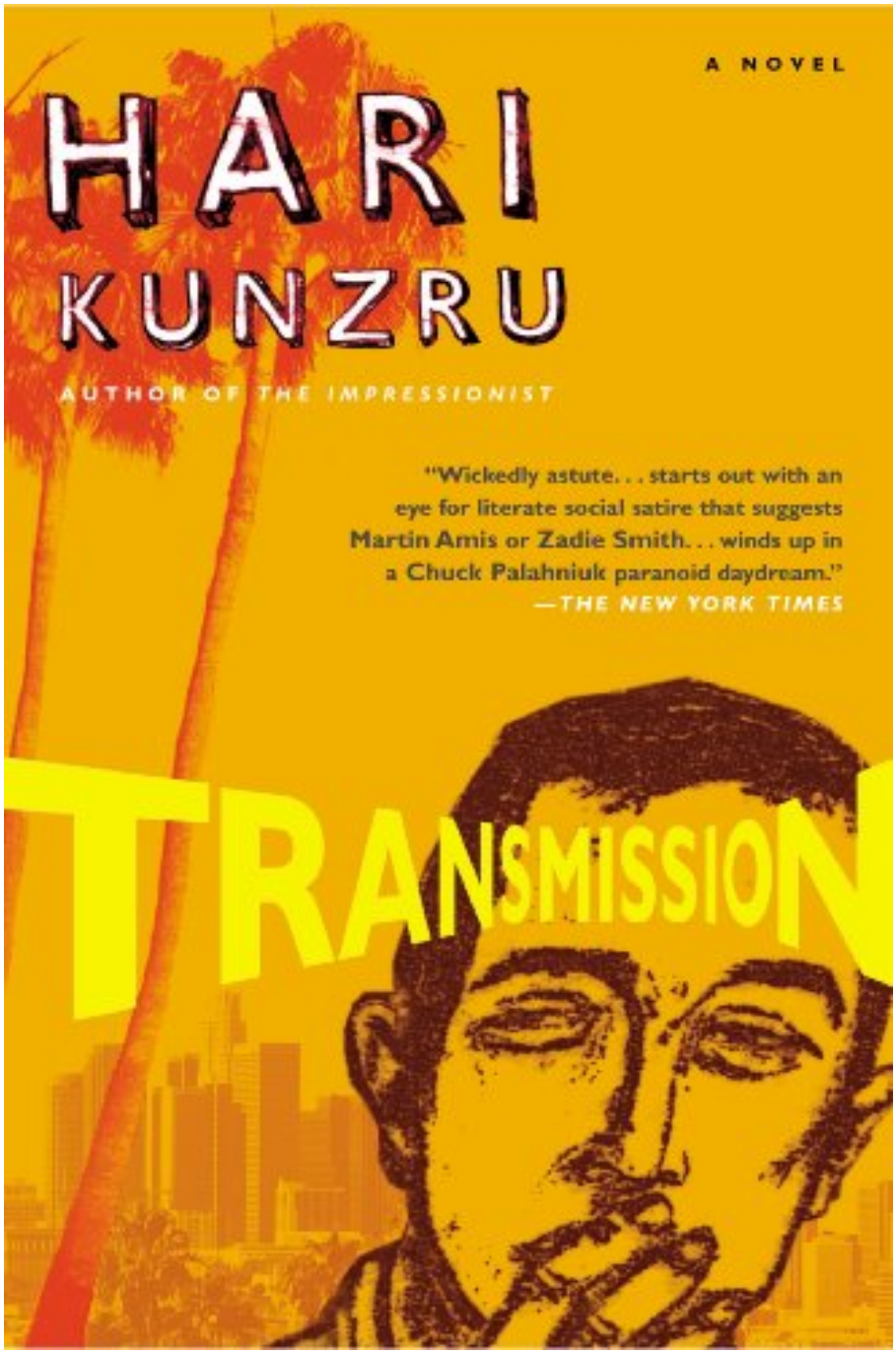

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From Publishers Weekly
With this taut and entertaining novel, London native Kunzru paints a satirized but unsettlingly familiar tableau, in which his alienated characters communicate via e-mail jokes and emote through pop culture, all the while dreaming of frothy lattes and designer labels. Arjun Mehta is an Indian computer programmer and Bollywood buff who comes to the U.S. with big dreams, but finds neither the dashing romance nor the heroic ending of his favorite movies—just a series of crushing disappointments. When he is told he will lose his job at the global security software company and thus may have to return to India, Arjun develops and secretly releases a nasty computer virus, hoping that he can impress his boss into hiring him back when he "finds" the cure. Arjun's desperate measures are, of course, far reaching, eventually affecting the lives of Guy Swift, an English new money entrepreneur; his girlfriend, Gabriella; and the young Indian movie star Leela Zahir. Kunzru weaves their narratives adroitly, finding humor and pathos in his misguided characters, all the while nipping savagely at consumer culture and the executives who believe in "the emotional magma that wells from the core of planet brand." While Guy Swift creates a marketing campaign for border police that imagines Europe as an "upscale, exclusive continent," Arjun Mehta is fighting to keep his scrap of the American dream. Kunzru's first novel, The Impressionist, was received enthusiastically (it was shortlisted for numerous awards, and won quite a few others, including the Somerset Maugham Award), and this follow-up will not disappoint fans of his stirring social commentary.
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TRANSMISSION BY HARI KUNZRU PDF

In Transmission, award-winning writer Hari Kunzru takes an ultra-contemporary turn with the story of an Indian computer programmer whose luxurious fantasies about life in America are shaken when he accepts a California job offer.

Lonely and naïve, Arjun spends his days as a lowly assistant virus- tester, pining away for his free-spirited colleague Christine. Arjun gets laid off like so many of his Silicon Valley peers, and in an act of desperation to keep his job, he releases a mischievous but destructive virus around the globe that has major unintended consequences. As world order unravels, so does Arjun’s sanity, in a rollicking cataclysm that reaches Bollywood and, not so coincidentally, the glamorous star of Arjun’s favorite Indian movie.

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
A very entertaining read
By John J. Franco
I'm not sure exactly what I was expecting from this book. Maybe more of a counter-culture feel? It was there, but it was subtle and not what I thought I'd be getting when I bought the book. There are separate stories that eventually end up intertwined, but it takes longer than I thought, and they didn't interact with each other as much as I expected. That said, I thoroughly enjoyed the book. The characters were real and well-developed. The story was interesting and realistic.

2 of 6 people found the following review helpful.
Transmission
By Charles E. Cherry
The first 60 pages of thi book are the funniest I've ever read. For computer and Silicon Valley literates especially. After tha the author gets over his head is attempting characters and areas he does not really know.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
A very clever and interesting story but let down by the ending!
By Lizzy from My Little Book Blog
As the blurb suggests we follows the rather satirical but utterly wonderful tale of an IT ‘geek’ trying to make it in America. Arjun has always been fascinated with the idea of America and the American dream but when he gets there it’s not quite how he assumed it would be. Struggling to keep his job Arjun sends out a terrifying virus called Leela01 in the hope of fixing the problem which displays a looping video of his favourite Bollywood star on any computer that accesses the link. Amongst this we have the stories of both Leela and Guy Swiftt whose lives slowly come into contact with Arjun as his virus threatens to take over the world. It’s a wonderful tale of the power of the internet, the story of the American dream with a little bit of Bollywood glamour.

Is it any good you ask? Yes. Yes it is. Firstly the characters are wonderfully built up and they contrast beautifully – Arjun is struggling to prove his worth despite being a hardworking, honestly trained and determined human being, contrasted with Guy Swift who is desperate to prove he's this big shot in events and yet he's not. It's a front, a total front. This contrasted the entire way through and watching their lives change and evolve as the plot continues was such a clever way to connect characters using their flaws and their strengths. I thought the looking into Arjun and his new life in America in contrast to his life in India was offset well and helped to strengthen the contrasts we see.

I thought the book was so clever in looking at the power of the internet and it's ability to negatively affect so many lives – the book looks strongly at destroying our faith in technology and how much we rely on machines and their ability to give us knowledge and power. Watching the virus grow and seeing both the effect it has on Arjun, Leela and Guy is a clever play on what the internet means to each and every one of us – it's a powerful story and one that is really important in our current digital age. The writing is strong and weaves a tale – flitting between the different storylines and building up secondary supporting characters throughout, this works well. Due to moving between each of the characters it made me surge through the book desperate to know more and learn more and that definitely made me more invested in the plot. In terms of the pace it is a little slow at the beginning and then it definitely speeds up once Arjun is in America so if it feels a little slow and steady it does improve helping to draw the reader in.

The real disappointment is at the end – I don't want to give away any spoilers but there were two ways of doing it really; tying it up and making the book quite a bit longer or kind of stopping and inserting a coda to attempt to wrap things up which for me, and for a lot of other readers judging from the reviews, doesn't quite work.

Overall would I recommend? Yes definitely if you're looking for something different that really plays on the character profiles and looks into the Internet age we're currently trying to recover from. I thought this was clever, and although ending was a little bit of a letdown overall still a brilliant read!

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