



AUTHOR Smita Banerjee, Professor, Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, Delhi University, authored the book “Modernities & the Popular Melodrama: The Suchitra–Uttam Yug in Bengali Cinema”. The author shows how, despite their strong box-office draw, mass appeal & iconic status, the two stars’ sensuous enactment of desire led to severe criticism, & critical acceptance remained elusive. She pairs her analysis of select films from the stars’ oeuvre with insights from media archives—including film magazines, publicity booklets & posters, interviews, tabloid gossip, & biographies—in this fascinating account of the Suchitra–Uttam phenomenon, its social context, & its enduring emotional appeal. This study of the mahanayak and mahanayika of Bengali cinema will interest scholars of film & media studies, culture studies, as well as any reader interested in the cultural moorings of stardom.