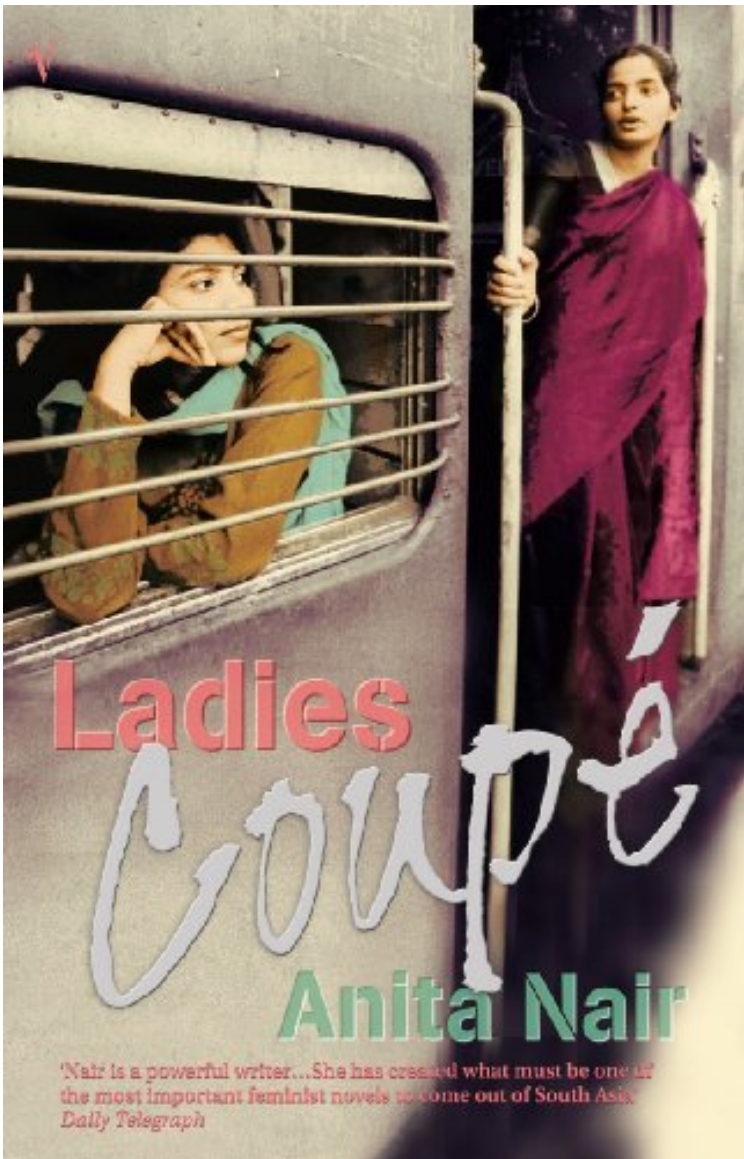


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# Ladies Coupe



*Par Anita Nair*  
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**Description :** Description du produitMeet Akhilandeswari, Akhila for short: forty-five and single, an income-tax clerk, and a woman who has never been allowed to live her own life. Until the day she gets herself a one-way ticket to the seaside town of Kanyakumari, gloriously alone for the first time in her life and determined to break free of all that her conservative Tamil brahmin life has bound her to. The story of a woman's search for strength and independence.

Prsentation de l'diteurMeet Akhilandeswari, Akhila for short: forty-five and single, an income-tax clerk, and a woman who has never been allowed to live her own life - always the daughter, the sister, the aunt, the provider. Until the day she gets herself a one-way ticket to the seaside town of Kanyakumari. In the intimate atmosphere of the all-women sleeping car - the 'Ladies Coupe' - Akhila asks the five women she is travelling

with the question that has been haunting her all her adult life: can a woman stay single and be happy, or does she need a man to feel complete? This wonderfully atmospheric, deliciously warm novel takes the reader into the heart of women's lives in contemporary India, revealing how the dilemmas that women face in their relationships with husbands, mothers, friends, employers and children are the same the world over. At 45, Akhila awakes one day with a "fight-or-flight" notion. So she boards a train's ladies coupe (a segregated, second-class compartment found on most overnight Indian trains until 1998) and journeys from Bangalore to Kanyakumari. After her father's death many years ago, she became the head of her family's household. Breadwinner and martyr, she has sacrificed her desires to fulfill her family's wants and needs. A question has long weighed on her mind: Can a woman live without a man and be happy? The women Akhila meets on the train car respond with their life experiences. Nair's novel is feminist, but it is much more than that as Nair sensitively explores the intimate feelings of her women characters not only in vivid descriptions of their Indian lives, but also in the pleasure they take in something as simple as enjoying a forbidden egg. Nair is a powerful writer, who through this tender story shows great understanding and compassion for all women and for the choices and regrets they cannot avoid. Janet St. John Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. Revue de presse "A deeply serious, enjoyably lucid book about real terrors and joys, full of sensual and surprising details" (Scotland on Sunday) "Nair conveys her protagonist's dilemmas with a freshness and charm... Her writing [has] a sharpness and immediacy that lifts it above the commonplace" (The Times) "Modern India's vivid, sticky beauty is evoked beautifully... Nair's compassion for her characters shines through every carefully chosen word" (Sunday Tribune) "Anita Nair demonstrates convincingly that she is a writer committed to highlighting the travails and contradictions of women's lives. Her strength lies in bringing alive everyday thoughts, desires and doubts of these six ordinary women" (Times Literary Supplement) "Nair is a powerful writer... She has created what must be one of the most important feminist novels to come out of South Asia" (Daily Telegraph)