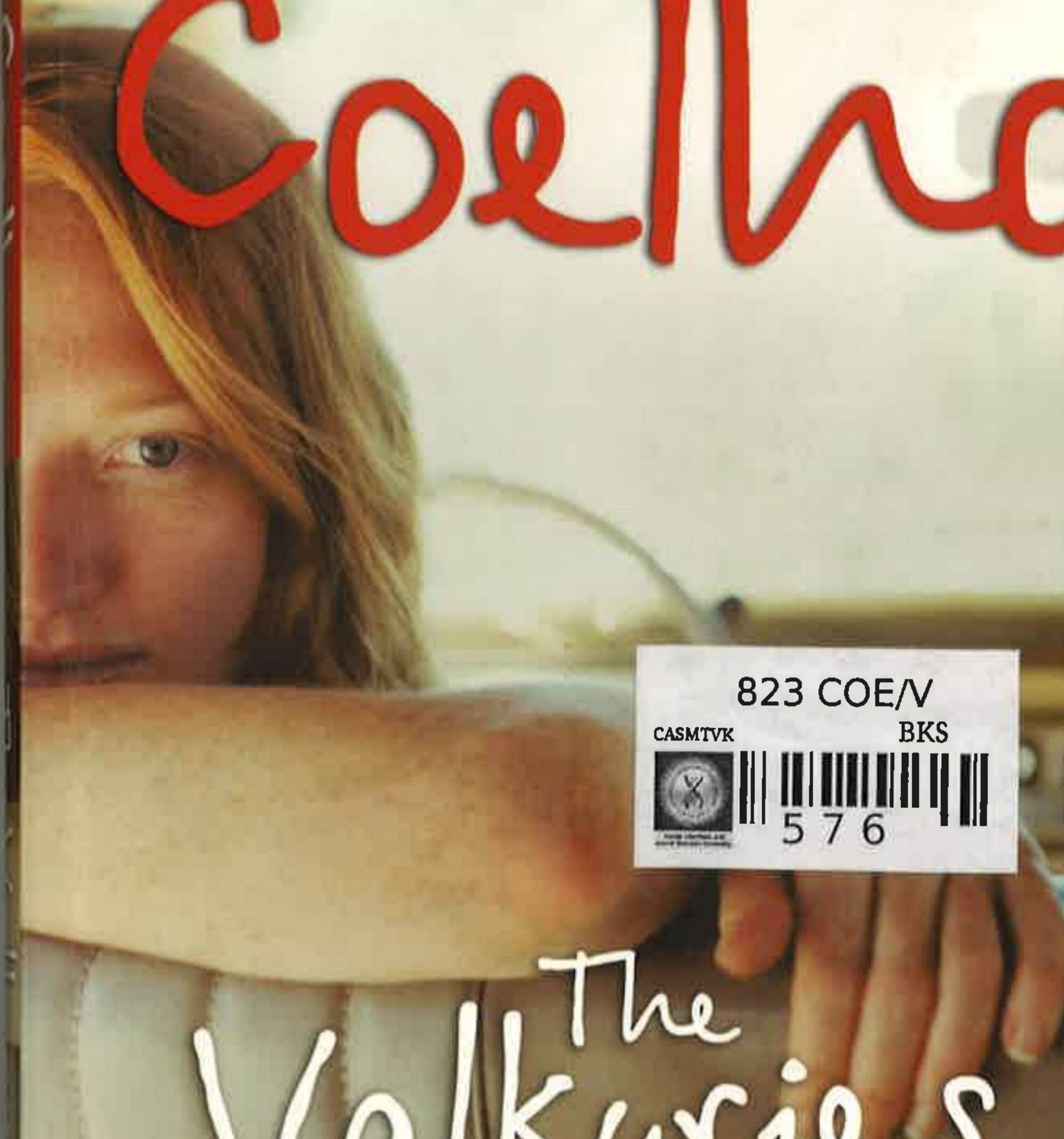


Paulo  
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The  
Valkyries

The International Bestseller



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And an angel descended  
where they were  
and the glory of the Lord  
shone all about them.

*Luke 2:9*

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

Anyone who has read *The Valkyries* will know that this book is very different from *The Pilgrimage* (previously published as *The Diary of a Magus*), *The Alchemist*,<sup>2</sup> and *Brida*.

It was an extremely difficult book to write. First, because it deals with matters that require sensitivity on the part of the reader. Second, because I have already told this story to many people, and I feared that I might have exhausted my capacity to write it down. This fear remained with me from the first page to the last, but—thank God—it was only a fear.

The third and most important reason: In order to relate the events that took place, I had to reveal details from my personal life—my marriage, my relationships with others, and the fragile distance that separates the magical Tradition to which I belong from the person I am. As is true for any human being, exposing my weaknesses and my private life is not easy.

But—as was made quite clear in *The Pilgrimage*—the path to magic is the path of the common people. One can have a master, follow the esoteric

Tradition, and possess the discipline needed to perform rituals; but the spiritual search is made up of many beginnings (thus the searcher is called an "initiate," someone who is always in the act of beginning something), and the only thing that matters—always—is the will to go on.

*The Valkyries* clearly presents the man that exists behind the magus, and this may disappoint those who are looking for "perfect beings," with their perfect truths regarding everything. But true seekers know that, regardless of our faults and defects, the spiritual path is stronger. God is love, generosity, and forgiveness; if we believe in this, we will never allow our weaknesses to paralyze us.

The events narrated in this book took place between September 5 and October 17, 1988. The sequential order of some of the events has been changed, and in two places I made use of fiction, only so that the reader could better grasp the matter at hand. But all of the essential events are true. The letter quoted in the Epilogue is on file at the Registry of Titles and Documents in Rio de Janeiro under number 478038.

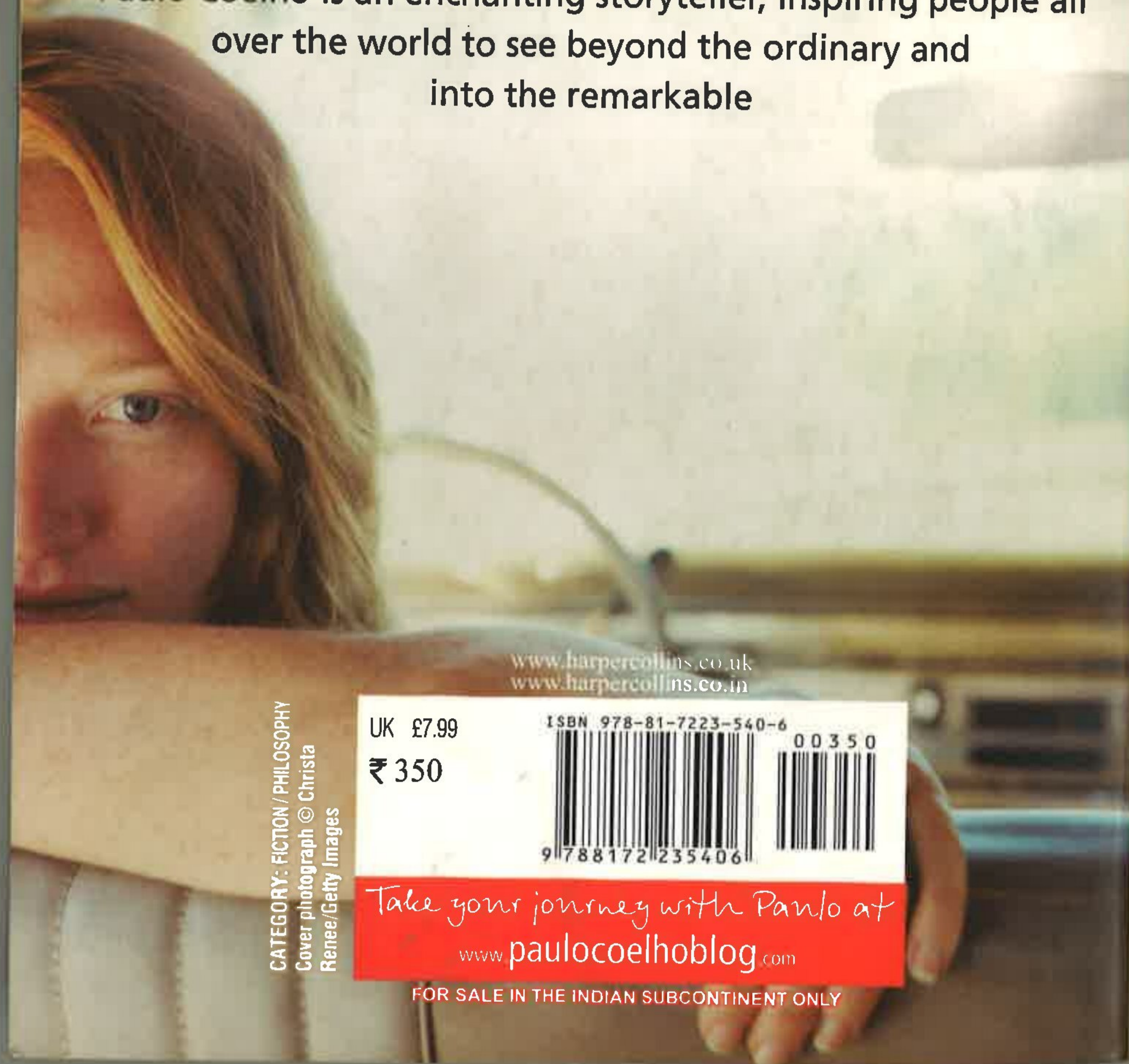
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