

Githa Hariharan Fugitive Histories

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Isquo githa hariharan rsquo s fiction is wonderful mdash full of subtleties and humour and tenderness rsquo mdash michael ondaatje mala rsquo s home in delhi is empty save for a

lifetime of sketches left behind by her late husband asad and the memories they conjure sifting through them on restless afternoons and sleepless nights mala summons ghosts from her childhood relives the heady days of love and optimism when asad and she robustly defied social conventions to build a life together and struggles to understand how events far removed could so easily snatch away the certainties they had always taken for granted as their story unfolds others emerge of sara mala and asad's daughter who unable to commit to a cause that will renew her faith in her parents' ideals and her own embarks on a search for purpose that brings her from mumbai to ahmedabad the venue of recent carnage of yasmin whom sara meets across a lately created border a survivor of mayhem secretly dreaming of college and the miraculous return of her missing brother akbar as she navigates menacing by lanes to reach her school safely every day of innumerable other lives trapped in limbo some caught in a mesh of memory anguish and hate others seeking release in private dreams and valiant hopes marked by an astonishing clarity of observation and deep compassion fugitive histories exposes the legacy of prejudice that sometimes insidiously sometimes perceptibly continues to affect disparate lives in present day india in prose that is at once elegant playful and startlingly inventive githa hariharan portrays with remarkable precision the of human connections that binds as much as it divides

i have gone through dr rajesh latane and dr shehjad sidiqui's book entitled feminist perspective in githa hariharan's novels the book consisted seven chapters the first chapter presents the rise and development of feminism has been sharply focused further a brief profile of life and works of githa hariharan is also put forth a round up review of major novels crafted by githa hariharan is neatly presented besides literary influence on githa hariharan has also been given second to sixth chapters writer deal with the feminist perspective of githa hariharan novels like in the thousand faces of night the ghosts of vasu master when dreams travel in times of siege and fugitive histories the author has also significantly pointed out githa hariharan's use of myth fable parable fantasy tradition

modernity etc as fictional techniques in an effective way besides the novelist's discussion on women's issues is vividly presented through the technique of third person narration the book has really presented the novelist's works affected by the otherness and opposition the study also investigates githa hariharan's use of meta-fiction inter-text and magic realism unique features of post-colonial novel just to bring the feminist discourse in the forefront a book is really acknowledged when it becomes a source material for the future researchers and comparatists dr latane and dr shehjad's book has that potential i heartily wish a good reception to the book

twenty stories of contemporary indian life that demonstrate the range of hariharan's writing executed with a precision of style and magical imagery sometimes comic yet tinged with sadness as in the much anthologized the remains of the feast where an old woman near the end of her life suddenly feels the urge to sample all the food she has been forbidden sometimes with a twist as in gajar halwa where chellamma a servant girl from a small town family finally understands that makes a big city work sometimes moving as in the reprieve these stories never fail to surprise and delight

theodore baskaran weaves the magic and matter of south indian films into a rich tapestry of readable essays they cover such topics as early cinema in the south trade unionism in south indian film industry and the need for historicizing southern cinema baskaran also investigates how tamil cinema is struggling to get free from the legacy of company drama and the persistence of stage features while his sharper focus rests on tamil cinema this collection will interest historians and students of indian film and the general readers who look for a sprightly introduction to the world of south indian films chapter titles include

what makes a fanatic a fundamentalist what makes communities that have lived together for years suddenly discover a hatred for each other new delhi in the year 2000 staff meetings lesson modules a half-hearted little affair with a colleague this is the bland but comfortable life of shiv murthy a history teacher in an open university but disruption and

change are on their way an outspoken young woman with a broken knee comes into his life and turns it upside down then hindu zealots attack his writings on basava the reformer poet when fundamentalism lands on his own doorstep shiv discovers that the ideas he has inherited about history nations and patriots are liable to shrink day by day the time of siege is not exclusively indian prejudice speaks different languages but has the same destructive message only trust those of your kind with love lust and a perverted nationalism at his heels shiv is forced to confront the demands of his times and choose a direction for the future but first he must come to terms with his own incomplete past his fears and his obsession with a woman who will give him the strength he seeks

what makes a dutiful daughter wife and mother what makes a good indian woman devi returns to madras with an american degree only to be sucked in by the old order of things a demanding mother's love a suitable but hollow marriage an unsuitable lover who offers a brief escape but the women of the hoary past come back to claim devi through myth and story music and memory they show her what it is to stay and endure what it is to break free and move on sita has been the ideal daughter in law wife and mother but now that she has arranged a marriage for her daughter she has to come to terms with an old dream of her own mayamma knows how to survive as the old family retainer bending the way the wind blows but through devi she too can see a different life a subtle and tender tale of women's lives in india this award winning novel is structured with the delicacy and precision of a piece of music fusing myth tale and the real voices of different women the thousand faces of night brings alive the underworld of indian women's lives

this anthology puts together some of the finest articles that discuss themes which frequently figure in current literary debates centring round post independence indian english fiction reinterpretation of indian history in artistic terms re evaluation of indian culture postcolonial representation of india in fiction nation and national identity diasporic indian experience and intertextuality it thus attempts a critical stock taking of the indian english

fiction of the fifty years since independence from these fresh perspectives almost all the important novelists of the three generations have been studied in this anthology raja rao r k narayan manohar malgonkar anita desai ruth praver jhabvala arun joshi kamala markandaya shashi deshpane khushwant singh gita mehta vikram chandra mukul kesavan arudhati roy and gita hariharan contributing to this volume are some of the best scholars like ragini ramachandra antony johae rama kundu m mani meitei d maya corrado micheli and christopher rollason

a moving tale of self discovery rich with fascinating stories and imaginary characters vasu master recently retired from his job in a local school allows himself to revisit the past and imaginatively discover the nature of teaching teacher and pupil this process of self discovery is speeded up by the arrival of mani who cannot or will not speak vasu master tells the reticent child one fantastic story after the other as he faces up to the biggest challenge of his life can he teach or heal mani using fantasy fable and a host of wonderfully imagined characters githa hariharan creates a richly textured work that eloquently explores the human condition and the underlying principles of all human action

the essays in this volume not only provide an analytical study of the past 50 years or so but give suggestions regarding the path that india should take in the coming years

suggesting that women are reshaping english as rushdie suggests kuortti interviews 7 women writers to find out why they write in english which cannot be neutral as a colony the language was inescapably associated with class race and power after independence it has grown in power and status yet the problematic of english as the language of the hegemonic west remains even so a new canon of women writing in english is being formed interviewing the writers shashi deshpane the late shama futehally githa hariharan lakshmi kannan sujatha mathai anuradha marwah roy and mina singh kuortti also presents extracts from their writings

what does a medieval city in south india have in common with washington d c how do people in kashmir imagine the freedom they long for to whom does delhi city of grand monuments and hidden slums actually belong and what makes a city or any place home in ten intricately carved essays renowned author githa hariharan tackles these questions and takes readers on an eye opening journey across time and place exploring the history landscape and people that have shaped the world s most fascinating and fraught cities inspired by italo calvino s playful and powerful writing about journeys and cities harihan combines memory cultural criticism and history to sculpt fascinating layered stories about the places around the world from delhi mumbai and kashmir to palestine algeria and eleventh century córdoba from tokyo to new york and washington in narrating the lives of these place s vanquished and marginalized she plumbs the depths of colonization and nation building poverty and war the fight for human rights and the day to day business of survival

where is that land where water flows free a powerful beautifully imagined novel from githa hariharan asks when the tide will turn to make this dream real hundreds of years ago chikka son of a cattle skinner finds a home in anandagrama among people who believe everyone is equal people whose prayer is inseparable from song and work the river and the land friendship and love chikka becomes chikkiah the washerman who sings by his beloved river but the anandagrama movement against caste is torn apart and its men and women slaughtered or forced to flee in the present day professor krishna makes a discovery the saint singer kannadeva is none other than the son of chikkiah the poets and fighters of anandagrama have been forgotten kannadeva has been whitewashed into a casteless hindu saint professor krishna reconstructs many lives of resistance from his findings in a palm leaf manuscript but will the bigots armed with bullets bombs and hit lists let scholars and poets do what they must three dalit students asha ravi and satya dream of a future that will let them and their families live with dignity just like everyone else from chikkiah s story to theirs a few things may have changed but too much has remained the same three

distinctive narratives intertwine past and present in compelling ways to raise an urgent voice against the cruelties of caste and the destructive forces that crush dissent but they also celebrate the joy of resistance the redemptive beauty of words and the courage to be found in friendship and love i have become the tide is deeply political but it never loses sight of humour tenderness or the human spirit

this word home so easy to say so casually said every day why then is home so hard to see the way you see other places you visit for a week or two what do a medieval city in south india and washington d c have in common how do people in kashmir imagine the freedom they long for who does delhi city of grand monuments and hidden slums actually belong to most of all what makes a city or any place home in large parts of the world including india the prevailing view of people and places and their multiple voices has been a western version how does this story change when it is located in india and the view complicated by several cultures languages traditions and political debates from delhi bombay mumbai ooty and kashmir to palestine algeria and eleventh century cordoba these intricately carved essays explore cities and other places through the lives of people and how they see home and belonging combining memoir and polemic historical and imagined narrative anecdote and poetry githa hariharan recounts defining moments in which people experience the frictions of day to day survival or the collisions of ideas culture war or colonization the result is a fascinating and layered story of home a sense of home too many homes broken or lost homes

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