

SELECTED FICTION

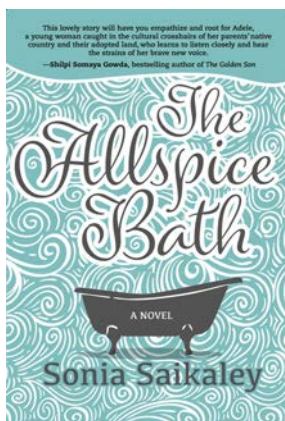


SPINSTER KANG

Zoë S. Roy

Thirty-two-year-old Kang is a new immigrant in Toronto. Having an older sister who was raped and suffers from the ensuing stigma in China, Kang is determined to remain a spinster, which has its own stigma in China. She struggles with her fear and distrust of men. But Kang's story is not a hard luck story. She is an intelligent woman who deals with the perplexities of a different culture by maintaining a sense of curiosity and an enjoyment of learning. When a series of coincidences leads her to new friends and surprising family secrets, Kang must make a life-altering choice.

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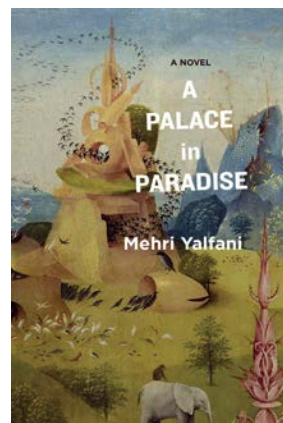
THE ALLSPICE BATH

Sonia Saikaley

"Caught between her Lebanese family traditions and her Canadian upbringing, Adele continuously challenges the rigorous boundaries that are drawn by her unyielding father, Youssef, and his cultural beliefs. Her journey towards independence is wrought with unexpected obstacles that only reinforce her resilience...The story exquisitely interweaves the heart-warming images of family, home, and belonging with the inescapable sense of solitude that accompanies uprootedness and displacement."

—Lamees Al Ethari

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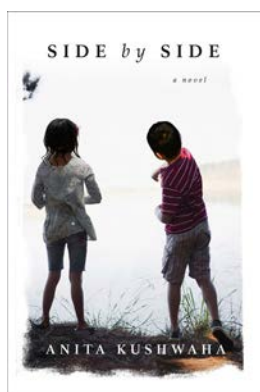
A PALACE IN PARADISE

Mehri Yalfani

"Mehri Yalfani's *A Palace in Paradise* fills an important gap in contemporary fiction, bringing the Irani-Canadian diaspora into critical focus through a predominantly female cast of characters—émigrés who seek in Toronto and its environs a space of refuge and forgetting, while discovering, among a community of exiles still shackled to the shadow of history, that it is only in those quiet acts of will, like those private acts of kindness, that we possess the power to set ourselves free."

—Mariam Pirbhai

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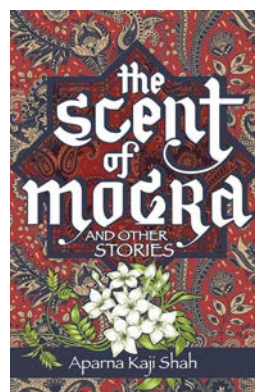


SIDE BY SIDE

Anita Kushwaha

Kavita Gupta is a woman in transition. When her troubled older brother, Sunil, disappears, she does everything in her power to find him, convinced that she can save him. Ten days later, the police arrive at her door to inform her that Sunil's body has been found. Her world is devastated. *Side by Side* is a story about loss, growth and the search for meaning in the wake of tragedy, illuminated through one woman's journey from harm to care.

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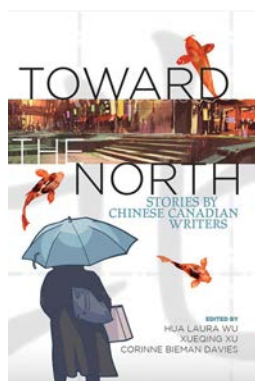


THE SCENT OF MOGRA AND OTHER STORIES

Aparna Kaji Shah

This is a collection of four short stories about strong female characters dealing with difficult situations. The turmoil that they face is, often, the result of a social structure that discriminates against women. Stories reflect attitudes and ways of life in a village in India, and in modern day Mumbai; they highlight the values of an older generation, and the dreams of a new one. *The Scent of Mogra and Other Stories* illuminates the quality of women's lives, exposing the pain, the injustices, as well as the triumphs that make up their existence.

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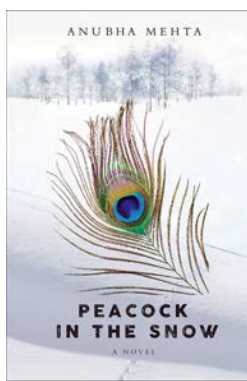
TOWARD THE NORTH

Stories by Chinese Canadian Writers

Hua Laura Wu, Xueqing Xu, Corinne Bieman Davies, eds.

Toward the North is the first anthology of its kind. It includes thirteen short fiction pieces written and translated by Chinese-Canadian writers during the last two decades, each of which depicts the contemporary lives of new Chinese immigrants to Canada, and illustrates newcomers' perspectives of multicultural Canada. Struggles between cultural assimilation and resistance are vividly portrayed. The authors' approaches to their characters' life experience of culture's in-between displays an intriguing diversity both in content and in styles.

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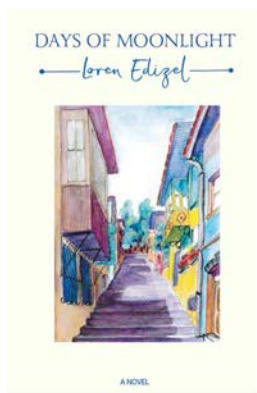


PEACOCK IN THE SNOW

Anubha Mehta

Born to privilege and wed to her high school sweetheart Veer, free spirited Maya feels trapped in conventional upper class family with patriarchal expectations in India. Claustrophobic within the dark walls of the mansion she lives in with Veer, Maya's curiosity leads her to unearth a dark family secret, a murder which begins to haunt her. To escape the malicious spirits lingering in the house, Maya and her family fly to new land and discover the hardship and the bounty that this adopted country offers. This is a one-of-a-kind genre-bending thriller that crosses three generations of heartbreak, across two continents

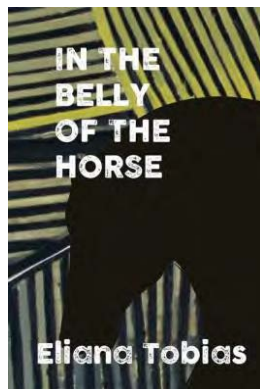
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DAYS OF MOONLIGHT
Loren Edizel

Finalist, 2019 Fred Kerner Book Award Upon receiving a letter and a package of journals from a dying Mehtap, her mother Nuray's close friend in Turkey, a young Toronto woman immerses herself in the old woman's memories. She uncovers Mehtap's story as a factory worker in the 1960s when something unexpected happens that forces Mehtap to choose between two loves. Mehtap's story is interwoven with that of her parents, Cretan refugees who landed in Izmir in the mid-twenties.

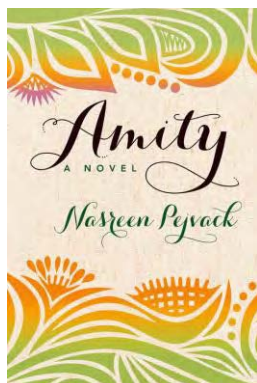
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IN THE BELLY OF THE HORSE
Eliana Tobias

Second Place Winner, 2017 International Latino Book Awards (Fiction Book – English). This is a gripping story of a historic period in the life of a Peruvian family separated and displaced by seemingly insurmountable forces during a time of civil conflict. Outraged and fearful that war is surging too close to home, Manuel Perez takes his seven-year-old son Salvador into hiding. Otilia, his wife, stays behind to protect the family property. This novel illustrates the struggle of people around the world confronted by armed conflict within and between the political powers around them.

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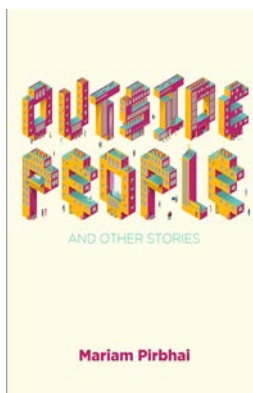
AMITY
Nasreen Pejavack
Finalist, 2016 Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize Amity provides a window to the wreckage caused by wars—destruction and displacement, here specifically within the contexts of Yugoslavia's dissolution and Iran's revolution. This is a novel that explores the lives of two very different women struggling to heal, as it seeks to raise awareness about the extent to which elites manipulate nations into wars.

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SHADE
Mia Herrera
"Set in the tumultuous, vivid world of modern day Philippines, *Shade* explores such diverse issues of identity, multiculturalism, celebrity television culture, poverty and wealth... Mia Herrera follows in the great novelistic tradition of depicting characters who need to get away in order to find out where they come from."
—David Layton

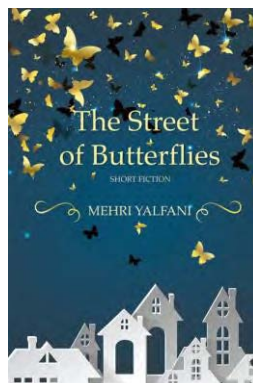
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OUTSIDE PEOPLE AND OTHER STORIES
Mariam Pirbhai

Winner, I2018 PPY Gold Medal for Multicultural Fiction. "Mariam Pirbhai has deftly illuminated characters whose lives in literature are usually relegated to the shadows of the mainstream. In doing so she has given much needed, long-overdue breath to a cast of characters who create the landscape even as they have been, until now, invisible in it. As Diane Arbus is to photography, so is Mariam Pirbhai to literature—bringing forth the margins, but nobly, with understanding and an unusual generosity in her handling of contemporary society's machinations." —Shani Mootoo

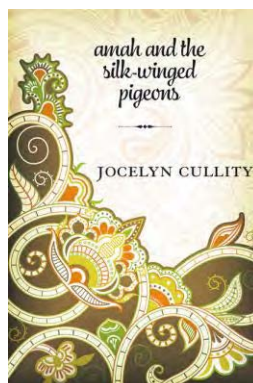
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THE STREET OF BUTTERFLIES
Mehri Yalfani

These stories feature Iranian women dealing with displacement, cultural change, and struggles for survival and adaptation as immigrants in North America. At the same time, the challenges they face also reveal the racial, gendered and cultural anxieties of living in a new land. These stories provide a glimpse of life in post-revolutionary Iran, where the new regime that replaced the old one continues the suppression and prosecution of political activists, only more harshly and mercilessly.

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AMAH AND THE SILK-WINGED PIGEONS
Jocelyn Cullity
Winner, 2018 American Book Fest Best Book Award for Historical Fiction. This novel draws on the lost histories of the women descended from African slaves who resisted English rule during the 1857 uprising in Lucknow, India. It recounts the event that triggered Queen Victoria's reign in India for almost a century, and illuminates new and important female, Muslim perspectives on what has been called the first war of Indian independence. What will be the ultimate price of the women's loyalty to the royal family?

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