



South Asian Diasporic Identities Explored in Story Collection by Fayeza Hasanat

Set in Bangladesh and the United States, the stories in *The Bird Catcher* address gender expectations, familial love, and questions of identity and belonging. The characters include a woman who decides, after thirty years of marriage and motherhood, that she wants to walk into the ocean; a college professor whose Bangladeshi accent is ridiculed by a student; and a young woman with a charismatic but exasperating mother-in-law. In the title story, drawing on fairy tale motifs, string theory, and Sufi philosophy, a bird and a recluse argue over the nature of time and the meaning of freedom.

The Bird Catcher offers wide-ranging variations on the theme of diasporic identity as well as intriguing glimpses into suppressed, fragmented, and resilient lives.

"A razor-sharp, insightful book of stories, a never-quiet, but nevertheless perennially subtle exploration of womanhood, culture, and identity."

—David James Poissant, author of *The Heaven of Animals*

"The alienated subject of these stories reaches for our hands and guides us forcefully to hear and recognize her voice, her desire, her anguished cry.... It is the cry of the human spirit."

—Obi Nwakanma, author of *Thirsting for Sunlight*

"*The Bird Catcher* has no agenda but to tell the truth: magic stories accrued through delicate sentences that explode with candid grace."

—Lily Hoang, author of *Changing* and *A Bestiary*

Fayeza Hasanat, a Bangladeshi-American writer, is a literary scholar who specializes in gender studies, translation studies, and literature of the British Empire and the South Asian diaspora. She teaches in the English Department at the University of Central Florida.

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