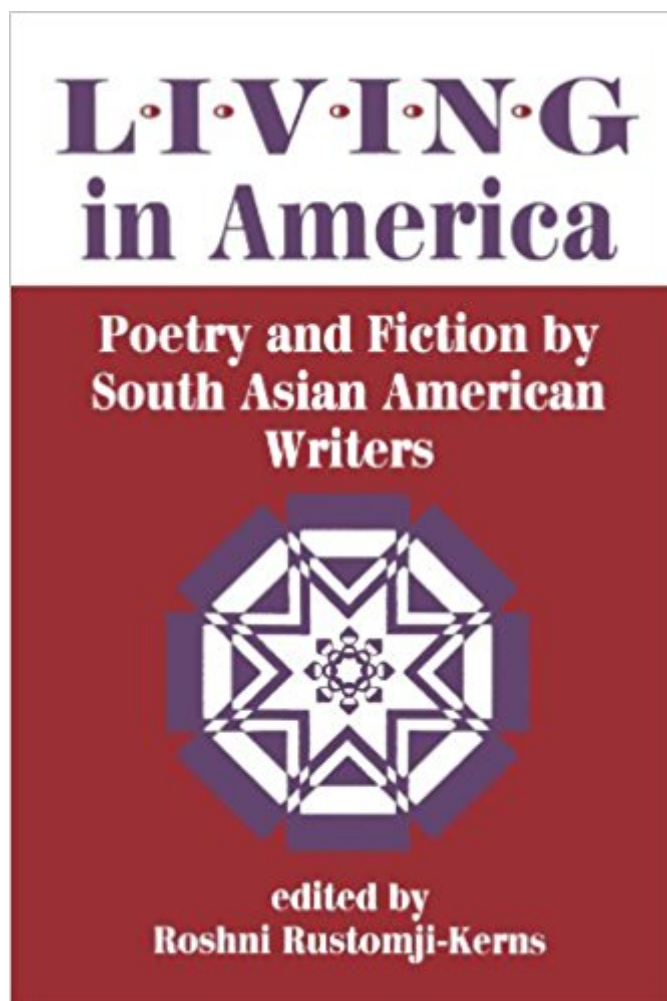


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Living In America: Poetry And Fiction By South Asian American Writers



Synopsis

"This is a major compilation of Asian American authors, some native-born, others immigrants, refugees, or expatriates. While some of the writers are well known (e.g., Ved Mehta, Meena Alexander), most are emerging voices. The volume is divided into two parts: poetry and fiction. Poets are represented by one or two poems; short story writers by just one piece. Each author contributed a "statement," whether biographical, literary, or philosophical, that appears before his or her work. The editor (professor emeritus, liberal studies and India Studies Program, Sonoma State Univ.) has provided more traditional biographical information at the back of the book. The writers describe a wide range of experience in a great variety of styles." -Debbie Bogenschutz, Cincinnati Technical Coll.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For centuries, people from the Indian subcontinent have been on the move. They migrated to Southeast Asia and East Asia as emissaries of trade and religion. They traveled to the outposts of the British Empire in Africa, the Caribbean, Guyana, and the Pacific Islands as indentured laborers. They journeyed to North America as students and swamis, laborers and merchants. Living in America offers snapshots of the South Asian diaspora in North America. Written with panache and passion, some of the experiences strike a resonant chord in the soul of the reader. Bapsi Sidhwa, for instance, wryly narrates harrowing encounters with American immigration officials. Kirin Narayan evokes the remorse and anguish of the native, returning from the motherland. Javaid Qazi

examines the psyche of the unemployed professional, a victim of corporate downsizing. Chitra Divakaruni poignantly recalls the plight of poor Sikh laborers in California at the turn of the century. Particularly outstanding vignettes deal with culture conflict; not the traditional conflict between the dominant white culture and the immigrant value system but an interesting variation of the old theme, namely, the clash of values between South Asian immigrants and South Asian-Americans. Minal Hajratwala pleads with immigrant parents for compassion and acceptance of their bisexual offspring. Tahira Naqvi depicts the betrayal and shame of a Pakistani family when their daughter weds an American boy. Jyotsna Sreenivasan portrays the frustrations of an Indian-American school girl with a classmate just arrived from India. Rajini Srikanth captures the anger and tension that emanate from a South Asian American woman seeking space and privacy from her immigrant counterpart.

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