

Summer, 1986. The Creel sisters, Georgie Ayyar and Agatha Krishna, welcome their aunt, uncle, and young cousin—newly arrived from India—into their house in rural Wyoming, where they'll all live together. That is, until the sisters decide that it's time for their uncle to die.

According to Georgie, the British are to blame. And to understand why, you need to hear her story. She details the violence hiding in their house and history, her once-unshakable bond with Agatha Krishna, and her understanding of herself as an Indian American in the heart of the West. Her account is, at every turn, cheeky, unflinching, and infectiously inflected with the trappings of teendom, including the magazine quizzes that help her make sense of her life. At its heart, the tale she weaves is:

- a) a vivid portrait of an extended family
- b) a moving story of sisterhood
- c) a playful ode to the '80s
- d) a murder mystery (of sorts)
- e) an unexpected and unwaveringly powerful meditation on history and language, trauma and healing, and the meaning of independence

Or maybe it's really:

- f) all of the above.

NINA MCCONIGLEY is the author of the story collection *Cowboys and East Indians*, which was the winner of the PEN Open Book Award and the High Plains Book Award. She has received grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Radcliffe Institute, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Vermont Studio Center, and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She was a recipient of the Wyoming Arts Council's Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Writing Award and a finalist for a National Magazine Award for her columns in *High Country News*. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times*; *Orion*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *Virginia Quarterly Review*; and *Salon*; among other outlets. Born in Singapore and raised in Wyoming, she now lives in Colorado.

READ BY REENA DUTT



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