

Githa Hariharan

Biography

Githa Hariharan was born in Coimbatore, India, and she grew up in Bombay and Manila. She was educated in these two cities and later in the United States. She worked as a staff writer in WNET-Channel 13 in New York, and from 1979 to 1984, she worked as an editor in the Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi offices of Orient Longman. Since 1985, she has undertaken professional editing on a freelance basis. Githa Hariharan lives in New Delhi.

Her first novel, **The Thousand Faces of Night** (1992) won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Since then, she has published a collection of stories, **The Art of Dying** (1993); the novels **The Ghosts of Vasu Master** (1994), **When Dreams Travel** (1999), **In Times of Siege** (2003), and **Fugitive Histories** (2009); and a children's book, **The Winning Team** (2004). She has edited **A Southern Harvest**, a volume of stories in English translation from four major South Indian languages; and, with co-editor Shama Futehally, a collection of stories of children, **Sorry, Best Friend!**

Educational Background

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English Literature and Psychology, Bombay University, 1974

Master of Arts in Communications, Graduate School of Corporate and Political Communication, Fairfield University, Connecticut, 1977

Publication details

Books

- **The Thousand Faces of Night**, Penguin Books India, 1992; The Women's Press, London 1996; Editions Zoe, Geneva 1996; Van Gennep, Amsterdam 1996; Ediciones del Bronce, Barcelona 2000; Philippe Picquier, Paris, 2006; Women Publishing House, Hanoi, 2008.
- **The Art of Dying and Other Stories**, Penguin Books India, 1993.
- **The Ghosts of Vasu Master**, Viking, Penguin Books India, 1994.
- **When Dreams Travel**, Picador UK, Picador India, 1999; Empiria, Athens 2001; Penguin Books India, 2008.
- **In Times of Siege**, Viking, Penguin Books India 2003; Pantheon, New York, 2003; Vintage, New York, 2004; Mashal Books, Lahore, 2004; Editions Zoe, Geneva, 2006; Il Saggiatore, Milan, 2007.
- **The Winning Team**, Rupa and Co., New Delhi, 2004.
- **Fugitive Histories**, Viking, Penguin Books India 2009.

Edited collections

- **A Southern Harvest** (ed.), Katha-Rupa, New Delhi, 1993.
- **Sorry, Best Friend!** (co-edited with Shama Futehally), Tulika, Chennai, 1997. Also in Hindi and Tamil translation.

Contributions: short fiction/extracts

- **In Other Words, New Writing by Indian Women**, Kali for Women, 1992, The Women's Press, 1993.
- **Into the Nineties, Post-Colonial Women's Writing**, eds. Anna Rutherford and Shirley Chew, Dangaroo Press, 1994.
- **Conjunctions**, vol. 24, Bard, New York, 1995.
- **The New Internationalist**, No. 264, Ageing with Attitude, February 1995, Oxford.
- **The Arnold Anthology of Post-Colonial Literatures in English**, ed. John Thieme, Arnold, 1996.

- **Feast! Women Write About Food**, eds. Laurie Critchley and Helen Windrath, The Women's Press, 1996.
- "A Night with Scheherazade," short story aired on **The Sound of Writing**, National Public Radio, Washington D.C., 1996.
- **Enigmas and Arrivals, An Anthology of Commonwealth Writing**, eds. Alastair Niven and Michael Schmidt, Caracenet, 1997.
- **The Vintage Book of Indian Writing 1947-1997**, eds. Salman Rushdie and Elizabeth West, Vintage, 1997.
- Translated extract from *The Thousand Faces of Night*, **Andere Lander, Andere Zeiten, Zeit-Geschichten aus aller Welt**, Marino Verlag, 1997.
- **India and Pakistan 1947-1997: A Celebration**, Special issue edited by Shirley Chew, Kunapipi 1997 No 3.
- **The Writer's Path, An Introduction to Short Fiction**, eds. Constance Rooke and Leon Rooke, ITP Nelson 1998.
- **Imaging the Other**, eds. Sara Rai and G.J.V. Prasad, Katha, 1999.
- **Best Loved Indian Stories**, Volume 1, eds. Indira Srinivasan and Chetna Bhat, Penguin India, 1999.
- **Options**, Women and Media Collective, 1st Quarter 1999, Colombo.
- **First Frost**, Women's Press, 2000.
- Translated extract from **Karlek, uppör och kardemummakarnor, Berättelser Fran Indien**, Bokforlaget Tranan, Stockholm, 2001.
- **A Matter of Taste**, ed. Nilanjana S. Roy, Penguin India, 2004.
- **The HarperCollins Book of New Indian Fiction**, Contemporary Writing in English, ed. Khushwant Singh, HarperCollins India, 2005.
- **Women Writers on Women's Lives**, ed. Jasbir Jain, Rawat Publications, New Delhi, 2005.
- "Becoming a Woman", **Fotografia**, DGE Equilibrista, Mexico, 2005.
- **The Inner Line, The Zubaan Anthology of Stories by Indian Women**, ed. Urvashi Butalia, Zubaan, New Delhi, an imprint of Kali for women, 2006.
- **The Table is Laid, The Oxford Anthology to South Asian Food Writing**, ed. John Thieme and Ira Raja, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2006.
- **The Fiction Collection 1: 20 Years of Penguin India**, Penguin India, New Delhi, 2007.
- "Diablo Baby" in the **Kenyon Review**, Fall issue, 2008.
- **An Endless Winter's Night, An Anthology of Mother-Daughter Stories**, ed. Ira Raja and Kay Souter, Women Unlimited, New Delhi, 2010.
- **India, A Traveler's Companion**, ed. Chandrabhas Choudhury, Whereabouts Press, Berkeley, 2010.

Contributions: essays

- "The Fantasywalla of Bombay", **The Atlas of Literature**, ed. Malcolm Bradbury, De Agostini Editions, 1996.
- "Zeera Rasam", **Something to Savour, Food for Thought from Women Writers**, ed. Laurie Critchley and Helen Windrath, The Women's Press, 1996.
- "The Storyteller and the Noose", **The Penguin Book of Death**, ed. Gabrielle Carey, Penguin Australia, 1997.
- "In the City of Victory", *Indiens Suden*, **Merian**, 7 July 1997, Hamburg.
- "Time was, Time to come", **The Telegraph Millennium Magazine**, 21 Ideas for the 21st Century, Kolkata, January 2000.
- "All About H. Hatterr by G.V. Desani", **Lost Classics**, Michael Ondaatje et al (eds), Knopf Canada, 2000; Bloomsbury pbks, London, 2003.
- "Ten to Six", special edition, Pomeriggio/Afternoon, **Storie**, Leconte Editore, Rome, 2001.
- "Seven Cities and Anycity", **Storie**, Leconte Editore, Rome, 2003.

- "The Ignoble Politics of Naipaul's Nobel", **Kunapipi** xxv: 1, Festschrift for Shirley Chew edited by John McLeod and Catherine Batt, Australia, 2003.
- "Nissim Ezekiel: The Teacher Behind the Poet", **The Best of Tehelka**, Buffalo Books, New Delhi, 2003.
- "Discrete Thoughts", **Desert in Bloom**, Contemporary Indian Women's Fiction in English, ed. Meenakshi Bharat, Pencraft International, New Delhi, 2004.
- "Shrinking Spaces in Times of Globalisation", in **JSL**, Spring 2004, Journal of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- "New Voices, New Challenges", **Indian Literature**, Issue 228, July-August, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, 2005.
- "The Sari and the Fan", **Moving Worlds**, ed. Shirley Chew, Vol 5, No. 2, University of Leeds, 2005.
- Introduction to **Fragments of a Life** by Mythily Sivaraman, Zubaan Books, New Delhi, 2006.
- Introduction to **Frontiers, Collected Stories** by Shama Futehally, Penguin Books India, 2006.
- "In Search of Our Other Selves: Literature as Resistance" in the **Journal of Postcolonial Writing**, Vol 43, Issue 2 August 2007, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, Oxfordshire.
- "In Times of Siege: Shrinking Spaces in Times of Globalization", Centre for Communication and Development Studies, Pune, 2007.
- "Bloodthirsty Honour", **Writing a Nation: An Anthology of Indian Journalism**, ed. Nirmala Lakshman, Rupa & Co, New Delhi, 2007.
- "Owning Books, Being Owned by Books", **First City**, April 2008, New Delhi.
- "A Vision for Keeps", **The Idea of a University: Jamia Millia Islamia**, ed. Rakshanda Jalil, Aakar Books, New Delhi, 2009.
- "The Multiple Joys of a Polygamous Reader", **First City**, June 2009, New Delhi.

Awards and nominations

The Thousand Faces of Night won the 1993 Commonwealth Writers Prize for best first book. The book was also nominated for the IMPAC award in 1996. The story "The Warden" from **The Art of Dying** was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 1995. **The Ghosts of Vasu Master** was nominated for the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 1995. **When Dreams Travel** was nominated for the Booker Prize in 1999. **In Times of Siege** was short listed for the Eurasian section of the Commonwealth Writers Prize 2004, and it was also nominated for the Kiriyama Prize in 2004.

Writer's residencies/ fellowships/ juries/ boards

- Jury member, Neustadt Prize for Literature, University of Oklahoma, 1994
- Charles Wallace Writer-in-Residence, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK, 1995
- Senior Fellowship in Literature, the Ministry for Human Resources Development, Government of India, 1996-1998
- Member of expert committee to award government fellowships in literature, New Delhi, 1998
- Jury Member, best writing on cinema, National Film Awards, New Delhi, 1999
- Writer-in-Residence, "A World of Words: International Women Writers," Hedgebrook
- Retreat for Women Writers, Washington State, USA, 2001
- Writer's residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's study and conference centre at Bellagio, Italy, 2001
- Member, Advisory Board, *Moving Worlds*, A Journal of Transcultural Writings, University of Leeds, UK, 2001 onward
- Jury member, Public Hearing on Girl Child Labour, Mysore, 2003
- World Literature Residency, George Washington University, USA, 2004
- Jury, Classmate Young Author contest, Mumbai, 2005

- Distinguished Montgomery Fellow, Dartmouth College, USA, 2006
- Member, Board of Trustees, India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore, 2006 onward
- Writer-in-Residence, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, 2008-2009
- Member, Public Hearing on a Follow-up of Gujarat 2002, Ahmedabad, 2011
- Member, civil society team visiting Kashmir for a public meeting in Kupwara and a round table conference with Kashmiri leaders and activists, Srinagar, 2011
- Jury Member, 4th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, 2011
- Jury Member, Crossword Prize for Fiction, Mumbai, 2011
- Scholar-in-Residence, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, 2010-2012

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