

# Free to Be Me



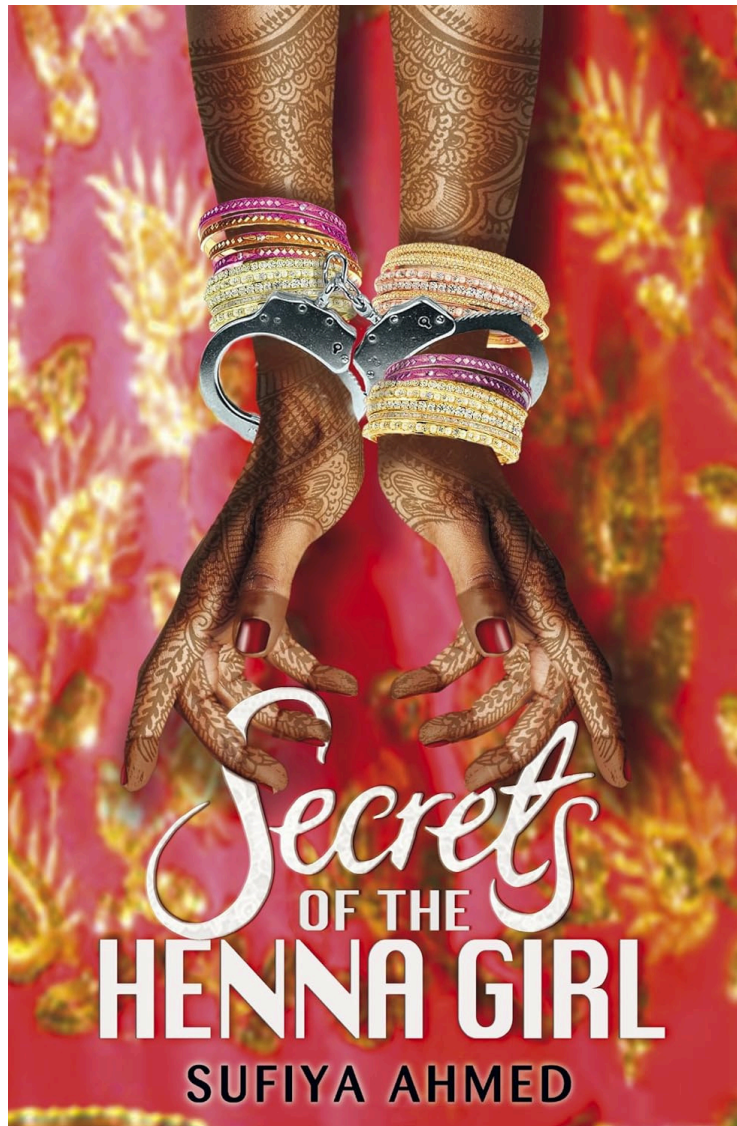
**South  
Asian  
Heritage  
Month**

# Free to Be Me

From 18 July to 18 August,  
Hackney Libraries are celebrating  
South Asian Heritage Month.

This year's theme, 'Free to Be Me',  
encourages us to share similarities and  
honour our differences, and highlights  
diverse voices while acknowledging that not  
everyone feels free to be themselves.





**Sufiya Ahmed**  
*Secrets of the Henna Girl*  
**(2012)**

In Pakistan for the summer, Zeba's world is shattered. Her future is threatened by an unthinkable - and forced - duty to protect her father's honour.



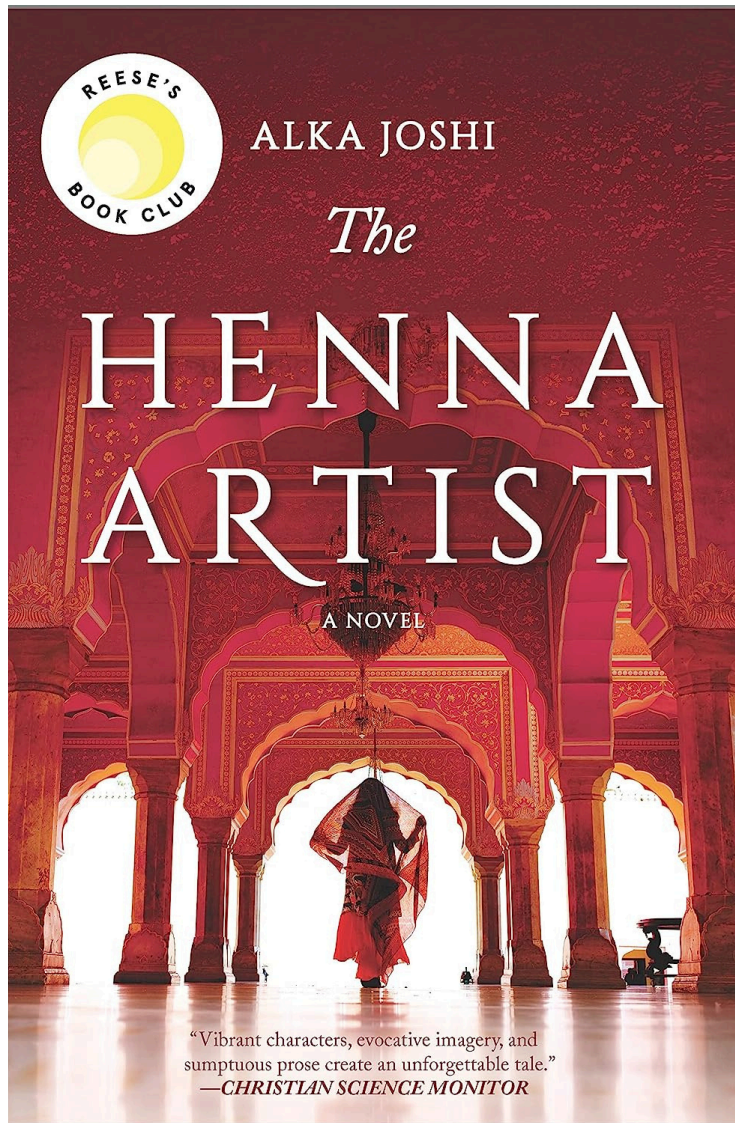


## Fatimah Asghar *If They Come For Us* (2019)

These poems at once bear anguish, joy, vulnerability, and compassion, while also exploring the many facets of violence: how it persists within us, how it is inherited across generations, and how it manifests itself in our relationships.



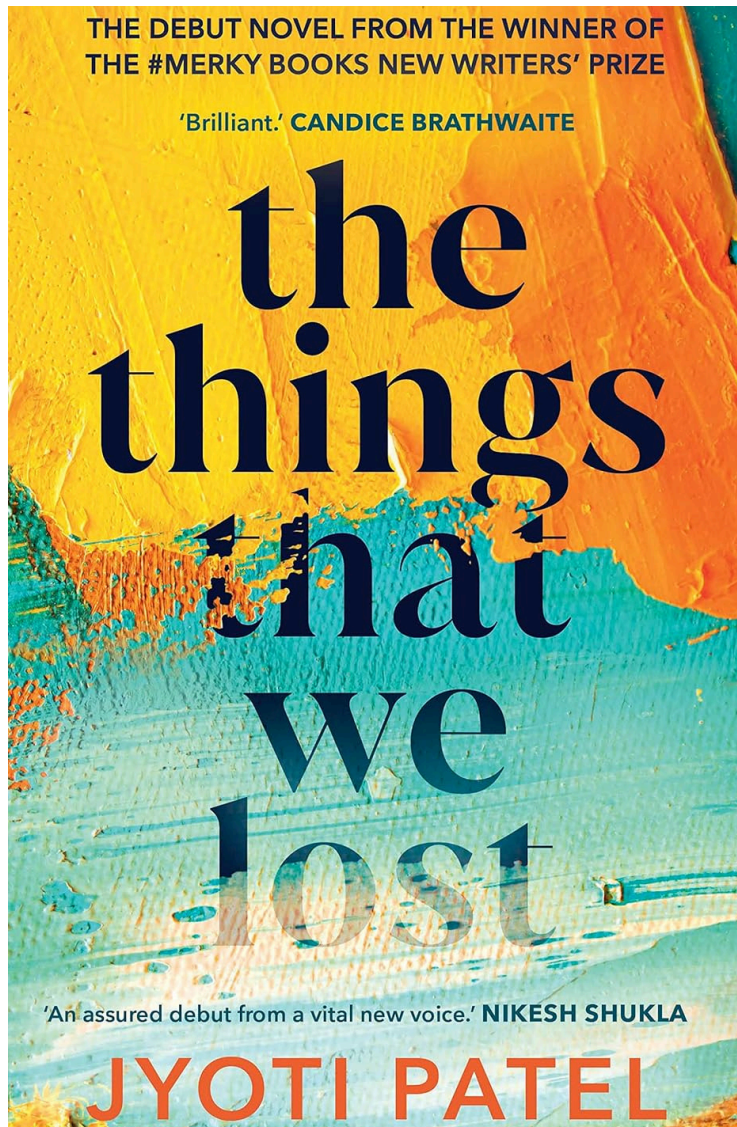




**Alka Joshi**  
***The Henna Artist***  
**(2020)**

Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way to the vibrant 1950s city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist - and confidante - to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...





**Jyoti Patel**

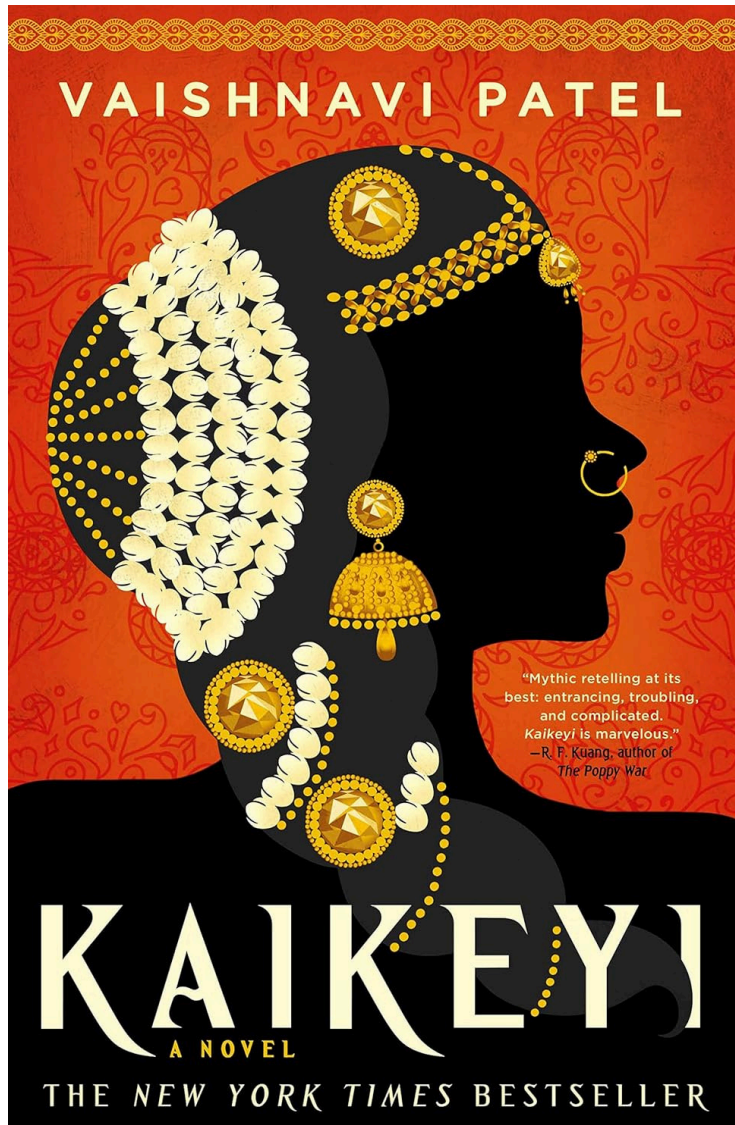
*The Things That We Lost*

(2023)

When his grandfather dies, Nik has the opportunity to learn about the man he never met. Armed with a key and new knowledge about his parents' past, Nik sets out to unlock the secrets that his mother has been holding onto his whole life.







**Vaishnavi Patel**  
***Kaikeyi: A Novel***  
**(2022)**

This lyrical novel reimagines the life of the infamous queen from the ancient epic the Ramayana, giving voice to an extraordinary woman determined to leave her mark in a world where gods and men dictate the shape of things to come.



'Perceptive, enriching, shocking and joyful ... A fascinating account  
of the living memory of South Asia in modern Britain'

TRISTRAM HUNT



# PARTITION VOICES

— *Untold British Stories* —

KAVITA PURI



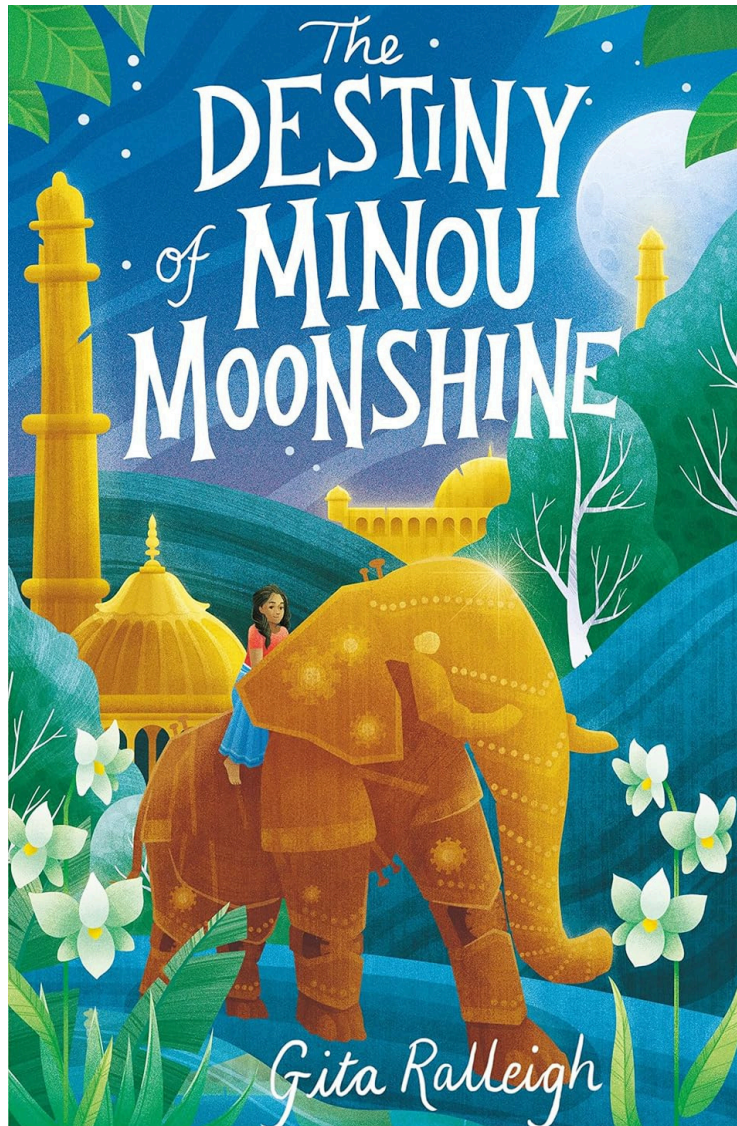
BLOOMSBURY

## Kavita Puri *Partition Voices* (2019)

Puri weaves a breathtaking tapestry of human experience over a period of seven decades that trembles with life; an epic of ruptured families and friendships, extraordinary journeys and daring rescue missions that reverberates with pain, loss and compassion.





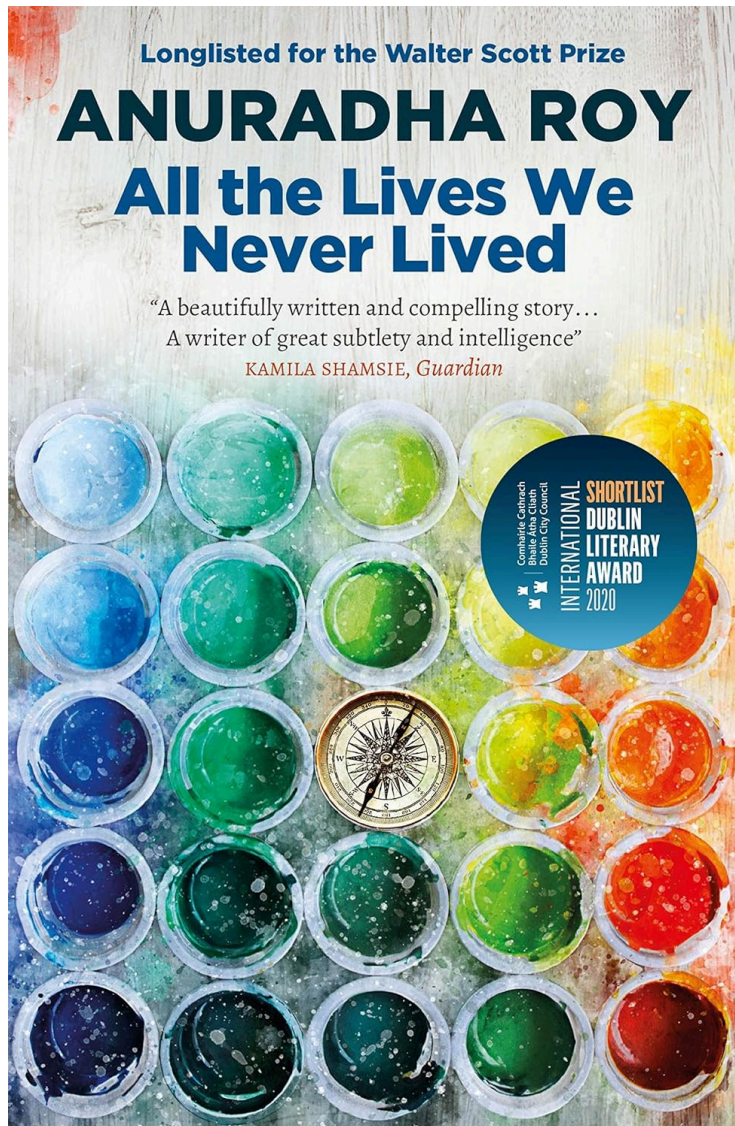


**Gita Ralleigh**

*The Destiny of Minou Moonshine*  
**(2023)**

The story of a Queendom set in an alternate India. A debut rich in fantasy, friendship and faith, and an original middle grade adventure that sparkles with storytelling magic.





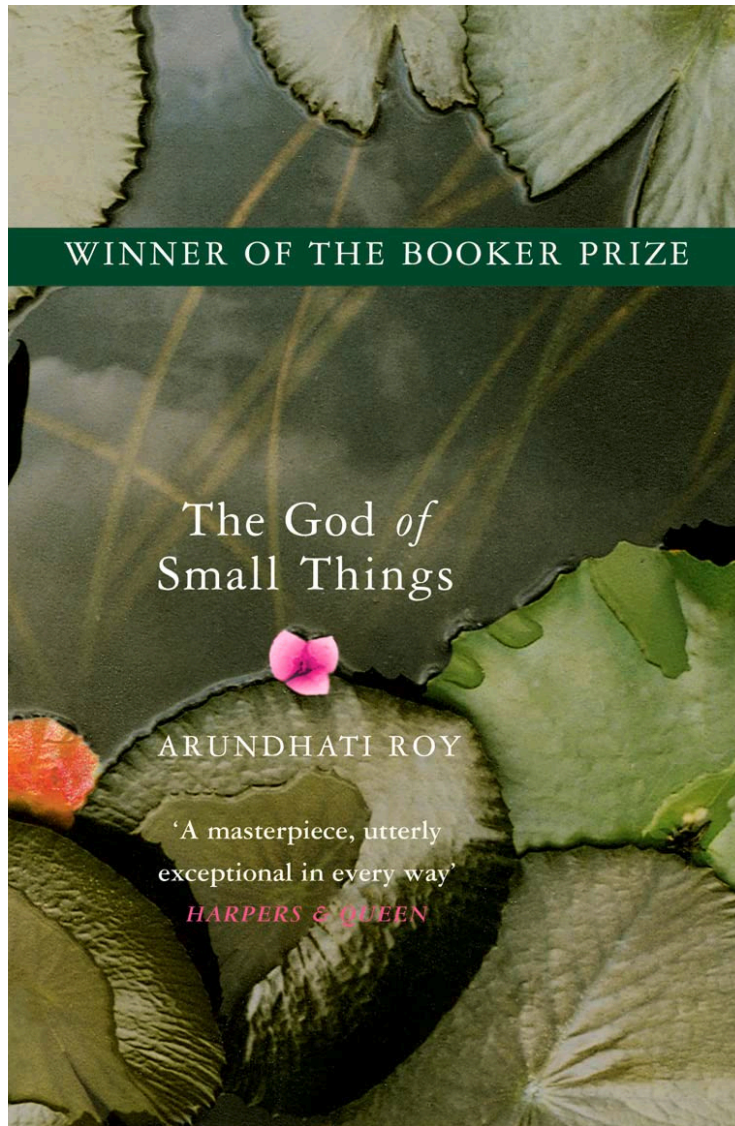
## Anuradha Roy

### *All the Lives We Never Lived* (2018)

What took Myshkin's mother from India to Dutch-held Bali in the 1930s, ripping a knife through his comfortingly familiar environment? Excavating the roots of the world in which he was abandoned, Myshkin comes to understand the connections between anguish at home and a war-torn universe overtaken by patriotism.



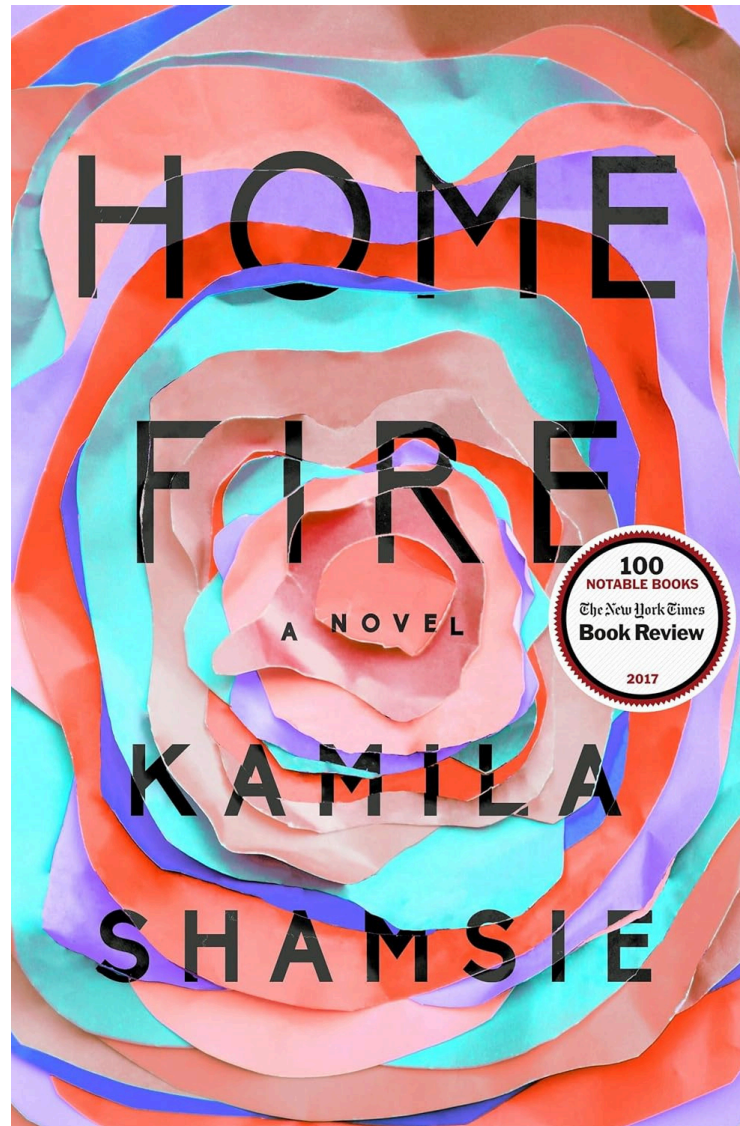




## Arundhati Roy *The God of Small Things* (1997)

This is the story of Rahel and Estha, twins growing up among the banana vats and peppercorns of their blind grandmother's factory, and amid scenes of political turbulence in Kerala. Armed only with the innocence of youth, they fashion a childhood in the shade of the wreck that is their family.





**Kamila Shamsie**

*Home Fire*

**(2017)**

The suspenseful and heartbreaking story of an immigrant family driven to pit love against loyalty, with devastating consequences.





