



You Have Given Me a Country: A Memoir

Neela Vaswani

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2010 *ForeWord* Book of the Year, Essay

Silver Medalist, 2011 IPPY Awards in Multi-Cultural Adult Fiction

2011 American Book Award

“Vaswani is a confident writer whose unflinching eye shows the reader the beauty grounded in the mundane.” *San Francisco Chronicle*

“Vaswani’s voice is witty, sharp, innovative, unique.” Chitra Banerjee

You Have Given Me a Country is an emotionally powerful exploration of blurred borders, identity, and what it means to be multicultural. Combining memoir, history, and fiction, the book follows the paths of the author's Irish-Catholic mother and Sindhi-Indian father on their journey toward each other and the biracial child they create. Neela Vaswani's second full-length work thematically echoes such books as *The Color of Water*, *Running in the Family*, or *Motiba's Tattoos*, but it is entirely unique in approach, voice, and story. The book reveals the self as a culmination of all that went before it, a brilliant new weave of two varied, yet ultimately universal backgrounds that spans continents, generations, languages, wars, and, at the center of it all, family.

Neela Vaswani is the author of the short story collection *Where the Long Grass Bends* (Sarabande Books, 2004). Recipient of a 2006 O. Henry Prize, her fiction and nonfiction have been widely anthologized and published in journals such as *Epoch*, *Shenandoah*, and *Prairie Schooner*. She lives in New York City.

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