

## Maps For Lost Lovers Nadeem Aslam

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Set in a nameless British town that its Pakistani-born immigrants have renamed Dasht-e-Tanhaii, the Desert of Solitude, Maps for Lost Lovers is an exploration of cultural tension and religious bigotry played out in the personal breakdown of a single family. As the book begins, Jugnu and Chanda, whose love is both passionate and illicit, have disappeared from their home. Rumours about their disappearance abound, but five months pass before anything certain is known. Finally, on a snow-covered January morning, Chanda ' s brothers are arrested for the murder of their sister and Jugnu. Maps for Lost Lovers traces the year following Jugnu and Chanda ' s disappearance. Seen principally through the eyes of Jugnu ' s brother Shamas, the cultured, poetic director of the local Community Relations Council and Commission for Racial Equality, and his wife Kaukab, mother of three increasingly estranged children and devout daughter of a Muslim cleric, the event marks the beginning of the unravelling of all that is sacred to them. It fills Shamas ' s own house and life with grief and, in exploring the lovers ' disappearance and its aftermath, Nadeem Aslam discloses a legacy of miscomprehension and regret not only for Shamas and Kaukab but for their children and neighbours as well. An intimate portrait of a community searingly damaged by traditions, this is a densely imagined, beautiful and deeply troubling book written in heightened prose saturated with imagery. It casts a deep gaze on themes as timeless as love, nationalism and religion, while meditating on how these forces drive us apart.

In an unnamed town Jugnu and his lover Chanda have disappeared. Rumours abound in the close-knit Pakistani community, and then on a snow-covered January morning Chanda's brothers are arrested for murder. Telling the story of the next twelve months, Maps for Lost Lovers opens the heart of a family at the crossroads of culture, community, nationality and religion, and expresses their pain in a language that is arrestingly poetic. 'This is a deeply pastoral novel, tied to the seasons and resonating with birdsong . . . Like Aslam, I was heartbroken when the dense, dark tapestry was finished.' Independent on Sunday 'Despite the violence that lies at the heart of the novel, it is a celebration of love and life. Sights and sounds, smells and colours are not so much vivid backdrops for the narrative as structural, mood- and texture-enhancing parts of it . . . This is that rare sort of book that gives a voice to those voices that are seldom heard.' Observer

If Gabriel Garc í a M á rquez had chosen to write about Pakistani immigrants in England, he might have produced a novel as beautiful and devastating as Maps for Lost Lovers. Jugnu and Chanda have disappeared. Like thousands of people all over England, they were lovers and living together out of wedlock. To Chanda ' s family, however, the disgrace was unforgivable. Perhaps enough so as to warrant murder. As he explores the disappearance and its aftermath through the eyes of Jugnu ' s worldly older brother, Shamas, and his devout wife, Kaukab, Nadeem Aslam creates a closely observed and affecting portrait of people whose traditions threaten to bury them alive. The result is a tour de force, intimate, affecting, tragic and suspenseful.

Set during a monsoon season in the 1980s in a small town in Pakistan, Season of the Rainbirds is centred on the mysterious reappearance of a sack of letters lost in a train crash nineteen years previously. Could the letters have any bearing on Judge Anwar ' s murder? The letters and the judge ' s death trigger a series of tragic events and as the murder investigation progresses, dark tales of passion and betrayal unfold and long-buried secrets come to light. The narrative segues between several characters—the judge ' s family, a cleric troubled by local inhabitants ' lapses, a Muslim deputy commissioner defiantly involved with a Christian woman, a feudal landlord and a crusading journalist reporting on the delivery of the mail packet—and comes to a head when the journalist disappears and the country lurches between fear and uncertainty following an assassination attempt on the president. One of the most exquisite fictional debuts, Season of the Rainbirds is a compelling portrayal of a society in strife, of a timeless world where daily rituals are played out against an ominous landscape of oppression, decadence, bigotry and power.

SHORTLISTED FOR THE JHALAK PRIZE 2018 When shots ring out on the Grand Trunk Road, Nargis's life begins to crumble around her. Her husband, Massud - a fellow architect - is caught in the crossfire and dies before she can confess to him her greatest secret. Under threat from a powerful military intelligence officer, who demands that she pardon her husband's American killer, Nargis fears that the truth about her past will soon be

exposed. For weeks someone has been broadcasting people's secrets from the minarets of the city's mosques and, in a country where the accusation of blasphemy is a currency to be bartered, the mysterious broadcasts have struck fear in Christians and Muslims alike. Against this background of violence and fear, two outsiders - the young Christian woman Helen and the mysterious Imran from Kashmir - try to find an island of calm in which their love can grow. In his characteristically luminous prose, Nadeem Aslam reflects Pakistan's past and present in a single mirror - a story of corruption, resilience, and the hope that only love and the human spirit can offer.

Marcus Caldwell, an English widower and Muslim convert, lives in an old perfume factory in the shadow of the Tora Bora mountains in Afghanistan. Lara, a Russian woman, arrives at his home one day in search of her brother, a Soviet soldier who disappeared in the area many years previously, and who may have known Marcus's daughter. In the days that follow, further people arrive there, each seeking someone or something. The stories and histories that unfold, interweaving and overlapping, span nearly a quarter of a century and tell of the terrible afflictions that have plagued Afghanistan—as well of the love that can blossom during war and conflict.

'Love is not consolation, it is light' From the author of *Maps for Lost Lovers* and *The Wasted Vigil* comes a novel set in the months after 9/11, when Western armies invaded Afghanistan—a story of love, hope and grief, of uncorrupted faith and of what it means to be alive. Jeo and his foster-brother Mikal leave their home in Pakistan to help care for wounded Afghans. Within hours of entering the wide-horizoned Afghan landscape, Mikal and Jeo are separated and, emerging from the carnage, Mikal begins his search for Jeo. But his deepest wish is to return home—to the young woman he loves and who loves him, Jeo's wife. *The Blind Man's Garden* maps a place both phantasmally beautiful and chilling. Taking us on a journey from Al Qaeda's hideouts in Waziristan and American-built military prisons to a family left behind—Mikal's and Jeo's blind, regretful father, Jeo's resolute wife and her superstitious mother—it unflinchingly examines war and brotherhood, devastation, separation and remorse, while celebrating the redemptive power of nature, art and literature.

*Multi-Ethnic Britain 2000+* provides an encompassing survey of artistic responses to the changes in the British cultural climate in the early years of the 21st century. It traces topical reactions to new forms of racism and religious fundamentalism, to legal as well as illegal immigration, and to the threat of global terror; yet it also highlights new forms of intercultural communication and convivial exchange. Framed by contributions from novelists Patrick Neate and Rajeev Balasubramanyam, *Multi-Ethnic Britain 2000+* showcases how artistic representations in literature, film, music and the visual arts reflect and respond to social and political discourses, and how they contribute to our understanding of the current (trans)cultural situation in Britain. The contributions in this volume cover a wide range of writers such as Graham Swift, Ian McEwan, Zadie Smith, Jackie Kay, Nadeem Aslam, Gautam Malkani, Nirpal Dhaliwal and Monica Ali; films ranging from Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It Like Beckham* and *Bride and Prejudice* to Michael Winterbottom's *In This World* and Alfonso Cuarón's *Children of Men*; paintings and photography by innovative black and Asian British Artists; and dubstep music. Contents Lars ECKSTEIN, Barbara KORTE, Eva Ulrike PIRKER, Christoph REINFANDT: *A Divided Kingdom? Reflections on Multi-Ethnic Britain in the New Millennium* Writers: Views Patrick NEATE: *The Little Book of Tommy: Another Tommy* Akhtar Investigation Rajeev BALASUBRAMANYAM: *The Rhetoric of Multiculturalism* Film I: *Beyond the Burden of Representation?* Ellen DENGEL-JANIC and Lars ECKSTEIN: *Bridehood Revisited: Disarming Concepts of Gender and Culture in Recent Asian British Film* Sandra HEINEN: *Multi-Ethnic Britain on Screen: South Asian Diasporic Experience in Recent Feature Films* Claudia STERNBERG: *Babylon North: British Muslims after 9/11 in Yasmin (2004)* Fiction I: *Multi-Ethnic Utopias and Dystopias* Lucie GILLET: *Representations of Multicultural Society in Contemporary British Novels* Sabine NUNIUS: *'Sameness' in Contemporary British Fiction: (Metaphorical) Families in Zadie Smith's On Beauty (2005)* Ulrike ZIMMERMANN: *Out of the Ordinary and Back? Jackie Kay's Recent Short Fiction* Daniel SCHÄBLER: *Teenage Transformations in Multi-Ethnic Britain: Rehana Ahmed's Walking a Tightrope (2004)* Nadia BUTT: *Between Orthodoxy and Modernity: Mapping the Transcultural Predicaments of Pakistani Immigrants in Multi-Ethnic Britain in Nadeem Aslam's Maps for Lost Lovers (2004)* Cordula LEMKE: *Racism in the Diaspora: Nadeem Aslam's Maps for Lost Lovers (2004)* Visual Art and Music: *Picturing and Sounding Identity* Eva Ulrike PIRKER: *Images of Muslim Britain Go Global: A Reading of the British Council's Touring Exhibition Common Ground* Ingrid VON ROSENBERG: *Female Views: Cultural Identity as a Key Issue in the Work of Black and Asian British Women Artists* Christoph HÄRTER: *The Dub Renaissance: Reflections on the Aesthetics of Dub in Contemporary British Music* Film II: *Borderlines and Contested Spaces* Sissy HELFF: *Scapes of Refuge in Multicultural Britain: Representing Refugees in Digital Docudrama and Mockumentary* Kathy-Ann TAN: *'If you're not on paper, you don't exist': Depictions of Illegal Immigration and Asylum in Film on Michael Winterbottom's In This World (2002) and Code 46 (2003)* Barbara KORTE: *Envisioning a Black Tomorrow? Black Mother Figures and the Issue of Representation in 28 Days Later (2003) and Children of Men (2006)* Fiction II: *Reading and Writing the Metropolis* Michael MITCHELL: *Escaping the Matrix: Illusions and Disillusions of Identity in Gautam Malkani's Londonstani (2006)* Ellen DENGEL-JANIC: *'East is East and West is West': A Reading of Nirpal Dhaliwal's Tourism (2006)* Yvonne ROSENBERG: *'Stop Thinking like an Englishman': Writing Against a Fixed Lexicon of Terrorism in Patrick Neate's City of Tiny Lights (2005)* Stephan LAQUÉ: *'A deconstructed shrine': Locating Absence and Relocating Identity in Rodinsky's Room (2000)* Susanne CUEVAS: *'Societies Within': Council Estates as Cultural Enclaves in Recent Urban Fictions* Interviews Angela KURTZ: *Interview with Rajeev Balasubramanyam* Violeta TOPALOVA: *Interview with Patrick Neate* Index Acknowledgements

This book is a concise and engaging analysis of contemporary literature viewed through the critical lens of cosmopolitan theory. It covers a wide spectrum of issues including globalisation, cosmopolitanism, nationhood, identity, philosophical nomadism, posthumanism, climate change, devolution and love.

Fiction by writers of Muslim background forms one of the most diverse, vibrant and high-profile corpora of work being produced today - from the trail-blazing writing of Salman Rushdie and Hanif Kureishi, which challenged political and racial orthodoxies in the 1980s, to that of a new generation including Mohsin Hamid, Nadeem Aslam and Kamila Shamsie. This collection reflects the variety of those fictions. Experts in English, South Asian, and postcolonial literatures address the nature of Muslim identity: its response to political realignments since the 1980s, its tensions between religious and secular models of citizenship, and its manifestation of these tensions as conflict between generations. In considering the perceptions of Muslims, contributors also explore the roles of immigration, class, gender, and national identity, as well as the impact of 9/11. This volume includes essays on contemporary fiction by writers of Muslim origin and non-Muslims writing about Muslims. It aims to push beyond the habitual populist 'framing' of Muslims as strangers or interlopers whose ways and beliefs are at odds with those of modernity, exposing the hidden, conservative assumptions that underpin such perspectives. While returning to themes that are of particular significance to diasporic Muslim cultures, such as secularism, modernity, multiculturalism and citizenship, the essays reveal that 'Muslim writing' grapples with the same big questions as serve to exercise all writers and intellectuals at the present time: How does one reconcile the impulses of the individual with the requirements of community? How can one 'belong' in the modern world? What is the role of art in making sense of chaotic contemporary experience?

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