



Author Series

Asian fiction and nonfiction

Fiction

[Sacred Games](#)

Chandra, Vikram

Set in present-day Mumbai, this is the story of a notorious Hindu gangster and a police inspector whose lives unfold and eventually intersect with cataclysmic consequences. Chandra's extraordinary work depicts India in unsurpassed richness of detail.

[Salaam Paris](#)

Daswani, Kavita

Tanaya longs for the wonderful world of Paris, so when a proposal comes along for an arranged marriage with a man who lives in Paris, Tanaya seizes the chance to leave her traditional Muslim family and her home in Mumbai, India. But once she lands in the city, she shuns the match. Eventually, Tanaya must find a way to reconcile her glamorous new life and the life she rejected.

[War Trash](#)

Jin, Ha

This is a powerful, unflinching story that chronicles the experiences of Chinese POWs held by Americans during the Korean conflict. It paints an intimate portrait of conformity and dissent against a sweeping canvas of confrontation.

[The Love Wife](#)

Jen, Gish

A meddlesome Chinese-American mother bequeaths a Chinese nanny to her ambivalent son and his blonde wife in this darkly comic fairy tale about cultural assimilation, biological destiny and domestic warfare.

[The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa](#)

Kawabata, Yasunari

Nobel Prize-winning author Kawabata tells the story of a rough and racy Tokyo during the late 1920s, capturing the decadent allure of Asakusa, where beggars and teenage prostitutes mixed with revue dancers and famous authors.

[Autumn Bridge](#)

Matsuoka, Takashi

East collides with West in this complex, epic tale by Matsuoka in which the ability to see the future is transferred from generation to generation in a Japanese clan. The mid-19th century inheritor of the clan's visionary powers is Lord Genji, a powerful samurai warlord.

[Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman](#)

Murakami, Haruki

Murakami uses a fusion of Eastern and Western elements of story and reality to create a uniquely surreal landscape of human and otherworldly experiences.

[The Cost of Living](#)

Roy, Arundhati

The author lavishes acrobatic language and fierce humanity on the future of India. Roy peels away the mask of democracy and prosperity to show the true costs hidden beneath. Here is a sketch of India's topsy-turvy society, where the lives of the many are sacrificed for the comforts of the few.

[Shalimar the Clown: A Novel](#)

Rushdie, Salman

When Maximilian Ophuls is murdered outside his daughter's home by his Kashmiri Muslim driver, it appears to be a political killing. Ophuls is the former U.S. Ambassador to India and America's leading figure in counter-terrorism. One woman is at the center of their shared history - a history of betrayal and deception.

[Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#)

See, Lisa

See's engrossing novel set in remote 19th-century China details the deeply affecting story of lifelong, intimate friends, Lily and Snow Flower, and their imprisonment by rigid codes of conduct for women. Their friendship illustrates the full range of human emotion from love and hate, self-absorption and devotion, through pride and humility.

[An Equal Music](#)

Seth, Vikram

Seth offers up exquisite complexities, personal and lyrical in this ravishing tale of star-crossed lovers. Using the magical backdrop of concert halls and canals, Michael and Julia must confront the truth about their love for one another, their love for the music that brought them together and the consequences of that love.

[Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee](#)

Syal, Meera

Syal has created a compassionate, resonant tale about culture clash, Indian identity and friendship in this novel about three 30-something Indian women living in contemporary London. Syal handles many serious issues, including a death, a birth, a kidnapping and an extramarital affair with wit and precision.

[Hardboiled & Hard Luck](#)

Yoshimoto, Banana

Japanese writer Yoshimoto portrays strong-minded young women coping with heartbreak, traumatic family fissures, serious illness and fatalities. Yoshimoto takes a subtle, graceful look at the relationship between sisters and a grieving family struggling to find a way to say goodbye.

Nonfiction

[Tilting the Continent: Southeast Asian American Writing](#)

Lim, Shirley Geok-lin and Cheng Lok Chua, editors.810.8095

This anthology of American writers originally from Southeast Asia includes poems and short stories by 41 emerging writers in English. All the writers deal with making a life in the United States while recognizing their differences, adjustments and traumas.

[Sanctuary](#)

Su, Adrienne. 811.54 Su

These beautifully crafted narrative poems reveal heartfelt insights into the emotional life of a contemporary woman in her late 30s - balancing marriage, motherhood and career.

[Glamorous Asians: Short Stories & Essays](#)

Chai, May-Lee 818.54

In this lyrical collection, May-Lee Chai explores the diversity of the Asian-American experience.

[First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers](#)

Ung, Loung. 959.6042 Ung

Ung was only five when the Khmer Rouge stormed the city and forced her family to flee. They sought refuge in various camps, hiding their wealth and education, always on the move and ever fearful of betrayal. Ung's story of starvation, forced labor, beatings, attempted rape, separations and the deaths of her family members is one of horror and brutality.

[Feather in the Storm: A Childhood Lost in Chaos](#)

Wu, Emily. 951.225

This gripping and moving memoir of a courageous young girl growing up during the Cultural Revolution points out the atrocities committed by Mao in the name of progress.

[Chasing Hepburn: A Memoir of Shanghai, Hollywood and a Chinese Family's Fight for Freedom](#)

Lee, Gus. B Lee

In his first nonfiction book, Lee writes a lively memoir that centers on the life of his family in Shanghai during the Chinese civil war. Lee moves deftly between the personalities of his family and the family's intimate moments and his observations on Chinese cultural history.