

Shortlisted for the 1999 Booker Prize

ANITA
DESAI

*Fasting,
Feasting*

'Desai has a wicked, subtle humour...and her characters are beautifully described... Her writing is polished and mature.'

VIN

Fasting, Feasting, Anita Desai, Random House, 2012, 1448104556, 9781448104550, 240 pages. A wonderful novel in two parts, moving from the heart of a close-knit Indian household, with its restrictions and prejudices, its noisy warmth and sensual appreciation of food, to the cool centre of an American family, with its freedom and strangely self-denying attitudes to eating. In both it is ultimately the women who suffer, whether, paradoxically, from a surfeit of feasting and family life in India, or from self-denial and starvation in the US. Or both. Uma, the plain, older daughter still lives at home, frustrated in her attempts to escape and make a life for herself. Her Indian family is difficult, demanding but mostly, good-hearted. Despite her disappointments, Uma comes through as the survivor, avoiding an unfulfilling marriage, like her sister's, or a suicidal one, like that arranged for her pretty cousin. And in America, where young Arun goes as a student, men in the suburbs char hunks of bleeding meat while the women don't appear to cook or eat at all - seems bewildering and terrifying to the young Indian adolescent far from home....

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Journey to Ithaca , Anita Desai, 1996, Europeans, 301 pages. .

Jasmine , Bharati Mukherjee, 1999, Fiction, 241 pages. Jasmine, a young widow in India, moves to the United States to begin a new life.

Reversed Realities Gender Hierarchies in Development Thought, Naila Kabeer, 1994, House & Home, 346 pages. A dynamic reassessment of development theory with a focus on gender, this book examines alternative frameworks for analyzing gender hierarchies; identifies the household as the

Games At Twilight , Anita Desai, Dec 20, 2011, Fiction, 144 pages. Set in contemporary Bombay and other cities, these stories reflect the kaleidoscope of urban life - evoking the colour, sounds and white-hot heat of the city. Warm, perceptive

Pierre and His Friends , Hulst, W. G. van de (Willem Gerrit), 1978, , 175 pages. .

The Zigzag Way , Anita Desai, Feb 1, 2006, Fiction, 159 pages. A young historian traveling to Mexico for the first time, Eric becomes involved in a curious quest to uncover the mysteries of his own family in an old mining town, where he

Clear light of Day , Anita Desai, , , . While their parents went to parties at Delhi's Roshanara Club, the children of the Das family brought themselves up, reading Byron, listening to the gramophone, and watching

The Artist of Disappearance Three Novellas, Anita Desai, Aug 1, 2012, Fiction, 156 pages. Set in modern India, where history still casts a long shadow, The Artist of Disappearance gives us glimpses into three very different lives. The first sees a government official

A play, Strange interlude , Eugene O'Neill, 1928, , 352 pages. .

Anita Desai , Elaine Yee Lin Ho, 2006, Literary Criticism, 118 pages. "The notion of thinking as an outsider, and the critical distance which this entails, is a key to an understanding of Desai as a writer, and a recurrent theme in the

Cry, the Peacock , Anita Desai, 1980, Fiction, 218 pages. Winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award. Cry, the Peacock is the story of a young girl, Maya, obsessed by a childhood prophecy of disaster. The author builds up an atmosphere of

Anita Desai a study of her fiction, Meena Belliappa, 1971, Literary Criticism, 52 pages. .

Strange Interlude , Eugene O'Neill, 1991, American drama, 167 pages. A controversial work of extraordinary power, remarkable length (9 acts), and use of asides to express the characters'

unspoken thoughts. An outstanding, somewhat Freudian play

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