



It is 1898. INDIA IS RULED BY THE BRITISH, and India's women are ruled by British masters as well as Indian men. A desperate young widow makes a tragic sacrifice to save herself from ultimate dishonor. She marries a stranger for security and shelter, but her damaged second family pays dearly for this Faustian bargain. Then, an extraordinary atonement and strange liaisons in politics and love—spanning the two world wars and the Indian independence movement—help her descendants heal from this traumatic private history. *Love's Garden* demonstrates the strength, resilience, and unbreakable spirit of mothers and daughters navigating layers of oppression, all while the sun is not-so-peacefully setting on British India.



NANDINI BHATTACHARYA was born and raised in India and has called the United States her second continent for the last thirty years. Wherever she has lived, she has generally turned to books for answers to life's big and small questions. Her short stories have been published in *Meat for Tea: the Valley Review*, *Storyscape Journal*, *Raising Mothers*, *The Bacon Review*, *The Bangalore Review*, *OyeDrum*, and *Ozone Park Journal*. She has attended the Bread Loaf Writers' Workshop and held residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, VONA, and Craigardan Writers Residency (forthcoming). She was first runner-up for the *Los Angeles Review* Flash Fiction contest (2017-2018), a finalist for the *Fourth River Folio* Contest for Prose Prize (2018), long-listed for the Disquiet International Literary Prize (2019 and 2020), and a finalist for the Reynolds-Price International Women's Literary Award (2019). *Love's Garden* is her first novel. She is currently working on a second novel about love, racism, xenophobia and other mysteries, titled *Homeland Blues*. She lives outside Houston with her family and two marmalade cats.

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Cover design: Cosette Puckett

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\$18.95
 ISBN 978-1-951547-08-0
 5 1895 >

9 781951 547080

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