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# Keeping Corner By Kashmiri Sheth Nowall

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*Keeping Corner By  
Kashmiri Sheth Nowall*

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## WARREN DORSEY

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*Climbing the Stairs* Peachtree Publishing Company

Tanuja Desai Hidier's fantastically acclaimed cross-cultural debut comes to PUSH! Dimple Lala doesn't know what to think. Her parents are from India, and she's spent her whole life resisting their traditions. Then suddenly she gets to high school and everything Indian is trendy. To make matters worse, her parents arrange for her to meet a "suitable boy." Of course it doesn't go well -- until Dimple goes to a club and finds him spinning a magical web . Suddenly the suitable boy is suitable because of his sheer unsuitability. Complications ensue. This is a funny, thoughtful story about finding your heart, finding your culture, and finding your place in America. Author Bio Tanuja Desai Hidier is the critically acclaimed author of the groundbreaking novels *Bombay Blues* and *Born Confused*, which was named an ALA Best Book for Young Adults and hailed by Entertainment Weekly and Rolling Stone as one of the best YA novels of all time. Born and raised in the USA, Tanuja is a

writer/singer-songwriter now based in London. For more about *Born Confused* and *Bombay Blues*, as well as her "booktrack" albums of original songs to accompany them, please visit [www.ThisIsTanuja.com](http://www.ThisIsTanuja.com).

### **Notebook** HQN Books

Hard-working Jiva might not be the only one anticipating a delicious feast of peas from his garden. Every morning, Jiva works in his garden until the sun turns as red as a bride's sari. He plants peas and beans, potatoes and tomatoes, eggplants and okra in his vegetable patch. When his friend Ruvji admires his plants Jiva sings, Plump peas, sweet peas, Lined- up-in-the-shell peas. Peas to munch, peas to crunch A feast of peas for lunch. But each time Jiva is ready to pick the peas for his feast, they're already gone. What has happened? From the award-winning author and illustrator team who created *Tiger in My Soup*, this original story set in India features a deliciously amusing mystery about gardening, anticipation, hard work, and generosity.

### *The Peacock Garden* Peachtree

Can you find love when you think you already have it? Shalini is new to L.A. Not new like from New York City new—or even Kansas new. New like from India

new. And in the U.S., she has it all wrong: the way she dresses, the way she talks, the way she wears her hair. And then there is the ring, which makes her way different from everyone else—because Shalini has been engaged since she was three to Vikram, back in India. Shalini's life has been turned upside down. She doesn't fit in, her mom is depressed, and email is no substitute for being with Vikram. But when she meets Toby at school, Shalini's heart gets turned upside down, too. Just looking at Toby makes her stomach flutter. She thinks she loves Vikram, but he never made her feel like this. In *Lovetorn*, Shalini discovers that your heart ultimately makes its own choices, even when it seems as if your destiny has already been chosen.

*Under the Persimmon Tree* Grove Press  
It's the middle of the night when Jeff spots someone dumping a large bundle into the lake. It's too dark to identify anyone -- or anything. But the cousins immediately suspect foul play, and plunge right into the mystery. Before they know it, the kids of Cabin Creek are in too deep. Everyone is a suspect -- and the cousins are all in danger.

*How a Friendship Pact Led to Success*  
Penguin UK

Anna Bloom is depressed -- so depressed that her parents have committed her to a mental hospital with a bunch of other messed-up teens. Here she meets a roommate with a secret (and a plastic baby), a doctor who focuses way too much on her weight, and a cute, shy boy who just might like her. But wait! Being trapped in a loony bin isn't supposed to be about making friends, losing weight, and having a crush, is it? *Get Well Soon*, Julie Halpern's fiction debut, finds humor in the unlikeliest of places, and presents a character whose voice -- and heart --

will resonate with all of us who have ever felt just a little bit crazy.

### **Strong As Fire, Fierce As Flame**

Penguin Books India

Intertwined portraits of courage and hope in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Najmah, a young Afghan girl whose name means "star," suddenly finds herself alone when her father and older brother are conscripted by the Taliban and her mother and newborn brother are killed in an air raid. An American woman, Elaine, whose Islamic name is Nusrat, is also on her own. She waits out the war in Peshawar, Pakistan, teaching refugee children under the persimmon tree in her garden while her Afghan doctor husband runs a clinic in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. Najmah's father had always assured her that the stars would take care of her, just as Nusrat's husband had promised that they would tell Nusrat where he was and that he was safe. As the two look to the skies for answers, their fates entwine. Najmah, seeking refuge and hoping to find her father and brother, begins the perilous journey through the mountains to cross the border into Pakistan. And Nusrat's persimmon-tree school awaits Najmah's arrival. Together, they both seek their way home. Known for her award-winning fiction set in South Asia, Suzanne Fisher Staples revisits that part of the world in this beautifully written, heartrending novel. *Under the Persimmon Tree* is a 2006 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

*Street Love* Feiwel & Friends

Vietnam. A young American soldier waits for his enemy, rifle in hand, finger on the trigger. He is afraid to move and yet afraid not to move. Gunshots crackle in the still air. The soldier fires blindly into the distant trees at an unseen enemy. He crouches and waits -- heart pounding,

tense and trembling, biting back tears. When will it all be over? Walter Dean Myers joined the army on his seventeenth birthday, at the onset of American involvement in Vietnam, but it was the death of his brother in 1968 that forever changed his mind about war. In a gripping and powerful story-poem, the award-winning author takes readers into the heart and mind of a young soldier in an alien land who comes face-to-face with the enemy. Strikingly illustrated with evocative and emotionally wrenching collages by Caldecott Honor artist Ann Grifalconi, this unforgettable portrait captures one American G.I.'s haunting experience.

My Dadima Wears a Sari Keeping Corner Three fictional stories, told in graphic novel format, about soldiers in World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War who were aided by combat dogs. Based on true stories.

*We Beat the Street* Peachtree Publishers When young Iqbal is sold into slavery at a carpet factory, his arrival changes everything for the other overworked and abused children there. It is Iqbal who explains to them that despite their master's promises, he plans on keeping them as his slaves indefinitely. But it is also Iqbal who inspires the other children to look to a future free from toil...and is brave enough to show them how to get there. This moving fictionalized account of the real Iqbal Masih is told through the voice of Fatima, a young Pakistani girl whose life is changed by Iqbal's courage. *A Group of One* Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

In India, in 1941, when her father becomes brain-damaged in a non-violent protest march, fifteen-year-old Vidya and her family are forced to move in with her father's extended family and become accustomed to a totally different way of

life.

Monsoon Afternoon Simon and Schuster When twelve-year-old Seema Trivedi learns that she and her family must move from their small Indian town to Iowa City, she realizes she'll have to say good-bye to the purple-jeweled mango trees and sweet-smelling jasmine, to the monsoon rains and the bustling market. More important, she must leave behind her best friend and cousin, Raju.

Everything is different in Iowa City, where Seema feels like an outsider to the language and traditions. As she begins to plant roots in the foreign soil, however, her confidence starts to bloom, and she learns she can build a bridge between two homes. With lyrical language and poignant scenes, Kashmiri Sheth unearths the meaning of "home" and "family" in this tender debut novel. Kashmiri Sheth's own experiences as a teenager who moved by herself from India to America inspired her to write this novel. She is a microbiologist and lives with her family in Madison, Wisconsin. Kashmiri Sheth was born in Bhavanger, Gujarat, India and immigrated to the United States at the age of 17. Sheth attended Iowa State University where she received her B.S. in Microbiology. She is married to a civil engineer and they have two daughters. Sheth is both a scientist and an author. Sheth has worked for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as a microbiologist. In 2012 she will teach at the Solstice Low-Residency MFA in Creative Writing Program at Pine Manor College. In her free time Sheth teaches Indian dance to children. "When 12-year-old Seema moves with her parents and younger sister from India to Iowa City, she must leave her grandparents, extended family, and, most distressingly, her

cousin Raju, who has been like a brother to her. Seema describes her adjustment to the newness of the U.S.-the food, clothing, weather, education-and her feelings: "I was always the outsider listening in...." Although she makes friends, she also encounters surprising hostility from another newcomer to her class, and ultimately learns the coping skills necessary to deal with this troubled girl. The writing is infused with evocative descriptions: "...the few leaves left clinging to the trees made them look like beggars in ragged clothes" or "the days... stretched out like a sari." Sheth uses Seema's letters to India and a classroom assignment to transmit significant cultural information, but at times this approach takes on a didactic and unnatural air. Still, the narrative advances steadily, with many opportunities for insights into the experience of this new immigrant, plus enough tension introduced through the bully to keep readers interested." - School Library Journal -Lee Bock, Glenbrook Elementary School, Pulaski, WI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Filled with details that document an immigrant's observations and experiences, Seema's story, which articulates the ache for distant home and family, will resonate with fellow immigrants and enlighten their classmates." Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved - Booklist

**Blue Jasmine** Harper Collins  
An activity booklet designed by Staffordshire teachers aimed at developing advanced reading skills, with the particular needs of more able pupils in mind.

**Patrol** Harper Collins  
Three boys, who made a pact to stick

together through the rough times in their impoverished Newark neighborhood, found the strength to work through their difficulties and complete high school, college, and medical school together.

Tiger in My Soup A&C Black

Jasmine, a young widow in India, moves to the United States to begin a new life

**Nina Soni, Former Best Friend**

Hyperion

Malini lives with her parents and young sister, Banni, in northern Sri Lanka. As the civil war heads towards its catastrophic end, Malini and her family are herded by Tamil Tiger troops towards the coast where they will act as human shields, along with thousands of other Tamil civilians. When Malini's father pushes a mobile phone into her hands and tells her to run off into the forest with Banni, Malini does as she is told. But then the shelling begins, and Malini has no way of finding her mother and father...With the role of parent thrust upon her, Malini has no choice but to travel to her grandfather's village a long way inland. She and Banni will need to keep off the highways and stay alert for soldiers from all sides. But where will the next meal come from? Who can they trust? Where will they shelter? And will they ever be reunited with their parents again?..The uplifting story of one girl's odyssey through war-torn Sri Lanka.

*Malini: Through My Eyes* Peachtree Publishers

An Indian grandmother and her American granddaughter explore culture, imagination, and individuality through a sari. Every day, Rupa's grandmother wears a beautiful Indian sari. Some are made of cotton and others of fine silk. Each is brightly colored and very pretty. "Don't you ever want to wear a green dress like me?" Rupa asks. But Dadima prefers to wear

her traditional saris. Dadima shares all the wonderful things that saris can do—from becoming an umbrella in a rainstorm to providing a deep pouch to carry seashells. Soon Rupa's own imagination is sparked as she envisions saris protecting her in the scary Gir Jungle, bandaging up an injured knee, and holding a special secret for her and Dadima to share. Inspired by Kashmiri Sheth's American-born daughters' curiosity, *My Dadima Wears a Sari* introduces readers to this wardrobe staple from the Indian subcontinent, the different styles and ways it can be worn, and its beauty and benefits. Yoshiko Jaeggi's graceful, fabric-inspired watercolor illustrations offer readers a glimpse into the culture and customs of India, while reinforcing universal themes of love and the importance of family. An author's note explores Sheth's childhood memories of wearing her first sari and back matter photos display the process of wrapping and wearing one.

*Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet* Macmillan  
Nick and his brother Alan are on the run with their mother, who was once the lover of a powerful magician. When she left him, she stole an important charm - and he will stop at nothing to reclaim it. Now Alan has been marked with the sign of death by the magician's demon, and only Nick can save him. But to do so he must face those he has fled from all his life - the magicians - and kill them. So the hunted becomes the hunter... but in saving his brother, Nick discovers something that will unravel his whole past...

**That Long Silence** Henry Holt and Company (BYR)

An extraordinarily rich debut novel, set in India in 1947 at the time of Partition. Although the backdrop is this key event in Indian history, the novel is even more far-reaching, touching on the importance of tolerance, love and family. The main character is Bilal, a boy determined to protect his dying father from the news of Partition - news that he knows will break his father's heart. With great spirit and determination, and with the help of his good friends, Bilal persuades others to collude with him in this deception, even printing false pages of the local newspaper to hide the ravages of unrest from his father. All that Bilal wants is for his father to die in peace. But that means Bilal has a very complicated relationship with the truth...

**A Novel** Scholastic Inc.

Keeping CornerHyperion

*Shanta* Peachtree Pub Limited

If the gods wanted Akash to have an education, he is told, they would give him one. But Akash has spent his entire twelve years poor and hungry. So he decides to take control of his own life and try for a scholarship to the city school where he can pursue his beloved math. But will challenging destiny prove to be more than he has bargained for? In this raw and powerful novel, fate and self-determination come together in unexpected ways, offering an unsentimental look at the realities of India. *Saraswati's Way* is a 2011 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.