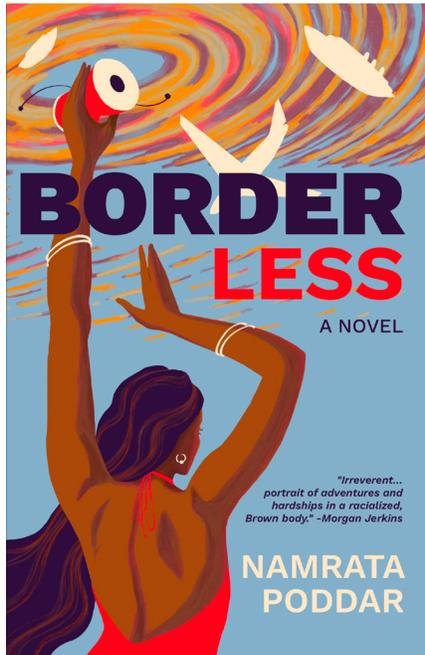


BORDER LESS

a novel by Namrata Poddar

“Irreverent...portrait of adventures and hardships in a radicalized, Brown body.”
Morgan Jerkins, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *This Will Be My Undoing*



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Dia Mittal is an airline call center agent in Mumbai searching for an easier life. As her search takes her to the United States, Dia's checkered relationship with the American Dream dialogues with the experiences and perspectives of a global South Asian community across the class spectrum--call center agents, travel agents, immigrant maids, fashion designers, blue- and white-collar workers in the hospitality industry, junior and senior artists in Bollywood, hustling single mothers, academics, tourists in the Third World, refugees displaced by military superpowers, Marwari merchants and trade caravans of the Silk Road, among others. What connects the novel's web of brown border-crossing characters is their quest for belonging and negotiation of power struggles, mediated by race, class, gender, nationality, age, or place. With its fragmented form, staccato rhythm, repetition, and play with English language, *Border Less* questions the “mainstream” Western novel and its assumptions of good storytelling.

Border Less was a finalist for The Feminist Press's Louise Meriwether First Book Prize. Chapters from the novel won the Short Story Contest organized by 14th International Conference on the Short Story in English, judged by Bharati Mukherjee and Clark Blaise; the New Asian Writing Prize; and appeared in *The Best Asian Short Stories* anthology. The opening chapter, in a slightly different form, was published in *The Kenyon Review*.



About the Author: Namrata Poddar writes fiction and nonfiction, serves as Interviews Editor for Kweli, and teaches literature as well as creative writing at UCLA. Her work has appeared in several publications including *Poets & Writers*, *Literary Hub*, *Longreads*, *The Kenyon Review*, *VIDA Review*, and *Electric Literature*. She holds a PhD in French literature from the University of Pennsylvania, an MFA in fiction from Bennington College, and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transnational Cultures from UCLA. Find her on Twitter, @poddar_namrata, and on Instagram, @writerpoddar.

Photo credit: Elena Bessi

Advance Praise
for
BORDER LESS
by Namrata Poddar

Morgan Jerkins, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *This Will Be My Undoing*

“*Border Less* is a novel that invites the reader into the twists, turns, and corkscrews of immigrant life. From call centers in India to affluent eateries in Orange County, CA, these characters are irreverent, sometimes raunchy, anxiety-ridden, but most of all, explorative. Poddar has a sensitive touch to moving between time, space, and generations to present a continuous portrait of adventures and hardships in a racialized, Brown body.”

Aline Ohanesian, Author of *Orhan’s Inheritance*

“*Border Less* challenges the traditional form and aesthetic of the western novel with a narrative of interconnected stories as layered as the human experience itself. Each of the novel’s carefully drawn chapters explores questions of belonging and identity, complicated by geographic, racial, gender and class distinctions, to name a few. Poddar is an ambitious and important new voice in the tapestry of global literature.”

Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt, Author of *The Postcolonial Citizen*

“*Border Less* is a serious transnational, feminist and a postcolonial novel. It is a deeply moving narrative of a migrant’s journey from Mumbai to Southern California and her displacements over multiple spaces and her moments of self-discovery. This is a novel that finally gives voice to the complexity of being brown and a woman juggling the intersections of class, race, gender, nationality and place.”