

The Book Of Gold Leaves

By Mirza Waheed

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The Book Of Gold Leaves By Mirza Waheed

Shortlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016

Mirza Waheed's extraordinary new novel *The Book of Gold Leaves* is a heartbreaking love story set in war-torn Kashmir.

In an ancient house in the city of Srinagar, Faiz paints exquisite Papier Mache pencil boxes for tourists. Evening is beginning to slip into night when he sets off for the shrine. There he finds the woman with the long black hair.

Roohi is prostrate before her God. She begs for the boy of her dreams to come and take her away. Roohi wants a love story.

An age-old tale of love, war, temptation, duty and choice, *The Book of Gold Leaves* is a heartbreaking tale of a what might have been, what could have been, if only.

'I loved it. The voice is lyrical, to match the beauty of Kashmir, and yet it is tinged with melancholy and grief, as is the story it tells' Nadeem Aslam (on *The Collaborator*)

'Waheed's prose burns with the fever of anger and despair; the scenes in the valley are exceptional, conveying, a hallucinatory living nightmare that has become an everyday reality for Kashmiris' *Metro* (on *The Collaborator*)

Mirza Waheed was born and brought up in Kashmir. His debut novel *The Collaborator* was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Shakti Bhat Prize, and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. It was also book of the year for *The Telegraph*, *New Statesman*, *Financial Times*, *Business Standard* and *Telegraph India*, among others. Waheed has written for the BBC, *The Guardian*, Granta, Al Jazeera English and the *New York Times*. He lives in London.

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The Book Of Gold Leaves By Mirza Waheed Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"A haunting illustration of how, at the end of last century, normal life became impossible for many of those who call Kashmir home . . . Waheed's talent lies in the vivid, convincing detail he brings to descriptions of everyday lives. The careful meshing of domestic intimacy with political events is done deftly, with integrity. Like his great-grandfather's gold painting, Waheed's work will undoubtedly endure." —*Financial Times*

"Waheed writes about war with a devastating and unflinching calm, with the melancholy wisdom of someone attuned to but never hardened by its horrors . . . He has a formidable insight into his large cast of characters, from the elegant grief-stricken principal of the girls' school taken over by Indian officers to the spoilt boy-turned-insurgent who betrays his own father." —*Guardian*

A harrowing tale of love in a time of conflict and change . . . The language in this book is lyrical, indeed at times it seems to be poetry masquerading as prose. *The Book of Gold Leaves* is **the sort of book one can read and re-read - and then read again** - - News on Sunday

About the Author

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