

Lakshmi G. Iyer

NOVELIST · ESSAYIST · CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

Pronounced **Luck-shme Eye-er**. Bylines as Lakshmi G. Iyer; publishes books as Lakshmi Iyer. Based in Exton, Pennsylvania.



Lakshmi G. Iyer is a novelist, essayist, and children's book author writing at the intersection of inheritance, motherhood, and the South Asian diaspora. She is the author of *The Smudged Hyphen*, *Hindsight*, *A Star Keeps Its Distance*, *Pearls on Marble*, *Why Is My Hair Curly?*, and *Why Is My Skin Brown?*. She lives in Pennsylvania.

Books

- **Pearls on Marble** (2026). A caterer and a hotelier in Coimbatore, a wedding that goes wrong, and a family business rebuilt from the floor up. A contemporary romance about food, family, class, and inheritance.
- **Why Is My Skin Brown?** (2026). Sarayu flies to Bengaluru expecting to finally blend in, and meets the same colorism she thought she had left in America. A companion to *Why Is My Hair Curly?* about skin and the wounds mothers and daughters inherit. Published by Red Panda / Westland.
- **Why Is My Hair Curly?** (2020). Avantika, eight, wants her hair to behave. A middle-grade novel set between Chennai and Coimbatore about identity and the questions kids actually ask.
- **Hindsight** (2024). A novel about what is taken from a woman when no one will name it, and what it costs when someone finally does. Set between 1990s Coimbatore and present-day Pennsylvania.
- **A Star Keeps Its Distance** (2026). K-pop journalist Amaya Stein writes about distance for a living. A novel about the strange intimacy of watching someone you will never meet.
- **The Smudged Hyphen** (2026). Essays on inheritance, motherhood, and the hyphenated self as smudge rather than bridge.

Selected press

- **The Indian Express**. The skin I grew up in (She Said column) (2026)
- **Hindustan Times**. Kaleidoscope: Why Is My Skin Brown? (2026)
- **NPR's The Takeaway**. Overcoming Race in Non-Traditional Adoption
- **The Tribune**. Backflap: Why Is My Skin Brown? (2026)
- **Storizen Magazine**. Review: Why Is My Skin Brown? (2026)
- **BBC Radio UK**. In conversation with Ruchi Tandon on adoption

Contact

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