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195 Broadway, New York, NY 10007
tel 212.206.7715 fax 212.519.1210
abramsbooks.com

Publicity Contact: Andrew Gibeley,
agibeley@abramsbooks.com, 860.508.0380

A stunning and unforgettable debut novel shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction

“Avni Doshi is a writer of surgical precision and sharp intelligence. This novel of mother-and-daughter resentments and the deep, intimate cuts of ancient family history gleams like a blade—both dangerous and beautiful. I loved it.”

—Elizabeth Gilbert, bestselling author of *Eat, Pray, Love* and *Big Magic*

Burnt Sugar A Novel



By Avni Doshi

“I would be lying if I said my mother’s misery has never given me pleasure,” says Antara, Tara’s now-adult daughter, in the opening line to ***Burnt Sugar* (The Overlook Press; January 26, 2021; \$26.00; Hardcover)**, a searing literary debut about obsession and betrayal by breakout literary star **Avni Doshi**.

In her youth, Tara was wild. She abandoned her marriage to join an ashram, and while Tara is busy as a partner to the ashram’s spiritual leader, Baba, little Antara is cared for by an older devotee, Kali Mata, an American who came to the ashram after a devastating loss. Tara also embarks on a stint as a beggar (mostly to spite her affluent parents) and spends years chasing a disheveled, homeless artist, all with young Antara in tow. But now Tara is forgetting things, and Antara is an adult—an artist and married—and must search for a way to make peace with a past that haunts her as she confronts the task of caring for a woman who never cared for her.

Sharp as a blade and laced with caustic wit, ***Burnt Sugar*** unpicks the slippery, choking cord of memory and myth that binds mother and daughter. Is Tara’s memory loss real? Are Antara’s memories fair? In vivid and visceral prose, Tibor Jones South Asia Prize-winning writer Avni Doshi tells a story that is at once shocking and empathetic. Described by *Vogue India* as “poignant and economical,” ***Burnt Sugar***—which has already sold rights into 21 languages—is about the love and deception shared between a mother and a daughter, the journey into shifting memories, altering identities, and the subjective nature of truth.



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“Acerbic, full of wit and cool intelligence, but also brilliantly poetic and passionate—every sentence is a coiled spring and each psychological portrait burns itself into the mind. I couldn’t put it down.”

—**Olivia Sudjic**, author of *Exposure and Sympathy*

“Crystalline, surgical, compulsively readable. An examination of toxic relationships and the ties that bind us.”

—**Sharlene Teo**, author of *Ponti*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



AVNI DOSHI was born in New Jersey. She received her BA in art history from Barnard College and her MA in history of art at University College, London. While working as an art writer and curator in India, Avni began writing fiction. She has been awarded the Tibor Jones South Asia Prize and a Charles Pick Fellowship. Her debut novel, *Burnt Sugar*, was longlisted for the prestigious Tata Literature Live! First Book Award upon its publication in India and is currently

shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize in Fiction. Avni Doshi currently lives in Dubai with her family.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Burnt Sugar: A Novel

by Avni Doshi

The Overlook Press | January 26, 2021

U.S. \$26.00 / Can. \$33.00

Hardcover with jacket | 240 pages

5½ x 8¼"

ISBN: 978-1-4197-5292-6

Also available as an e-book



ABRAMS

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