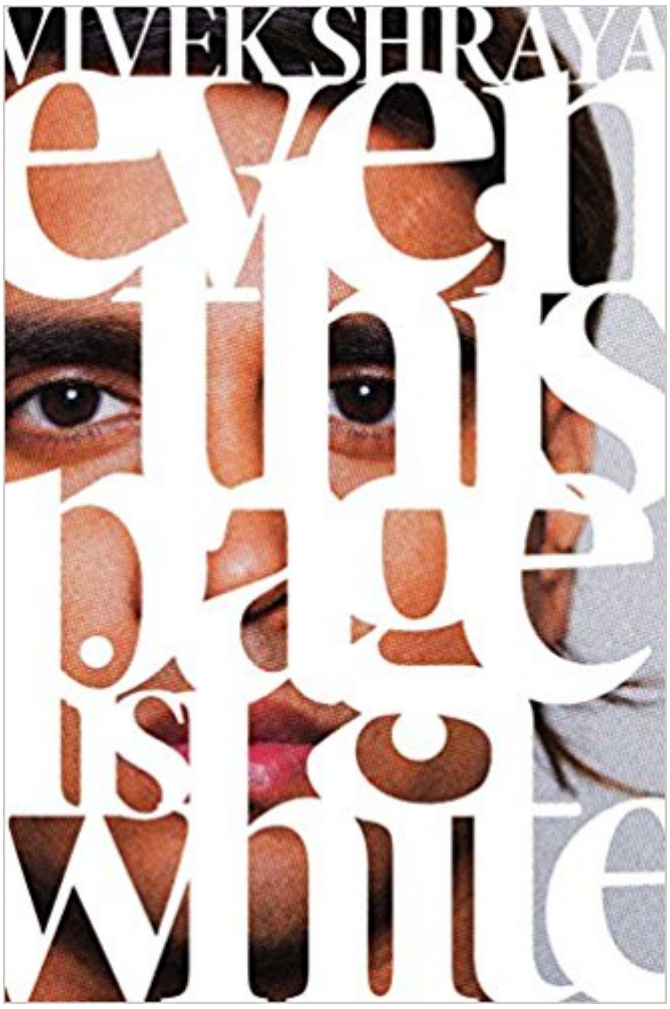
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Synopsis

Vivek Shraya’s debut collection of poetry is a bold and timely interrogation of skin—its origins, functions, and limitations. Poems that range in style from starkly concrete to limber break down the barriers that prevent understanding of what it means to be racialized. Shraya paints the face of everyday racism with words, rendering it visible, tangible and undeniable. Vivek Shraya is a writer, musician, and filmmaker whose previous books include God Loves Hair and She of the Mountains. She lives in Toronto.

Book Information

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"This brave and very contemporary lyrical collection dares to ask the unspoken yet screaming questions, to finish the sentence that hurts, that reveals, that provokes, that celebrates. Like a Durga goddess, Shraya juggles with deft hands the multiple aspects of desire, race, gender, queerness, and contemporary pop culture." —Shani Mootoo, author of Moving Forward Sideways like a Crab and Cereus Blooms at Night"A stark, bold poetry debut. Shraya writes on, through, and about skin and color -- and the meanings we make of both. This beautiful collection is the rawest consideration of race, racism, and identity that IÃ¢â ¬â„¢ve read in a while." Ã¢â ¬â •AfterEllen.com"This brave and very contemporary lyrical collection dares to ask the unspoken yet screaming questions, to finish the sentence that hurts, that reveals, that provokes, that celebrates. Like a Durga goddess, Shraya juggles with deft hands the multiple aspects of desire, race, gender, queerness, and contemporary pop culture." Ã¢â ¬â ¢Shani Mootoo, author of

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Vivek Shraya: Vivek Shraya is a writer, musician, performer, and filmmaker. His previous books include the novel She of the Mountains and the YA book God Loves Hair, and he has been shortlisted for Lambda Literary Awards three times. He has read and performed at shows, festivals and post-secondary institutions internationally.

Awesome book

I give this book five stars for message, but three stars for execution. I found many of the ideas uncomplicated, or stated in bombastic ways that almost made me cringe. I would recommend this book if you aren't someone who thinks often about race -- it approaches complicated topics in an introductory manner. I give all my respect to Vivek Shraya and the work she is doing in the world. But, as much as I would like to support my fellow south asian femmes, I can't in good conscious rave about this book. The poems were simply too clunky.

I've read this book multiple times and continue to return to it for inspiration and guidance. Shraya is a generous poet; in this accessible and eye-opening collection, she examines her own complicity in systems of oppression--such as anti-black racism and settler colonialism--and invites her readers to do the same. Shraya deftly explores colourism, racism, white privilege, allyship, the politics of queer love, and gender identity through resonant narratives, dialogues, and a variety of poetic forms. As another reviewer wrote, this is a powerful book.

Really powerful poems about white supremacy and existing in a racialized body.

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