



Blue Boy

By Rakesh Satyal

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“Compassionate, moving, funny, and wise, *Blue Boy* is one of the best debut novels I have read in years.” —David Ebershoff, author of *The Danish Girl*

Meet Kiran Sharma: lover of music, dance, and all things sensual; son of immigrants, social outcast, spiritual seeker. A boy who doesn't quite understand his lot—until he realizes he's a god. . .

As an only son, Kiran has obligations—to excel in his studies, to honor the deities, to find a nice Indian girl, and, above all, to make his mother and father proud—standard stuff for a boy of his background. If only Kiran had anything in common with the other Indian kids besides the color of his skin. They reject him at every turn, and his cretinous public schoolmates are no better. Cincinnati in the early 1990s isn't exactly a hotbed of cultural diversity, and Kiran's not-so-well-kept secrets don't endear him to any group. Playing with dolls, choosing ballet over basketball, taking the annual talent show way too seriously. . .the very things that make Kiran who he is also make him the star of his own personal freak show. . .

Surrounded by examples of upstanding Indian Americans—in his own home, in his temple, at the weekly parties given by his parents' friends—Kiran nevertheless finds it impossible to get the knack of “normalcy.” And then one fateful day, a revelation: perhaps his desires aren't too earthly, but too divine. Perhaps the solution to the mystery of his existence has been before him since birth. For Kiran Sharma, a long, strange trip is about to begin—a journey so sublime, so ridiculous, so painfully beautiful, that it can only lead to the truth. . .

“The best fiction reminds us that humanity is much, much larger than our personal world, our own little reality. *Blue Boy* shows us a world too funny and sad and sweet to be based on anything but the truth.” —Chuck Palahniuk *New York Times* bestselling author

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Blue Boy By Rakesh Satyal Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #208549 in eBooks
- Published on: 2009-04-22
- Released on: 2009-05-01
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Satyal's lovely coming-of-age debut charts an Indian-American boy's transformation from mere mortal to Krishnaji, the blue-skinned Hindu deity. Twelve-year-old Kiran Sharma's a bit of an outcast: he likes ballet and playing with his mother's makeup. He also reveres his Indian heritage and convinces himself that the reason he's having trouble fitting in is because he's actually the 10th reincarnation of Krishnaji. He plans to come out to the world at the 1992 Martin Van Buren Elementary School talent show, and much of the book revels in his comical preparations as he creates his costume, plays the flute and practices his dance moves to a Whitney Houston song. But as the performance approaches, something strange happens: Kiran's skin begins to turn blue. Satyal writes with a graceful ease, finding new humor in common awkward pre-teen moments and giving readers a delightful and lively young protagonist. (*May*)

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Review

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Chuck Palahniuk *New York Times* Bestselling Author

About the Author

Rakesh Satyal is the author of the novel *Blue Boy*, which won a 2010 Lambda Literary Award and the 2010 Prose/Poetry Award from the Association of Asian American Studies and which was a 2010 finalist for the Publishing Triangle's Edmund White Award. Satyal was the recipient of a 2010 Fellowship in Fiction from the New York Foundation for the Arts. His second novel, *No One Can Pronounce My Name*, was published in 2017. He lives in New York City.

Readers can visit his website at rakeshsatyalbooks.com.

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