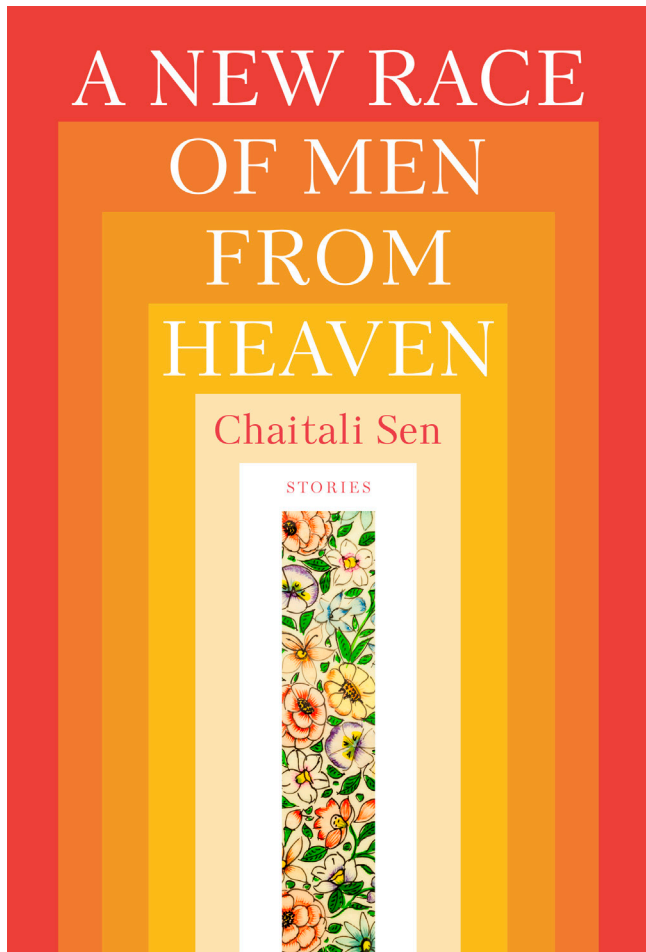




A NEW RACE OF MEN FROM HEAVEN

Chaitali Sen

STORIES



QUESTIONS

1. Do you think that the child who goes missing in “The Immigrant” will be found? Does your answer to this question affect how you read or understand the story?
2. In the title story, Sasha recalls visiting the Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, England. Of all the places Sasha would have visited with her father, why is this one important to the story?
3. In what ways do characters wield power in these stories?
4. Where do you think the girls in “The Bat Mitzvah” will be in ten years? Will they remain friends?
5. In “The Abandoned,” the characters and the setting are unnamed. What does this choice make you think about as a reader?
6. Were you surprised by the ending of “When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer?”
7. In “The Travelers,” should George have followed Marie to Paris?
8. What does Charles Tilly want?

WRITING PROMPTS

1. Imagine a landscape that looks just like one you know well but with a few crucial differences. What are those differences and how do they change what is important or real about that landscape, how its parts fit together? Try, if possible, in imagining these shifts in topography, weather, climate, or ecology to put this part of the earth you know into motion so it is at once familiar and unfamiliar. How does it own its stories or reveal them through these shifts you are imagining? How do we see species (human and non-human) adapting?
2. How can somebody alone have a conversation with a forest, a mountain, or the ocean? What if they don't use words but thought and action? What would that conversation look like or sound like, feel like? How might the surrounding world respond? In a storm? A biodiverse language of species? What if discovery and exploration were ways to speak to the land or to a lake or river or sea? How might somebody coming to know a place, learning its shape and secrets, start to make a story out of that connection?



Chaitali Sen's short stories and essays have appeared in *Boulevard*, *Colorado Review*, *Ecotone*, *Electric Literature*, *New England Review*, *Shenandoah*, and many other publications. She is the author of the novel *The Pathless Sky* and holds an M.F.A from Hunter College. Born in India and raised in the U.S., she currently lives in Texas with her family.