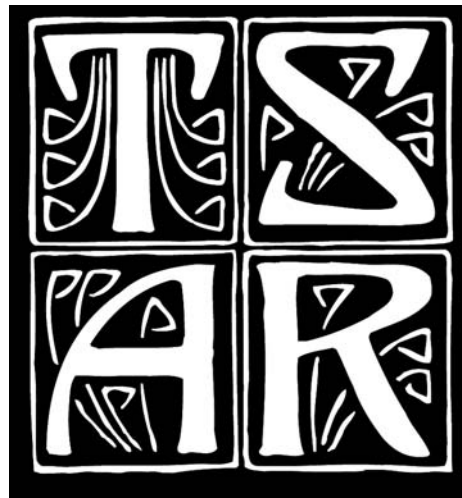


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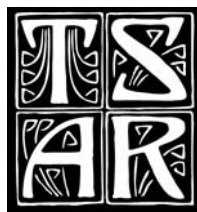
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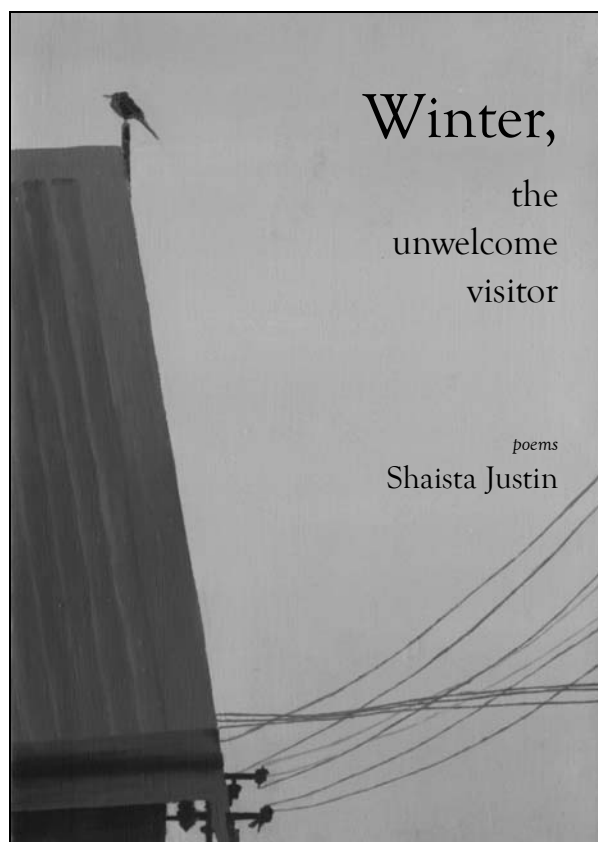
Father-mine, you are a hero of survival, from dusty goats
and washing in buckets to water from a sprinkler etching
it’s sound of living surviving grass sounding-tch-tch . . .
You have made me and bureaucratic policy proud.
Indeed, you are not a liar that any lie can be told about:

you are a statistic.

Not like any other dog-and-pony show,
I live you . . .
I admire you . . .
and for this reason, I am un-inalienably unfair to you.



SHAISTA JUSTIN was born in Pakistan and came to Canada at the age of six. She grew up in Toronto and has attended McMaster University, Queen’s University, and the University of Cape Town. In addition to being a fervent traveller, she has been a performer, writer, producer, researcher, teacher and civil servant. Her interest in postcolonial literature, eco-criticism, and feminist theory are thematically evident in her work. She is grateful to have had the creative writing mentorship of JM Coetzee, Nobel Prize winner in Literature (2003). Her poetry and prose has been published in *New Contrast*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Between the Lines*, and *Beneath the Surface*. She currently lives in Toronto with her husband and two children and is working as a freelance writer and editor.



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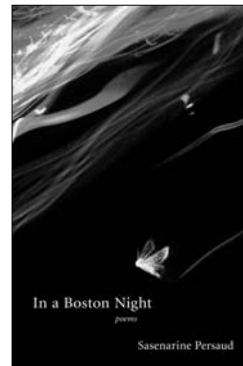


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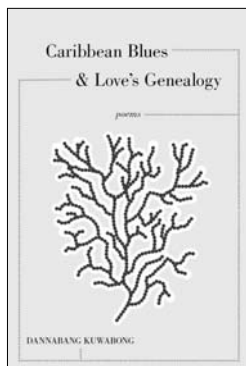
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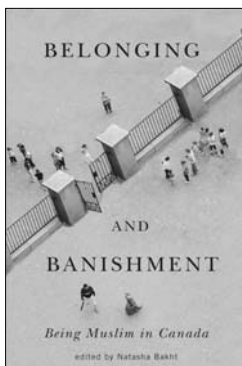
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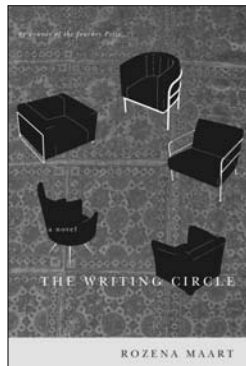


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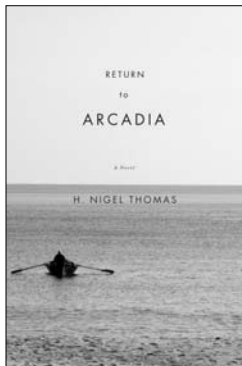


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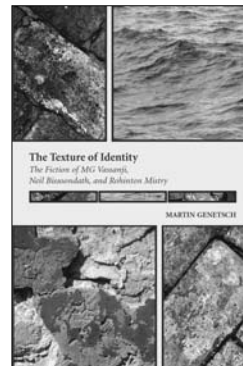


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