

A Reading of Their Fiction and Non-Fiction

Bharati Mukherjee and Clark Blaise

Clark Blaise and Bharati Mukherjee address, in their fiction and their collaborative non-fiction, the borders of the multicultural experience in our contemporary world.

Bharati Mukherjee, born in Calcutta, India, is the author of nine books, including the story collection *The Middleman and Other Stories*, winner of the 1988 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and the novels *Jasmin* and *The Holder of the World*. Her stories and essays appear in most major anthologies.

Clark Blaise, a Canadian-American writer, is the author of ten books, including the critically acclaimed short story collections *A North American Education* and *Tribal Justice*, the novel *Lunar Attractions* and the post-modern autobiography *I Had A Father*. More than seventy of his short stories and essays appear in anthologies.

Clark Blaise and Bharati Mukherjee met while graduate students at the University of Iowa's Writers Workshop in the early 1960s. Written jointly, *Days and Nights in Calcutta* is the story of their first trip to India to visit her family after their marriage. *Newsweek* praised the "honesty, turned by Mukherjee and Blaise upon themselves and their surroundings, that makes this book so distinctive and affecting a chronicle of voyages and discoveries." Their second non-fiction book, *The Sorrow and The Terror*, is an investigative journalist account of the Air-India bombing of the 1980s.

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Wednesday 7:00 pm

Twentieth Century Gallery

Krannert Art Museum

500 W. Peabody Dr., Champaign

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