



The Meagre Tarmac

Clark Blaise

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Shortlisted for the 2011 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize

2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize Nominee

Longlisted for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award

"Clark Blaise's brilliantly imagined *The Meagre Tarmac* is a novel in short-story form, warmly intimate, startling in its quick jumps and revelations, a portrait of individuals for whom we come to care deeply – and a portrait of an Indo-American way of life that shimmers before our eyes with the rich and compelling detail for which Clark Blaise's fiction is renowned *The Meagre Tarmac* is a remarkable accomplishment."—Joyce Carol Oates

An Indo-American *Canterbury Tales*, *The Meagre Tarmac* explores the places where tradition, innovation, culture, and power meet with explosive force. It begins with Vivek Waldekar, who refused to attend his father's funeral because he was "trying to please an American girl who thought starting a fire in his father's body too gross a sacrilege to contemplate." It ends with Pranab Dasgupta, the Rockefeller of India, who can only describe himself as "a very lonely, very rich, very guilty immigrant." And in between is a cluster of remarkable characters, incensed by the conflict between personal desire and responsibility, who exhaust themselves in pursuit of the miraculous. Fearless and ferociously intelligent, these stories are vintage Blaise, whose outsider's view of the changing heart of America has always been ruthless and moving and tender.

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