

Cyril Dabydeen

SHORT STORIES

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Dabydeen’s global citizenry and diasporic consciousness infuse his work with the spirit of a humanist, which is also emblematic of his work on race relations and human rights issues and for his innumerable contributions to the Arts.

Cyril Dabydeen was born in Berbice county, Guyana. His parents were the descendants of indentured labourers from the Indian subcontinent brought to the British colonies in the aftermath of Emancipation. Like other writers from the “land of water,” Dabydeen was infused with the creative spirit and energy of his tropical surroundings which stands at the threshold of many worlds. Arriving in Canada in the fall of 1970, Dabydeen first lived in Thunder Bay, Northern Ontario, and finally settled in Ottawa, the nation’s capital. Since this time, Dabydeen has been infused with the two major landscapes, north and south of the equator, that have nourished his life and career.

This collection brings together a selection of Dabydeen’s short stories written primarily in the 1970s and 1980s. The stories are arranged in two parts: the early period, and the middle to later period, charting a chronological movement that parallels the changing contours of the author’s craft. The stories also move in setting and enveloping action to capture a geographical or diasporic odyssey that mirrors Dabydeen’s migration from Guyana to Canada, and his real and mythical forays into India, the site of ancestral memory.

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