



Contact: press@speculativeliterature.org

Press Release #114
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2023 A.C. Bose Grant Winner

May 2023 – The Speculative Literature Foundation is pleased to announce that Kiran Kaur Saini is the winner of the 2023 A.C. Bose Grant.

“Kiran Kaur Saini’s *The Color of Conflagration* is a foreboding and briskly paced depiction of a near future police state where emotional regulation is imposed. It is a visceral piece of techno-dystopian fiction that raises thought provoking questions about emotional agency and emotional erasure,” says Karthik Shankar, a member of the jury.

Kiran Kaur Saini is a Punjabi-American writer whose stories have appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Masters Review*, and elsewhere, and have been translated into Spanish and selected for Best of the Year anthology inclusion. Her work has been awarded the Henfield Prize for Fiction, nominated for the Pushcart Prize, and recommended to the Nebula Award reading list. Her, a 15-year veteran of the Los Angeles film industry, Kiran stepped away from her career in film production at the start of the pandemic to become a full-time caregiver to her 89-year-old mom. She is currently an Associate Editor for Podcastle. For more information, visit <https://kirankoursaini.com>.

“*The Color of Conflagration*” extrapolates from present-day movements seeking to flatten the experiences of marginalized communities. It is one meditation on the individual and collective ramifications of the violence of erasure—silencing personal and cultural experience through legislation, technology, and surveillance.

The A.C. Bose Grant annually provides \$1,000 to South Asian or Desi diaspora writers developing speculative fiction. Work that is accessible to older children and teens will be given preference in the jury process. The SLF awards the grant to one applicant based on interest and merit. Submitted works may consist of poetry, drama, fiction, or creative nonfiction but must be speculative.

Grant guidelines cap submissions at ten pages for poetry or drama and 5,000 words for fiction and creative nonfiction. Applications should include a cover letter and bibliography with applicants’ previous publishing credits. Applicants without previous publishing credits are encouraged to apply.

The submission window spans from January 1st to January 31st, with a winner scheduled to be announced by March 15th, 2024.

Launched in January 2004 to promote literary quality in speculative fiction, the Speculative Literature Foundation addresses historical inequities in access to literary opportunities for

marginalized writers. Our staff and board are committed to representing racial, gender, and class diversity at all levels of our organization. This commitment is at the heart of what the Speculative Literature Foundation stands for: equal access to create and advance science fiction, fantasy, and horror literature. We strive to enable writers at any stage of their career and of any age, any ethnicity, any gender expression, from any location and of any economic or social status, who want to learn about, or create within, the speculative arts.

The SLF is a 501(c)3 non-profit, entirely supported by community donations. If you'd like to be involved with our efforts, please consider joining us as a member for \$2/month, at speculativeliterature.org/membership.

The Speculative Literature Foundation is partially funded by a grant from the Oak Park Area Arts Council, Village of Oak Park, Illinois Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation.

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