

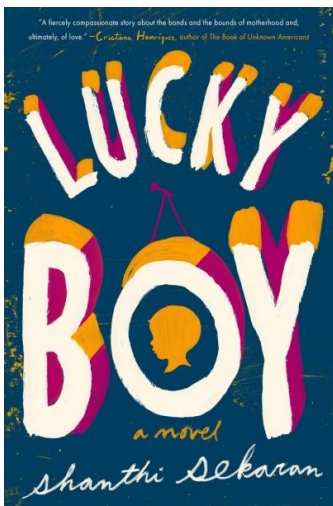
An extraordinarily timely novel about  
**MOTHERHOOD, IMMIGRATION AND AMERICA**



**SHANTHI SEKARAN**

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**A GRIPPING NOVEL ABOUT TWO EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN AND  
THEIR BOUNDLESS LOVE FOR ONE LUCKY BOY**



Solimar Castro Valdez has always been a dreamer, wishing for a better life away from her small town of Popocalco. Drunk on optimism and full of faith, Soli embarks on a perilous journey across the Mexican border. Weeks later she arrives on her cousin's doorstep in Berkeley, California, dazed by first love found then lost – pregnant, undocumented, and unmoored. When her beloved son Ignacio finally arrives, Soli discovers that motherhood can be her identity in a world where she is otherwise invisible.

Despite enormous pressure from her parents to conform to their idea of the proper Indian-American lifestyle, Kavya Reddy has created a life she adores. Her marriage to her husband, Rishi, is mostly happy and she loves her job as a chef, but at thirty-five her life starts to seem empty, a gaping hole at its centre that can only be filled by a child. When she can't get pregnant, this desperate desire strains her marriage and tests her sanity, setting her on a path leading to Soli's infant son Ignacio, sent into foster care when Soli is placed in immigrant detention. As Kavya learns to be a mother to this boy she builds her love on a fault line, her heart wrapped around someone else's child.

**LUCKY BOY** beautifully weaves together the themes of motherhood, immigration, infertility, adoption and minority life in America. It's also a story about California and a larger portrait of what the state looks like now – who does the work and who has the power.

A native of California, Shanthi was inspired by her own upbringing as a child of immigrants, by the news stories she was hearing about undocumented mothers losing their children when they were put into detention centres, and by living in Berkeley, CA, a place that for all of its progressiveness is also incredibly privileged.

At once heartbreaking and uplifting, **LUCKY BOY** will leave readers thinking and feeling and debating long after turning the last page.



**About the author:** SHANTHI SEKARAN teaches creative writing at California College of the Arts, and is a member of the Portuguese Artists' Colony and the San Francisco Writers' Grotto. Her work has appeared in *Best New American Voices* and *Canteen*, and online at *Zyzzyyva* and *Mutha Magazine*. A California native, she lives in Berkeley with her husband and two children.

**SHANTHI IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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