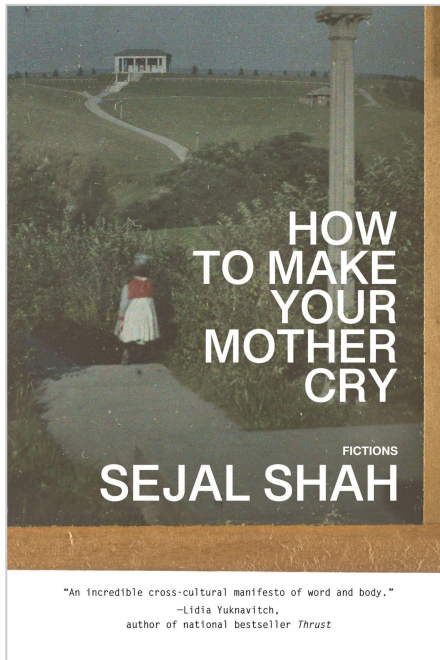


**“An incredible cross-cultural manifesto of word and body: What is home. What is mother. What is family. What is self. What is woman, and how do we story her.”**

—Lidia Yuknavitch, author of *Thrust and Verge*



# HOW TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER CRY

FICTIONS  
by Sejal Shah

West Virginia University Press | May 1, 2024  
\$24.99 | 192 Pages | Trade Paperback | 9781959000136

**“Urgent, intense, and intimate... A clever and beautifully crafted collection!”**  
—Deesha Philyaw, author of *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*

**“A stunning hybrid work, and I’m in awe of its candor, risk, and craft.”**  
—Jon Pineda, author of *Let’s No One Get Hurt*

In the eleven linked short stories of **HOW TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER CRY** (May 2024), Sejal Shah, author of the award-winning *This Is One Way to Dance*, builds a shrine gleaming with memory and myth. Keys, rocks, photographs, fairy tales, fables, and relics all add texture and meaning to an exploration of growing up and living as a diasporic Gujarati woman in a culture that excuses the behavior of men. Throughout, girls and women contend with the expectations, limitations, and challenges of becoming the heroine of one’s own life.

These stories bloom from Shah’s unique perspective as a masterful storyteller and collector of ephemera, but also as a child of immigrants and a champion of neurodivergent visibility. “This book grew out of friendships, conversations, collaboration, and study with artists, dancers, teachers, students, and friends across many years and places,” says Shah of her new collection of fiction. “It’s been over twenty years of creative encounters.”

By braiding stories and images with fictional letters to a beloved English teacher, the collection defies traditional autofiction, epistolary, and short story conventions. **HOW TO MAKE YOUR MOTHER CRY** continues the rich tradition of innovative feminist writing like that of Claudia Rankine, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Maxine Hong Kingston.

These astonishing stories about friendship and love, resilience and survival, solidify Shah as an exciting and much-needed new voice in contemporary literature.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Photo credit: Rajesh Singaravelu

**SEJAL SHAH** is an artist, writer, and educator whose work crosses genres and disciplines. She is the author of the award-winning essay collection *This Is One Way to Dance*, an NPR Best Book of 2020, and the groundbreaking essay on invisible disability and neurodiversity “Even If You Can’t See It.” Her writing has appeared in *Conjunctions*, *the Guardian*, *Guernica*, and *the Kenyon Review*. She lives in Rochester, New York.