



I have achieved a high level of education, but what about the many girls who are denied this right? I lived in humble homes, whereas many are sleeping rough in all sorts of weather, including that caused by climate change. I was able to provide a decent life for my family, wondering how many of those, who are orphaned by war or injustice, never experienced being part of one. Whilst I travelled to many places, some can't reach the only hospital in the region, on time, by foot. As much as I tried, I couldn't wash away my pain and theirs as we were labelled or discriminated against. We were faced with unfairness and being undermined in the process.

About the author

Amna Agib (bit Nafisa) is an ordinary woman who has not necessarily suffered in the same way her characters have. However, she tasted a not dissimilar pain. She lived squeezed by the nasty sensation of feeling an outsider. She's travelled across cities and places and occupied many professions to find herself, yet she didn't feel she quite belonged to somewhere and in some way.

Writing about people's suffering may be her destiny and her remedy.

What others say

In *The Roots that Gave Birth to Magical Blossoms*, Amna's first book, she offers us a telescopic view into the lives and souls of her characters. It leaves the reader with the vivid impression of having encountered a series of strangers, who quickly become our friends.

Any urge to know where and when each "story" is set quickly fades as we realise these details are immaterial – each story is about this particular human being, and about being human.

The stories or reflections hit hard – there's war, death, domestic violence, abuse, bullying – but at the heart of each, there is family and there is love. They are also reflections on migration, on the natural need or desire to move around and the challenges that face us when we do.

Amna has an unusual style of writing but one that frequently steals your breath away. The strangeness, the vividness and the pinpoint accuracy of some of her descriptions are truly remarkable.

Her voice – and those of her characters – are much needed in today's world where those who cross borders are so often stigmatised. She offers a rallying cry for a different, more humane, world.

Judith Vonberg, Communications Officer, Migrant Voice

Category: Short stories

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