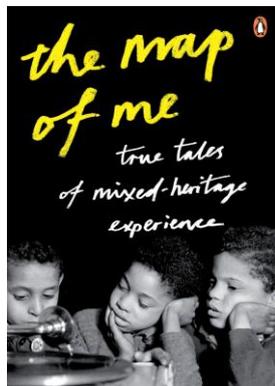


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THE MAP OF ME

True Tales of Mixed Heritage Experience

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THE THIRD PENGUIN DECIBEL ANTHOLOGY OF NEW WRITING

Fourteen fascinating true stories about the joys, sorrows and surprises of coming from a mixed heritage.

In today's Britain thousands of people have parents from different cultural backgrounds. In February 2008 we asked people from any background to send us true stories which illuminate the complexities, challenges and pleasures of having a mixed heritage – those defining moments which seem to say it all. Then we asked six judges – including the novelist Kate Mosse and Shami Chakrabarti from Liberty – to choose the best, most searching accounts to be included in this anthology. The resulting stories are as varied and colourful as they are true, honest and moving, but through all of them runs a universal theme: the desire to know and understand our own identity, and to forge a sense of self that surpasses the complex layers of places, parents and the past.

The judges of the prize this year were novelist Kate Mosse, Shami Chakrabarti from Liberty, novelist and poet Bernardine Evaristo, Simon Prosser, Publishing Director at Hamish Hamilton, Samenua Seshier from decibel, Brenda Emmanus from BBC London News and Vivian Archer of the Newham Bookshop.

David Lammy, MP for Tottenham, is the patron of the prize. He said, 'I'm sure this year's anthology will be just as moving and fresh as last year's, providing a wonderful insight into some of the rich tapestry of British ethnic minority culture'.

This book is the third and last anthology produced by Penguin in collaboration with decibel, the ethnic diversity unit of the Arts Council. The previous two are *Volume 1: New Voices from a Diverse Culture* and *From There to Here: Sixteen True Tales of Immigration to Britain*.

The Map of Me includes stories of being Irish and Muslim; German-Liberian; half-English, half-Pakistani; Chinese-Brummie; Middle-Eastern-American; Canadian-Zimbabwean; and many more...

Rounke Coker was born in Nigeria in 1962 of black African and white parentage. Rounke now lives in Brighton where she works as a resources assistant in an academic library. 'Rounke Coker' is a pseudonym.

Julia Bohanna grew up in Hereford and is of Asian and white heritage. She currently works as a writer for the UK Wolf Conservation Trust's magazine, *Wolfprint*. She has had some short stories published in magazines such as *Mslaxia* and some success in writing competitions. Julia was the winner of the *Woman and Home* Short Story Competition in 2006. She now lives in Caversham, Berkshire with a film model-maker and her ten-year-old daughter.

Tina Freeth is of Chinese descent and grew up in Birmingham with her white foster family. She wrote her first piece of creative non-fiction, *Growing up on Lard*, in 2006. Since then she has had some of her short stories published and is currently working on her memoir.

John Pitts was born and raised in Sheffield. He is of white and black African parentage. Formerly a youth worker for Sheffield Council, John is now a presenter, writer and journalist. He lives in North London with his girlfriend Keziah and plays in the band *Bare Knuckle Soul*.

Claire Frank has spent most of her life on the Caribbean island of Barbuda. She has now returned temporarily to the UK with her son and two daughters but will go back as soon as possible. Her story is told from her daughter's point of view.

Monika-Akila Richards is of German-Liberian heritage. Monika-Akila grew up in Germany, near Hamburg before finally settling in England. She now lives in Brighton.

Bel Greenwood was born in London. She spent years travelling before living on Dartmoor and moving to Norfolk where she did a Creative Writing M.A. at the University of East Anglia. She now lives with her British-Romanian daughter in Norwich, where she writes scripts.

Sethina Adjarewa left Accra, Ghana in 1973, arriving in Somerset. She now lives in Bristol, where she is studying medicine, expecting to graduate as a doctor in 2010. She is a mother of two daughters, Jasmine and Jada. Sethina is yet to return to Ghana, but hopes to complete a medical elective there in 2009.

Fay Dickinson was born in Market Harborough in 1960. Her English mother came from Hinckley, Leicestershire and her Anglo-Indian father was originally from Lucknow. She graduated from the University of Lancaster with a degree in English in 1985. She is currently a part-time Accounts Assistant and lives with her mother in Corby, Northamptonshire.

Krystyan Robinson was born in 1963 in London, Ontario, Canada. She has worked as an actress, musician and artist as well as a forklift truck driver and a legal secretary. She has lived in London since 1989. In September 2007 she graduated with a BA in Fine Arts from Goldsmiths, University of London. *Long Flight Home* is about her experience of having a mixed (Canadian-Zimbabwean) relationship, from which she has two sons.

Rashid Adamson is 38 years old. His mother is English and his father Pakistani. Rashid left prison five years ago, following a cocaine addiction. Whilst prevented from gaining a full education as a child, he is now finishing his second year of a BA Joint Hons Degree in Creative Writing and Journalism at the University of Cumbria.

Sophia Al-Maria lives in South East London as a writer. She was previously a student of pre-Islamic poetry in Cairo and a video editor in New York City. Her years growing up have been spent between America and the Arabian Gulf.

Jenneba Sie-Jalloh was born and raised in Paddington and Notting Hill, where she still lives. She was born in 1964, the year of the first Notting Hill Carnival, which she always makes sure she is part of. Her mother is from Dublin and her father is from Sierra Leone. Jenneba is a teacher by profession and taught in Peckham for six years before moving into arts education. She has just completed an MA in Fiction and is working on her first novel. She lives with her sixteen-year-old son.

Radhika Praveen was born in Mumbai, where she lived for her first twenty-seven years. She has previously written an online journal about love, marriage, migrating to London, Mumbai memories and completing her MA in Professional Writing along with looking after a baby and having a day job. Aged thirty-three, She is now enrolled for a PhD and working on a novel.