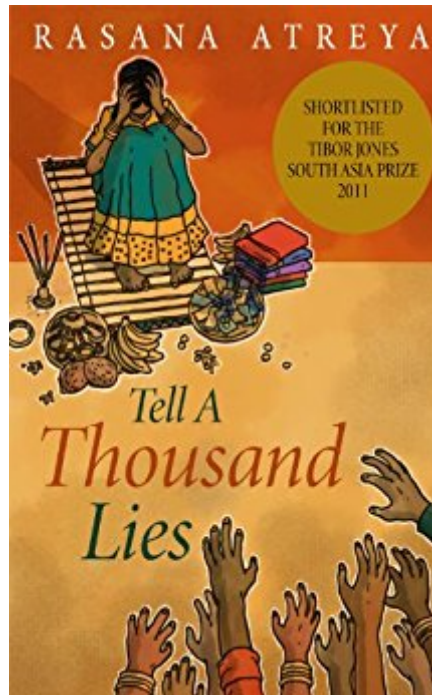


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# Tell A Thousand Lies: A Novel Set In India



## Synopsis

Tell A Thousand Lies is one of our five favourite tales from India. -- Glam Magazine, UK (June 2014) Shortlisted for the 2012 Tibor Jones South Asia prize At a time when traditional publishers are churning out mindless bestsellers by celebrity (Indian) authors, it's such a treat to find an author who writes so engagingly and entertainingly and yet has something vital to say. -- Ashok Banker, author of 42 books in 16 languages and 58 countries. Sold 2.4 million copies worldwide.

Dark-skinned Pullamma would rather get married. Fair-skinned Lata would rather not. With three girls in the family, and barely enough dowry to secure husbands for two, their grandmother is forced to choose - and she chooses Lata. What happens next is so inconceivable that it will shape Pullamma's future in ways no one could have foreseen. Tell A Thousand Lies is a sometimes wry, sometimes sad, but ultimately realistic look at how superstition and the colour of a girl's skin rules India's hinterlands. If you liked Khaled Hosseini (The Kite Runner) or Amy Tan (The Joy Luck Club), you might like this book. Note: British/Indian spellings used (jewellery, paediatrician, foetus etc.) These are not typos.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tell a Thousand Lies By Rasana Atreya 3/19/2012 What can you do if you are a poor girl living in rural India to change your future? If you are light skinned, pretty and not too well educated your future as a wife will be assured. Your family will be able to find a husband for you even if you don't have much of a dowry. You know what is expected of you. Treat your husband like a prince, please your mother-in-law, dote on your sons and lament the birth of your daughters. The pattern is in place and you have been trained all your life to follow it like generations of girls before you. But what if you are not light skinned, pretty, have a good dowry or come from a prominent family? Who will marry you when you have nothing of value to add to another family? Where does your future lie. Will you be the one who stays at home to take care of your family in their old age? Will you watch your friends marry and leave their homes behind while you stay static? Can a light-skinned, pretty, overly educated girl find another path? One that leads to the city and an education in medicine. Or is the future etched so deeply in stone that the ability to change it is too overwhelming? Three teenaged sisters, twins Lata and Pallamma, and their older sister Malli find the paths chosen for them by tradition and family circumstance changed in an instant. Not by fate and not by accident but by the scheming machinations of a politician who sees a chance to use the sisters to his own ends. His interference leads each sister down a path she has not chosen, changing not only their futures but the lives of their family, friends, villagers and the men each of them will marry.

Tell a Thousand Lies is an engaging novel that draws you into the heart and days of Pullamma's India where superstitions, the wrong color skin, and dirty politicians can determine a woman's fate. Raised by her grandmother, after her mother dies in childbirth and her father deserts the family, Pullamma lets go of the comfort of childhood innocence, fun and closeness of her best friend Chinni, to face woman-hood in a peculiar situation she lands in. We travel with Pullamma and all of her hardships as she goes from a young girl in rural mid-1980s India hoping for a municipal water connection and a good husband--in spite of her dark skin and insufficient dowry--through her years of forced Goddesshood and difficulties and betrayals that take her into her adult years. Tell a Thousand Lies is a moving comedic story about a woman's survival within societal and familial expectations. It allows us to become a part of the life of an endearing girl who makes the most out of difficult situations. It's a story about bonds of friendships, broken and restored, and love. I couldn't put the book down through Pullamma's travels and trials in India. Pullamma's determination to overcome so many odds kept me breathlessly turning the pages to see how she would get out of the next pickle, and I don't mean her homemade pickle that became a source of income and a catalyst for female bonding and new friendships. I cheered when Pullamma triumphed under the

most difficult situations and bit my nails when she had to face the evil politician's mischief. Atreya's eloquent writing and detailed observations of life for women in India as well as the beauty and historical charm of India come through beautifully in this novel.

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