

# JENNY BHATT

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Literary translator (Gujarati <> English), writer, literary critic, and writing instructor. Founder of *Desi Books*, a global multimedia forum showcasing South Asian literature from the world over. Proven storytelling skills, thorough grasp of Gujarati culture, and critical expertise to craft translations that engage readers of English. 100+ publications in various venues in the US, UK, and India, including *NPR*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *BBC Culture*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Poets & Writers*, *Words Without Borders*, *Asymptote Journal*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Guernica*, *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *Longreads*, *The Millions*, *Dallas Morning News*, *The Star Tribune*, *Scroll.in*, and others. Fiction nominated for Pushcart Prizes and *The Best American Short Stories 2017*. Finalist for the *2017 Best of the Net Anthology*. Short story included in the *Best American Mystery and Suspense 2021*. Critically well-received and awarded or shortlisted books as noted below.

## RELEVANT WORK HISTORY

**Freelance Writer**: 2015-present

**Literary Translator**: 2017-present

**Literary Critic**: 2017-present

**Creative Writing Instructor, Writing Workshops Dallas**: 2020-present (teaching Advanced Fiction Workshops, Magical Realism Workshops, and Historical Fiction Workshops)

**Founder & Editor-in-Chief, Desi Books**: 2020-present

**Fiction Workshop Instructor, Emerging Voices Fellowship Program, PEN America**: 2021-2022

**PEN/Heim Award Committee Member, PEN America**: 2022

**Graduate Thesis Final Guidance, Columbia University MFA Writing Program**: [student name withheld for privacy] Literary Translation at Columbia (LTAC), 2022

**Short Story Conference Instructor, Writer's Digest**: 2021

**Guest Editor, South Asian Literature in Translation, Global Literature in Libraries Initiative (GLLI)**: December 2020

[Note: Prior to a full-time writing and translating career, I worked in the corporate sector. My full corporate work experience can be found [here](#).]

## **BOOK PUBLICATIONS**

### ***The Shehnai Virtuoso and Other Stories by Dhumketu; Deep Vellum; July 2022***

Twenty-six short stories selected from over 600 written by the Gujarati writer, Dhumketu. It is fair to say that he is the Gujarati Chekhov or Tagore. He pioneered the short story form in Gujarati literature, taking it beyond mere storytelling to a creative art form with advanced literary devices, universal themes, and characters drawn from all walks of life—rural to royal, young to old. In particular, his strong, independent-minded women and emotionally sensitive men were well ahead of their time.

### **FORTHCOMING: *South to South: Writing South Asia in the American South Anthology; Texas Review Press; Spring 2023***

'The Weight of His Bones', short story included by editor Khem Aryal

### **FORTHCOMING: *The Best Folktales of Gujarat by Jhaverchand Meghani; Pan Macmillan India; Summer 2023***

A selection of folktales from the author's multi-volume series, 'Saurashtra ni Rasdhar' translated from Gujarati to English

### ***Best American Mystery and Suspense 2021 Anthology; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; November 2021***

'Return to India' short story included by editors Steph Cha and Alafair Burke

### ***Ratno Dholi and Other Stories of Dhumketu; HarperCollins India; October 2020***

### **Shortlisted for the Valley of Words 2021 Award for English Translation from Regional Languages**

Twenty-six short stories selected from over 600 written by the Gujarati writer, Dhumketu. It is fair to say that he is the Gujarati Chekhov or Tagore. He pioneered the short story form in Gujarati literature, taking it beyond mere storytelling to a creative art form with advanced literary devices, universal themes, and characters drawn from all walks of life—rural to royal, young to old. In particular, his strong, independent-minded women and emotionally sensitive men were well ahead of their time.

### ***Each of Us Killers; 7.13 Books (US); September 2020***

### **Won the 2020 FOREWORD INDIES award in the short stories category; Shortlisted for the 2020 FOREWORD INDIES award in the multicultural adult fiction category**

Set in the American Midwest, England, and India (Mumbai, Ahmedabad, rural Gujarat) the stories in *Each of Us Killers* are about people trying to realize their dreams and aspirations through their professions. Whether they are chasing money, power, recognition, love, or simply trying to make a decent living, their hunger is as intense as any grand love affair. Straddling the fault lines of class, caste, gender, nationality, globalization, and more, they go against sociocultural norms despite challenges and indignities until singular moments of quiet devastation turn the worlds of these characters—auto-wallah, housemaid, street

vendor, journalist, architect, baker, engineer, saree shop employee, professor, yoga instructor, bartender, and more—upside down.

**Sulekha Select Anthology; Sulekha Publications; April 2001**

'Chandra' biographical essay on Nobelist, V. Chandrasekhar, selected by editors Satya Prabhakar and Venkat Rao

## **OTHER SELECT PUBLICATIONS**

**Publishers Weekly** | ESSAY: Moving Beyond Stereotypes in South Asian Literature. December 2021.

**NPR** | REVIEW: This Surprising Debut Takes Readers To A Crossroads Of Empires And Cultures. (on Vinod Busjeet's *Silent Winds, Dry Seas*.) August 2021.

**Asymptote Journal** | TRANSLATION: 'Nameless' by Dhumketu. Translated from Gujarati to English. July 2021.

**World Literature Today (Spring Issue.)** | READING LIST: South Asian Literature in Translation: A Preview of Notable 2021 Titles. March 2021.

**Poets & Writers** | ESSAY: Craft Capsule: We Are All Translators. September 2020.

**Waxwing Magazine** | TRANSLATION: 'Rupali Ba' by Jhaverchand Meghani. Translated from Gujarati to English. June 2020.

**Longreads** | ESSAY: Emerging As a Writer — After 40. November 2018.

**Scroll.in** | READING LIST: "After 'Dunkirk', A Starter List of 10 Engaging Books (and a Bonus) on India's Role in the Great Wars." August 2017.

## **FORMAL EDUCATION**

**Bachelor's (Honors) in Manufacturing Systems Engineering. University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom. 1996.**

**Winner of the Paul Snow Commemorative Prize for the Foreign Language Component**

## **WRITING ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Member of **PEN America**

Member of the **American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)**

Member of the **Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP)**

**MORE DETAILS: [HTTPS://JENNYBHATTWRITER.COM](https://jennybhattwriter.com)**