



# The Book Of Gold Leaves

*Mirza Waheed*

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**The Book Of Gold Leaves** Mirza Waheed

**\*Longlisted for the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016\***

Mirza Waheed's extraordinary new novel *The Book of Gold Leaves* is a heartbreaking love story set in war-torn Kashmir.

In an ancient house in the city of Srinagar, Faiz paints exquisite Papier Mache pencil boxes for tourists. Evening is beginning to slip into night when he sets off for the shrine. There he finds the woman with the long black hair.

Roohi is prostrate before her God. She begs for the boy of her dreams to come and take her away. Roohi wants a love story.

An age-old tale of love, war, temptation, duty and choice, *The Book of Gold Leaves* is a heartbreaking tale of a what might have been, what could have been, if only.

'I loved it. The voice is lyrical, to match the beauty of Kashmir, and yet it is tinged with melancholy and grief, as is the story it tells' Nadeem Aslam (on *The Collaborator*)

'Waheed's prose burns with the fever of anger and despair; the scenes in the valley are exceptional, conveying, a hallucinatory living nightmare that has become an everyday reality for Kashmiris' *Metro* (on *The Collaborator*)

Mirza Waheed was born and brought up in Kashmir. His debut novel *The Collaborator* was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Shakti Bhat Prize, and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. It was also book of the year for *The Telegraph*, *New Statesman*, *Financial Times*, *Business Standard* and *Telegraph India*, among others. Waheed has written for the BBC, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *Al Jazeera English* and the *New York Times*. He lives in London.

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