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Why I Write

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Why I Write

Abstract

One afternoon, a colleague said to me that one of my students had committed suicide the night before. Sadly, she told me why. I walked away dry-eyed. I felt her eyes bore holes in the back of my head. I sat down at my desk and stared at the wall. I had known this student so well and she enveloped me now with her presence, her innocence and her mule. I had seen her between classes just the other day. I'd thought she looked stressed. But I was rushing madly from one class to the next. And was not the time to speak to her. I turned to the type-writer. And within an hour and a half I had written 'The Falling Star'. I hardly revised it. All thirty pages of 'The Man Within' grew out of a news brief in the Daily News. 'The Intruder' happened to a friend. And so it goes.



Chandani Lokugé is Sri Lankan now living in Australia. She came to Australia on a Commonwealth scholarship to work at the Centre for Research in the New Literatures in English at Flinder's University, South Australia. She has recently completed her doctoral thesis.

Her first collection, *Moth and Other Stories* was published by Dangaroo Press in 1992.

CHANDANI LOKUGÉ

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