NEWS FROM DOUBLEDAY

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Praise for Mamta Chaudhry's HAUNTING PARIS

"Elegantly wrought . . . [Chaudhry's] ardor for Paris is evident in her historical filigrees [and] casts a mournful backward glance at epochal moments in the history of Paris." — New York Times Book Review

"Haunting Paris is a graceful debut from Chaudhry...revealing a finely textured world where grief and love commingle. Julien's spirit travels across time but keeps careful vigil over Sylvie, their separate paths nonetheless a powerful testament to the enduring strength of the bonds we form in life."

— Booklist

"[A] story of unresolved anguish and late love. Chaudhry's elegant debut...might well touch a popular nerve."

— Kirkus

"Chaudhry's debut is a heart-wrenching love letter to Paris." — Publishers Weekly

"This fine first novel explores the ways history abides in the streets and monuments of an old city, and in the human souls who love it and grieve for it and struggle to forgive it. This book is a small parable, pondering the nature of civilization itself."

- Marilynne Robinson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of Gilead

"This is a powerful and moving first novel. Reading it, I thought of Patrick Modiano and W. G. Sebald, master novelists similarly haunted by the horrors of WW II and the occupation of France. It's audaciously, imaginatively constructed, with a heartbreaking, profoundly adult love story at its

center."

- Russell Banks, author of Cloudsplitter and Continental Drift

"Haunting Paris explores dark questions–loss, grief, unforgiveable crimes–but the novel itself is full of light and life and beauty. All the characters, even Coco the dog, seem touched with grace as Mamta Chaudhry tells her absorbing story. A wonderful debut."

— Margot Livesey, New York Times bestselling author of Mercury and The Flight of Gemma Hardy

"Haunting Paris is not only a love letter to the Paris of birdcage elevators and wrought iron peacocks but also a submersion into one of that city's darkest periods, a visceral account of the quotidian labor of living with absence, and a reminder of the myriad ways in which we encounter voices from beyond the grave. Mamta Chaudhry's novel is wonderfully moving."
— Jim Shepard, author of *The Book of Aron* and *The World to Come*

"Through pianist Sylvie and the flâneur ghost of Julien, *Haunting Paris* connects the living with our past. This extraordinary debut truly is haunting."

- Meg Waite Clayton, New York Times bestselling author of The Race for Paris



HAUNTING PARIS A novel MAMTA CHAUDHRY



Debut novelist Mamta Chaudhry paints a profoundly moving portrait of love and loss in **HAUNTING PARIS (Nan A. Talese; \$25.95; 6/18/2019)**, exploring the grief of losing a partner, the protective conspiracies of family secrets, and the undeniable power of memory. Set in the summer of 1989, with Paris poised to celebrate the bicentennial of the French Revolution that gave the world the inspiring motto—liberté, égalité, fraternité—the novel flashes back to the summer of 1942, when France singularly failed to live up to its glorious promise.

Far from the festivities, alone in her apartment on the Île Saint-Louis, Sylvie mourns the loss of her lover, Julien, and is unable to find solace in the music that has always been her refuge. But when she accidentally dislodges an envelope concealed in Julien's desk, she finds an enigmatic note from a stranger and feels compelled to meet this woman who might hold the key to Julien's past. Julien's sister and her twin daughters perished in the Holocaust;

but Julien held out hope that one of the children had managed to escape, and devoted years to secretly tracking his niece. And now Sylvie picks up where he left off.

She sets out on her quest for knowledge, unaware that she is watched over by Julien's ghost, whose love for her is powerful enough to draw him back to this world. As Sylvie continues the decades-old search for a child who vanished in the turbulence of wartime Paris, her journey leads her deep into the secrets of Julien's past, shedding new light on the dark days of Nazi-held Paris and on the character of the man Sylvie loved.

Chaudhry combines her love for the City of Light and for classical music to instill **HAUNTING PARIS** with stunning realism and aching nostalgia. A heart-wrenching examination of family, love, and grief by a lyrical new voice in fiction.

<u>ABOUT THE AUTHOR</u>: MAMTA CHAUDHRY's fiction, poetry, and feature articles have been published in the *Miami Review*, *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, *The Telegraph*, *The Statesman*, *Writer's Digest*, and *The Rotarian*, among other publications. Much of her professional career was spent in television and classical radio at stations in Calcutta, Gainesville, Dallas, and Miami. She lives with her husband in Coral Gables, Florida, and they spend part of each year in India and France. HAUNTING PARIS is her first novel.

For more information, please visit <u>www.doubleday.com</u> HAUNTING PARIS: A Novel Nan A. Talese • 9780385544603 • \$25.95 • On Sale 6/18/2019