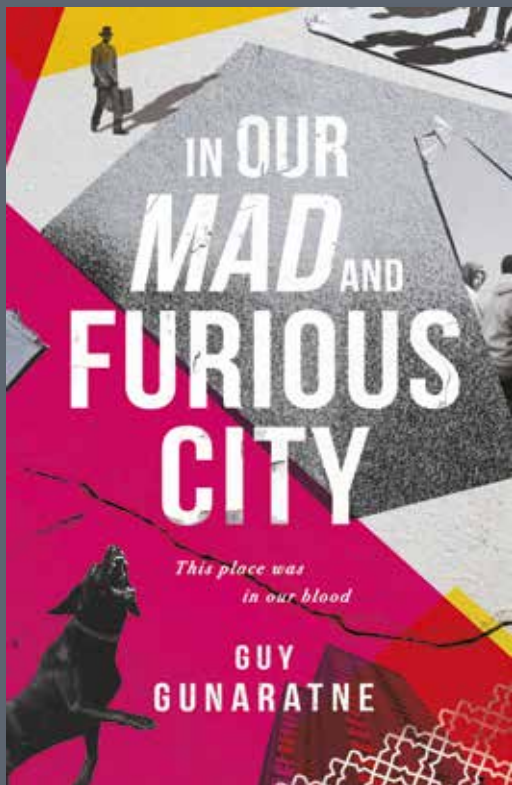




# Readers' Guide



Other novels by Guy Gunaratne  
*Chinese Dissonance* (2014)

## In Our Mad and Furious City Guy Gunaratne

Tinder Press

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| About the author        | Guy Gunaratne was born in London, UK, in 1984. He grew up in North West London and has worked as a designer, documentary filmmaker and video journalist covering post-conflict areas around the world, as well as co-founding two technology companies. He was shortlisted for the 4th Estate/Guardian Books BAME Short Story Prize.  |
| About the book          | <p>For Selvon, Ardan and Yusuf, growing up under the towers of Stones Estate, summer means what it does anywhere: football, music, freedom. But now, after the killing of a British soldier, riots are spreading across the city, and nowhere is safe.</p> <p>While the fury swirls around them, Selvon and Ardan remain focused on their own obsessions, girls and grime. Their friend Yusuf is caught up in a different tide, a wave of radicalism surging through his local mosque, threatening to carry his troubled brother, Irfan, with it.</p>             |
| What the judges thought | “An ambitious mosaic of virtuosic ventriloquism, Guy Gunaratne’s book is an inner city novel for our times, exploring the endurance of social trauma across generations, and conveying the agony and energy of the marginalised, the outsider, and the oppressed. Both a social panorama and a thriller, it contains a vibrant energy and some extraordinary plot twists that go against what might be our cultural expectations. Gunaratne gracefully moves the large and small ambitions of his characters on an expressionist chessboard of a council estate.” |
| Discussion points       | <p>Gunaratne uses very particular language for each character throughout the book. Does this make it more realistic?</p> <p>The book is set on a London council estate. Do you think the same situation or events could happen elsewhere?</p> <p>How much did you already know about this environment?<br/>Does anything surprise you?</p> <p>What do you think about the characters’ attempts to make better lives for themselves?</p>   |
| Themed reading          | <p>Kate Tempest <i>The Bricks that Built the Houses</i><br/> Zadie Smith <i>NW</i><br/> Gillian Slovo <i>Ten Days</i><br/> Lorenzo Carcaterra <i>Sleepers</i><br/> Kamila Shamsie <i>Home Fire</i></p>  |
| Useful links            | <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/13/our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review-wiley-skepta">https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/13/our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review-wiley-skepta</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/06/in-our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review">https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/may/06/in-our-mad-furious-city-guy-gunaratne-review</a></p> <p><a href="https://guygunaratne.com/">https://guygunaratne.com/</a></p>  |