

# Books

## Untold Story

by *Monica Ali* | ★★★

REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

### NOVEL

What if Princess Diana didn't really die? In this astonishing novel, acclaimed British author Ali (*Brick Lane*) imagines that the beleaguered princess, threatened with assassination, has staged her own death. We meet "Lydia," née Diana—rendered unrecognizable by plastic surgery, hair dye, and brown contact lenses—in her new, desperate-housewife life. She lives in an American suburb, and she works at a kennel, "humping thirty-pound bags of Nature's Variety dried dog food" while her pinot grigio-quaffing girlfriends—"who accepted her for who she was. For who she wasn't. For who she was now"—muse about mysterious aspects of her past. What makes Lydia ache is not the loss of her fairy-tale existence but missing her sons, left behind and believing their mother is dead. Yet what makes her lose sleep is the fear that she will be discovered. Tightly structured and lyrically told, Ali's book explores not only Princess Di's "untold story" but deeper issues of human identity. The truth about each of us, she concludes, is most evident in the secrets we keep.



### INSPIRED BY DI

Ali (right) imagines an alternate fate for the late princess she calls "a gorgeous bundle of trouble."

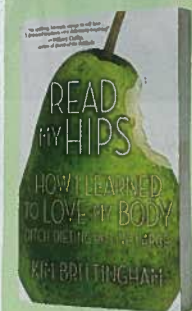


## UNTOLD STORY

=== A Novel ===



## GREAT READS NEW NONFICTION



### READ MY HIPS

by *Kim Brittingham*  
As a teen, "I was bigger and uglier than most girls," writes Brittingham. Her path to self-acceptance will make you cheer.



### FIRE AND RAIN

by *David Browne*  
A fascinating look at a pivotal year in the lives of James Taylor, Simon & Garfunkel, the Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.



### YOUR VOICE IN MY HEAD

by *Emma Forrest*  
Her psychiatrist dies, then her lover leaves. A memoir about finding strength when you least expect to.