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Short stories

By **Amy Woods Butler**

SPECIAL TO THE POST-DISPATCH
04/08/2007

Rishi Reddi hails from a country thousands of miles from the United States. In Reddi's case, though, the miles can be measured culturally as well as geographically in **"Karma and Other Stories."**

Born in India but reared in Great Britain and the United States, Reddi knows the challenges of straddling two worlds whose cultures are poles apart.

Through close observation of human behavior, the author presents characters grappling with the immigration experience in America: young women resisting arranged marriages, elderly Indians negotiating a new life, children trying to find their places at the intersection between two worlds.

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The biggest clashes, though, occur

not between the locals and the Indians, but within the Indian families themselves. Old traditions and ways of thinking are tested on American soil, leading characters to question assumptions they've brought along with their saris and

spices.

The subservience of women, the dependence of elderly parents on grown children, and the drive for material gain are just a few of the traditional notions on which Reddi shines a light. In deceptively simple prose, she gives us a compassionate look at what happens when the insular world of the Indian immigrant is breached.

Amy Woods Butler is a writer in St. Louis.

'What the Thunder Said'

A novella and stories by Janet Peery
Published by St. Martin's Press, 306 pages, \$24.95

'Valentines'

Stories by Olaf Olafsson
Published by Pantheon, 216 pages, \$23

'Karma and Other Stories'

By Rishi Reddi
Published by Harper Perennial, 232 pages, \$12.95

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- **Dennis Miller provides a hip alternative to Rush Limbaugh**
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[Last 7 Days]

St. Louis At Work

TOP JOBS

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St. Louis, MO
Forshaw