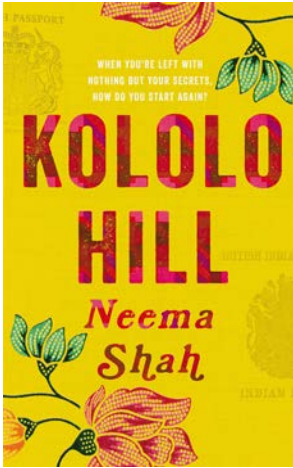




## Kololo Hill

By Neema Shah



In 1972, the dictatorial president of Uganda, Idi Amin, issued a devastating decree that the (estimated 80,000) Asian minority must leave Uganda in ninety days. This was followed by terrifying curfews, and an increasingly violent military presence, directed at those of Asian descent, the Acholi and Lango ethnic groups. There was persecution and theft of belongings by Amin's scavenging soldiers, the rapes, the beatings and the killings mainly of the indigenous Ugandans who Amin wanted to be rid of. This is an evocative poignant story of a fictional Asian family; Asha and Pran, married only for a matter of months; Pran's mother, Jaya, and Pran's partially disabled brother Vijay. They were forced to lose everything; abandoning their family business which they had worked so hard to save, and saying goodbye to their Ugandan home and belongings.

### The Author:

Neema Shah's grandparents left India for East Africa in the 1940s. *Kololo Hill* is inspired by their lives, as well as those who were expelled from Uganda by brutal ruler Idi Amin. She was born and raised in London, spending many school holidays with family in East Africa. *Kololo Hill* is her debut and was shortlisted for the Bath Novel Award and the First Novel Prize.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do you think it is Asha, unlike her husband Pran, who shows admirably, the required sense of courage, adaptability and willingness to grasp new opportunities?
2. Would you say that it is the Matriarch Jaya, who demonstrates quiet resilience and strength to keep the family together throughout their difficult travails?

