



# DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT RIVER

Khalil Rahman Ali

*Daughter of the Great River* is a story based on the struggles of **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** in the fictional country of Kayana, “Land of Many Waters”.

Onida is the eponymous Daughter of the Great River who emerged more than five hundred years after **HER ANCESTORS WERE BRUTALLY SUPPRESSED** by invading Europeans and were forced to flee to the safety of the rainforests of Kayana.

Her tribe of Kayanese is made up of several Indigenous Peoples who prefer to live in the hinterland of Kayana’s vast rainforests. She is the 'chosen one' to lead her peoples out of their challenging circumstances where the natural resources of **GOLD AND TIMBER ARE BEING EXPLOITED** by local and foreign interests.

Within the world’s current population of 7.8 billion people, there are an estimated **370 TO 500 MILLION OF INDIGENOUS ORIGIN**. They are defined as having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves as distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories (United Nations).

**THEY CONTINUE TO SUFFER** from disproportionately high rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human rights abuses (UN).

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**KHALIL RAHMAN ALI** was born in Guyana and has lived, studied and worked in London since 1970. His first three historical fiction novels titled, *Sugar’s Sweet Allure* (Hansib, 2013), *The Domino Masters of Demerara* (Hansib, 2015) and, *In Pursuit of Betterment* (Hansib, 2017), are based on the experiences of the Indians who were indentured to work on sugar plantations between 1835 and 1920 in several countries around the world including Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Mauritius and South Africa, and their descendants. Khalil has a keen interest in the environment and the sustainability of the planet. He believes that the Indigenous Peoples of the world are best suited to help sustain and save the planet. This latest novel offers an insight into the problems and threats facing Indigenous People living in the rainforests. He is an accomplished Indian singer and musician.

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