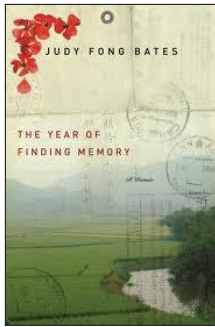


# Coming to Canada

Canada is a world of many cultures. Some of our best writers explore the impact of adjusting to a life in our country. Here are some to sample:

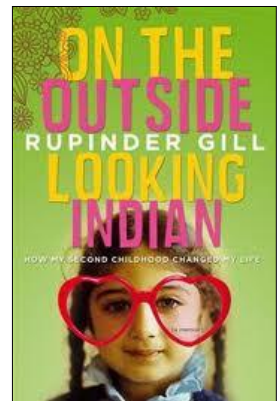


## Bates, Judy Fong. *The year of finding memory.*

A memoir by a daughter trying to come to terms with hidden family secrets. Fong handles the contrast between her every day life in small-town Ontario with the traditions of her recently arrived Chinese family. She eventually unearths the truth of her parents' past lives. I'd also highly recommend Denise Chong's *The Concubine's children* for another take on the Chinese-Canadian experience a generation before. Also any of the books of Wayson Choy are wonderful.

## Gill, Rupinder. *On the outside looking Indian: how my second childhood changed my life.*

Gill has received quite a bit of publicity lately for this look at how at the age of 30 she decided to treat herself to everything she had missed as a child – Disneyland, tap dancing, and summer camp. Gill does a nice job of showing the contrast between growing up in a world, which wasn't the world of her Indian parents. Critics have called it funny and sweet. For a more serious take on the Indo-Canadian experience, read the novels of Anita Rau Badami. Her *Hero's walk* is particularly good – a story about a family in India dealing with the Canadian branch of their clan.



## Urquhart, Jane. *Away.*

A beautifully evocative novel about three generations of Irish Canadians adjusting to life in Ontario after flight from the potato famine. Urquhart skilfully weaves myth, magic and desire into a potent mix. This novel published in 1994, won the Trillium award for that year and since then has become a true Canadian classic exploring our rich Celtic traditions.

## Itani, Frances. *Requiem.*

Itani who was celebrated several years ago for her book *Deafening* has returned with a new novel about a Japanese Canadian visual artist. After the death of his wife, Bin Okuma, embarks on a journey through his past trying to locate his biological father. This recently published novel has received rave reviews for its beautifully written study of loss and redemption. I would also endorse Joy Kowaga's wonderful novel *Obasan*. Although published 30 years ago is the classic Canadian fiction about the Japanese internment camps of the Second World War.