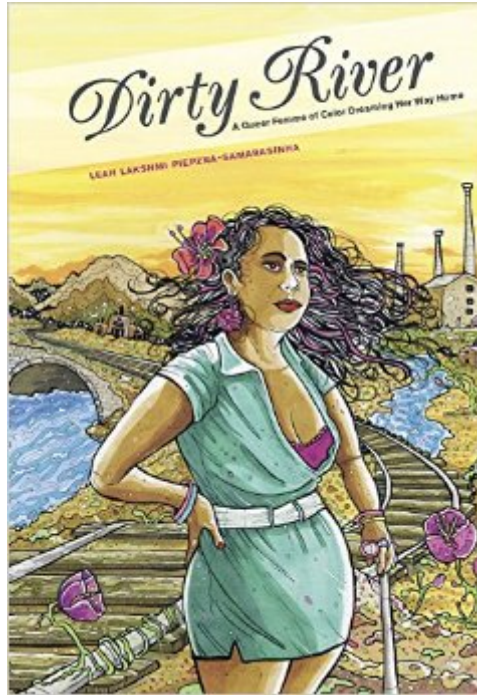


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# Dirty River: A Queer Femme Of Color Dreaming Her Way Home



## Synopsis

Lambda Literary Award finalist In 1996, poet Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha ran away from America with two backpacks and ended up in Canada, where she discovered queer anarchopunk love and revolution, yet remained haunted by the reasons she left home in the first place. This passionate and riveting memoir is a mixtape of dreams and nightmares, of immigration court lineups and queer South Asian dance nights; it reveals how a disabled queer woman of color and abuse survivor navigates the dirty river of the past and, as the subtitle suggests, "dreams her way home." Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha's poetry book *Love Cake* won a Lambda Literary Award.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #291,729 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional Canada](#) #162 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies](#) #360 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Specific Groups > LGBT](#)

## Customer Reviews

I usually read non-fiction a couple chapters at a time between inhaling fiction. I'm not really sure why, but I do. In this case I inhaled this book. Leah's writing is poetic and impactful. Her details, like knowing the price of food items and the cheapest meal she could make to literally survive off of, had a way of crawling into me and putting me beside her. Her journey from being a brown girl in the US with a white mother, to seeking out POC, to finding her identity--in Canada after years of struggle--was heartbreaking and beautiful, told in a voice that flowed beautifully from storytelling to a poetic narrative. It was a perfect balance when she spoke of things like abuse, poverty, and racism. I think my favorite part of her memoir was her appetite for reading from a young age (taught to her by her mother) and how she discussed books from different parts of her life, along with libraries, and

bookstores that were significant. This is certainly a book I'd recommend even to readers who aren't huge fans of non-fiction because the voice is so wonderful it reads almost like fiction.

Even as a straight cis man I found myself drawn into the world this book paints of Toronto in the late 90's.

Leah Lakshmi has SO much to share with the world. This book is so powerful and valuable. I couldn't put it down. So glad that I get to share space in this world with such a wonderful human being.

A memoir with an explosive momentum that in no way diminishes the layered resonances of the author's life.

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