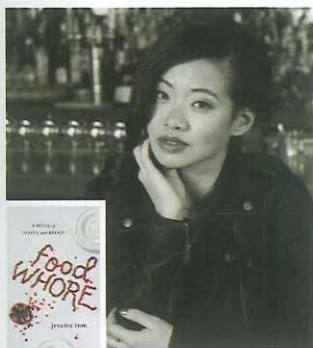




BRIGHT LINES

Yes, there are themes of sexuality, religion, feminism, immigrant culture and the 1971 Liberation War, among others, in Bangladeshi American author **Tanwi Nandini Islam's** debut novel. But one can almost forget such ambitious underpinnings,

drawn in as you are to the members of the Saleem family, especially the eccentric Ella, whose inner struggle with her sexuality and obsession with botany is so poignantly painted. **Details Paper, \$16, tanwinandini.com.**



FOOD WHORE

Think of this as *The Devil Wears Prada* for the fine dining industry. In **Jessica Tom's** debut novel, inspired by her own experience in the restaurant industry, ambitious grad student Tia Monroe is disappointed to find herself interning at one of New

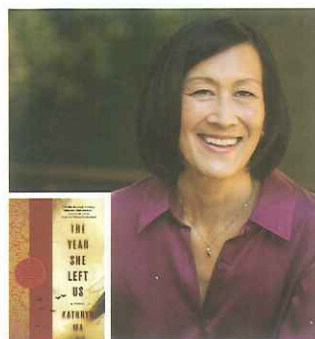
York's finest restaurants rather than with her food critic idol. But when she meets a respected but wizened industry insider, she virtually sells her soul for food, fashion and fame. **Details Paper, \$14.99, available October 27, jessicatom.com.**



GIRL IN GLASS

In this heart-wrenching memoir, a baby girl is born only six months into the pregnancy, weighing less than two pounds, her ears barely formed, with skin that can only be described as "gelatinous." For months, there are more tubes and hoses and needles inserted into her tiny, withered body than seems possible.

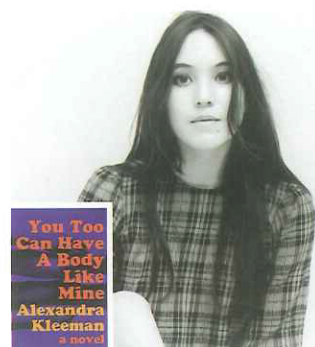
Deanna Fei writes in stark and sometimes shocking honesty of her turmoil — the guilt, the fleeting moments of selfishness, the need to love and yet the need to protect herself from getting too attached. And after all that, another blow: The media firestorm created when the CEO of AOL blamed the slashing of company retirement benefits on the cost of caring for two "distressed babies," one of whom is Fei's baby girl. **Details Hardcover, \$26, deannafei.com.**



THE YEAR SHE LEFT US

"Lucky girl. That's what I was told from the first moment I can remember. ... Rescued is how my mother, Charlie, sometimes put it. I have a better word. Salvaged." So begins our introduction to Ari, a Chinese adoptee, who considers herself anything but

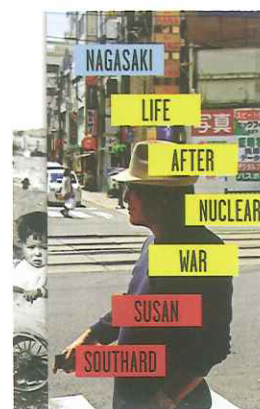
lucky. In prize-winning short story writer **Kathryn Ma's** debut novel, now in paperback, Ari's torturous journey to self-discovery unpacks long-held secrets and opens old wounds for her beleaguered single mother, perfectionist aunt and sharp-eyed grandmother, who has her own reasons for wanting to forget China. **Details Paper, \$15.99, harpercollins.com.**



YOU TOO CAN HAVE A BODY LIKE MINE

Don't be fooled — this is no self-help book, though it is an incisive look at a culture obsessed with consumerism and a reflection of the self and what it means to be a modern woman, all wrapped in a missing-person mystery.

Called "stupendous," "riveting" and "the literature of the future," the debut novel by 29-year-old biracial Taiwanese American **Alexandra Kleeman**, already an established writer and scholar (she's finishing up her Ph.D. on rhetoric), is strange, funny and wholly unique. **Details Hardcover, \$25.99, harpercollins.com.**



NAGASAKI: LIFE AFTER NUCLEAR WAR

This past July 28 marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in this book about the painful aftermath, the stories of five eyewitnesses, gathered over a decade, are told in acute detail. In addition to physical injuries and disfigurement, radiation-related illnesses and psychological suffering, the survivors faced discrimination in both career and marriage, as well as fears about genetic defects for generations to come.

Susan Southard details the survivors' experiences. **Details Hardcover, \$28.95, susansouthard.com.**