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Opening extract from
Cinnamon

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First Edition

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For Lisa Snellings—
who makes objects that are frozen stories
—N.G.

For my Uma kuttu
and her Ammamma and Thatha—
I love you.
—D.S.



Cinnamon was a princess, a long time ago, in a small hot country, where everything was very old.





Her eyes were pearls, which gave her great beauty, but meant she was blind. Her world was the color of pearls: pale white and pink, and softly glowing.

Cinnamon did not talk.

Her father and her mother—the Rajah and the Rani—offered a room in the palace, a field of stunted mango trees, a portrait of the Rani’s aunt executed on hardwood in enamels, and a green parrot, to any person who could get Cinnamon to talk.

