

SHAMIM SARIF



'Shamim is intellectual, she's smart, she's funny, she's bright – and when I read her script, it was almost musical. We just clicked.'

– Rebecca Ferguson, Actress,
Despite the Falling Snow

'Shamim is an actor's director and that's relatively rare. I really love working with her.'

– Lisa Ray, Actress, *The World Unseen* &
I Can't Think Straight



Writer and director Shamim Sarif is an award-winning novelist, screenwriter and director for film and TV whose work has always focused on diversity, feminism, social impact and humanism.

Shamim is currently completing her fifth feature film *Polarized*, shot in Canada. Her earlier features as writer/ director include ***Despite the Falling Snow***, starring Rebecca Ferguson and Charles Dance and based on Shamim's acclaimed second novel set in Cold War Moscow, published by St Martin's Press and Hodder. The movie garnered 13 awards.

Her first feature film as writer/director, ***I Can't Think Straight*** won 11 awards. Her follow up movie ***The World Unseen*** based on her award-winning book, debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival before garnering 23 awards internationally. Her third film, documentary *The House of Tomorrow*, was shot on location in Jerusalem.

Series directing credits include *Diggstown* (CBC/Fox), *SkyMed* (Paramount Plus) and the upcoming Season 4 of *You* (Berlanti/Netflix)

Her latest book, *The Shadow Mission*, is a feminist thriller released by HarperCollins in October 2020 and is a sequel to *The Athena Protocol*. The books are being developed as a series with Village Roadshow and Gran Via Productions (*Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul*).

An **accomplished speaker**, Shamim has spoken at TED events worldwide, at the INK Conference in India and DLD in Munich. Corporate speaking events have included Deloitte, Goldman Sachs, Citibank and Disney.

Shamim was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscars) in 2019. She is also a member of BAFTA, the Writers Guild of America, the Director's Guild of Canada and the Canadian Media Producers Association. She lives in Toronto and London.

TRAILER LINKS:

[Despite the Falling Snow](#)
[The World Unseen](#)
[I Can't Think Straight](#)
[The House of Tomorrow](#)

TALK LINKS:

[Stories We Tell Ourselves](#)
[Why Art Matters](#)
[The Power of Imagination](#)



Click here for: [Shamim's Latest Showreel](#)

FEATURE FILMS



POLARIZED

WRITER/DIRECTOR



In Post-Production

DESPITE THE FALLING SNOW

WRITER/DIRECTOR

'If you liked Brooklyn, you'll love this film.'

– Now Magazine



Click here for: **Despite the Falling Snow**

THE WORLD UNSEEN

WRITER/DIRECTOR

'Visual poetry'

- Variety



OFFICIAL SELECTION
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

23 WINNER
INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
INCLUDING
11 SAFTAS



Click here for: **The World Unseen**

I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT

WRITER/DIRECTOR

'Sensual, witty and elegant... in exploring the eternal conflict between love and duty in a fresh, provocative way, Sarif demonstrates that she is a filmmaker of exceptional promise.'

- LA Times



11 WINNER
INTERNATIONAL
AWARDS



Click here for: **I Can't Think Straight**

TV DIRECTING

MURDOCH MYSTERIES

YOU



SKYMED BLOCK 4
TECH PACKAGE

DIGGSTOWN
A House on Fire



TV DEVELOPMENT

DEADLINE

HOME / TV / BREAKING NEWS

Village Roadshow Adapting 'The Athena Protocol' All-Female Thriller Novel For Television

By Denise Petski
December 17, 2019 10:54am



EXCLUSIVE: Village Roadshow Entertainment Group has acquired the rights to Shamim Sarif's all-female YA thriller novel *The Athena Protocol* to develop as a television series.

The *Athena Protocol* features six female protagonists, led by Jessie, a hot-headed young agent at Athena, a top secret, socially-conscious vigilante organization focused on helping women and children worldwide. When Jessie breaks protocol and assassinates a target, she's ousted from Athena just as her teammates set out to take down a human trafficker in Belgrade. Going rogue in order to prove herself, Jessie finds there's no-one to watch her back as she gets closer to the horrifying truth behind the mission.

Sarif will write the pilot and is attached to direct on the project. Along with her producing partner, Hanan Kattan, she will executive produce alongside Village Roadshow.

The book was published by HarperCollins in October to rave reviews, with a sequel, *The Shadow Mission*, coming in October 2020.

Sarif is an award-winning novelist, screenwriter and director for film and TV, whose three features as writer/director, *Despite the Falling Snow*, *I Can't Think Straight* and *The World Unseen*, all produced by Kattan, have won 47 international awards. She is repped by Adam Peck of Synchronicity Management, lawyer Jeffrey Finkelstein of Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein & Lezcano. Book rights are handled by Sophie Hicks in London.

NOVELIST

WINNER OF THE BETTY TRASK AWARD



Ian McEwan presents Shamim with the Betty Trask Award.

WINNER OF THE PENDLETON MAY
FIRST NOVEL AWARD



Shamim receiving a Pendleton May First Novel Award

NEW FROM HARPERCOLLINS



OCTOBER 2019

'Led by and centered on women, this high-octane thriller features a well-developed cast with distinct, varied backgrounds. An explosively exciting story that shines a light on the treatment, mistreatment, and unity of women across the globe.'

- Booklist

'A fascinating and action-packed read that features some incredible female characters with broad appeal for fans of thrillers and spy stories... a must-read.'

- YA Books Central

'...an inclusive cast, ample action, and escalating stakes...Jessie's conflicted attraction rings true, and a gratifying conclusion hints at emotional complexities to come.'

- Publisher's Weekly

NEW FROM HARPERCOLLINS



OCTOBER 2020

'This riveting, female-centered romp includes diverse characters—African American, Palestinian, South Asian British—who have layered and complex backstories. Jessie examines her privilege with occasional flippant snark and questions global power dynamics and the treatment of women around the world... Thrillingly representative female empowerment.'

– Kirkus Reviews

'Lots of edge-of-your-seat moments. A perfectly paced plot and girls with brains and Mission Impossible-style moves make this a highly engaging thriller. A breathlessly cinematic series opener.'

– School Library Journal

PREVIOUS NOVELS



'A perfectly balanced novel of love and tragedy... brutally shocking...'

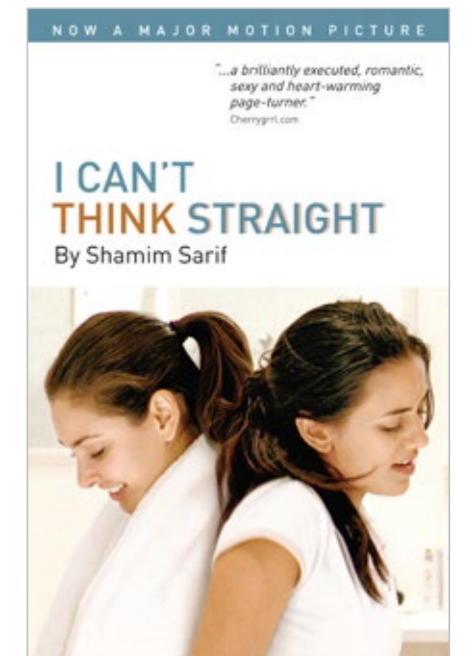
– Waterstones Magazine



WINNER OF THE BETTY TRASK AWARD AND THE PENDLETON MAY FIRST NOVEL AWARD

'Pretty perfect... An absolute must read.'

– The Citizen



'...A brilliantly executed, romantic, sexy, and heart-warming page-turner... The only thing to not like about the book is that it had to end...'

– CherryGrrl.com

SPEAKING



Watch: **The Stories We Tell Ourselves**
INK Conference, 2015



Watch: **Why Art Matters**
INK Conference, India



Watch: **The Power of Imagination**
TEDxHolyLand, Jerusalem

Speaking Engagements Include:

- TedSalon, London
- TEDxHolyLand, Jerusalem
- INK Conference, India
- DLD, Munich
- Goldman Sachs, London
- Viacom, New York
- Citi, London
- Deloitte, London
- Women in Film, London
- Hilton, NY
- BNY Mellon, NY
- Disney
- Credit Suisse

'Because it's not just writers and filmmakers who create stories. We all create, every day, the stories that shape who we are.'

- Shamim Sarif, INK Conference

'Knowledge tells us more of what we already know. Imagination pushes us to create that which does not yet exist.'

- Shamim Sarif, TEDx HolyLand

'Stories can be even more than a reflection of our world and our humanity, if we let them. At their best, they can also teach us who we could be - if we dare.'

- Shamim Sarif, INK Conference

SHAMIM IN THE MEDIA

The collage features several prominent pieces of media coverage:

- Ms. Magazine:** An article titled "From Fiction to Real-Life Change" by Shamim Sarif, dated 10/20/19. It discusses her grandmother's experience with arranged marriage and her own journey as a filmmaker.
- shondaland:** A feature titled "Author Shamim Sarif on Why Writing Diversity Is Here to Stay," highlighting her work on "The Athena Protocol" and her views on diversity in media.
- THE OPRAH MAGAZINE:** A large feature with the headline "NURTURE YOUR SPIRIT" and "O's practical guide to spiritual Aha! moments." It includes a Q&A with Shamim Sarif and a list of contributors.
- THE ADVOCATE:** A magazine cover featuring Shamim Sarif and the headline "Why You Should Stop Complaining About McCain // Claymates Are Akin".
- SCREENAFRICA NEWS:** An article titled "Looking into an UNSEEN world" about her film "The World Unseen".
- BBC RADIO 2:** A screenshot of a radio interview with Shamim Sarif.
- Time Out:** A magazine cover featuring Shamim Sarif and the headline "The shocking world of Andres Serrano".
- Evening Standard:** A newspaper clipping with the headline "London's living guide" and a sub-headline "The shocking world of Andres Serrano".
- THE TIMES:** A newspaper clipping from the Fiction section, dated Wednesday May 30, 2012, featuring Shamim Sarif's work.
- sky NEWS:** A screenshot of a news broadcast with the headline "THE POWER OF HEALTHY LIVING" and "Longevity".
- LYBL Q&A:** A Q&A session with Shamim Sarif, discussing her work and her views on diversity.
- BBC RADIO 4:** A screenshot of a radio interview with Shamim Sarif.
- THE WORLD UNSEEN:** A book cover for Shamim Sarif's debut novel, "The World Unseen".
- BBC BREAKFAST:** A screenshot of a TV broadcast featuring Shamim Sarif.

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LINKS:

Shamim's Latest ShowReel
Despite the Falling Snow Trailer
The World Unseen Trailer
I Can't Think Straight Trailer
The House of Tomorrow Trailer

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TALKS:

'The Stories We Tell Ourselves' – INK Conference, 2015
'Why Art Matters' – INK Conference, India
'The Power of Imagination' – TEDxHolyLand, Jerusalem



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