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Reviews

Nonfiction

★ **Shooting Water:
A Memoir of Second Chances,
Family, and Filmmaking**

DEVYANI SALTZMAN. Newmarket,
\$23.95 (272p) ISBN 1-55704-711-1

Saltzman's mother, Deepa Mehta, is a filmmaker who attempts to shoot the final installment of her trilogy, *Water* (after *Fire* and *Earth*), in India. In 1999, the author, then 19, accompanies her mother to work as a third assistant cameraperson. A series of politically motivated attacks shut down the film's production. Four years later, shooting restarts in Sri Lanka, with Saltzman onboard as a still photographer. With the film's production as a backdrop, Canadian Saltzman delves into her past. When she was 11, her father, a Jewish Ukrainian, and her mother, a Hindi Indian, divorced. Saltzman was forced to choose with whom she would live. Picking her father, she created a rift with her mother that would take more than a decade to repair: "most of our relationship had to be reconstructed through fragmented pieces of memory, like shards of glass, some reflecting light, others opening deep wounds." Saltzman longs for stability, which she discovers in the world of film. "Film was my second language, even before Hindi.... It was the common culture both my parents had raised me in, beyond being Jewish or Indian." Saltzman never loses any of the threads she delicately weaves together, creating a lush, evocative memoir that is emotional but never cloying. (Apr.)