Contents

Sepia

9

This self-indulgent introduction aims to create a sense of intimacy that will engage and draw the reader in.

A GENTLE, STOIC ACCEPTANCE	10
Situ's story: Kites and umbrellas	15
When I close my eyes I can see those places	16
Setting expectations	20

Allegory

23

These are stories from Situ's childhood in Sindh – events she reminisced about, for the first time, six decades and more after they happened. They recreate for the reader a long-ago time and lifestyle.

Indru and the yellow dress	24
Montessori was new, and progressive parents sent their children	28
Spatial illustration of Larkano District	29
We would go to school with our pockets full of dry fruit	32
Dates in Rohri and kulfi in Shikarpur	41
Brown bread from Bombay Bakery	47

TAPESTRY

55

Some of Situ's memories triggered off a delving into historical events of the time, and here they are. There's also a sketch map of Sindh with the places mentioned in the book.

Pir Pagaro, martial law, and the Khuhro case	56
Sindh, the lost homeland: undivided, it vanished	66
Spatial illustration of the province of Sindh	66
A land of swift change and many races	68
Conquerors and administrators	74
PECCAVI	76
DESERT, FLOODPLAIN - AND ISLAND	78

VIVISECTION

That's what Gandhi called Partition. This section has memories and snippets from Various sources, and stories from Lal Bijlani, Shakuntla Talwar, Moti Bijlani, Kartar Jaisinghani, and Harnam Badlani.

SITU'S STORY: SMALLPOX	84
Situ's story: Partition	90

83

DAWN: SMUGGLING ON LARGE SCALE APPREHENDED	93
Lal's story: In Sindh I was a member of the RSS	94
Baby's story: I cried for my peengho	100
Moti's story: His presence made me feel safe	103
Kartar's story: The Mohajirs protected us	105
Cities ran amuck by Motilal Jotwani	108
Situ's story: So then I became a Bombay girl	109
The Refugee by Situ Savur	118
Harnam's story: The river flooded often and we had to move	119
Almost wholly Muslim	122
India: Constitutional Position (minutes of cabinet meeting)	124

EXILE

129

It was a difficult time, but the Sindhis got through it and moved on. Here's a little about what happened and how they dealt with it. Stories from Rusi M Damania, Mohini and Choith Bhagia, and Gopal Motwane.

They forgot about us	130
Rusi's story: Tunjho nalo chha ahe? (What is your name?)	135
Nobody wanted us	138
Moti Bijlani: We Sindhis got bad branding	148
Mohini and Choith's story: A small sacrifice	150
Nanik Motwane	155

Assimilation

159

IN TERMS OF RELIGION, SINDH WAS ALWAYS RATHER PASSIONATE – BUT INCLUSIVE. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN, AND WHY? STORIES FROM ARUNA JETHWANI, RITA SHAHANI, AND MADHURI SHETH.

But we were one people	160
Aruna's story: We have assimilated beautifully	169
Rita's story: Our language and literature are flourishing	176
Borders by Zubair Soomro	180
Madhuri's story: My lost cultural heritage	183

DISENCHANTMENT

193

It was a time of hope and joy for many. Some things worked out – some didn't. Stories from Madhavi Kapur and Gouri Patwardhan.

94
03
10
14
•

ENTERPRISE

217

That's something Sindhis are best known for: read here about the very old tradition behind this aptitude. Stories from Putli Dadlani, Kishinchand Arya, Dwarkadas Karamchandani, Ajit Chainani, and Gita Simoes.

A community of traders	218
Putli's story: I'm proud to be a Sindhi	224
Gita's story: Karachi meri jaan	228

Kishinchand's story: Best quality, best price	240
Dwarka's story: We tried many things	244
Ajit's story: Our relatives helped	250

PASTURE

257

They dispersed – and made their homes in any number of locations around the world. One of these was Gandhidham, in Kutch, designated as a possible alternative homeland for the Sindhis. Stories from Teertharaja Bhatia and Govardhan Sharma.

Bhai Pratap	258
Bhatia's story: Loss and disruption - but total commitment	266
Ghayal's story: To call yourself a Brahman, read the scriptures!	270

BALLAD

277

Are Sindhi women really different from women of other Indian communities? Stories from Kusum Choppra and Ron Harris.

A DISTANCE IN LOVE	278
A Distance in Love by Attiya Dawood	279
Kusum's story: Dripping with riches - but waiting, waiting	281
RON'S STORY: SOLACE AT THE RAILWAY STATION	287

RAINBOW

289

So - what happened to Sindhi culture?	290
Some research conclusions from Subhadra Anand	293
Niranjan's story: We tried to retain our culture	294
An unshakeable sense of individuality	296
D Das Sippy by Motilal Jotwani	301
SITU'S STORY: OUR HOME WAS A MODEL OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION	302

RECIPES

Saee bhaji	37
Αίοο τικκί	37
Papad	39
Syel masala	39
Sweet samosa	52
Κοκι/Loli	52
Choori	52
Таніві	52
Dнорно	102
Chutney	102
Sindhi Kadhi	227
Gairoon	291

APPENDICES	307	
Acknowledgements		308
Glossary		310
Bibliography		313
INDEX		315