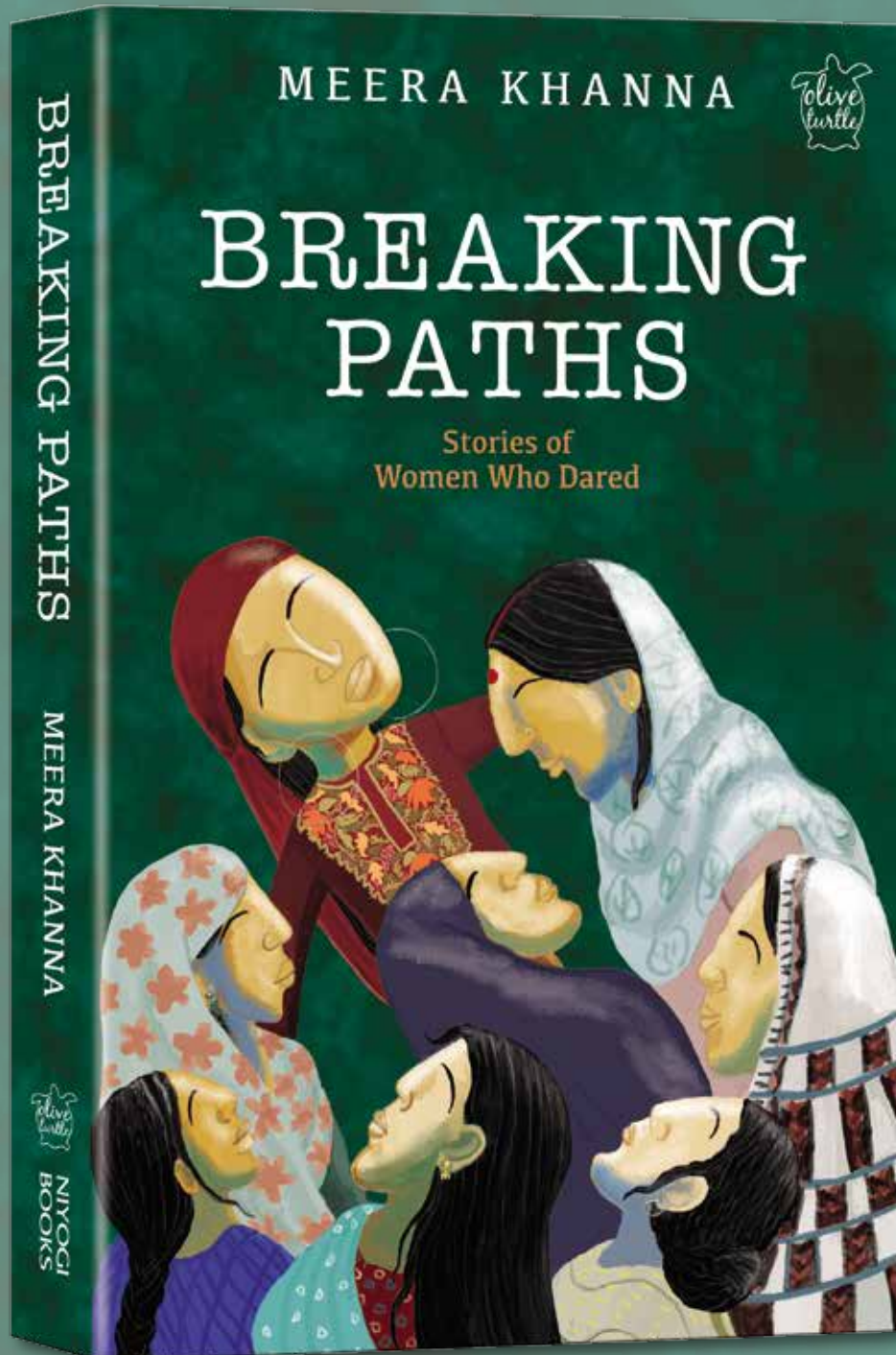


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# BREAKING PATHS

Stories of  
Women Who Dared  
by  
**Meera Khanna**

FICTION

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**T**hese are stories of eighteen strong women who daily resist the suffocation of conformity. They are fighters of their circumstances and winners, brave and determined in their refusal to accept conventional limitations and courageous in their acceptance of the consequences. For them every day is a challenge; for their relationships and social expectations conspire to encroach upon their private spaces, erode their dignity and identity. Yet rooted in their cultural milieu, they make their choices, fight for it and succeed.

Much of author Meera Khanna's voluntary work is in the field of gender rights, which has perhaps honed her skill to spot the unique story of an empowered woman. Many of these stories are inspired by real life incidents and some by newspaper reports.

Covering a wide social spectrum, some of these women break a stereotype with a drastic action. And there are some who without rippling the waters ostensibly carve a space for themselves. Presented in lucid language, with their own twists and turns in events and characters, the stories meander along unbeaten tracks, striking hard at the reader's soul.



Writer, poet, and social activist **Meera Khanna** is the Trustee and Executive Vice President of the Guild of Service, an NGO working with and for the empowerment of vulnerable women and children.

She has worked as a Consultant on the status of women, Government of India, served as a member on the Expert Committee on Widows constituted by the Supreme Court of India and is on the Global Steering Committee working on a treaty on violence against women. She has helped create a global alliance, 'The Last Woman First.' for empowering under privileged women.

Meera Khanna has written on women's rights for newspapers, journals and collections and her creative expressions have been adapted for dance. She is a published author with a book on career counselling. A collection of poems on Kashmir and her last work based on real life narratives have been widely acclaimed.

*The book has a clear focus; it throws a direct gaze at 18 determined and strong women who crossed the threshold of fear, uncertainty, violence, male domination, disrespect and social suppression to stride forth and reach their goals, however small.*

*All stories are based on facts and are real life stories.*

*There are 18 stories in all and they cover a wide range of the social strata*

*The note of optimism and thrill in all the stories make the book a fast page turner.*

*The range of communities and character types of the women protagonists holds great appeal for readers.*

*The real human beings, whose lives the alternately raging and simmering conflicts (have) an inexorable hold on, are often relegated to the background. [The author]... does not mock their sentiments. She humanizes the conflict and the individuals.*

*"Being trapped in a conflict hijacks every dimension of normalcy, leaving all in a time warp, where human rights violations become the rule..." says [Meera] Khanna, who believes the greatest tragedy is the loss of trust and faith, erosion of care and empathy, and above all, destruction of a way of life...*

**From an interview with the author,  
published in *The Indian Express***