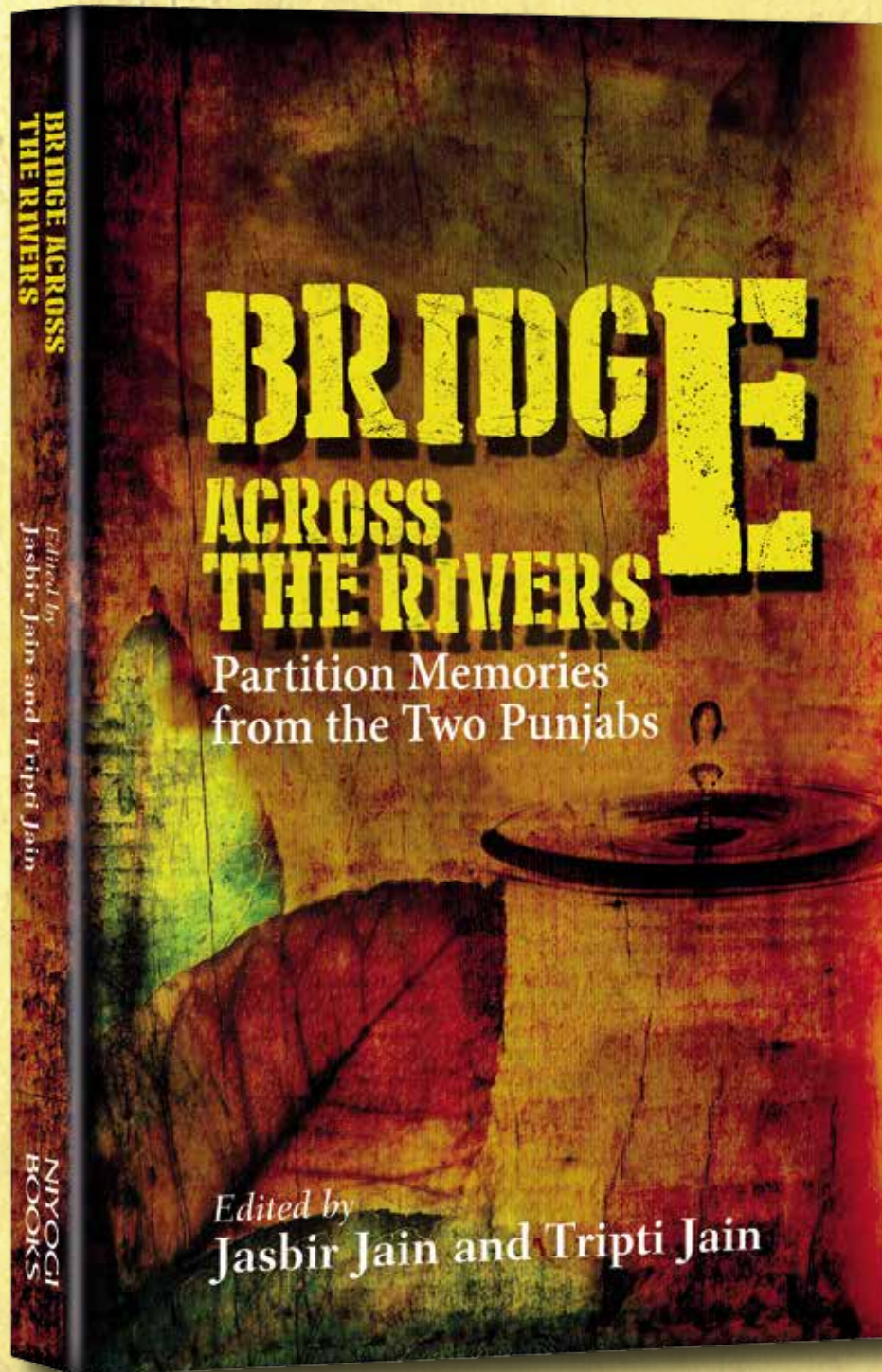


ISBN: 978-93-85285-73-8

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BRIDGE ACROSS THE RIVERS

Partition Memories
from the Two Punjabs

by
Tripti Jain & Jasbir Jain

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ISBN: 978-93-85285-73-8

Packing and postage extra

Size: 216mm x 140mm; 202pp

Book Print Paper

Black and white

Paperback

The history of the Partition is neither singular nor static. It appears different from different perspectives. The past is never over, its presence looms large over our presents.

The Partition narrative exceeds the bounds of history, to the large scale exodus often referred to as the third partition—most painful and long lasting in its emotional, political and social contexts. It impacted both collective and individual identities. In some ways it rendered the individual invisible with identity being transformed into a stereotype which evoked conventional patterns of behaviour. The heartache and anguish of divided families and frustrated, failed individual lives lay heavy on the joy of a much coveted freedom.

This collection seeks to debate issues and throw light on discourses other than those of violence and darkness, working with a chronology, located in time. The narratives unfold expectation, hope and harmony, flight and violence, psychological fallouts, gender issues and questions of guilt and reflection.

As the stories trace the shifts in emotions and focus on individual wills, the undercurrents of cultural oneness form a counter discourse.



Tripti Jain lives in Ajmer, has worked in the Rajasthan Education Services and has taught Political Science at the Government College, Ajmer. A translator, Jain translates from Punjabi/Hindi to English, and from English to Hindi. Her translations of the works of Keki N. Daruwala, Urmila Panwar, Laxman Gaikwad and Lakshmi Kannan have been published in various journals.



Jasbir Jain is the Honorary Director of the Institute for Research in Interdisciplinary Studies (IRIS), Jaipur. She was Sahitya Akademi Writer-in-Residence and Emeritus Fellow, both at the University of Rajasthan. Recipient of several awards, Jain is an elected Life Member of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

This work closely explores the Partition narrative from a human perspective. The sixteen stories exceed the bounds of history and offer an intimate, personal view of the events.

The history of the period is one strewn with pre-Partition conflicts, violence and riots—from the late 19th century to 1940 and after. This work explores not only the human tragedy but also memory, healing and friendship.

The stories trace the shifts in emotions and focus on individual wills, the undercurrents of cultural oneness form a counter discourse.