

DEBUT SHORT STORY COLLECTION

AT THE STROKE *of* MIDNIGHT & OTHER STORIES

BY HERNOOR KAUR GREWAL

*While the world celebrated a new dawn,
millions were lost in the dark*

A short story collection exploring love, loss, resilience, and the human cost of India's Partition.

Through unforgettable characters and intimate moments, Hernoor Kaur Grewal gives a fictional voice to the lives behind the maps and treaties of 1947.

Hernoor Kaur Grewal is the Reading Lead at a secondary school in West London, where she fosters a love of literacy and the written word by helping her pupils see books and stories as mirrors of their own lives. Her journey into the history of the Indian Subcontinent began at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she specialised in the politics of India's Partition. In 2009, she completed her BA in Politics and International Relations under the tutelage of Dr Yasmin Khan, the acclaimed author of *The Great Partition*, who served as Hernoor's professor and dissertation tutor.

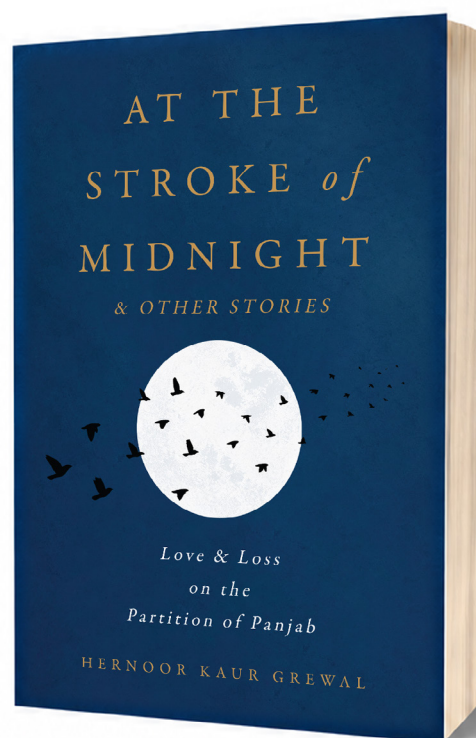
While grounded in rigorous research and case studies, this collection is equally inspired by stories shared by family and friends. By bridging the gap between scholarly political analysis and the poignant oral histories of their own community, Hernoor's debut collection of stories serves as an imaginative tribute to the legacies of displacement, resilience, and hope. It ultimately explores the human heart amid upheaval and gives a fictional voice to the lived experiences behind the maps and treaties of 1947.

At the Stroke of Midnight is Hernoor's debut book.

ABOUT THE BOOK

At the Stroke of Midnight is a fictional journey into the heart of India's 1947 Partition. Through a series of evocative short stories, the collection explores the intimate betrayals and unexpected acts of kindness that flickered amid the chaos of Britain's crumbling Empire, seen not through the lens of politicians but through the eyes of those left in the shadows of the Great Divide.

From a young Muslim girl witnessing her neighbours' humanity to a Sikh father forced to make an unthinkable choice, these stories of love, loss, and survival reimagine the human cost of 1947.



PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

“ In the lineage of Amrita Pritam's lament, Gurbaksh Singh's dream of an undivided Punjab, and Kartar Singh Duggal's faith in coexistence, Hernoor reaches for a Punjab that lives beyond the map - her stories are a tender, unashamedly imaginative act of remembrance. In an age of hardening borders and partisan tribalism, her insistence on a shared world becomes a quiet act of resistance.

- Dr Jyala Singh, author of *54 Punjabi Proverbs* and *The Ballad of Chandi*

“ A lyrical and moving meditation on Partition memory and resilience, combining voices, places, and emotions through an intimate yet expansive narrative. In Hernoor's hands, this book poetically transforms the memories of 1947 into acts of reflection, healing, and creative reconstruction.

- Dr Radha Kapuria, author of *Music in Colonial Punjab*

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