



Chander and Sudha

By Dharamvir Bharati, Poonam Saxena (Tr.)

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In the idyllic university town, young women daydreamed as they lay on the grass and gazed up at the clouds. Young men took morning walks at Alfred Park. Hot summer afternoons were for drinking sherbet and eating watermelons, and evenings were meant for reading poetry. It was also a time of stifling social mores, and love was an unattainable ideal seldom realized. Allahabad of the 1940s is the serene backdrop to the turbulence of Chander's love for his professor's daughter Sudha. Driven by his passionate belief in the transcending purity of their love, Chander persuades Sudha to marry another man, to devastating consequences. Unhinged by his separation from Sudha and consumed by a restless desire to make sense of love Is it really about sex? Is the purity of love a lie? Chander spirals into a destructive affair with the seductive Pammi. Immensely popular since its publication more half a century ago, Chander & Sudha continues to seduce readers with its potent mix of tender passion and heartbreak tragedy.

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Editorial Review

Review

An engaging love story but also a critique of the restrictive social norms of the time, and how they affected relationships and women's lives --Dawn

The quality of [Poonam Saxena's] translation is superb. I have read and reread *Gunahon Ka Devta* and this is one of those rare instances where the prose does not sound absurd in translation. --Hindustan Times

It's a delightful read. --Outlook

About the Author

A luminary of the Hindi literary world, Dharamvir Bharati wrote novels, plays, short stories, essays, poetry, and edited the journal *Dharamyug*. Poonam Saxena is editor of *Brunch*, Hindustan Times.

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