

ABSTRACT

EATING TANDOORI: A PUNJABI GIRLHOOD

Through the genre of creative nonfiction and subgenre of memoir, I have compiled a collection of essays that focus on my childhood as a Punjabi-American female. My purpose in writing these essays was to illustrate the complexities and confusion I have had in deciphering my identity apart from the Punjabi identity I was born with. I achieve my purpose through scenes, characters, capturing actual dialogue in my native tongue, reflection, images, voice, and research I've gathered throughout my childhood and adulthood about the Punjabi culture. In addition to the cultural aspects of these essays, I have included my mother's stories, my aunt's stories, and stories I've been told by my father. Along with showing various aspects to my childhood, I've included a few essays describing my work at our family-owned motels. The motel essays are meant to give the entire collection a sort of foundation as to my initial questioning of my role as a person.

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