

BOOK CLUB KIT

SOMIA SADIQ

GAJRAH

a novel

SOMIA SADIQ

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Somia Sadiq

Please tell us a little about yourself and your book.

I'm a peace negotiator by day, a writer by heart, and someone who firmly believes that cardamom chai, jasmine, and storytelling can basically heal most things! *Gajarah* is my debut novel—a poetic intergenerational story about grief, memory, and the little kid inside us all who just wants to be seen, be adored, and maybe dance in the rain. It's about healing—not the neat stick-to-a-schedule kind, but the messy, sloppy, magical kind. At its core, *Gajarah* is a love letter to anyone who's ever longed for home—even if they couldn't quite name what home means to them.

What was the inspiration or spark behind writing *Gajarah*?

I wrote *Gajarah* because I needed to find language for what lives in the in-between—between cultures, between homelands, between generations. To me, memory is an act of resistance, and storytelling is a beautiful form of return. This book is stitched from my own journey as a daughter of migration, a witness to trauma and resilience, and a woman who walks alongside others in their search for home, healing, and wholeness.

What do you hope readers take away from *Gajarah* after they've read the last page?

That healing is not linear—it begins to unfold the moment we turn toward the little kid within us with tenderness, adoration, and care. When we stop trying to fix that kid, silence them, and instead sit beside them, braid their hair, let them dance, cry, laugh, and be, we start feeling the magic of healing. Because when that kid feels safe, seen, and celebrated, they don't just soften, they start to love us back. And in that sacred exchange, we remember who we were before the world told us to forget. *Gajarah* invites readers into that space of return: to memory, to body, to voice, and to the inner child who always knew the way home. Through *Gajarah*, I hope to invite my readers to own their healing journey.

How long did it take you to write *Gajarah*?

In a lot of ways, *Gajarah* has been in my being for a very long time. Writing it in earnest took about a year.

How did you develop the characters?

The characters in *Gajarah* came to me more like visitors than inventions. They arrived with their own rhythms, wounds, and wisdom—and my job was to listen. Some were inspired by people I've met in life: elders who carry entire histories in their silence, aunties with fierce hearts and even fiercer eyebrows, and little girls who feel everything all at once! So I didn't so much "create" them as I remembered them. They emerged through story work, memory, and moments where parts of me met them on the page.

What has been the most rewarding experience of publishing your debut novel?

Receiving messages from my readers that say they feel seen, that *Gajarah* has equipped them with language to understand themselves and the world around them!

What are some of your favorite books?

I love Alka Joshi's *The Jaipur Trilogy* and Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*. I am also a huge fan of Nikita Gill's radiant blend of poetry and poetic prose, which is a beautiful braid of empowerment and softness. *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer is another book that sings to me with its love and reverence for mother nature and her gifts.

Did you always want to be an author?

I have been writing since a very young age—poems, short stories, reflections, little notes to myself of lessons I've picked up along the way. So in a way, perhaps. Yes, I suppose I've always wanted to be an author!

Do you have any advice for people who want to be writers?

Start small. Start journaling. Start recording little voice notes. Write about what you see, what you feel, write about what else might be happening that you don't see. A few lines. Honour your own creative process and give yourself permission to accept that your process is unique to you. Being kind to yourself is the most important thing you can do for yourself as a writer.

Can you share what you're working on now?

I am so deeply appreciative of engaging in the incredible conversations that *Gajarah* has sparked, and I am also working on my next book, *Baaliyan*!

Will you come to my book club?

I get this request a lot. I would love to speak at your book club. If you are interested in having me at your book club (in person or virtually), please contact me through the form on my website: www.somiasadiq.com.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Gajarah

The Not-So-Dangerous Questions:

1. Which elder in the story felt familiar to you? Did they remind you of someone you love (or miss)?
2. Which flower or natural symbol in the book are you most drawn to, and why? (Jasmine, marigold, cedar, stars, etc.)
3. What is your relationship with colours like? What feelings do they evoke for you?
4. If you could spend a day with Emahn, what would you ask her? What do you think she might say?
5. What three words would you use to describe how you felt after reading *Gajarah*? No wrong answers—just say what comes up.

The *Definitely* Dangerous Questions:

1. What does home mean to you? Have you ever felt far away from it?
2. How has grief shaped who you are today? Is there a story, spoken or unspoken, that still lives inside you?
3. How did Emahn's relationship with forgiveness sit with you? What is your relationship with forgiveness like?
4. What does resilience look like in your family's story? Is there a part of that story you're still trying to understand or make peace with?
5. When was the last time you felt like you truly belonged—to a place, a person, a moment? What did that feel like in your body?

Final Question: An Invitation

If you could whisper one thing to the little child in you—the one still carrying questions, wonder, and bruises—what would you say? And what do you think they've been waiting to hear?

FROM THE AUTHOR

Book Recommendations

The Jaipur Trilogy by Alka Joshi

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

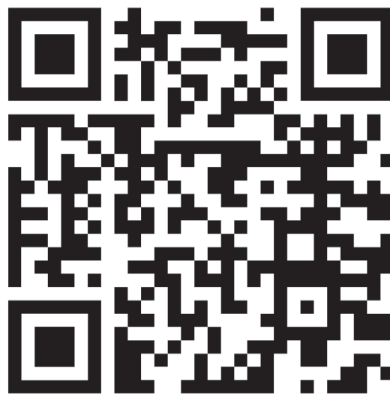
Wild Embers by Nikita Gill

The Golden Legend by Nadeem Aslam

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Book of Negroes by Lawrence Hill

And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini



*Use this QR code to learn how to
make a gajarah with Somia Sadiq.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Somia Sadiq



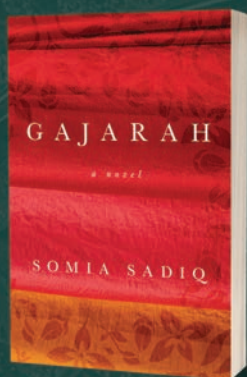
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SOMIA SADIQ is an award-winning entrepreneur, global peace negotiator, and visionary leader in conflict transformation strategies. As the founder of Narratives, Kahanee, and Ravayat, she pioneers storytelling-driven solutions for transformation and systemic change. A sought-after keynote speaker and conflict readiness strategist, she blends business acumen with cultural wisdom. *Gajarah*, her debut novel, is a powerful testament to resilience, identity, and ancestral strength.

www.somiasadiq.com.

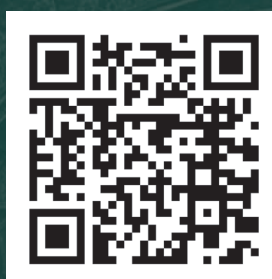


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With stunning lyricism, *Gajarah* tells the story of a fearless woman torn between two worlds—Pakistan and Canada—whose life is upended by sexual violence.

www.somiasadiq.com



Use this QR code to learn how to make a gajarah with Somia Sadiq.

Preorder Somia's debut novel, *Gajarah*, available everywhere books are sold.



Just cut, fold in half, and never be lost again!