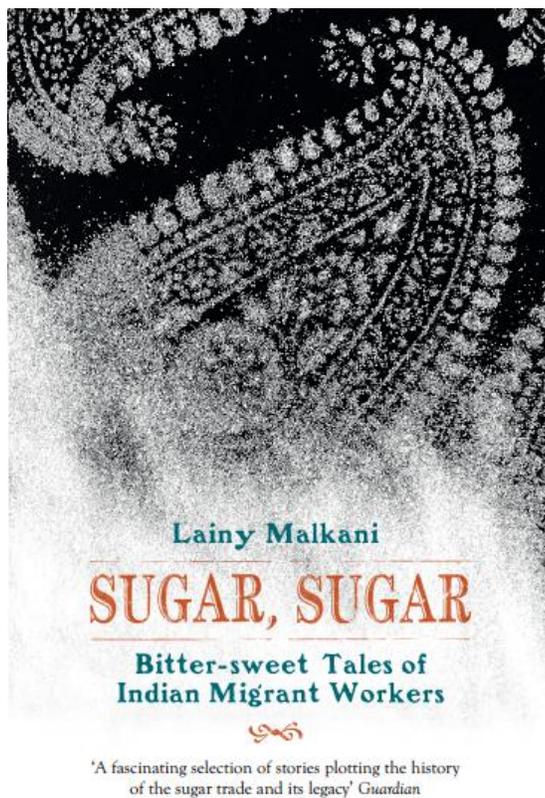


Sugar, Sugar: Bitter-sweet Tales of Indian Migrant Workers - Lainy Malkani



A fascinating web of honey-coloured threads linking Indian migrant workers, who first left the SubContinent more than a hundred and fifty years ago, and their descendants now living in contemporary Britain.

Sugar, Sugar is a contemporary collection of short stories which reveals a rich and culturally diverse history behind India's migrant workers and one of the most abundant and controversial commodities in the world. Inspired by historical documents between 1838 and 1917, and the living memories of the descendants of indentured workers, *Sugar, Sugar*, spans five continents, travelling through time uncovering inspiring tales of courage and resilience. With sugar at its heart, this collection unveils lives rarely exposed in modern British literature and adds a new dimension to the history of sugar, post emancipation, whilst sharing a previously untold strand in the story of the making of contemporary Britain.

Published in the year of the 100th Anniversary of the Abolition of Indentured Labour; 70th Anniversary of the partition of India & India Year of Culture in the UK.

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Lainy Malkani is a London born writer, broadcast journalist and presenter with Indo-Caribbean roots. In 2013 she set up the Social History Hub to bring the stories of 'unsung heroes' in society to life. Her critically acclaimed two-part radio documentary for BBC Radio 4, *'Sugar, Saris and Green Bananas'*, inspired her to create this collection of short stories. She has written for the British Library, the Commonwealth and the BBC. She is married with two children and lives in North West London. Her cross-cultural roots; from Britain, India and Guyana, in the Caribbean, has been a great source of her work, both as a writer and journalist.

After her mother passed away Lainy wanted to find out more about her roots. She had known that her mother, aunts, uncles and some siblings, had grown up on a sugar plantation in Guyana (formerly British Guiana), a former British colony in the Caribbean. They had been serenaded with the stories since childhood, but Lainy felt that she needed to know more about the kind of life her mother, aunts and uncles would have experienced as an indentured labourers, over 1 million of whom had left India, between 1838 and 1917, to work on sugar plantations around the world. This personal interest led her to set up the Social History Hub in 2013, an online platform where ordinary people can share their extraordinary family histories:

www.socialhistoryhub.com

"Our cultures give us room to breathe in a fast-changing world and it is our duty to capture its essence for future generations" Lainy Malkani

Part of this platform was dedicated to collecting the stories of Indo-Caribbean's whose ancestors would have left India to work on the sugar plantations in the Caribbean, which resulted in *Sugar, Saris and Green Bananas*, a two-part documentary for BBC Radio 4 tracing her own family's roots to reveal the story of Indian indentured migrant workers to British Guiana.

