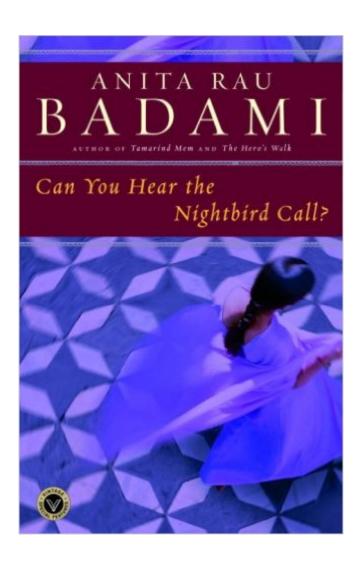
## The book was found

# Can You Hear The Nightbird Call?





### Synopsis

Set against the tumultuous backdrop of a fragmenting Punjab and moving between Canada and India, Can you Hear the Nightbird Call? charts the interweaving stories of three Indian women â " Bibi-ji, Leela and Nimmo â " each in search of a resting place amid rapidly changing personal and political landscapes. The ambitious, defiant Sikh Bibi-ji, born Sharanjeet Kaur in a Punjabi village, steals her sister Kanwarâ TMs destiny, thereby gaining passage to Canada.Leela Bhat, born to a German mother and a Hindu father, is doomed to walk the earth as a "half-and-half." Leelaâ ™s childhood in Bangalore is scarred by her in-between identity and by the great unhappiness of her mother, Rosa, an outcast in their conservative Hindu home. Years after Rosaâ ™s shadowy death, Leela has learned to deal with her in-between status, and she marries Balu Bhat, a man from a family of purebred Hindu Brahmins, thus acquiring status and a tenuous stability. However, when Balu insists on emigrating to Canada, Leela must trade her newfound comfort for yet another beginning. Once in Vancouver with her husband and two children, Leelaâ ™s initial reluctance to leave home gradually evolves. While Bibi-ji gains access to a life of luxury in Canada, her sister Kanwar, left behind to weather the brutal violence of the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, is not so fortunate. She disappears, leaving Bibi-ji bereft and guilt-ridden. Meanwhile, a little girl, who just might be Kanwarâ ™s six-year-old daughter Nimmo, makes her way to Delhi, where she is adopted, marries and goes on to build a life with her loving husband, Satpal. Although this existence is constantly threatened by poverty, Nimmo cherishes it, filled as it is with love and laughter, and she guards it fiercely. Across the world, Bibi-ji is plagued by unhappiness: she is unable to have a child. She believes that it is her punishment for having stolen her sisterâ ™s future, but tries to drown her sorrows by investing all her energies into her increasingly successful restaurant called the Delhi Junction. This restaurant becomes the place where members of the growing Vancouver Indo-Canadian community come to dispute and discuss their pasts, presents and futures. Over the years, Bibi-ji tries to uncover her sister Kanwarâ ™s fate but is unsuccessful until Leela Bhat â " carrying a message from Satpal, Nimmoâ ™s husband â " helps Bibi-ji reconnect with the woman she comes to believe is her niece â "Nimmo. Used to getting whatever she has wanted from life, Bibi-ji subtly pressures Nimmo into giving up Jasbeer, her oldest child, into her care. Eight-year old Jasbeer does not settle well in Vancouver. Resentful of his parentsâ ™ decision to send him away, he finds a sense of identity only in the stories, of Sikh ancestry, real and imagined, told to him by Bibi-jiâ ™s husband, Pa-ji. Over the years, his childish resentments harden, and when a radical preacher named Dr. Randhawa arrives in Vancouver, preaching the need for a separate Sikh homeland, Jasbeer is easily seduced by his violent rhetoric. Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?

elegantly moves back and forth between the growing desi community in Vancouver and the increasingly conflicted worlds of Punjab and Delhi, where rifts between Sikhs and Hindus are growing. In June 1984, just as political tensions within India begin to spiral out of control, Bibi-ji and Pa-ji decide to make their annual pilgrimage to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh shrines. While they are there, the temple is stormed by Indian government troops attempting to contain Sikh extremists hiding inside the temple compound. The results are devastating. Then, in October of the same year, Indira Gandhi is murdered by her two Sikh bodyguards, an act of vengeance for the assault on the temple. The assassination sets off a wave of violence against innocent Sikhs. The tide of anger and violence spills across borders and floods into distant Canada, and into the lives of neighbours Bibi-ji and Leela. Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? weaves together the personal and the political â " and beautifully brings the reader into the reality of terrorism and religious intolerance. Bibi-ji turned to gaze out at the street. They could become far more prosperous, she was sure of that. Opportunities lay around them like pearls on these streets. But they were visible only to people with sharp eyes.â œWhat are you looking at, Bibi-ji?â • Lalloo asked, coming around to the front with a box full of pickle jars. He lowered it carefully on the floor and stared out the window.â œWhat am I looking for, Lalloo, for,â • Bibi-ji corrected. â œI am looking for pearls.â •â œl donâ ™t see anything there, Bibi-ji,â • Lalloo remarked after a few moments. She laughed. â œNeither do I, but I will. I know I will. â • The war had left the whole world poorer: why had Pa-ji not thought of opening a used-clothing store instead of this Indian grocery shop? She wondered whether the shop would do better in Abbotsford or in Duncan, where there were more Sikhs than here in Vancouver. But no, she had a feeling that it was a city with a future, one in which she would be wise to invest her money and her hard work.â "from Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? From the Hardcover edition.

#### **Book Information**

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Vintage Canada (June 12, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0676976050

ISBN-13: 978-0676976052

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,164,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #238 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Canadian

#### **Customer Reviews**

I could see the colours of India, taste the spices, feel the heartbreak with the viciousness of religious prejudice ... all the way across the globe to Vancouver, Canada, where the same nationalities, but different cultures, continued to clash in this wonderful tale of eternal hope.

A slow start to this novel, but it moves swiftly to a tale that has the ring of true knowledge. You will feel involved with the outcome of the characters' lives.

Arrived in plenty of time before our trip to India. It's a must read for anyone going there but an excellent read for those who dream of far away placed.

#### Download to continue reading...

Can You Hear the Nightbird Call? When I Hear His Call Shouting Won't Help: Why I--and 50 Million Other Americans--Can't Hear You 1,000 Recordings to Hear Before You Die (1,000... Before You Die Books) Do They Hear You When You Cry When the Brain Can't Hear: Unraveling the Mystery of Auditory Processing Disorder Wake Up Your Call Center: How to Be a Better Call Center Agent (Customer Access Management) Malleus Monstrorum: Creatures, Gods, & Forbidden Knowledge (Call of Cthulhu Horror Roleplaying) (Call of Cthulhu Roleplaying) ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENTS THAT ACTUALLY WORKED IN SMALL STUDIES! (BASED ON NEW, CUTTING-EDGE, CORRECT THEORY!) THAT WILL NEVER BE TESTED & YOU WILL NEVER HEAR ABOUT FROM YOUR MD OR BIG PHARMA! Holler If You Hear Me: The Education of a Teacher and His Students, Second Edition (Teaching for Social Justice) (Teaching for Social Justice (Paperback)) The Talk: What Your Kids Need to Hear from You About Sex Words That Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear Did You Hear Me Crying? (The Heartbreaking True Story of a Child Abused) - Child Abuse True Stories The Naked Gospel: The Truth You May Never Hear in Church Blender Recipes: 27 Blender Recipes You Can Make with High Speed Blenders - Juicing For Weight Loss & Vitality (Blender Recipes You Can Make With Your ... Star & Other High Speed Blenders & Juicers) Can I tell you about Epilepsy?: A guide for friends, family and professionals (Can I tell you about...?) You Can Write for Magazines (You Can Write It!) What Do You Mean, You Can't Eat in My Home?: A Guide to How Newly Observant Jews and Their Less Observant Relatives Can Still Get Along Why Can't My Child Behave?: Why Can't She Cope? Why Can't He

Learn? The Feingold Diet updated for today's busy families Hearing: Hearing Loss Cure: Get Your Hearing Back and Hear Better Than Ever Before \*BONUS: Sneak Preview of 'The Memory Loss Cure' Included!\* (Aging, Tinnitus, Hearing Recovery, Deaf, Health)

<u>Dmca</u>