

## **Chapter Abstracts**

### **Chapter 1**

- In 1967 in Pakistan, Rupban was plucking a chicken when she went into labour and gave birth to a girl names Nazneen. The sickly child teetered on the brink of death but fate determined that she live.
- Nazneen's father arranged a marriage for her when she was eighteen. She would go to England with her husband.
- In London, in 1985, Nazneen wonders about her sister Hasina as she cooks and does the housework and gossips with Mrs. Islam.

### **Chapter 2**

- At dinner, Dr. Azad and Chanu discuss the role of the Pakistani immigrants in London.
- Chanu is educated with a degree from Dhaka University and is working on another degree in London. He is worrying about obtaining a promotion at work. He is good to Nazneen who soon tells him that she is pregnant.

### **Chapter 3**

- Nazneen goes out on her own after Chanu leaves for work. She is wandering around lost and upset after learning that Hasina is leaving her husband and escaping to Dhaka.
- Mrs. Islam escorts Nazneen to Dr. Azad's office for her check up and she tells him that everything is fine. Razia brings her a home remedy for her burning urination. They discuss the discrimination of the English.

### **Chapter 4**

- Chanu and Nazneen named their son Mohammad Raqib and called him Ruku.
- Chanu is upset because Dr. Azad never invites them to his house. Chanu thinks that maybe if he receives the promotion, Dr. Azad will be more accepting of him.
- Razia complains about her husband working long hours and sending the money to his home village. She doesn't have enough to buy her children what they need.

### **Chapter 5**

- Mrs. Azad invites them into the sitting room then goes to tell Dr. Azad that he has visitors. She invites them to stay for dinner.
- Nazneen and Chanu spend a tense few hours with the Azads. Chanu talks about the tragedy faced by immigrants.

### **Chapter 6**

- Ruku is rushed to the hospital by ambulance. After three days, Chanu went home and brought food and other items to the hospital.
- Nazneen comes to understand her husband while they are sitting at the hospital and concludes that he is not a bad man.
- Razia's husband is killed in a work related accident and Chanu has quit his job. Ruku dies of his illness.

## **Chapter 7**

- The chapter consists of letters from Hasina to Nazneen. Hasina has a job, a nice room and seems happy. She describes her friends to Nazneen.
- Nazneen and Chanu have a baby daughter and Chanu obtains a bookkeeping certificate. Another daughter is born to them and Chanu is starting his own business.
- Hasina remarries but the marriage doesn't last and she works as a maid.

## **Chapter 8**

- Chanu has his daughters reciting verses from Tagore. He is planning to take his family back home. He has taken to flogging his family.
- Chanu is unemployed and making no effort to find work. They are living off of their savings. One day he comes home with a sewing machine and a computer.
- Chanu has borrowed from Mrs. Islam who comes to Nazneen for the money. Next time she will bring her sons.

## **Chapter 9**

- Chanu is using the Internet to teach his family about Bangladesh. Shahana is bored because she uses the Internet at her school and her reaction angers Chanu.
- Nazneen is worried about her family. There is Chanu's unemployment and the continual conflict between him and his daughters. Chanu begins to come home with clothes for Nazneen to mend, which provided income for the family. Chanu finds work as a taxi driver.

## **Chapter 10**

- From Karim, whose uncle owns the sweatshop, Nazneen learns about the Lion Hearts. Nazneen continues her sewing work and Chanu drives his taxi, mostly at night so the atmosphere in the apartment is more relaxed and most of their financial problems are eased.

## **Chapter 11**

- Nazneen attends the meeting at the mosque without telling Chanu about it. She had nothing else to do at the time.

## **Chapter 12**

- While listening to Chanu and Dr. Azad talking about drug abuse, Nazneen thinks of Razia's son who always needs money. There is tension in the neighbourhood between Muslims and non-Muslims.

## **Chapter 13**

- On the way to pick up thread, Nazneen bumps into the mosque secretary who escorts her to a meeting at the mosque. Karim follows her home after the meeting and they begin an affair.

## **Chapter 14**

- Chanu takes his family sightseeing in the London area. Nazneen is still seeing Karim. She talks about Karim to Razia when they are shopping.

## **Chapter 15**

- Chanu finds Nazneen sick and lying on the floor unconscious. Dr. Azad is there when she regains unconsciousness. Chanu stays home to care for her. Her affair with Karim continues. The whole family attends a Bengal Tigers rally.

## **Chapter 16**

- Razia's son sold all of her furniture and she and Nazneen sees Dr. Azad to seek help for the boy. After the 9/11 attacks, Chanu speeds up his efforts to obtain enough money to move to Bangladesh. Karim wants Nazneen to stay in London and divorce Chanu.

## **Chapter 17**

- Nazneen is beginning to consider the effects of her and Karim and what effect it will have on her daughters. She is seriously thinking about whether she should or shouldn't go to Bangladesh with Chanu, if he goes.

## **Chapter 18**

- Chanu and Nazneen go to the meeting for the Bengal Tiger march. Nazneen learns from Mrs. Islam that Dr. Azad has given Chanu money for the tickets to Bangladesh. They are to leave in five days. Nazneen talks to Razia about Karim.

## **Chapter 19**

- A letter from Hasina tells of what happened right before their mother killed herself.

## **Chapter 20**

- Nazneen is packing, even though she has no plans of getting on the plane the next day. Mrs. Islam appears with her sons and gifts for the girls. The sons begin to smash furniture when Nazneen doesn't pay the money. They call of the debt when Nazneen tells Mrs. Islam to swear on the Qur'an that she is not a usurer.
- Nazneen meets Karim, tells him she isn't going with her husband but doesn't want to marry him (Karim) either. Shahana runs away just before they are supposed to leave.

## **Chapter 21**

- Nazneen learns Shahana's plans from Bibi and goes out to look for her and brings her home. She tells Chanu that she can't go with him. He goes without them. Karim leaves town to escape the authorities who were looking for him after the riots. Chanu calls to say that Hasina has run off with the cook from the house where she worked.