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Why I Write

Bapsi Sidhwa

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Why I Write

Abstract

I began writing because the itch to write was compulsive. I analyse it now IS an obsession with self-expression - something I was denied as a child. For me writing is a natural condition of existence, and very often an act of joy. Of course it can be painful, slow, and difficult at times, but it is always a labour of love.

PAKISTAN and INDIA

Bapsi Sidhwa was born in Karachi, Pakistan. She graduated from Kinnear College for Women, Lahore, Married and with three children, she resides in the United States but travels frequently to Pakistan. An active social worker among Asian women, in 1975 she represented Pakistan at the Asian Women's Congress.

Bapsi Sidhwa has published four novels: *An American Boy* (Corgi), *Iceberg* (Corgi), *Meen* (in England), *The Bride*, *The Cow*, *Love*, and *Short Stories*. She has been translated into German, French and Russian. She is currently working on a collection of short stories and compiling a book of essays and reviews.

Sidhwa has been nominated for the Lila Wallace Reader's Fellowship at Radcliffe/Harvard in 1980-81 and was a Visiting Scholar at Rockefeller Foundation Study Center, in Bellagio, Italy. She was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts grant for Creative Writing in 1987. She received the Sitara-e-Istishad Pakistan national honour in 1991 and the Lila Wallace in Germany for her *Candy-Man* (Corgi) (1991) and in 1991.

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Bapsi Sidhwa has published four novels: *An American Brat*, *Cracking India* (published as *Ice-Candy-Man* in England), *The Bride*, *The Crow Eaters*, and short stories. She has been translated into German, French and Russian. She is currently working on a collection of short stories and compiling a book of essays and reviews.

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Why I Write

I began writing because the itch to write was compulsive. I analyse it now as an obsession with self-expression – something I was denied as a child. For me writing is a natural condition of existence, and very often an act of joy. Of course it can be painful, slow, and difficult at times, but it is always a labour of love.

The moment it ceases to be so, I'll give it up; although by now it has become a habit.

When I'm not writing my life seems to fly apart, and I get embroiled in needless complexities. So, why complicate life? It's easier to write.