



Obituaries: Death at My Doorstep

By Khushwant Singh

Roli Books, New Delhi, India, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. First Edition. For Khushwant Singh who wrote his own obituary in his twenties, death is not sacred but he reflects on it increasingly these days. In *Death At My Doorstep*, a collection of obituaries written over the years, he presents the dead in death, as in lifegood, bad or ugly. Be it on the twilight hours of Bhutto, the gory end of Sanjay Gandhi, the sycophantic M.O. Mathai, the Marxist millionaire Rajni Patel, the overbearing Lord Mountbatten, or on his pet Alsatian Simba, each obituary bears out his irreverence or affection. Cocking a snook at death, he has also penned his own epitaph. Yet outliving those whom he admired has moved him to tears, and many of his obituaries have left the reader with a heavy heart. While *Death At My Doorstep* is Khushwant Singh's demystification of death, it also ferries his message to Badey Mian, in the words of Allama Iqbal: *Baagh-e-bahisht say mujhay hukm-e-safar diya thha kyon? Kaar-e-Jahaan daraaz hai, ab meyra intazaar kar.* (Why did you order me out of the garden of paradise? I have a lot of work that remains unfulfilled; now you better wait...



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