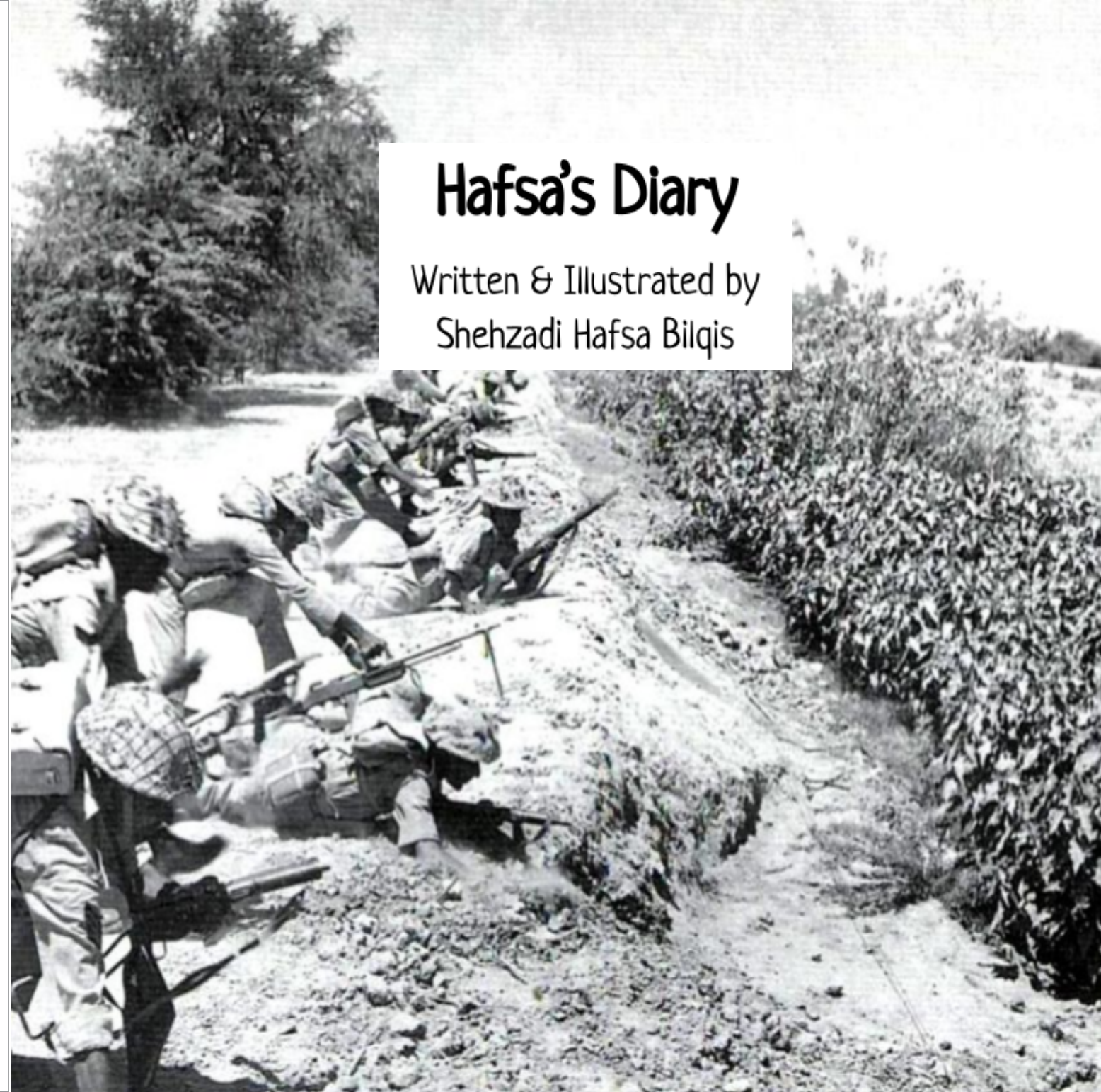


Hafsa's Diary

Written & Illustrated by
Shehzadi Hafsa Bilqis



Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at the Switched On Academy

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Aged 10

Dear Reader...

What would you do if you came across a lost diary?

Write in it of course!

Well, after page three it was blank - so I decided to write in it.

October 10, 1947

Dear Diary,

Let me start on how I found you. It was just today when I saw you lying around on the bookshelf. I opened you up and found that the previous owner had only written three pages, so here I am writing in “you”. I really do hope you will last long.

October 11, 1947

Dear Diary,

Have I ever told you my name? It's Hafsa. I'm getting bored all alone but now I think well at least I have you. My brothers are really annoying. Lately, I've been avoiding them. I wonder... have you ever felt lonely?

October 12, 1947

Dear Diary,

School was alright but it was extremely boring because none of the lessons were ones I liked but I couldn't get my mind off thinking the teachers were behaving very peculiarly. Am I going mad?

October 13, 1947

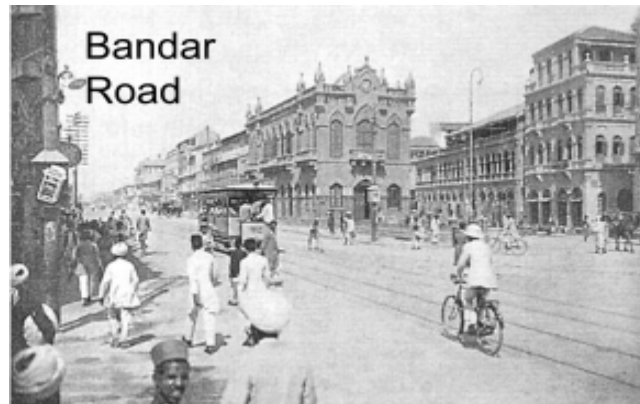
Dear Diary,

I have some very exciting news ! I am going to Karachi on October 29, 1947. It'll be amazing because there are amazing seashores there and a famous road called Bandar road. Anyway, gotta go. 😊

October 13, 1947

Dear Diary

I've always wondered who your previous owner was, Who were they? Where are they? What happened to them? And why did they leave you here?



Bandar Road



The Seaside

October 14, 1947

Dear Diary,

School was amazing. We only had one lesson because most of the teachers weren't in. Everyone had a total blast but I keep on wondering why my teachers weren't in. It is indeed very strange. 🤔

October 15, 1947

Dear Diary,

I am fully packed and ready to visit Karachi. It will be the best thing that has ever happened to me. 🎉🎉🎉👏👏👏. I will definitely bring you too so that you don't feel left out. I'll also inform you about everything.

October 16, 1947

Dear Diary,

I feel so miserable, I feel so disappointed and most of all I feel **LIVID** 😡. Now I can't go to Karachi because my silly brother jumped off a stool and broke his arm. WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?????????

October 17, 1947

Dear Diary,

I'm still disappointed about yesterday but I can't help feeling a pinch of pity for my brother. Oh well, all is for the good. Now I have to unpack everything.

October 18, 1947

Dear Diary,

I'm all alone in my house right now because my dad and brothers are gone for a doctor's appointment, due to the 'broken arm' incident. I was getting really bored so I decided to umm... how do I put this?... write to you or in other words seek your advice. I know that diaries can't write back but it is kind of soothing thinking that it'll write back when writing to it.

Anyway, gotta go. They're back and I want to find out what the doctor said.

October 20, 1947

Dear Diary,

Sorry I haven't written to you for a day because I was looking after my brothers while my dad went to work. I hope you can forgive me.

October 21, 1947

School was a disaster, I don't know why but everyone and every class had a surprise exam in every subject. I'm sure I'm not gonna get an A+ and I'm gonna get a B- instead! and what makes it worse is that I always get an A+, but I just wasn't prepared! 🤪.

October 22, 1947

Dear Diary,

What shall I do!! War has been declared between India and Pakistan. On 26 October 1947 war will officially start!!! Oh no no no no no. What to do? what to dooooooooooooo????!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Most people aren't worried and are saying no one is gonna die but I am extremely worried!!! 😭

October 23, 1947

Dear Diary,

Everybody has started to do shopping just in case anything happens although most people are certain nothing will. My dad has gone shopping for groceries while my brothers and I are at home.

I feel anxious and I keep biting my nails out of nervousness. What's going to happen? 😞😞.

October 24, 1947

Dear Diary,

I'm stuck in the middle of the street. So basically there was a big rush getting on the bus. My dad's hand accidentally slipped from mine and I never got on, so now I'm stuck in the middle of nowhere. What am I supposed to do? I'm all alone 😞

I am definitely homesick and I want to go back but I don't know which bus or where to go OR where I am and where we were when I got lost!!! But the good news is, that I found a little cosy corner to stay in for a

while but it is a bit cold and lonely as it was in an alleyway and a very ominous one.

WHAT IN THE WHOLE WORLD SHOULD I DO?

October 25, 1947

Dear Diary,

With one day left until the war I really am wondering if they know where I am. I am seriously shivering to death, I am getting anxious and I am starving.

October 26, 1947

Dear Diary,

All I can hear are gunshots and screams. I am shivering with fright. Some people thought nothing would happen and came outside getting themselves killed! Thankfully, I am in an alleyway where guns aren't being shot yet. Where are my brothers and dad?! So much for no-one getting killed.

October 27, 1947

Dear Diary,

I'm literally crying, I don't know what to do. My heart is filled with confusion and anger. I am confused, angry and upset. Ugh why did this have to happen?

November 1, 1947

Dear Diary,

I just found myself in a random bed in a house that was not mine. There were no sounds of gunshots or any screams. I went downstairs and found a man and

woman sitting there. I asked them where I was and who they were. They were actually really nice and they said that there was a blast back where I was and I had fallen unconscious for 5 days. That's where they had found me and brought me here. They said this place is Karachi, the place I have always wanted to go!

November 2, 1947

Dear Diary,

I am staying here until the war is over but what will happen to my real family? I also just found out that they have three children who are very welcoming and are really kind too. Apparently there is no war in Karachi so that is just great news.

November 3, 1947

Dear Diary,

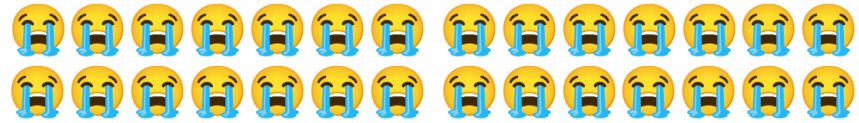
I visited quite a few parts of Karachi like Bandar Road and the seaside. It was sooooooooooooo mega fun. I wish I could have experienced this with my family.

November 4, 1947

Dear Diary,

I am so shocked and devastated. My dad and brothers died in the blast as it was near them. Mr and Mrs Khan said they didn't want to tell me before I even

experienced the joy of Karachi. I AM SO UPSET.



November 5, 1947

Dear Diary,

I am still in shock but Mr and Mrs Khan are adopting me so now they will be my dad and mum. Oh and one more thing this will be so exciting because my real mum died just after I was born so I didn't really get to know her.

November 6, 1947

Dear Diary,

Dad (Mr Khan) saw my diary and smiled. Guess what it used to be his diary, believe it or not! I offered to give it back to him but he said that I could keep it. He also said that when the pages finish he has another exact same one so he can give that one to me!!! I also just found out that my now new siblings also have the exact same diary as me! Isn't it just amazing but I still am devastated about the news of my real family. I could just burst into tears right now. Have you ever had this kind of loss?

November 7, 1947

Dear Diary,

I went swimming today and it was amazing and I even applied for the school where all my other brothers and sister go. I will be in year 7 so I'll be in the same year as my sister.

November 8, 1947

Dear Diary,

It's my birthday and I just turned 12 years old but this is the first time I have celebrated such an important

day without my real dad and brothers and although I should be happy it is my birthday, I'm sad. 😞😞😞😞

November 9, 1947

Dear Diary,

I got a lot of gifts yesterday. One was a new pen from one of my brothers and my other brother gave me a sketchbook and a pencil. My sister gave me a colouring pencils set and it has 50 in there. My dad gave me a new diary and my mom gave me a painting set. Everything was amazing.

November 10, 1947

Dear Diary,

All the gifts were amazing. I had a go at using all of them one by one but I can't decide who's is the best. What would you say?

November 11, 1947

Dear Diary,

Now that I think of it I think the best gift is the diary because when you finish I will write to you in a new one. Isn't that great?

November 12, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today we went fishing except for mom because she didn't want to go and believe it or not we caught ten fish which, when we went home, mom cooked. They were delicious!

November 13, 1947

Dear Diary,

Today me and my sister went into the woods to collect lots and lots and lots of berries to eat. Luckily she

knew which ones were edible and which ones weren't and they were scrumptious!

November 14, 1947

Dear Diary,

I got the place in the school my siblings go to!!! I will be starting in January, isn't it exciting???

November 15, 1947

Dear Diary,

As much as I miss my home, I know that I'll have to be happy here and that I can't go back because this is only the beginning of the war...

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

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 **SWITCHED ON!**

When Hafsa comes across an unused diary in October 1947, her curiosity is piqued.

She soon finds herself writing in it too. But not every day is a good day...

Read on to find out how Hafsa deals with the ravages of the Indo-Kashmiri war and manages to survive against the odds.