

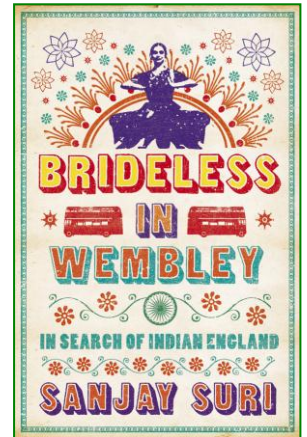


Six decades after India's independence from British rule, almost one-in-fifty people in the UK is of Indian origin<sup>1</sup>. But what does it really mean to be a British-Indian?

# BRIDELESS IN WEMBLEY

## In Search of Indian England

By Sanjay Suri



**One journalist's powerful account of his personal journey through the Indian communities of England – a journey that begins with his own search for a wife at a marriage *mela* in London and leads him to the heart of Indian communities across the country.**

Sanjay Suri's fascinating investigation into the diverse lives of British-Indian communities takes us to a world of marriage fairs in halls for separate castes; of imported caste customs thousands of years old (some of which have been abandoned in India itself but are still preserved in Britain); of the thousands seen as Asian by white people but untouchable to other Indians. He takes us to London colleges which sell student visas, the world of illegal immigrants, the secret lives of those stifled by tradition – and the Bollywood classes springing up across the country that are rapidly changing life for the young.

With the multicultural debate and integration so high on the political and social agenda, this book is an important and topical revelation of the mosaic of life in Britain. Related with wry humour, these surprising stories will appeal to anyone interesting in immigrant lives and our society.

**Travel with Sanjay Suri and go beyond the over-used Asian clichés that litter so many media portrayals to discover the *real* lives of Indians in Britain today – vibrant and engaging, sometimes disturbing and frequently surprising.**

- *"... a book to read at many levels .... Sparkling, funny and ...keenly observed."*  
Professor Judith Brown, Oxford University
- *"I loved this book ... thought-provoking and a real eye-opener ... I strongly recommend it."*  
Nisha Minhas, author of *The Marriage Market*.
- *"... a funny/sad account of what it is like to live in a diaspora where you can neither be a native nor a pukka Brit. It tells us a lot about life in Britain."*  
Lord Meghnad Desai

**About the author:** Sanjay Suri is Europe Editor for the Inter Press Service news agency. He contributes to the CNN-IBN television channel and to *Outlook*, a weekly news magazine published in India. He studied at Stanford University, the University of Delhi and the London School of Economics. He lives in Wembley, north London.

**Notes to Editors:** Ref 1: 2001 UK Census showed that 1.05 million people in Britain (1.8% of the UK population) were of Indian origin. **Demographics:** There are Indian communities across the UK particularly in: Central and Greater London, Greater Manchester, The Midlands, Yorkshire & Humber, and Glasgow. **Brideless in Wembley** is published by Summersdale on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 (ISBN: 978-1-84024-609-4; PB; 399 pages; £8.99 – category: Biography/Social Affairs). It is available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Mail Order at Summersdale on: +44 (0) 1243 771107

**To request a review copy or to be put in touch with the author, please contact Elly Donovan**



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