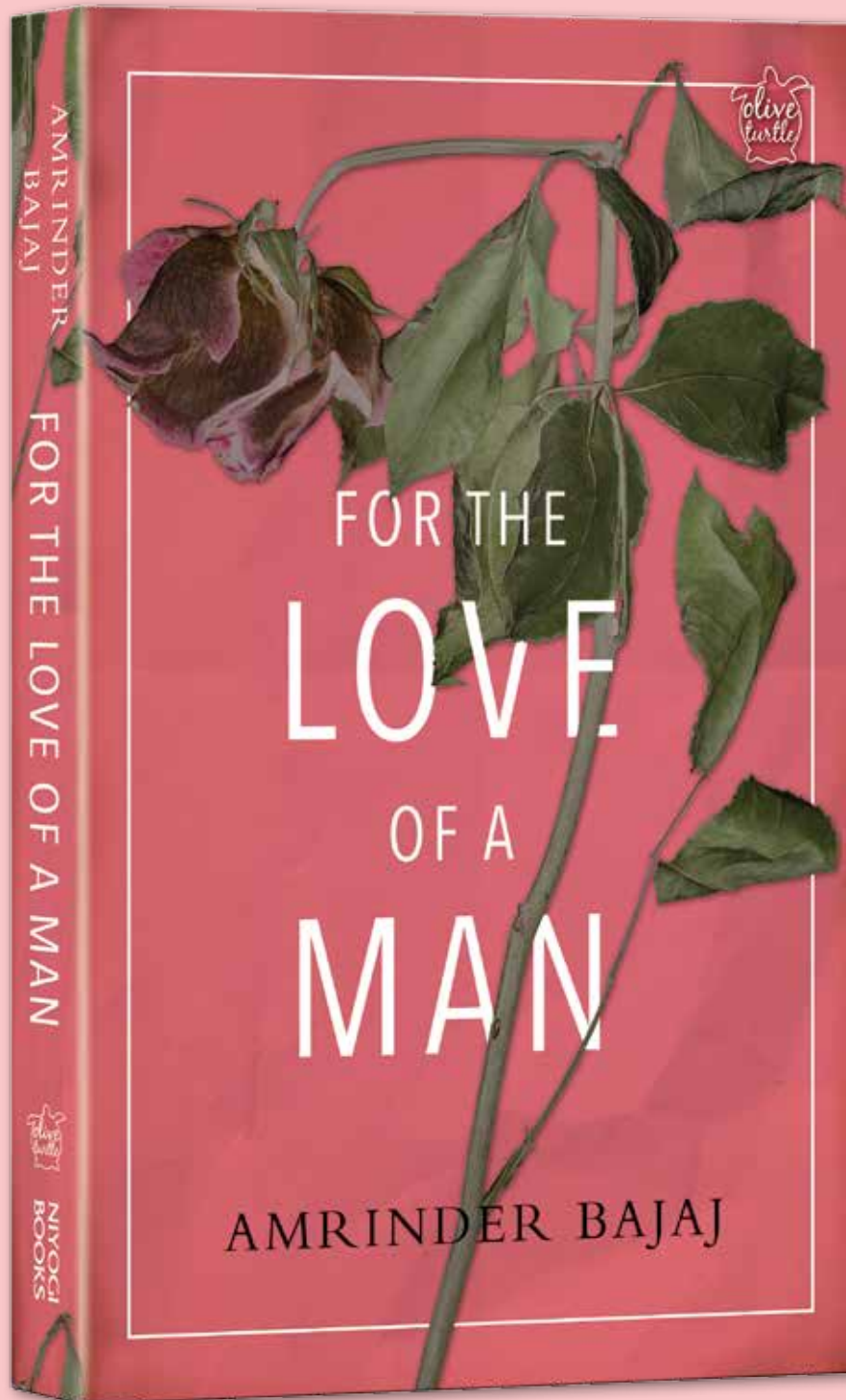


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FOR THE
LOVE
OF A
MAN

by
Amrinder Bajaj

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In this autobiographical fiction, Amrita, stifled within the confines of her invisible cage, unfolds her life story. Being her father's chattel, a self-sacrificing wife to the man of her parents' choice, a caring mother to her children, in the process, Amrita loses her identity. To assuage the thirst of her parched soul, she gives in to the passionate advances of an unsuitable lover who entices her into a web of lies and deceit. Unable to bear the pressures of an incompatible marriage and a destructive attachment any longer, she breaks free and flees to the Himalayas. In those lofty reaches she finds a startlingly simple solution to her problems—she has to look inwards for the peace that evaded her; no one else could give her that. Released of the disappointment and humiliation that 'love' had spawned, her spirits soar like a bunch of helium balloons—wind-buoyed dancing specks of colour in vast open skies. Though the narrator-protagonist finds 'neither sympathy nor understanding' from the men in her life, with her excellent command over the English language and an innate sense of humour, the author ensures that Amrita finds compassion in the hearts of her readers.



Amrinder Bajaj is a practising gynecologist and the head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at MAX Multi Speciality Centre, Pitampura, Delhi. Writing is her passion and her published works include two wellness books, a novel based on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, a text book for nurses, a collection of poems, a joke book, and a memoir based on her association with the noted Indian author and columnist, Khushwant Singh. She has two columns in the magazine *Woman's Era*. She also regularly writes articles, travelogues, short stories and poems for magazines and newspapers like *The Times of India*, *Tribune* and *The Indian Express*.

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