

Contents

BOOK ONE

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| The Perforated Sheet | 7 |
| Mercurochrome | 26 |
| Hit-the-Spittoon | 43 |
| Under the Carpet | 61 |
| A Public Announcement | 78 |
| Many-headed Monsters | 97 |
| Methwold | 114 |
| Tick, Tock | 133 |

BOOK TWO

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Fisherman's Pointing Finger | 153 |
| Snakes and Ladders | 173 |
| Accident in a Washing-Chest | 190 |
| All-India Radio | 211 |
| Love in Bombay | 229 |
| My Tenth Birthday | 245 |
| At the Pioneer Café | 264 |
| Alpha and Omega | 283 |
| The Kolynos Kid | 301 |
| Commander Sabarmati's Baton | 320 |
| Revelations | 339 |
| Movements Performed by Pepperpots | 358 |
| Drainage and the Desert | 373 |
| Jamila Singer | 389 |
| How Saleem Achieved Purity | 414 |

for Zaidi
 who, contrary to all expectations,
 BOOK THREE

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----|
| The Buddha | Perforated Sheet | 439 |
| In the Sundarbans | Perforated Sheet | 458 |
| Sam and the Tiger | Perforated Sheet | 476 |
| The Shadow of the Mosque | Perforated Sheet | 488 |
| A Wedding | Perforated Sheet | 515 |
| Midnight | Perforated Sheet | 536 |
| Abracadabra | Perforated Sheet | 563 |
| | Perforated Sheet | 563 |
| | Perforated Sheet | 563 |

BOOK TWO

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 153 | The Fisherman's Pointing Finger |
| 173 | Snakes and Ladders |
| 190 | Accident in a Washing-Chest |
| 211 | All-India Radio |
| 229 | Love in Bombay |
| 242 | My Tenth Birthday |
| 264 | At the Pioneer Cafe |
| 283 | Alpha and Omega |
| 301 | The Kolynos Kid |
| 320 | Commander Sabarwal's Baton |
| 339 | Revelations |
| | Movements Performed by |
| 358 | Peppercorn |
| 373 | Desert and the Desert |
| 389 | Jamila Singer |
| 414 | How Saleem Achieved Purity |