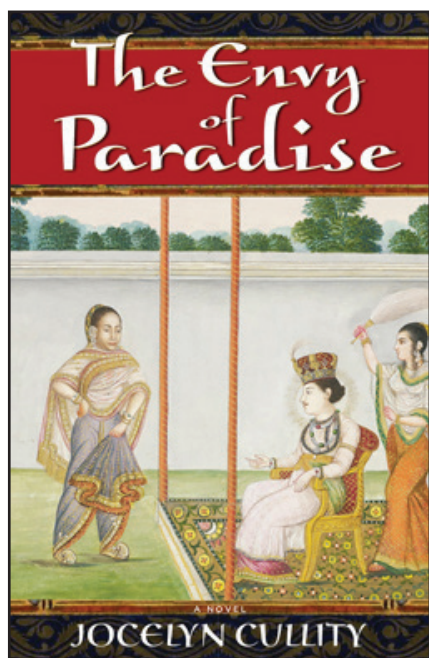


# *The Envy of Paradise*

a novel by Jocelyn Cullity

“A footnote to the Indian Mutiny is here enlarged, polished like a jewel, and presented in a dazzling story of resistance to British domination.”

—Rosie Llewellyn-Jones, author of *The Great Uprising in India 1857-1858* and *The Last King in India*



#### BOOK INFORMATION

Title: *The Envy of Paradise*  
Author: Jocelyn Cullity  
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For review copies, author interviews, or more information, please contact Inanna Publications at 416.736.5356 or email reneeknapp@inanna.ca.

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THE ENVY OF PARADISE, published by Inanna Publications, is available in bookstores across North America.

#### ABOUT THE BOOK:

“In this luscious and touching sequel to *Amah and the Silk-Winged Pigeons*, we follow Wajid ‘Ali Shah, the last King in India, and his ex-wife Begam Hazrat Mahal, as ‘the world of the past dissolves.’ What Jocelyn Cullity has accomplished is the astonishing re-imagining of a time and place, as well as compelling historical characters, that come richly present to our senses. We smell and taste this world. We wear, and relinquish, its jewels. We grieve and rage against its losses.”

—Janet Burroway, author of *Writing Fiction* and *Raw Silk*

In 1858, the British took over the city of Lucknow, paving the way for Queen Victoria’s reign over India. But what happened to Begam Hazrat Mahal, the woman of African-Indian descent who had valiantly organized a final key resistance to British rule, and to her ex-husband, Wajid ‘Ali Shah, the last King in India, who remained imprisoned by the British? *The Envy of Paradise* tells their stories. Jocelyn Cullity’s English family lived in India for five generations. A sequel to the award-winning *Amah and the Silk-Winged Pigeons*, her second novel about the takeover of India by Britain is an exquisitely told tale of nineteenth-century India — a deep rendering of the moment that India as a country was colonized; a brilliant illustration of Hazrat Mahal’s fearless character and the depths of betrayal the last King in India faced.

“Jocelyn Cullity’s powerful novel, *The Envy of Paradise*, illuminates a dark period in India’s history. A riveting story of the fall of Lucknow to British imperialism, sensually told through the eyes of Begam Hazrat Mahal and her estranged husband, King Wajid ‘Ali Shah as they attempt reclamation of their heritage. Cullity gives a taut, dramatic account of what it means to endure loss.”

—Catharine Leggett, author of *In Progress* and *The Way to Go Home*

“*The Envy of Paradise* tells the little-known story of what happened to those who fought domination by the English in India right up until the bitter end of what some call the first fight for independence in 1858, the year Queen Victoria announced her reign over India. Cullity’s novel is a sensual rendering of an essential part of India’s history—an important read!”

—Hena Ahmad, author of *Postnational Feminisms: Postcolonial Identities and Cosmopolitanism in the Works of Kamala Markandaya, Tsitsi Dangarembga, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Anita Desai*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jocelyn Cullity teaches Creative Writing in the BFA Program in Creative Writing at Truman State University in Missouri. Her English family lived in India for five generations. Cullity’s first novel, published by Inanna, won the 15th annual Best Book Awards in Historical Fiction. and was included in the 2017 International “Recommended List of 20 Books” by The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction honoring books in the UK, Ireland, and Commonwealth countries. Her stories and essays have been published in Canada, the United States, and India. She was born in Australia, grew up north of Toronto, Canada, and has lived for periods of time in both India and England.