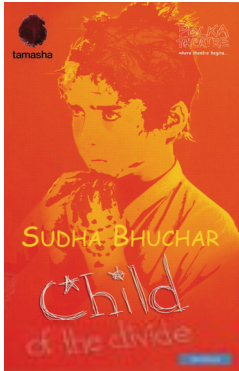


Child of the Divide by Sudha Bhuchar



Five-year-old Pali is found accidentally abandoned in the border crossing between India and Pakistan, brought about by the India/Pakistan partition in 1947. The Hindu boy is adopted by a Muslim family and brought up in their care. That is until the borders open and Pali's birth family return to claim him. Pali must decide to remain loyal to his roots or to his adoptive family's culture. The play is about shifting identities and beautifully captures the harrowing experiences of the children caught up in the chaos.

Child of the Divide, produced by Tamasha Theatre Company and Polka Theatre, premiered in May 2006 at Polka Theatre, London.

'This is a wonderful and mature play that uses the story of one child to explore the tragedy of many thousands.' *Guardian*

Genre:	historical drama	Fee:	£40 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m3 f2	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413776136 £8.99
Set:	India/Pakistan border	Length:	2 acts
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Kaushalya (*internal voice*)

His grandfather's eyes,
An angel's smile,
Tousled hair
No comb could tame.
His eyes twinkle
And cheeks dimple
When he smiles
His monkey smile.

Official Speak up, I'm a busy man. What shall I fill here?

Manohar Lal Bhai sahib, he is an ordinary boy. Only to us he is special. I have a photograph.

Official Give me, and I will file the case.

Manohar Lal When will you start looking for him?

Official When the borders reopen enquiries can begin, but I don't hold out hope.

Manohar Lal I can't tell my wife there is no hope.

Official Bhai sahib, you are young. Don't waste your time here. Go home and make more babies.

He sees Manohar Lal's reaction.

Official Or embrace another's child. The refugee camps are full of unclaimed children . lost and littered, like fallen leaves.

Manohar Lal I have a boy.

Official He is gone. Accept it.

Manohar Lal I will never accept it.

If you enjoyed this, you might like:

- *Peter Pan* by JM Barrie (m28 f17)
- *Natural Breaks and Rhythms* by Julius Ayodeji (m4)
- *Fifth Elephant* by Terry Pratchett (m16 f8)