

Nandini Majumdar
Art: Rafia Bano



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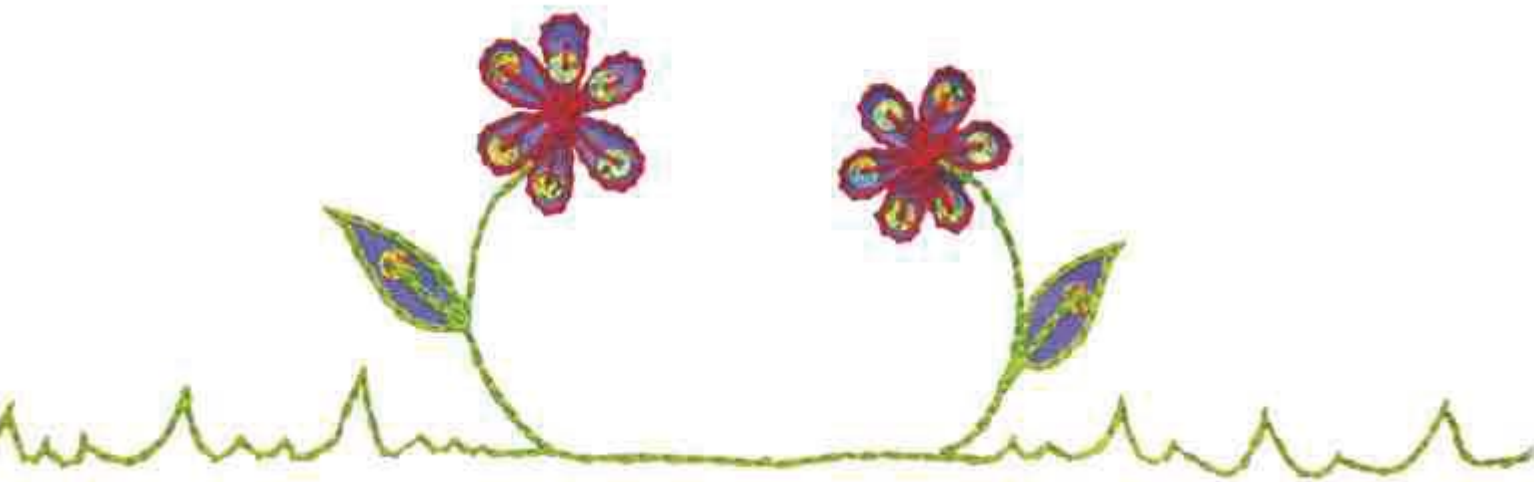


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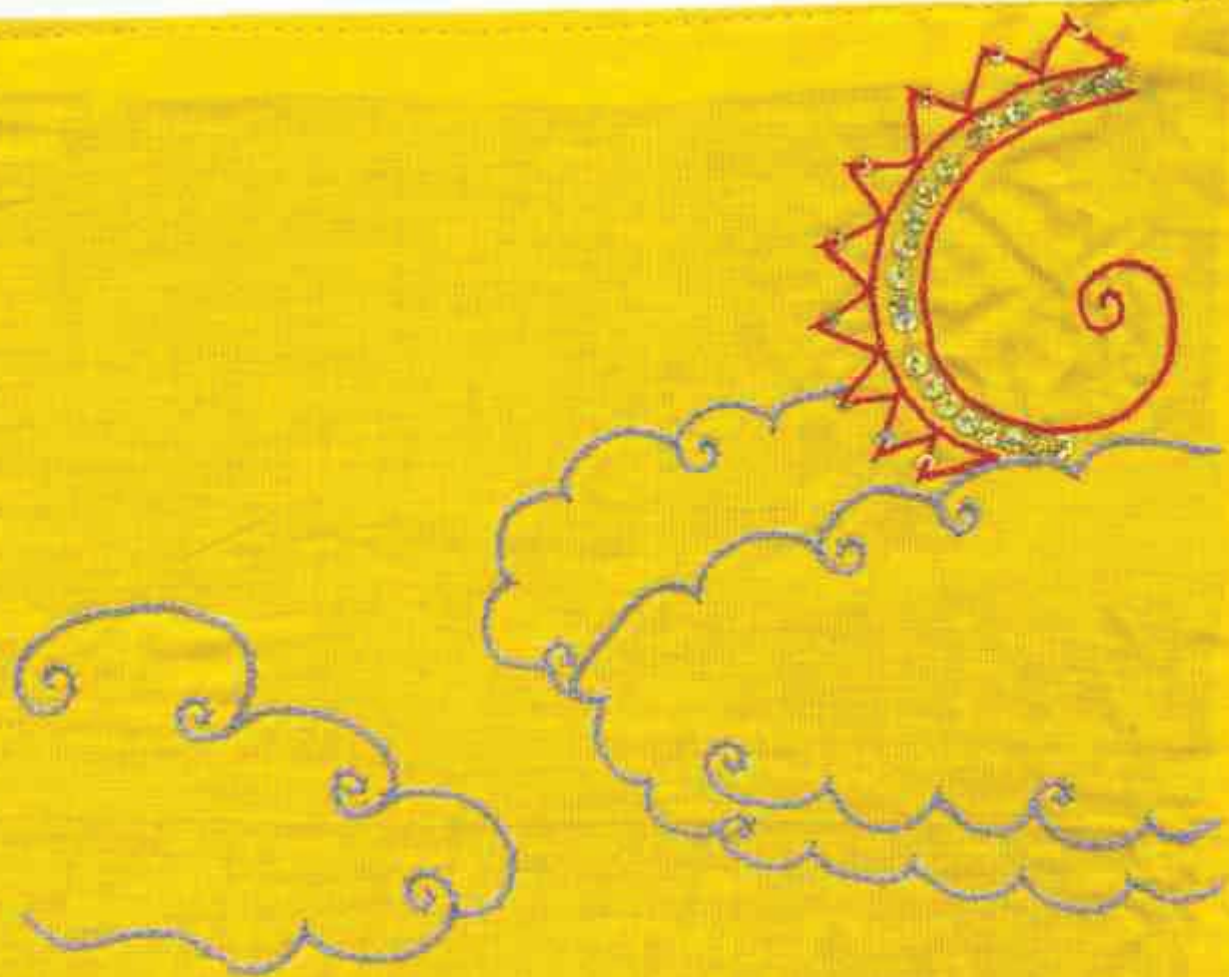


IT IS HOT.

IT IS



VERY
HOT.



THE CLOUDS COME!



A BREEZE
BEGINS.



IT RAINS!



IT
RAINS
HARDER.

A collection of hand-drawn raindrops scattered across the page. Each raindrop is a simple teardrop shape with a small circle at the top, drawn in black ink.

A hand-drawn illustration on a yellow background depicting a storm. A large, stylized cloud with a scalloped edge is drawn in black ink. Inside the cloud, a jagged lightning bolt is drawn in white. Below the cloud, two more jagged lightning bolts are drawn in white. Several teardrop-shaped raindrops are scattered around the cloud and lightning bolts, drawn in blue and white. The text "THERE IS THUNDER AND LIGHTNING." is written in black, hand-drawn capital letters at the bottom of the illustration.

THERE IS
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.



WE SLEEP IN THE
MONSOON BREEZE.

Rafia Bano

Rafia Bano is a young zardozi embroiderer from Varanasi. She comes from a traditional family of weavers. Rafia is about twenty eight years old. She is the sole supporter of her mother. As in all cottage industries, the demand for her work fluctuates. During festival periods, she works from dawn to dusk. During other times of the year, she has no work at all.

She has been working with NIRMAN since 1988. At NIRMAN, Rafia has embroidered cloth storybooks and created other innovative children's products in collaboration with designers. Three of her nephews and nieces attend NIRMAN's school, Vidyashram -The Southpoint School.

About the art

Zardozi is a special form of embroidery from Banaras (or Varanasi) that uses spangles, beads, and the gold and silver thread called zari. The needle that manipulates the thread is long and sharply hooked at the end.

In the past, real gold, silver, and glass decorated the silk robes and saris of the wealthy. The zari thread was embroidered into floral and geometric patterns that were popular in the Mughal court. Today, plastic beads have replaced glass ones. Modern designs generated on computers supplement traditional designs. The work of zardozi embroiderers such as Rafia travels to showrooms all over the world.

Nandini Majumdar

Saraswati Nandini Majumdar is a writer and musician. She works for education and the arts, with children, youth, artists, and scholars at NIRMAN (www.nirman.info/), a non-profit NGO based in Varanasi. Apart from books for children, she has written a book of walks through Varanasi.



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First edition: August 2012 / 5000 copies
Paper: 100 gsm Maplitho and 220 gsm Paperboard (Cover)
Developed by NIRMAN, Varanasi, with financial assistance from Parag Initiative of Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

ISBN: 978-93-81300-46-6
Price: ₹ 30.00

Published by:
eklavya
E-10, Shankar Nagar BDA Colony,
Shivaji Nagar, Bhopal - 462 016
Phone: (0755) 255 0976, 267 1017
www.eklavya.in / books@eklavya.in

Printed at: R.K. Secuprint Pvt. Ltd., Bhopal (M.P.) Phone (0755) 257 4421

A STITCH,
A HEM
AND THE CLOUDS
GET TRAPPED.

A WAVE OF THE THREAD
AND THE WIND COMES BLOWING.

A PRICK OF THE NEEDLE
AND THE CLOUDS
BURST INTO RAIN.

LET'S GET DRENCHED...



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ISBN: 978-93-81300-46-6



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Developed with financial support from SRTT