

Dreams Built on the Clash of Cultures

# ANGLO-INDIANS ABROAD



Changing Perceptions. Creating a New Heritage.

**Andrea Malam BEM**

## **This book is a must-read if...**

- ❖ you want to take inspiration from philanthropist and community champion, Andrea Malam BEM;
- ❖ you want to explore the history of Anglo-Indians;
- ❖ you want to immerse yourself in what it means to be Anglo-Indian;
- ❖ you are interested in family history, memoirs and memory;
- ❖ you want to learn about the Anglo-Indian experience in different countries;
- ❖ you want to discover some famous faces that you had no idea were Anglo-Indian;
- ❖ you want to make a difference to your community and the world around you;
- ❖ you need positive thoughts about belief in yourself and your actions;
- ❖ you want to uncover the secrets of positive thinking, passion and determination.

# What people are saying about Andrea...

“In a world where there are so many books being published every day, it is wonderful to find a book about Anglo-Indians across the globe. A community of individuals, who have learnt how to face challenges, learnt how to fit in but also learnt how to stand out from the crowd. Each chapter takes you on a journey with the highs and the lows. The chapters help you to understand what it is to be an Anglo-Indian as well as immerse you in their culture and history. A truly inspiring read.”

**Sonal Dave**

**Award-Winning Celebrant, Toastmaster,**

**Public Speaking Expert and Published Author**

“Andrea and I met through a common contact in London and instantly clicked with our common beliefs and the zeal to help people. It was her dream to start a charity that serves children in need, and I latched on to it. I am now part of something she dreamed of and glad it happened this way.

All the very best for everything you have planned, Andrea, and keep giving it back to the society. We need more people like you!”

**Conrad Vince**

**Trustee at Saving Dreams and financial services professional**

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ABROAD**

Sample

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# Contents

Foreword	9
Part One	13
1. Introduction	15
2. The Anglo-Indian Story: A Short History Lesson...	21
3. My Story: Going Back to My Roots	27
Part Two: Stories	39
4. My Heritage by Andrea Malam BEM	41
5. Where Are You From? by Joseph Oliver	51
6. An Anglo-Indian's Life in Mumbai by Richard Lloyd Raymer	63
7. A Child's Eye View by Lyn Tyler	69
8. The London-based Anglo-Indian Brothers by Keith and Philip Alexander	75
9. An Anglo-Indian in the True North by Lesley-Anne Raymer	83
10. An Anglo-Indian from the USA by Blair Williams	93
11. Andrea Malam BEM – The Philanthropist	103
12. The Way Forward	115
13. Famed Anglo-Indians – Past and Present	121

Further Reading and Information	131
Acknowledgements	133
About the Author	135

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# Foreword

The modern studies of the Anglo-Indian diaspora have focused on the experiences of Anglo-Indians in India before their immigration to the Commonwealth countries. In the history of modern post-colonial South Asia, the turning point for the Anglo-Indian minority was when India and Pakistan gained Independence and when policies of Commonwealth countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, allowed for the immigration of non-white inhabitants. Eventually, these events led to the large-scale migration of Anglo-Indians from South Asia to Commonwealth countries, spreading the diaspora throughout the world.

*Anglo-Indians Abroad* by Andrea Malam BEM investigates the post-colonial lives of the Anglo-Indians. They immigrated throughout history and narrate their stories of identity, migration, belonging and diaspora while touching the human elements of memory, food culture, and ambition.

The story of an Anglo-Indian woman's journey from Bombay to London and her journey to discover her ancestry and identity captures something in the zeitgeist. Andrea



Malam dives deeper into the history of her mixed-race ancestors, the Alexanders and the Raymers, right from the pre-colonial to the modern post-colonial times. She is documenting the journey from military service during the Anglo-Afghan Wars of the 1900s to leading the Royal Armed Force of Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh II of Jaipur State. Andrea extends her story to her relatives, documenting their journey in foreign lands which, in their way, are unique yet complex. These stories show how modern Anglo-Indian lives intersect with their identity.

The vivid description of Bombay through the 1970s and 1980s paints an image of a bygone era with that of a globalised image of Mumbai. While using the word Mumbai, the author has merely indicated a geographical location; however, while using the term Bombay, an emotion of home is radiated through the detailed description. While several stories describe the longing for home, they carried their home in their hearts and souls. Andrea Malam also highlights the professional history of Anglo-Indians, their presence in Civil Services, the nursing profession, and professional sportsmanship.

Joseph Oliver unfolds how White British people view the British who identify as Anglo-Indian; the critical question of race and its place in modern Britain. Oliver ultimately recounts how Anglo-Indians come to a consensus on their identity in modern times. Lyn Tyler views childhood memories of Anglo-Indian parents and lives in colonial Bombay through their narratives. The story of Keith and Philip Alexander and their journey from Mumbai to London through professional sports and balancing their new lives in the United Kingdom is a testament to the immigrant struggle.

The story of Lesley-Anne Raymer highlights the Canadian experience of Anglo-Indians, and her commitment to educating and creating a place for her identity in the Canadian lands shows the strong association of Anglo-Indian identity. The chronicles of Anglo-Indian engineer and professor Blair Williams in the United States is nothing less than a story of American dreams and a commitment to give back to the community in India through the 'Blair and Ellen Williams Education Trust'. The story of Blair Williams is one of the rare accounts of Anglo-Indians in the United States. Not only does Williams recount the story in America, but also compares it to his experiences in India and England.

Andrea Malam and her commitment to society and philanthropy are beyond commendable. Her service to diversity and inclusion in UK Law Enforcement, and her charity work at Saving Dreams, earned her several accolades, including the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

This work is well narrated and researched, using stories of Anglo-Indians from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America and the stories of Anglo-Indians. They have relations with these Commonwealth countries. These stories are sensitive and evoke a sense of emotion toward the Anglo-Indian community residing outside. *Anglo-Indians Abroad* is a significant contribution to the range of diaspora stories – the vivid imagery of Mumbai when it was Bombay, the dilemmas and outcomes of Indian Independence, the nature of a hybrid identity, food culture, and at heart, a sense of home. References are made to the Europeanised lifestyle of Anglo-Indians in Mumbai and Jaipur.

Other critical aspects of Anglo-Indian identities, including Christianity, accent and language, are referenced in the wake of social bonds, ideological binding of the international community, and the professional lives encompassing the lives of younger Anglo-Indians. While the memories of the Anglo-Indians beyond the Indian shores fade, the need to preserve their stories is vital; the younger generation has to ask themselves who they are and where they belong in terms of their race and identity. *Anglo-Indians Abroad* is one such critical attempt to document this gap in stories.

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# PART ONE

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# 1.

## Introduction

**Where do I get my Inspiration from?**

*Do not go where the path may lead.  
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*

*Mother Teresa*

**M**other Teresa has always been an inspiration to me, because of her motivation to make a difference to the lives of others. She dedicated her life to helping those that were less fortunate. Mother Teresa was the Catholic nun who dedicated her life to caring for the destitute and dying in the slums of what was then called Calcutta – now known as Kolkata.

Her service to others continued after her death and people began invoking her intercession to assist them when they were ill. Mother Teresa's miraculous cures were investigated by the Roman Catholic church and in recognition of her first miracle, she was beatified in 2003. She was canonised on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016, as Saint Teresa of Calcutta. This

goes beyond leaving a legacy, and I'd like to achieve a similar story of making a difference in the lives of others when I look back on my life.

I believe sometimes the smallest of gestures make the biggest difference. It costs nothing to smile, yet this small act can have a big impact. This principle drives me to do whatever I can whenever I can for others because I want them to feel happy, appreciated, and loved.

There was a time in my life when I felt unhappy, unappreciated, and unloved. The greatest change occurred when I became a mother. It was no longer me who I had to focus on, but my children. Even though I loved them, like many women, I began to lose who 'Andrea' was and her dreams dissipated into the ether. This is the sacrifice many women make when they choose motherhood.

Without realising the personal exchange for the blessing of becoming a mother, for me and many women, the joy soon turns into a challenge. The fear of admitting that you may lose your identity, your sense of self and that perhaps motherhood is not everything women perceive it to be, floods mothers with guilt.

The mundane routine that being a parent brings can often leave you feeling underestimated, unloved, and taken for granted. Experiencing such pain is something I do not want others to feel if I can help it. Having been brought up in India, my lifestyle taught me to think of others as a member of a large family.