

# WOMEN WHO DARED



Edited by Ritu Menon



# Women Who Dared

*Edited by*  
RITU MENON



NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA

## Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	ix
1. SHEILA SANDHU : Crossroads after Crossroads after Crossroads	1
2. VINA MAZUMDAR : Pages from the Diary of a Rolling Stone	25
3. KUMUDINI LAKHIA : Bridges	45
4. ROMILA THAPAR : Histories, Past and Present	63
5. ELA R BHATT : Organising for Change	77
6. PADMA RAMACHANDRAN : Me and My Work	93
7. SAI PARANJPEY : Floodgates	103
8. INDIRA JAISING : Democratising Lawyering	119
9. ANJOLIE ELA MENON : Pentimento	133
10. SONAL MANSINGH : I Am My Best Critic	147
11. PREETY SENCLIPTA : Starting from Mile Zero	159
12. ARUNA ROY : A Life Shared	169
13. AMAL ALLANA : Shifting Identities	181
14. LATIKA KAITT : Sculpting a Life	193
15. KIRAN BEDI : Taking up the Challenge	205
16. RUTH MANORAMA : Causes for a Just Society	215
17. MAYA K RAO : Losing My Way Into Life	227
18. KALPANA LAJMI : Behind the Camera	243
19. BACHENDRI PAL : A Place on Top	249
20. SHUBHA MUDGAL : Making Music	263
21. K MALLESWARI : The Will to Win	273



*Women Who Dared* is a modest but sincere endeavour to record the contribution that a few representative women have engineered in the socio-cultural landscape of the country over the last fifty years. The readers will get a glimpse of the nation's own biography as it is reflected in the lives of women through their brief cameo autobiographies. The anthology features women who, in their diverse ways, have not only left a mark of their own but in some significant ways represent the struggles and aspirations of the entire womenfolk.

*Ritu Menon* has been in publishing for over 30 years, and in 1984 she co-founded Kali for Women, India's first feminist press, with Urvashi Butalia. She has written and published widely on publishing in the third world and on women; has co-edited several anthologies of short stories by women; and is co-author of *Borders & Boundaries: Women in India's Partition*.



Rs 75.00

ISBN 81-237-3856-0

NATIONAL BOOK TRUST, INDIA