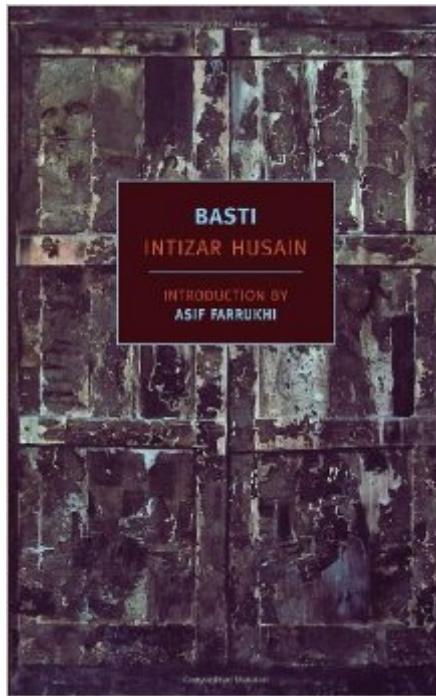


The book was found

# Basti (New York Review Books Classics)



## Synopsis

An NYRB Classics OriginalBasti is a beautifully written reckoning with the tragic history of Pakistan. Basti means settlement, a common place, and Intizar Husainâ™s extraordinary novel begins with a mythic, even mystic, vision of harmony between old and young, man and woman, Muslim and Hindu. Then Zakir, the hero, wakes to the modern world. Crowds gather. Slogans echo. Cities burn. Whether hunkered down with family or furtively meeting to exchange news with friends in cafÃ©s, Zakir is alone in a country lost to the politics of loneliness.

## Book Information

Series: New York Review Books Classics

Paperback: 258 pages

Publisher: NYRB Classics; Revised ed. edition (December 26, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1590175824

ISBN-13: 978-1590175828

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #420,235 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Indian #1534 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Political #26402 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

## Customer Reviews

Zakir grows up in Rupnagar at the fall of the British Raj, He delights in his world, mixed with the tales and legends of all India-Hindu, Islamic, Buddhist Sanskrit -and events like the coming of electricity, Then comes independence, the partition and the emigrations. On arrival in Pakistan his love and hopes of the new land are quickly unravelled by corruption, politics and the humiliating defeat in 1971 to India and the new Bangladesh, the new diaspora and scattered families and friends... A fascinating insight into the history of this region, but this is in no way a political novel; more a threading together of events-including a doomed love-that disillusion young hopes (A universal theme) Husain incorporates many Indian literary and religious adages that have grown from the melting pot of Indian history; these roots being lost in a new portioned Pakistan. Ghandi had it absolutely right that a modern India would be best served by a secular society that held all its

diverse religions and sects. The mistake was Iqbals and Jinnahs in wanting a separate Islamic state. Pakistan had to find itself-politically and culturally-away from a sub continent that had grown over hundreds of years. It still struggles to this day, with the added ignominy of India now being a power house in the world whilst Pakistan remains firmly rooted in the third world. Zakir's happiest times are in the India pre partition with all its cultures to wonder at. Lost in translation ? The novel does switch from first person to third and from past to present without much notice (together with all the names and titles of people !) but the thread of the story is strong and interesting that it keeps you on board and there is a superlative glossary that teaches you of a culture; its history and religions, which is one of the great gifts of literature. It tells you of a people and place as well as being a good story.

Intizar Hussain was a prominent Urdu writer, this book is an English translation of his much acclaimed book *Basti*. The story starts in pre-partitioned India and migrates with the characters to Pakistan. It is a story of migrants, and every kind of migrant will be able to relate to it. Zakir and his family move to Pakistan from India but a part of them is left in India and will stay there forever. Their life, actions, thought revolve around that town where they were originally from and they can't escape that.

Great stories by a powerful writer

Although written by a Pakistani author during and after the independence, the writing is very secular and sympathetic to the characters. The easiness in the flow of narration could be improved..

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Basti (New York Review Books Classics) The New York Times Monday Through Friday Easy to Tough Crossword Puzzles: 50 Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Crossword Puzzles) The New York Times Acrostic Puzzles Volume 9: 50 Challenging Acrostics from the Pages of The New York Times (New York Times Acrostic Crosswords) A Book of Mediterranean Food (New York Review Books Classics) The Anatomy of Melancholy (New York Review Books Classics) Cassandra at the Wedding (New York Review Books Classics) A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962 (New York Review Books Classics) Poems of the Late T'ang (New York Review Books Classics) The Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam (New York Review Books Classics) The Peach Blossom Fan (New York Review Books Classics) All About H. Hatterr (New York Review Books Classics) Transit (New York Review Books Classics) Girlfriends, Ghosts,

and Other Stories (New York Review Books Classics) His Only Son: with Dona Berta (New York Review Books Classics) Everything Flows (New York Review Books Classics) The Lore and Language of Schoolchildren (New York Review Books Classics) The Hall of Uselessness: Collected Essays (New York Review Books Classics) The Gate (New York Review Books Classics) Anti-Education: On the Future of Our Educational Institutions (New York Review Books Classics) The New York Times Tons of Puns Crosswords: 75 Punny Puzzles from the Pages of The New York Times

[Dmca](#)