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## KEY POINTS :

- The first volume of a startling autobiography.
- A captivating true story.
- • A striking prose.

Zarina KHAN

## The wisdom to love

(*La sagesse d'aimer*)

### An Autobiography

What if a child were born of the encounter between an Indian prince (and cofounder of Pakistan) and a Russian mother, the daughter of an officer in the Czar's navy and a pianist in exile?

What if the mother, a lieutenant in the French army during World War II, escaped stoning, became a diplomat and remarried a former Nazi who stole the child's innocence?

What if the girl child grew up in search of love, constantly roaming between Tunis, Karachi, Brussels, Madrid, Freiburg and Moscow?

And, though a Muslim at birth and a Russian Orthodox at age four, was raised by Dominican nuns?

What if she crossed the path with Adenauer, Franco, Orson Welles (an unlikely neighbor), dancer Lucero Tena and painters Manolo Villaseñor and Ilya Glazunov, who would paint her portrait?

What if, through exile, separation and barbarism, young Zarina always found the strength and wisdom to love?

Implausible, a film director might say.

Yet, this is **the true story** of the extraordinary childhood and adolescence of this unique citizen of the world.

A Philosopher, actress and director, ZARINA KHAN is served by both **her talent as a writer** and her **exceptional memory**, which acts as a sounding board for the feelings of joy, sorrow and pain she seeks to quell, connect to, transform or immortalize.

**A cathartic and captivating story written in striking prose, this work is a literary discovery.**

*Photos and documents.*



**Zarina KHAN**

A philosopher of Russian Pakistani origin, born in 1954 in Tunis, she is committed to the defence of the rights of men and children. Her expertise for the culture of peace is accredited by the Unesco. She created her own theatre company in 1984.

She started a movement called "*Drama and Freedom in Wartimes*", organising creative writing and drama workshops in Sarajevo (1993) and Beyrouth (1998) at war. The play entitled "*The Dictionary of Life*" is the outcome of these workshops. A year later she made a film called "*Ados Amor*". The actors were teenagers from the deprived suburb of Saint Denis, on the outskirts of Paris. The film was selected at the Cannes Festival in the junior category. In 1999 she made a documentary "*Essabar, the Shelter*" which highlights the meeting between young French drifters and Tuareg tribesmen in Mali. The film was awarded the Unesco prize and was acclaimed at the Lorquin Mental Health Festival.

Zarina Khan now lives in Mirabel in Ardèche, France, where she organises intercultural meetings and where she has created a new theatrical concept called "theatre on the move".

She is the author of numerous essays, plays and books such as "*The Right of Children*" (Nathan 1999) and "*The right of Men and Children*" (Nathan 2000, 2005).