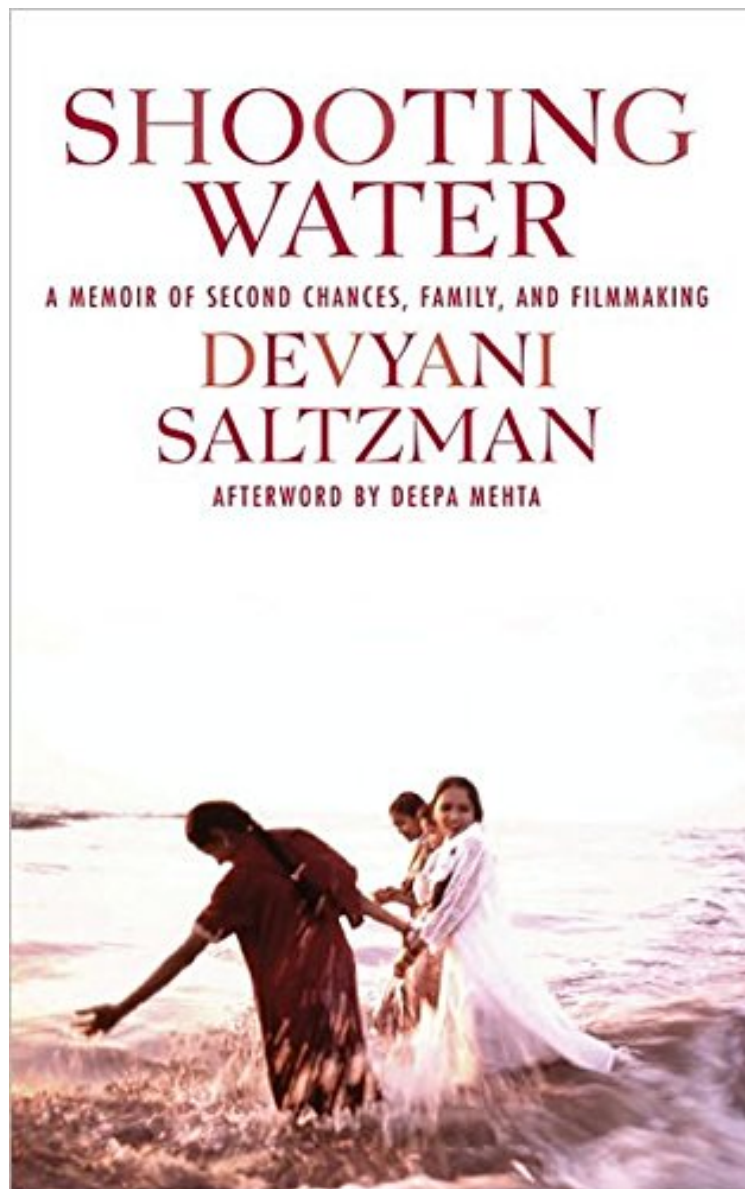


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## Shooting Water: A Memoir of Second Chances, Family, and Filmmaking

*Devyani Saltzman*

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**Devyani Saltzman : Shooting Water: A Memoir of Second Chances, Family, and Filmmaking** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shooting Water: A Memoir of Second Chances, Family, and Filmmaking:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A future bookerBy Chris MorrowIn a unique way, Devyani Saltzman writes her memoir in a refreshingly original 1st person narrative. An endearing read about the difficulties being a child of divorce, the heartache of making amends with the ones you love. This intriguing insight on what goes on during filming, not the traditional who is sleeping with who, but the political climate and the obstacles and adversities faced when tackling a difficult subjects is a must read for any aspiring filmmaker, child of divorce or parent.Christophwriter0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book to accompany the DVD "Water"By didi02453"Water" is a book about widows in India... including an eight year old child bride widowed soon after her marriage. The film topic was \*highly\* controversial in India - and this book chronicles the many challenges around making the film. Highly recommended - buy it right along with the DVD!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An interesting memoir from a young womanBy HopeI received this book, a signed copy, from the author at a book fair last year. With my daughter doing field work in India for her Master's in Public Health, I finally picked it up. It was beautifully written and and evoked many of the same interesting tales of an exotic country.Devyani Saltzman writes of a difficult childhood and how the divorce of her parents scarred her. She chose to live with her father. Despite a strained relationship with her mother, she is asked by her mother to help make the film, Water. Deepa Mehta, the filmmaker, is an interesting woman in her own right and her films are progressive and feminist and beautifully filmed.This insightful book unfolds as the film is pulled from shooting due to its feminist theme. Ms. Saltzman then explores India, goes to college and experiences a breakdown and finally gets to help make this film four years later, in Sri Lanka. The beautiful, ultimate reunion between mother and daughter help to make this book meaningful.If you love film, especially art house film, read this "behind the scenes" exploration. Amid the family turmoil, you will get an in depth education about making a movie.

This debut memoir, an intimate story of second chances, love and redemption, spans three continents and four countries, as a daughter rekindles her relationship with her filmmaker mother during the production of Water, Deepa Mehta's most controversial movie.Introducing a new literary voice, Shooting Water recounts Devyani Saltzman's remarkable story of reconnecting with her mother, international award-winning filmmaker Deepa Mehta. When Devyani was eleven, her parents divorced, and the courts required her to choose which parent to live with. She chose to live with her father in Toronto and then spent the next eight years navigating between two religions (Hinduism and Judaism), two cultures (Indian and Canadian), two traditions and two peoplebelonging to both and to neither at once. In late 1999, at the age of nineteen, Devyani was invited by her mother to join her in the holy city of Benares, India, to work on Water, the final installment in Mehta's acclaimed Elements trilogy (which started with Fire and Earth). After only a week of shooting, Waterbecame the target of a series of politically motivated attacks. The movie was shut down. Devyani went off to Oxford and, then, three years later rejoined her mother when production resumed in Sri Lanka. What began as a journey to heal deep wounds from the past turned into a five-year odyssey to complete the film.Transformative and inspiring, Shooting Water chronicles Saltzman's life-changing experience in India, the struggle to produce a film, and, through that struggle, the emergence of a deeper love between mother and daughter. 16 b/w photographs.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Saltzman's mother, Deepa Mehta, is a filmmaker who attempts to shoot the final installment of her trilogy, Water (after Fire and Earth), in India. In 1999, the author, then 19, accompanies her mother to work as a third assistant cameraperson. A series of politically motivated attacks shut down the film's production. Four years later, shooting restarts in Sri Lanka, with Saltzman onboard as a still photographer. With the film's production as a backdrop, Canadian Saltzman delves into her past. When she was 11, her father, a Jewish Ukrainian, and her mother, a [Hindu] Indian, divorced. Saltzman was forced to choose with whom she would live. Picking her father, she created a rift with her mother that would take more than a decade to repair: "most of our relationship had to be reconstructed through fragmented pieces of memory, like shards of glass, some reflecting light, others opening deep wounds." Saltzman longs for stability, which she discovers in the world of film. "Film was my second language, even before Hindi.... It was the common culture both my parents had raised me in, beyond being Jewish or Indian." Saltzman never loses any of the threads she delicately weaves together, creating a lush, evocative memoir that is emotional but never cloying. (Apr.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A languid and sensuous exploration of [a] beautiful, violent world. -- Kirkus sA lush, evocative memoir that is emotional but never cloying133;Saltzman never loses any of the threads she delicately weaves together. -- Publishers Weekly starred reviewA stunning memoir of separation and reconciliation and of the ways that art and life converge. -- Hilma Wolitzer, author of The Doctor's Daughter and HeartsOne of the most beautiful and haunting memoirs I've ever readprofound and entertaining, vivid to the point of being cinematic. -- Montreal Gazette, Geeta NadkarniSaltzman's haunting debut is a masterpiece of the memoir form, a stunningly evocative account. -- Library Journal starred reviewThis entrancing first book is breathtaking on many counts. -- Sara Suleri Goodyear, author of Meatless DaysAbout the AuthorDevyani Saltzman received a degree in Human Sciences at Oxford University. She grew up on film and television sets, and was the recipient of the Young Professionals International Internship grant to

work on a feature-length documentary in India. She works as a photojournalist and freelance writer, and is based in Toronto, Canada. Deepa Mehta is the acclaimed director of *Camilla*, *Fire*, *Earth*, *Bollywood Hollywood*, and *The Republic of Love*. Born in India, she currently resides with her husband, producer David Hamilton, in Canada.