



## **COOKING THE BOOKS : APRIL 2025**

**I'm done with writing!**

**Butter Chicken Pizza with Mango Lassi**



Dear

When Mission Mumbai was published (2016), Scholastic Canada asked me send me the recipe and pictures for [butter chicken pizza and mango lassi](#). I've made both, often, because they're so easy to put together. Here's the "original" version which looks the prettiest. The best part? Little hands can also help!

Honestly speaking, you can top a store-bought naan with pretty much anything in the fridge! Own your tastes and your leftovers.

If you try it, let me know how it turned out. In fact, send me a picture . I'll include it in my next newsletter. I'm always open to inspiration.

In response to my last newsletter re *eggs on everything*, a subscriber mentioned cracking eggs on pizza. What a super idea! I'm going to try it next time.



## Book News...



I recently did an author visit for Ghost Queen and it was so much fun! This is the testimonial I received from the organizer:

***"I have the best job: I teach teens. I'm serious! They are seeking community, they crave authentic connection and want to know about our world. I'm always looking for thoughtful and creative ways to enable this alongside the ideas I am teaching and that's the tough part.***

***Mahtab Narsimhan brought all this alive in a beautiful way when she came to visit our school for a 75min interactive session with 50 students from grades 7-10 at my school. With grace, humility and humour, she invited our students into the world of writing, stories and social media through the Ghost Queen, Mahtab's latest book. She worked with us to design the session so that it integrated seamlessly into our curricular objectives.***

***You know it went well when students were trying to read the book before the session even ended and they thank you for bringing someone, in their words, "famous" to the class! I highly recommend that you reach out to Mahtab for your school to help enliven literature, ideas and your students' creativity."***

~Asif-Aly Penwala, Community Educator/Secondary Teacher/Mentor

Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board, Canada

**[GHOST QUEEN IS NOW AVAILABLE!](#)**

**Hey, Ghosties, this is the Ghost Queen tuning in from the most haunted place in India!**

Teen vlogger Malika's ghost hunter channel is almost popular enough to start earning money to support her family. All she needs is one viral video—and she knows exactly where she's going to get it. Bhangarh Fort is the most haunted place in India, rumoured to be home to the cursed princess Ratnavati and her wicked captor. Malika convinces her boyfriend to sneak into the fort with her after dark and record the experience for her avid fans and followers. That's when things go terribly wrong. Can the "Ghost Queen" escape, or is she doomed to spend eternity trapped with a mad magician and the princess who rejected him?

Check out the [book trailer!](#)

## What's up with me...



Soooo...that thing I said about being done with writing. Not true.

Happy First of April!

Honestly though, I've never been busier. When there's madness in the world which you can't control, do whatever makes you feel good. For me, that's writing! I'll never give it up.

From time to time, I also dabble in watercolours. Here's my latest "masterpiece."

For those affected by Meta's Libgen database, take action! To do nothing means you agree. More details [here](#).

## Giveaway!



I'm giving away **TWO** signed copies of GHOST QUEEN!

All you need to do is share the signup link for my [newsletters](#) on [Instagram](#) or [Blue Sky](#), and **tag me**.

The first two subscribers to help me spread the word will receive a copy of my book in the mail. Of course, you'll have to DM me your address.

Trust me, this is a ghost story you *want* to read. With the lights on!

## Some final words...

Given these times of turmoil, here's my current fave quote. James Clear has come through yet again:

**"Take all the energy you spend on...**

- **worrying about the past**
- **worrying about the future**
- **worrying about what others think**
- **worrying about if you might fail**

**... and channel that energy into one useful action within your control."**

Please remember to [whitelist my email address](#).

I hope you enjoyed this newsletter, and if you did, please share it with others who might enjoy it. Or better yet, ask them to subscribe through my website.

I laugh every time I see [this clip](#). Every. Time.

Perhaps you need it too?

xo

Mahtab

### Stardust Stories

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