RASHTRA JYOTI

ANALYSIS BRIEF
900520 · December 2020

Media Watch · From the reporting archive

How A Suitable Boy Flattened Vikram Seth's Conflicts

Original analysis by **Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar**

The author argues that Mira Nair's adaptation simplifies the religious and political conflicts in Vikram Seth's A Suitable Boy and more often casts Hindu characters as the instigators. She compares the series with the novel's temple and mosque backstory, the maulvi's speech and the sequence of events in the clash between religious processions.



Kabir and Lata in a still from the series

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- Vikram Seth's novel gives the Shiva temple dispute a history. In fictional Brahmpur, the mosque beside the proposed temple stands on the ruins of an earlier Shiva temple.
- The series gives Home Minister Agarwal a Hindu nation line at a Holi gathering in Kapoor's house. In the novel, he neither visits nor makes that statement.
- The adaptation drops the maulvi's inflammatory speech and adds a scene in which a Muslim man recites a poem on humanity as a protest.
- The series makes a man from the Hindu procession start the riot by toppling the tazia, changing the sequence that begins the clash in the novel.

BACK RASHTRA JYOTI.

Support Rashtra Jyoti's public education and source-by-source comparisons of how screen adaptations change the meaning of Indian literature.

rashtrajyoti.com/support/

Full article and sources: rashtrajyoti.com/?p=917098

SCAN TO SUPPORT

Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma and Sanjeev Newar in December 2020. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.