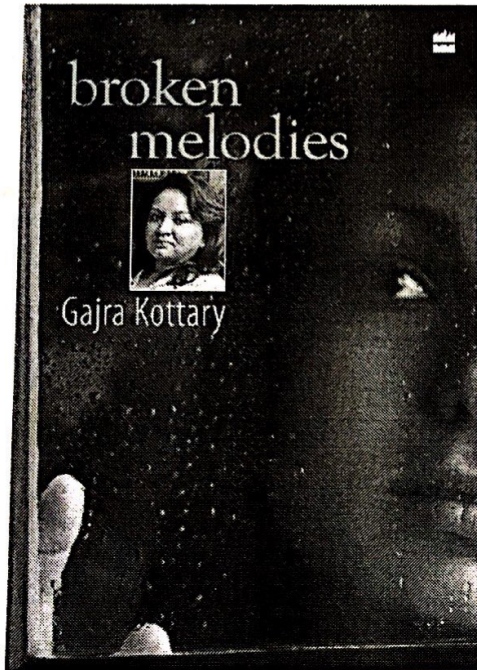


## Broken Melodies

<http://flashnewstoday.com/index.php/broken-melodies/>

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Probably one of the reasons why some artists and creative people end up legally unattached is that they are more or less married to their creative pursuit. They find it difficult to give up on their ideology for the sake of commercial success or to come out of their creative world and enter the real world of responsibilities, sacrifices and compromises.

A classical singer, Panditji married his student Sumiran. While all was well for some time, soon Nisha their daughter was born. Sumiran took the hard decision to give up her singing and get herself a regular job so that the house could run. 10 years later, Niyati was born and with that came more responsibilities. Sumiran became the provider in a larger sense while Pandit Shankarchand continues his singing.

All would have been fine if Shankarchand had focused on his singing rather than philandering with some of his students, going to the extent of continuing the activities at home also. Sumiran bears it stoically; Nisha becomes her mother's only support whereas Niyati is emotionally scarred, confused and still trying to face facts.

At this point one feels the frustrations of Sumiran and the helplessness of the children. Soon Nisha grows up and takes a job and her work takes her to Bangalore. Nisha comes back a changed girl. Her personality has changed; she takes up the household under her

wing and practically runs the home without contribution from her mother by and large. She also seems begins to appreciate her father's talents and understand his indiscretions.

- \* Why does this change happen in her?
- \* What about Niyati- the main protagonist. What step or steps does she take towards the close of the story?
- \* Will Sumiran ever get a closure?

Questions that get answered in the end.

While the interest is maintained throughout the book, I found the story very sad and depressing. It is not a light book at all. It is realistic and deals with human failings, disappointments, silver linings. It has shades of grey and bitterness and left me deeply disturbed in the end. Overall, it is a good story and well written no doubt.

**Title-** Broken Melodies

**Author-** Gajra Kottary

**Publisher-** Harper Collins

**Price-** Rs 299