

INTRODUCING CRUSHED AZALEAS

Behind embassy doors and elegant receptions, a diplomat's family life can look charmed. In *Crushed Azaleas: Shards from a Privileged Childhood*, Amal Moulik reveals the more complicated truth.

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised across Japan, the United Kingdom, Italy, and India, Moulik grew up amid constant motion—an outsider everywhere, yet belonging nowhere. Told through vivid vignettes, his memories capture the wonder of postwar cities, the rituals of diplomatic life, and the friendships that shaped a wandering childhood.

But beneath the cosmopolitan surface lies a more fragile world: a demanding father whose approval must be earned, a mother struggling with deep depression, and a boy searching for refuge in music, memory, and the cultures around him.

Evocative, intimate, and deeply reflective, *Crushed Azaleas* explores the quiet complexities of identity, family, and belonging—resonating with anyone who has ever lived between cultures or questioned where “home” truly lies.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

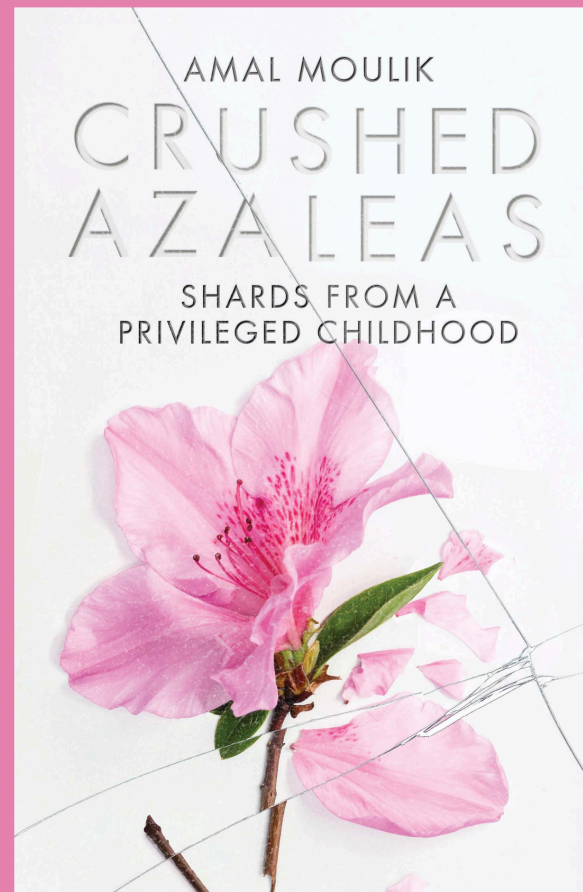
Amal Moulik is a lapsed chemist with a B.Sc. (Chemistry) from the University of London, M.S. (Chemistry) from the University of Michigan, and M.L.S. from Case Western Reserve University. He leveraged his chemical knowledge into an information science career in chemical and pharmaceutical companies, then retired after twenty-five years of service at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Born in Washington, D.C., to an Indian diplomatic family led to many years of traveling in countries far away from the heritage of his parents. He plans to continue writing about his wanderings in Europe and the U.S., and the arc of these memoirs bends toward recovering a long-lost home in the U.S., a birthright taken away by parental choices and State Department conventions over seventy-five years ago.

PRESS INQUIRIES

Contact Atmosphere Press at publicity@atmospherepress.com.

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PRESS atmospherepress.com



Publisher:
Atmosphere Press

Publication Date:
September 1, 2026

Genre: Memoir

ISBN: 979-8901743607

\$17.99 Paperback
\$31.99 Hardcover
\$8.99 ebook

266 pages

