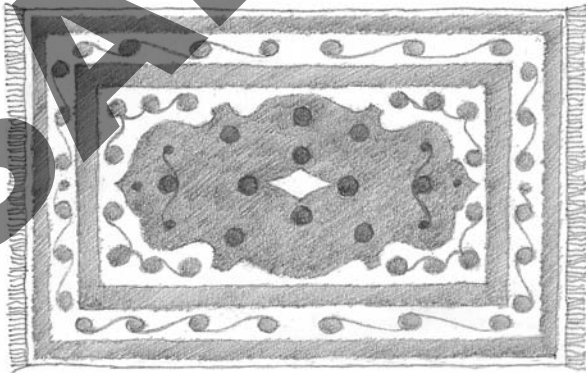


# Threads of Deceit

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Illustrated by Tim Clarey



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# *Contents*

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	4
<i>Chapter 1</i> Earth and Dreams	6
<i>Chapter 2</i> Uncle Vikram	12
<i>Chapter 3</i> Long Day's Journey	19
<i>Chapter 4</i> The Looms	28
<i>Chapter 5</i> Carpet Kids	40
<i>Chapter 6</i> Bapi	47
<i>Chapter 7</i> Fever	53
<i>Chapter 8</i> Run	59
<i>Chapter 9</i> Mr. Aghan	69
<i>Chapter 10</i> Hopes	79
<i>Story Background</i>	92
<i>Index</i>	96
<i>Glossary</i>	96

# Introduction

Imagine... A small child wakes up and thinks of the new day ahead of him: no annoying parent to tell him to get up, no school, no books to lug. Does it sound like fun? It isn't. The reality for this child is another hard day of exhausting work with no pay, horrific surroundings, very little food, no time off to talk or to play with friends, and finally, after a beating, a brief nap on the floor of a dirty room. Why? Because this young boy is a slave, sold to a factory owner who hides him from the child inspectors or bribes them to turn a blind eye to his desperate situation.

*How it can be done...*

*Adult rug weavers work  
in open, airy conditions*



Thankfully, some – the lucky ones – are found and rescued by dedicated people working to free children from slavery.



*How it should never be done...  
The faces of these rescued child laborers say it all. Notice how incredibly young these children are. Most of you had just started school at this age.*

CHAPTER

1

## *Earth and Dreams*

The brick-red earth was hot and hard under Sanjit's bare feet. When he looked up, he had to squint his eyes against the blinding sun.

Far away in the distance, something flashed. It might be sunlight on a car windshield. In towns and cities, there were