



I have so enjoyed writing this latest Rose Muddle adventure, set in the magical city of Jaipur, and exploring Rui's world – a character I absolutely adore! I was lucky enough to travel to Jaipur and see its beauty first hand, and I was so touched by the harmony that exists beneath the chaos and mayhem we experienced on the first day. But most of all I loved the people, for their kindness and warmth. I left a little bit of my heart in India – and cannot wait to return.

As always, I have drawn a little from aspects of real local history in this book. The city of Jaipur really is set out as a Solar Mandala. And the Jantar Mantar royal observatory is simply breathtaking with its odd looking buildings and atmosphere.

The stunning Albert Hall Museum in Jaipur also features in the story. I vividly remember its incredible temple-like façade and the flocks of pigeons outside, black against the sunlight, looking like a swarm of bats! Another

museum, the SRC Indology Museum, that we found down a back road inside a residential house, contains an extraordinary private family collection. A dusty treasure trove, jam packed with incredible relics, manuscripts and paintings – this definitely inspired the interior of Mr Gupta's secret room in the book.

And finally, the Monkey Temple, in the Galtaji temple complex, is the most spellbinding place I have ever visited. On the trek up the mountain to reach there, we couldn't understand why the path was strewn with single shoes – but this all became clear when we met the shoe stealing temple monkeys... The City Palace is also magnificent, as are all the monkeys that are everywhere in Jaipur, roaming the streets and getting up to all sorts of mischief. I am a massive monkey fan, so this was heaven!

I really hope you enjoy this Rose Muddle adventure, and that I have captured in words a little of the magic I felt when visiting the wondrous city of Jaipur.