ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe sincere gratitude to my guide Dr. Mina Surjit Singh, Reader, Department of English, Panjab University, Chandigarh, for her guidance, interest and constructive criticism through which the writing of this thesis was made possible.

As I sit down to pen my thanks, the visage of my late father flashes through my mind. Through his constant encouragement and assurance, he made me believe in myself and my capability to accomplish this project. My mother was her usual patient self and urged me to work ceaselessly.

My sincere regards to both my parents—in—law, who were a constant source of motivation. My husband, too, deserves credit for his understanding and encouragement throughout the period of my research.

Thanks are also due to the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, The American Centre, New Delhi and the Panjab University, Chandigarh for the regular loan of books and the use of libraries.

I would also like to appreciate the kind concern of the Panjab University Teaching and non—teaching departments during the tenure of my research.

TASEER K. CHHABRA
CHANDIGARH