Aamer Hussein was born in Karachi on the 8th of April, 1955. He lived there until 1968, then studied for a year and a half in the Blue Mountains in India, and moved to London in 1970. He graduated from SOAS (London University) with a degree in Urdu, Persian and History, and later briefly worked as a researcher for films and television before beginning to write full-time in the mid-eighties.

His early stories appeared in Critical Quarterly and Artrage, and anthologies including Colours of a New Day (Penguin), God (Serpent's Tail) and Border Lines (Serpent's Tail) before being collected in his first volume, Mirror to the Sun. He has since published written three more collections: This Other Salt, Turquoise and Insomnia. A volume of selected stories, Cactus Town, was published in Pakistan by OUP. He is also the editor Kahani: Short Stories by Pakistani Women. His stories have been widely anthologised.

His reviews, articles and essays have appeared in a number of publications, including Third World Quarterly, Literary Review, Wasafiri, The New Statesman, the TLS, the Annual of Urdu Studies and Moving Worlds. He now reviews fiction regularly for the Independent.

Since the early 90s, Aamer Hussein has divided his time between writing and teaching. He is currently a lecturer at the Institute of English Studies at the University of London and teaches Creative Writing in the English Department of Southampton University.

In 2004, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

He has recently completed a novella, Another Gulmohar Tree, which will be published by Telegram Books in May 2009.

He lives in Maida Vale, London.