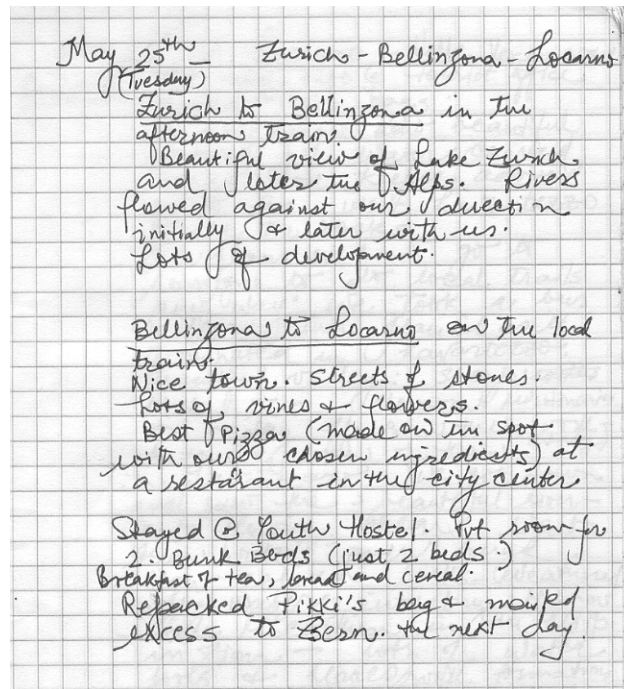


Chapter Seven

Interlude

In May 1999, Kalpana and Pikki met in Switzerland for a vacation. While they were staying at a lodge in the mountains, an Indian resident recognized Kalpana and took it upon himself to announce his discovery to everyone within earshot. She was mortified. The last thing she wanted was attention. This experience confirmed our concerns regarding privacy on any unofficial trip we might attempt to make to India.



Extract from Kalpana's diary kept during Switzerland trip

On 29 May, while waiting with Pikki outside the hotel for the bus to Locarno, she met two German hikers who had spent the night in a small hut in the mountains. She stated in her diary, "I was genuinely envious."

From Locarno they proceeded to Bellinzona and thence took a short bus ride to their planned destination. Kalpana and Pikki started hiking along a trail