

Desirable Daughters Bharati Mukherjee

"An absorbing tale of contrasts...Cherian tells the story with quiet strength." —San Francisco Chronicle Handsome anesthesiologist Neel is sure he can resist his family's pleas that he marry a "good" Indian girl. With a girlfriend and a career back in San Francisco, the last thing Neel needs is an arranged marriage. But that's precisely what he gets. His bride, Leila, a thirty-year-old teacher, comes with her own complications. They struggle to reconcile their own desires with others' expectations in this story of two people, two countries, and two ways of life that may be more compatible than they seem.

Through his character's pain and suffering, Idris Ali paints in vibrant detail, with wit and a keen sense of history's absurdities, the story of cultures and hearts divided, of lost lands - impossible dreams, and abandoned loves.

*On the night of December 3, 1984, Anjali waits for her army officer husband to pick her up at the train station in Bhopal, India. In an instant, her world changes forever. Her anger at his being late turns to horror when a catastrophic gas leak poisons the city air. Anjali miraculously survives. Her marriage does not. A smart, successful schoolteacher, Anjali is now remarried to Sandeep, a loving and stable professor. Their lives would be nearly perfect, if not for their young son's declining health. But when Anjali's first husband suddenly reappears in her life, she is thrown back to the troubling days of their marriage with a force that impacts everyone around her. Her first husband's return brings back all the uncertainty Anjali thought time and conviction had healed—about her decision to divorce, and about her place in a society that views her as scandalous for having walked away from her arranged marriage. As events unfold, feelings she had guarded like gold begin to leak away from her, spreading out into the world and challenging her once firm beliefs. Rich in insight into Indian culture and psychology, *A Breath of Fresh Air* resonates with meaning and the abiding power of love. In a landscape as intriguing as it is unfamiliar, Anjali's struggles to reconcile the roles of wife and ex-wife, working woman and mother, illuminate both the fascinating duality of the modern Indian woman and the difficult choices all women must make. From the Hardcover edition.*

In a world of rapidly changing values and traditions, an Indian woman enters into an arranged marriage to a man she barely knows and moves to distant Canada Thirty-year-old Nina is an English teacher living alone in Jangpura, India. With diminishing prospects, she agrees to an arranged union. Her groom is the Indian-born Ananda, who lives in Canada. He once dreamed of becoming a doctor but settled for dentistry. He is lonely, and also in want of a spouse. Their life together is not what either expected. Unable to find work teaching in Nova Scotia, Nina takes a job at the local library. Ananda is troubled by his own response to the sexual aspects of their relationship. Assimilating into a new culture pales in comparison to the trials of marriage—its ups and downs, its inevitable compromises . . . and the temptations of illicit passion.

Magic Seeds

Feminism and the Post-modern Indian Women Novelists in English

The Tree Bride

The Immigrant

A Study Guide for Bharati Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters

This innovative volume discusses the significance of home and global mobility in contemporary diasporic fiction written in English. Through analyses of central diasporic and migrant writers in the United Kingdom and the United States, the timely volume exposes the importance of home and its reconstruction in diasporic literature in the era of globalization and increasing transnational mobility. Through wide-ranging case studies dealing with a variety of black British and ethnic American writers, *Home, Identity, and Mobility in Contemporary Diasporic Fiction* shows how new identities and homes are constructed in the migrants' new homelands. The volume examines how diasporic novels inscribe hybridity and multiplicity in formerly uniform spaces and subvert traditional understandings of nation, citizenship, and history. Particular emphasis is on the ways in which diasporic fictions appropriate and transform traditional literary genres such as the Bildungsroman and the picaresque to explore the questions of migration and transformation. The authors discussed include Caryl Phillips, Jamal Mahjoub, Mike Phillips, Hari Kunzru, Kamila Shamsie, Benjamin Zephaniah, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Cynthia Kadohata, Ana Castillo, Diana Abu-Jaber, and Bharati Mukherjee. The volume is of particular interest to all scholars and students of post-colonial and ethnic literatures in English. Includes bibliographical references and index.

A stunning novel of the present moment that takes us into the hearts and minds of those who use terrorism as an ideal and a way of life, and those who aspire to the frightening power of wealth. Abandoning a life he felt was not his own, Willie Chandran (the hero of *Half a Life*) moves to Berlin where his sister's radical political awakening inspires him to join a liberation movement in India. There, in the jungles and dirt-poor small villages, through months of secrecy and night marches, Willie – a solitary, inward man – discovers both the idealism and brutality of guerilla warfare. When he finally escapes the movement, he is imprisoned for the murder of three policemen. Released unexpectedly on condition he return to England, he attempts to climb back into life in the West, but his experience of wealth, love and despair in London only bedevils him further. *Magic Seeds* is a moving tale of a man searching for his life and fearing he has wasted it, and a testing study of the conflicts between the rich and the poor, and

the struggles within each. Its spare, elegant prose sizzles with devastating psychological analysis, bleak humour and astonishing characters. Only V. S. Naipaul could have written a novel so attuned to the world and so much a challenge to it.

“An amazing literary feat and a masterpiece of storytelling. Once again, Bharati Mukherjee prove she is one of our foremost writers, with the literary muscles to weave both the future and the past into a tale that is singularly intelligent and provocative.”—Amy Tan This is the remarkable story of Hannah Easton, a unique woman born in the American colonies in 1670, “a person undreamed of in Puritan society.” Inquisitive, vital and awake to her own possibilities, Hannah travels to Mughal, India, with her husband, and English trader. There, she sets her own course, “translating” herself into the Salem Bibi, the white lover of a Hindu raja. It is also the story of Beigh Masters, born in New England in the mid-twentieth century, an “asset hunter” who stumbles on the scattered record of her distant relative's life while tracking a legendary diamond. As Beigh pieces together details of Hannah's journeys, she finds herself drawn into the most intimate and spellbinding fabric of that remote life, confirming her belief that with “sufficient passion and intelligence, we can decontrsuct the barriers of time and geography....”

A Novel of Nubia

Miss New India

And Other Stories

Studies in Women Writers in English

Wife

“ Impressive . . . [Cristina Garc í a ’ s] story is about three generations of Cuban women and their separate responses to the revolution. Her special feat is to tell it in a style as warm and gentle as the ‘ sustaining aromas of vanilla and almond, ’ as rhythmic as the music of Beny Mor é . ” —Time Cristina Garc í a ’ s acclaimed book is the haunting, bittersweet story of a family experiencing a country ’ s revolution and the revelations that follow. The lives of Celia del Pino and her husband, daughters, and grandchildren mirror the magical realism of Cuba itself, a landscape of beauty and poverty, idealism and corruption. Dreaming in Cuban is “ a work that possesses both the intimacy of a Chekov story and the hallucinatory magic of a novel by Gabriel Garc í a M á rquez ” (The New York Times). In celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the novel ’ s original publication, this edition features a new introduction by the author. Praise for Dreaming in Cuban “ Remarkable . . . an intricate weaving of dramatic events with the supernatural and the cosmic . . . evocative and lush. ” —San Francisco Chronicle

“ Captures the pain, the distance, the frustrations and the dreams of these family dramas with a vivid, poetic prose. ” —The Washington Post “ Brilliant . . . With tremendous skill, passion and humor, Garc í a just may have written the definitive story of Cuban exiles and some of those they left behind. ” —The Denver Post Papers presented at the National Conference on 'Dalit Literature : Contents, Trends and Concerns', held at Dehradun during 22-23 March 2009.

"A very fine writer, funny, intelligent, versatile and, on occasion, unexpectedly profound." --The Washington Post Book World "MUKHERJEE IS FEARLESS . . .

DARING AND WITTY . . . Take the wild ride with Debby DiMartino from Albany to San Francisco, from lost child to masked avenger." --The Boston Globe

"POWERFULLY WRITTEN . . . Debby has no memory of her birth parents. All she knows is that she was born in a remote Indian village, the daughter of a hippie back-packing mother and a mysterious Eurasian father, both of whom have disappeared almost without a trace. . . . Her quest for her biological parents turns into an obsession. . . . Leave It to Me . . . shows Mukherjee at the peak of her craft. . . . Mixing the Greek myth of Electra with the Indian myth of Devi, she sends Devi/Debby careening down on the Bay Area like an elemental force of vengeance." --San Francisco Chronicle "DEVI IS A BRILLIANT

CREATION--hilarious, horribly knowing and even more horribly oblivious--through whom Bharati Mukherjee, with characteristic and shameless ingenuity, is laying claim to speak for an America that isn't 'other' at all." --The New York Times Book Review "STUNNING . . . An astute, ironic, and merciless insight into an aberrant version of the American dream." --Publishers Weekly (starred review)

The first naturalized citizen to win the National Book Critics Circle Award, Bharati Mukherjee (b. 1940), born into a rigid hierarchy as a Bengali Brahmin and raised in the elite of Calcutta society, joined the American masses by choice. This journey from a privileged yet circumscribed life to one of free will and risk supplied the experiences she has turned into literature. From her first interview, originally published over three decades ago in her native tongue Bengali in the Calcutta journal Desh and appearing here for the first time in English, to an in-depth interview in 2007 granted specifically for this collection, this volume provides a candid look at the woman who has been called the grande dame of diasporic Indian literature.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Critical Perceptions

Women Empowerment in Patriarchy World

Desirable Daughters

A Study on Bharathi Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters and Manju Kapur's the Immigrant

Hastily married off to Amit Basu, an engineer about to emigrate to the United States, Dimple Dasgupta dreams of a glamorous existence in America. By the author of Jasmine. Reprint.

Jasmine, a young widow in India, moves to the United States to begin a new life

During The Last Few Centuries Women Writers Have Considerably Widened And Deepened The Areas Of Human Experience With Their Sharp, Feminine Perception Of Life Successfully Transmuted Into Verbal Artifact. The World Body Of Literature In English Would Have Been Much Poorer Today But For The Contribution Of Women Writers. The New Series Studies In Women Writers In English Is A Grateful Acknowledgment Of That Contribution And Public Recognition Of Their Voice. The Twenty-Three Essays Included In This Fourth Volume Of The Series Cover A Wide Spectrum Of Women Writers Across Space And Time. The Women Writers Discussed In This Volume Include Five From Britain: Mary Shelley, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, Doris Lessing, And Of Course Virginia Woolf, The Twentieth Century Stalwart Of British Novel, Who Has Left Her Indelible Mark On The Art Of Fiction As Well As On Women Writers And Feminist Thinkers Of The Subsequent Decades. We Also Get A Glimpse Of The Entire Corpus Of Writers Engaged With The Feminist Theatre Of America Today, In Addition To Two African-American Talents, I.E. Toni Morrison, The Nobel Laureate For Literature In 1993, And Alice Walker, The Eminent Black American Woman Writer, And A Host Of Contemporary Indian Writers, Particularly With Reference To Their Recent Work, Including Shashi Deshpande, Anita Desai, Shobhaa De, Manju Kapur, Nayantara Sahgal, As Well As Two Émigré Indian Writers Bharati Mukherjee And Jhumpa Lahiri. Since Most Of The Authors Discussed In These Articles Are Prescribed In The English Syllabus In The Universities Of India, Both The Teachers And The Students Will Find Them Extremely Useful, And The General Readers Who Are Interested In Literature In English And/Or Women Writers Will Also Find Them Intellectually Stimulating.

Bharati Mukherjee was the first major South Asian American writer and the first naturalized American citizen to win the National Book Critics Circle Award. Born in Kolkata, India, she immigrated to the United States in 1961 and went on to publish eight novels, two short story collections, two long works of nonfiction, and numerous essays, book reviews, and newspaper articles. She was professor emerita in the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley, until her death in 2017. In Understanding Bharati Mukherjee, Ruth Maxey discusses Mukherjee's influence on younger South Asian American women writers, such as Jhumpa Lahiri and Chitra Divakaruni. Mukherjee's powerful writing also enjoyed popular appeal, with some novels achieving best-seller status and international acclaim; her 1989 novel Jasmine was translated into multiple languages. One of the earliest writers to feature South Asian Americans in literary form, Mukherjee reflected upon the influence of non-European immigrants to the United States, following passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which abolished the quota system. Her vision of a globalized, interconnected world has been regarded as prophetic, and when Mukherjee died, diverse North American writers--Margaret Atwood, Joyce Carol Oates, Russell Banks, Michael Ondaatje, Ann Beattie, Amy Tan, and Richard Ford--came forward to praise her work and its importance. Understanding Bharati Mukherjee is the first book to examine this pioneering author's complete oeuvre and to identify its legacy. Maxey offers new insights into widely discussed texts and recuperates overlooked works, such as Mukherjee's first and last published short stories, her neglected nonfiction, and her many essays. Critically situating both well-known and under-discussed texts, this study analyzes the aesthetic and ideological complexity of Mukherjee's writing, considering her sophisticated, erudite, multilayered use of intertextuality, especially her debt to cinema. Maxey argues that understanding the range of formal and stylistic strategies in play is crucial to grasping Mukherjee's work.

Home, Identity, and Mobility in Contemporary Diasporic Fiction

Modern Indian Writing in English

Days and Nights in Calcutta

Voices of Indian Diaspora

A Novel

A National Book Critics Circle Award winner and New York Times Notable Book: "intelligent, versatile . . . profound" stories of migration in America (The Washington Post Book World). Illuminating a new world of people in migration that has transformed the essence of America, these collected stories are a dazzling display of the vision of this critically-acclaimed contemporary writer. An aristocratic Filipina negotiates a new life for herself with an Atlanta investment banker. A Vietnam vet returns to Florida, a place now more foreign than the Asia of his war experience. An Indian widow tries to explain her culture's traditions of grieving to her well-intentioned friends. And in the title story, an Iraqi Jew whose travels have ended in Queens suddenly finds himself an unwitting guerrilla in a South American jungle. Passionate, comic, violent, and tender, these stories draw us into a cultural

fusion in the midst of its birth pangs, expressing a “consummated romance with the American language” (The New York Times Book Review).

This study establishes connections between the themes and methodologies of writers within the South Asian diaspora in the New World, and serves both serious analysts as well as beginning readers of South Asian fiction. It is an impartial study that analyzes the stylistic excellence of South Asian fiction and the clearly emergent motifs of the writers, recognizing the value of the interplay of cultural differences and the need for resolution of those differences. The book begins with a discussion of the works of Indo-Caribbean novelists Samuel Selvon and V.S. Naipaul, author of *A House for Mr. Biswas* and *The Enigma of Arrival*, thereby establishing parallels between the immigration patterns of the South Asian diaspora who first emigrated to the Caribbean long before significant numbers of South Asians came to the United States. Next, the fiction of Ruth Praver Jhabvala (*Heat and Dust*), the non-fictional narratives of Ved Mehta (*Face to Face*), and the satire and social criticism of Bharati Mukherjee (*Wife*) and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (*Sister of My Heart*) are discussed. New literary voices such as those of Bapsi Sidhwa (*An American Brat*), Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri, whose characters, plots and themes deal with universal human experiences, Akhil Sharma, Manil Suri and Samrat Upadhyay are studied for the new directions and new methods they offer. A sub-genre of young adult fiction is discovered in the novels of Dhan Gopal Mukerji, such as in his *Gay-Neck: The Story of a Pigeon*, and more recently in the works of Mitali Perkins and Indi Rana. Recent expatriate novelists from South Asia such as Anita Desai, Amitav Chosh, Vikram Chandra and the American editions of Vikram Seth's novels are appraised together with contemporary Indo-Canadian novelists and Indo-Caribbean novelists resident in Canada.

Bharati Mukherjee was the first major South Asian American writer and the first naturalized American citizen to win the National Book Critics Circle Award. Born in Kolkata, India, she immigrated to the United States in 1961 and went on to publish eight novels, two short story collections, two long works of nonfiction, and numerous essays, book reviews, and newspaper articles. She was professor emerita in the Department of English at the University of California, Berkeley, until her death in 2017. In *Understanding Bharati Mukherjee*, Ruth Maxey discusses Mukherjee's influence on younger South Asian American women writers, such as Jhumpa Lahiri and Chitra Divakaruni. Mukherjee's powerful writing also enjoyed popular appeal, with some novels achieving best-seller status and international acclaim; her 1989 novel *Jasmine* was translated into multiple languages. One of the earliest writers to feature South Asian Americans in literary form, Mukherjee reflected upon the influence of non-European immigrants to the United States, following passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, which abolished the quota system. Her vision of a globalized, interconnected world has been regarded as prophetic, and when Mukherjee died, diverse North American writers—Margaret Atwood, Joyce Carol Oates, Russell Banks, Michael Ondaatje, Ann Beattie, Amy Tan, and Richard Ford—came forward to praise her work and its importance. *Understanding Bharati Mukherjee* is the first book to examine this pioneering author's complete oeuvre and to identify its legacy. Maxey offers new insights into widely discussed texts and recuperates overlooked works, such as Mukherjee's first and last published short stories, her neglected nonfiction, and her many essays. Critically situating both well-known and under-discussed texts, this study analyzes the aesthetic and ideological complexity of Mukherjee's writing, considering her sophisticated, erudite, multilayered use of intertextuality, especially her debt to cinema. Maxey argues that understanding the range of formal and stylistic strategies in play is crucial to grasping Mukherjee's work.

"Mukherjee writes with beautiful precision and just the right density of detail. There is an unlikely marriage of Jane Austen and Nathaniel West in her words." **THE VILLAGE VOICE** "Dimple Dasgupta had set her heart on marrying a neurosurgeon, but her father was looking for engineers in the matrimonial ads." So begins the wry story of an obedient daughter of middle-class Indian parents who is about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime. Driven first to shock and then to despair, Dimple lives in a waking dream. And when her fantasies take a violent turn, she wonders where wishes end and reality begins....

A Good Indian Wife: A Novel

A Critical Study of English-Language Works Since 1950

Leave It to Me

Darkness

New Perspectives on Indian English Writings

They are three Calcutta-born sisters—intelligent, artistic and extremely independent. Born into a wealthy Brahmin family presided over by their doting father and his traditionalist mother, the girls feel strangled by a society with little regard for young women. Rebelling against family and convention, the girls' heads and hearts take them in very different directions, where, of wills and circumstances, the inexorable bonds of their sisterhood will be tested as never before. At the heart of this remarkable new novel by the award-winning author of *The Middleman* and *Other Stories* and *Jasmine* are the interwoven threads of culture, identity and family loyalty. In the tradition of *The Joy Luck Club* in its honest and compelling portrayal of the immigrant experience, *Desirable Daughters* is an unputdownable read.

Tara Chatterjee, the heroine of *Desirable Daughters*, is back and ready to embark on the most universal of journeys: a search for her roots. The Calcutta-born but very much American, Tara must trace the story of her great-great-aunt, Tara Lata. Her search takes her deep into her family history—and into the history of her ancestral village—unearthing discoveries that are as shocking and ultimately cathartic. Bharati Mukherjee, long recognized for her elegant, evocative prose and her sophisticated characters— influenced by ancient customs yet anchored in contemporary times—has conjured another lively story that will leave readers longing for the world they have left.

A Study Guide for Bharati Mukherjee's "Desirable Daughters," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs. New Perspectives On Indian English Writings Is A Collection Of Thirty-Eight Research Papers On Various Fictionists, Dramatists And Poets Of Indian Origin. These Papers, Contributed By Leading Scholars And Teachers Of Repute, Study In Depth The Major Works Of The Pioneers As Well As Emerging Indian Authors, Writing In English. The Writers Included In This Volume Are Kamala Markandaya, Jhumpa Lahiri, Shashi Deshpande, Nayantara Sahgal, Girish Karnad, Manju Kapur, Bharati Mukherjee, R.K. Narayan, Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Gita Mehta, Kamala Das, Nissim Ezekiel, Ruth Praver Jhabvala And Many Others. The Wide Range Of The Authors, Covered In This Volume, Makes It Useful For Researchers, Teachers And Postgraduate Students, Studying In Various Universities Of India.

Dongola

Diasporic Female Identities in Bharati Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters and Idris Ali's Dongola

The Fiction of South Asians in North America and the Caribbean

Dreaming in Cuban

Conversations with Bharati Mukherjee

It Is The Last Year Of The Nineteenth Century In The Village Of Chevathar In Southern India. Solomon Dorai, The Headman, Is Desperately Trying To Hold Together The Fraying Ends Of Village Life At A Time Of Huge Social And Political Unease. When Violence Finally Erupts, It Takes Solomon And The Traditional Structure Of The Village With It. Three Generations Of Dorais Come And Go In The Village By The Sea, Winning And Losing The Battle For Chevathar. There Are Solomon S Sons: The Dazzling, Athletic Aaron And The Studious Daniel, Both Exiled By Their Father S Death But, In Different Ways, Both Determined To Make Their Mark On The World. And There Is Daniel S Son, Kannan, Faced With A Set Of Challenges That Could Break Him If He Isn T Strong Enough.

Birmingham, early 1990s. Triangle are a cult act on the post-punk scene, led by brilliant and troubled vocalist Karl - a man haunted by past violence and present danger, torn between fame and oblivion, men and women, music and silence. Triangle's bass player, David, is struggling to make sense of Karl's reality as the band start to make waves in the music scene and Karl starts to come apart in a blur of sex and drinking.

Desirable Daughters A Novel Hyperion

Amy Tan says of Bharati Mukherjee's previous novel The Holder of the World, 'An amazing literary feat and a masterpiece of storytelling'. Desirable Daughters maintains the strong literary muscle and the tenderness of narrative that we now expect from this prizewinning author.

Holder of the World

From Blue to Black

English Literature

Regionalism in Indian Perspective

Taken under the wing of an expat teacher for her ambition and talent, Anjali Bose hopes to escape unfavorable prospects and falls in with a crowd of young people in Bangalore, where she endeavors to confront her past and reinvent herself. By the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of India: In Word and Image. 25,000 first printing.

Does sadness have a place in this world? Read and decide for yourself. Thank you for reading.

Desirable Daughters is set in America and India equally. It is both the portrait of a traditional Brahmin Indian family and a contemporary story of an American woman who has in many ways broken with the tradition but still remains tied to her native country. An intricate mystery that unfolds throughout this compelling novel, it creates both intrigue and suspense but also initiates a quest for identity.

Abstract: This thesis attempts to explore the development of female identities in two contemporary diasporic novels Bharati Mukherjee's Desirable Daughters (2002) and Idris Ali's Dongola (1993) that tackle the notion of diaspora differently. Desirable Daughters portrays the modern type of diaspora, that of immigration, while Dongola portrays the Nubian diaspora as a typical classical diaspora. The main goal of the thesis is to examine the different implications of diaspora on the protagonists' identity formation as females in order to know where they fit in the diasporic spectrum. Tara and Halima share some major factors such as being members of ethnic minorities, and being brought up in oppressive patriarchal societies. Each has a different notable experience in terms of individual and social identity transformation due to physical or metaphorical displacement. The thesis will read their different diasporic experiences through intersectionality feminism which is a paradigm of interlocking systems of oppression based on race, class, and gender. The identities of both characters are analyzed against the three factors which are integral to the idea of diaspora. Each of these factors may be looked upon differently after the character's displacement resulting in the character's identity development. The three axes of the intersectionality theory pave the way for understanding the similarities and differences between Tara and Halima in relation to their diasporic situation. Tara discovers her true self

and accepts her dual identity after returning to India, while Halima's total loss of her homeland, Nubia, and her husband results in her violent revenge at the end.

The Middleman

Jasmine

The House of Blue Mangoes

The Tiger's Daughter

Tree Bride

Born in Calcutta and schooled in Poughkeepsie, Madison, Manhattan, beautiful, luminous Tara leaves her American husband behind as she journeys back to India. But the Calcutta she finds on her return -- seething with strikes, riots, and unrest -- is vastly different from the place she remembers. In this taut, ironic tale of colliding cultures, Tara seeks to reconcile the old world -- that of her father, the redoubtable Bengal Tiger -- and the brash new one that is being so violently ushered in. In this, her first novel, Mukherjee claimed as her subject the shock, uneasiness, and haphazard transformation that are part of the immigrant experience -- a theme she has masterfully woven into her subsequent novels, *Wife and Jasmine*, and into *The Middleman and Other Stories*, for which she won the National Book Critics Circle Award.

At the heart of this remarkable new novel by the award-winning author of *The Middleman and Other Stories* and *Jasmine* are issues of culture, identity, and familial loyalty. Comparable to *The Joy Luck Club* in its honest portrayal of the American immigrant experience, *Desirable Daughters* follows the diverging paths taken by three Calcutta-born sisters as they come of age in a changing world. Tara, Padma, and Parvati were born into a wealthy Brahmin family presided over by their doting father and his traditionalist mother. Intelligent and artistic, the girls are nevertheless constrained by a society with little regard for women. Their subsequent rebellion will lead them in different directions, to different continents, and through different circumstances that strain yet ultimately strengthen their relationship. Moving effortlessly between generations, Mukherjee weaves together fascinating stories of the sisters' ancestors, their childhood memories, and dramatic scenes from India's history.

Women empowerment is the concept of various women writers. Manju Kapur and Bharathi Mukherjee, the prolific writers, have used this theme in their novels. They portray the feelings of expatriate women and also predict them as an embodiment of powerful women. Their nostalgia, frustration, longing for home and the quest for identity, mold them to be the strongest women to face their fate with boldness. Their quest for identity makes them to realize their status and change their mind to find their own identity among the alien people and their land. Conflict that occurs in critical situation holds the immigrants' mind. Being left alone in the unknown world gives them a new direction for life. Their decision decides their future which will either be bright or gloomy depends on their firmness. Immigrants' experience may give a positive path to lead their life. A sudden change in a woman's life, who is under others' care, will give them new power when they become destitute. The women empowerment gives them education, employment, decision making power and also courage to lead a healthy life in the society in which they were nothing once. Bharathi Mukherjee's *Desirable Daughters* and Manju Kapur's *The Immigrant* reflect the women empowerment through the characters Tara Chatterjee and Nina respectively. They break the limitations of their society, family and all other clusters to come up and stand alone in their life. This paper highlights the women empowerment in the patriarchy society.

"The highlight of her career to date . . . Mukherjee bursts out as a star" (Publishers Weekly [starred review]) in her stirring novel of three women, two continents, and a perilous journey from the old world to the new -- now available in paperback. In the tradition of the *Joy Luck Club*, Bharati Mukherjee has written a remarkable novel that is both the portrait of a traditional Brahmin Indian family and a contemporary American story of a woman who has in many ways broken with tradition but still remains tied to her native country. Mukherjee follows the diverging paths taken by three extraordinary Calcutta-born sisters as they come of age in a changing world. Moving effortlessly between generations, she weaves together fascinating stories of the sisters' ancestors, childhood memories, and dramatic scenes from India's history.

Understanding Bharati Mukherjee