# Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: A Bibliographic Review of Resources for Teachers

# By Mary Louise Buley-Meissner

As a poet, short story writer, novelist and essayist, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (born Chitralekha Banerjee, 1957-) has gained a wide national and international audience since the publication of her early poetry collections, *The Reason for Nasturtiums* (1990) and *Black Candle* (1991). Most highly acclaimed has been her first short story collection, Arranged Marriage, which in 1995 received an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, the Bay Area Book Reviewers award for fiction, and the PEN Oakland/Josephine Miles prize for fiction. Prize-winning single stories include "Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter" (The Best American Short Stories, 1999) and "The Lives of Strangers" (The O. Henry Prize Stories, 2003 as well as The Pushcart Prize, 2003). Her poetry also has garnered many awards, such as those from the Santa Clara Arts Council (1990), the Allen Ginsberg poetry competition (1994), the Pushcart Prize series (1994) and the C.Y. Lee Creative Writing competition (1995). The Mistress of Spices, her first novel, became one of the top-selling books on the West Coast in 1997, not only listed among the "Best Books of the Year" by Los Angeles and Seattle reviewers, but also chosen as one of the "100 Best Books of the Twentieth Century" by the San Francisco *Chronicle.* In 2005, Indian film star Aishwarya Rai played the title role of Tilottama ("Tilo"), a California spice shop proprietress with magical healing powers, in the movie version of *The Mistress of Spices* directed by Paul Mayeda Berges (Balle Pictures). Divakaruni's more recent fiction also has been well-received, including her ambitious effort in The Palace of Illusions (2008) to retell an ancient Indian epic, the Mahabharata (a sacred text of over 100,000 verses), from the perspective of its central female character, the legendary Princess Panchaali, loyal wife to the five heroic Pandava brothers. Considered by many readers and reviewers to be among her most impressive accomplishments to date (e.g., Cullotta, Lofton and Seaman), The Palace of Illusions has been described as "a creative, illuminating feminist work that compels us to re-examine the original text . . . . a healing, aesthetic experience" (Sanzgiri). Divakaruni also is a prolific essayist who regularly contributes to publications as diverse as Amerasia Journal, Atlantic Monthly, Boldtype, The New Yorker and Salon.com.

For teachers offering courses in Asian American literature, modern American literature, or multicultural literature, Divakaruni is recommended for incorporation into high school or college curricula. The wealth of her work to date includes four poetry collections – Dark Like a River (1987), The Reason for Nasturtiums (1990), Black Candle: Poems about Women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (1991/2000), and Leaving Yuba City (1997); two short story collections – Arranged Marriage (1995) and The Unknown Errors of Our Lives (2001); and five novels – The Mistress of Spices (1997), Sister of My

Mary Louise Buley-Meissner is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she teaches a wide range of undergraduate courses in Asian American literature and life stories. With Vincent K. Her, she is co-editing an essay collection, *Choosing to Be Hmong and American: Re-Envisioning Identity, Community and Culture in Modern Society*, the first interdisciplinary collection to address contemporary Hmong American identity formation and cultural development.

ISSN: 2154-2171

Heart (1999), The Vine of Desire (2002), Queen of Dreams (2004) and The Palace of Illusions (2008). For young readers, Divakaruni has completed four novels set in India; these include Neela: Victory Song (2002) and the fantasy trilogy consisting of The Conch Bearer (2003), The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming (2005) and Shadowland (2009). Divakaruni's writing in multiple genres has appeared in over forty anthologies and more than fifty magazines and journals. With translations of her fiction now available in twenty languages – including Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese and Hebrew – Divakaruni's national and international audience is steadily increasing.

In academic as well as popular reviews of her work, Divakaruni has been praised for her literary creativity and personal sensitivity in dealing with cross-cultural complexities of self-identity, family relationships and community values. Most notable has been her continuing concern with these issues in connection with the experiences of Indian and Indian American women. As Divakaruni has explained: "My hope is always that what I write is artful enough that art and social criticism are balanced and the social criticism comes to us through the lives of the characters" (Lanham in "Author Interviews" section of bibliography following this essay).

In both poetry and fiction, the heart of her work has been her desire to "go beyond the silence" about Indian and Indian American women who are striving to achieve strong individual identities, often in opposition to the demands of their families and communities ("Chitra" *Time.com* in "Author Profiles" section of bibliography). The majority of readers have responded positively to this approach, although some have accused her of stereotyping characters in order to fulfill the expectations of a predominately white audience. Samrat Upadhyay, for example, asserts that Divakaruni in *Arranged Marriage* "feeds the exoticized fantasies of Westerners" and "fails to explore the women's complex psychologies in their journeys from a 'Third World' to a 'First World." In direct contrast, C.J.S. Wallia contends that the same book is "a welcome addition to the rich multicultural literature of the immigrant experience in the U.S," especially because it reflects the historical and psychological reality of South Asian American experience. Reinforcing this assessment, Dharini Rasiah observes that Divakaruni's story-telling power is grounded in social awareness: "(She) deftly reworks questions that assume a polarized East/West cultural conflict that all South Asian Americans/immigrants uniformly encounter to address a more complicated reality that recalls histories of colonialism, geographic distribution, and racism, and she often draws parallels to the experiences of other ethnic and racial groups" (Rasiah 141 in "Author Interviews" section of bibliography).

As of 2010, formal literary criticism addressing her work is rare, a situation likely to change as her books are given more attention in educational circles. Tracing her artistic development over the years, book reviews are a major indicator of Divakaruni's public reception, consistently emphasizing her skill as a cross-cultural communicator. Reviews listed here represent national and international responses to her work; these are ordered according to the chronology of her publications in the U.S. (starting with *The Reason for Nasturtiums* in 1990 and continuing through *The Palace of Illusions* in 2008). Also listed are other secondary sources useful to teachers who would like to become more familiar with Divakaruni's literary aims and achievements, including author profiles, author interviews and critical commentary by contemporary scholars on South Asian American literature. Students as well as teachers may find special value in Divakaruni's own essays about the challenges that she has faced as an Indian American author who identifies her audience as "everyone, every reader in America, in the world

... who is willing to sit down with my book(s) and consider what I am trying to say" ("Response" in "Selected Essays" section of bibliography).

Public and scholarly reception of her writing suggests that Divakaruni has been most admired for four qualities in her overall record of work to date: (1) an empathetically personal and boldly imaginative style of story-telling that draws readers into the lives of people across cultures, particularly the lives of Indian and Indian American women; (2) a poetic sensibility and love of language that makes reading itself a richly textured experience; (3) an unusual ability to break down many different kinds of boundaries (e.g., those between East/West, prose/poetry, magic/realism, past/present and native/immigrant) through the dramatic style and social content of her work; and (4) her continuing growth as a writer who wants to "bridge the divide" between high literature and mainstream fiction" (Softky 27 in "Reviews," The Mistress of Spices section of bibliography). Also significant has been her substantial role in making South Asian American women writers more visible to the general reading public, as emphasized by the editors of anthologies such as Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America (Sunaina and Srikanth) and Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asia Diaspora (Women of the South Asia Descent Collective). To a remarkable degree in her poetry, prose and fiction, Divakaruni has capably met her own challenge: "Writing must come out of what we know, what we feel . . . must be rooted in a people and a place . . . But ultimately it must transcend all that to reach across time and space and memory to touch those who have never – and who will never – live as we have lived" ("Response" in "Selected Essays" section of bibliography).

# **Primary Sources**

## Novels

The Mistress of Spices. New York: Doubleday, 1997. Print.

Sister of My Heart. New York: Doubleday, 1999. Print.

The Vine of Desire. New York: Doubleday, 2002. Print.

Queen of Dreams. New York: Doubleday, 2004. Print.

*The Palace of Illusions*. New York: Doubleday, 2008. Print.

#### **Novels for Young Readers**

Neela: Victory Song. "Girls of Many Lands" series. Middleton, WI: American Girl, 2002. Print.

The Conch Bearer: Book I of the Brotherhood of the Conch. New York: Macmillan/Roaring Brook, 2003. Print.

The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming: Book II of the Brotherhood of the Conch. New York: Macmillan/Roaring Brook, 2005. Print.

Shadowland: Book III of the Brotherhood of the Conch. New York: Macmillan/Roaring Brook, 2009. Print.

# **Poetry Collections**

Dark Like the River. Kolkata, India: Writers Workshop, 1987. Print.

The Reason for Nasturtiums. Berkeley, CA: Berkeley P, 1990. Print.

Leaving Yuba City: New and Selected Poems. New York: Doubleday, 1997. Print.

Black Candle: Poems About Women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Rev. ed. (Orig pub. 1991.) Corvallis, OR: Calyx, 2000. Print.

## **Short Story Collections**

Arranged Marriage. New York: Doubleday, 1995. Print.

The Unknown Errors of Our Lives. New York: Doubleday, 2001. Print.

## **Selected Poetry in Anthologies**

- "The Arranged Marriage." *Asian-American Literature: An Anthology.* Ed. Shirley Geok-lin Lim. Lincolnwood, IL: NTC Publishing, 2000. 78-80. Print.
- "The Babies: I and II." *Making More Waves: New Writing by Asian American Women*. Ed. Elaine H. Kim, et al. Boston: Beacon, 1997. 62-64. Print.
- "Childhood" and other poems. *The Open Boat: Poems from Asian America*. Ed. Garrett Hongo. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1993. 72-80. Print.
- "Leaving Yuba City" and other poems. *Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asia Diaspora*. Ed. Women of the South Asian Descent Collective. San Francisco, CA: Aunt Lute, 1993. 38-42, 50-51, 120-21. Print.
- "We the Indian Women of America." *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*. Ed. Maira Sunaina and Rajini Srikanth. New York: The Asian American Writers' Workshop, 1996. 268-69. Print.

#### **Selected Stories in Anthologies**

- "Clothes." Yellow Light: The Flowering of Asian American Arts. Ed. Amy Ling. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 1999. 139-48. Print.
- "Doors." *Home to Stay: Asian American Women's Fiction*. Ed. Sylvia Watanabe and Carol Bruchac. Greenfield Center, NY: Greenfield Review P, 1990. 146-53. Print.
- "Leaving Yuba City." *Homeground*. Ed. Kathryn Trueblood and Linda Stovall. Hillsboro, OR: Before Columbus Foundation and Blue Heron, 1996. 92-95. Print.
- "The Lives of Strangers." *The O. Henry Prize Stories*, 2002. Ed. Larry Dark. New York: Anchor, 2002. 241-58. Print.
- "Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter." *The Best American Short Stories* 1999. Ed. Amy Tan. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1999. 29-48. Print.

"The Word Love." Wing to Wing, Oar to Oar: Readings on Courting and Marrying. Ed. Amy A. Kass and Leon R. Kass. South Bend, IN: U of Notre Dame P, 2000. 206-14. Print.

#### **Selected Essays**

**Please note**: These essays provide background for understanding issues directly relevant to classroom discussion of Divakaruni's work, such as her authorial aims, bicultural identity, narrative style and thematic concerns.

"Dissolving Boundaries." Boldtype. 1997. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

"A Distinct Flavor." Amerasia Journal 20.3 (1994): 35-36. Print.

"Indian Born in the USA." Salon.com. 2 1 Aug. 1997. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

"The Journal and I." *The Writer's Journal: 40 Contemporary Writers and Their Journals*. Ed. Sheila Bender. New York: Dell, 1997. 50-54. Print.

"Lalita Mashi." *Under Western Eyes: Personal Essays from Asian America*. Ed. Garrett Hongo. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1995. 71-89. Print.

"My Fictional Children." Salon.com. 28 Jan. 1998. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

"My Work with MAITRI." Boldtype. 1997. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

"Perspective on India: Women Measure Independence: The 'Tigresses,' Hindu and Muslim Alike, Have Made Inroads Against Age Old Forms of Brutality and Oppression." Los Angeles Times (14 Aug. 1997), Home/Record: 9. Print.

"The Princess in the Palace of Snakes." *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Women Writers Explore Their Favorite Fairy Tales.* Ed. Kate Bernheimer. New York: Anchor/Doubleday, 1998. 96-99. Print.

"Response: For Whom I Write." *Yellow Light: The Flowering of Asian American Arts.* Ed. Amy Ling. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 1999. 136-38. Print.

"What Women Share." Boldtype. 1998. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

## **Secondary Sources**

**Please note**: Included here are author profiles, author interviews, critical commentary on Divakaruni's writing, critical commentary on South Asian American literature, and reviews of Divakuruni's books.

#### **Author Profiles**

Bredemus, James Thomas. "Voices from the Gaps: Women Writers of Color: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." U of Minnesota. 4 April 1999. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

"Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Gale Literary Databases. 14 Feb. 2000. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

- "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Time.com. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Readers' Group Companion." *Books@Random*. 1999. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Farmanfarmaian, Roxane. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: Writing From a Different Place." Publishers Weekly 248.20 (14 May 2001): 46-47. Print.
- Innes, Charlotte. "Woman of Two Worlds: Indian Traditions and Western Ways Are Entwined in Author's Modern Fairy Tales." Los Angeles Times Book Review (29 March 1999): 1. Print.

#### **Author Interviews**

- "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." *Bookreporter.com*. March 2002 (with Sonia Chopra) and April 1999 (with Judith Handschuh). Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Johnson, Sarah Anne. "An Interview with Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Writer's Chronicle 35.1 (2002): 46-53. Print.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Writers Are Great Eavesdroppers." Conversations with American Women Writers. Hanover, NH: UP of New England, 2004. 55-67. Print.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Writing Outside the Lines." Writer 117.3 (March 2004): 20-24. Print.
- Lanham, Fritz. "A New Gem in Literary Crown: Divakaruni Talks About New Novel (Sister of My Heart)." HoustonChronicle.com. 27 Jan. 1999. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Rasiah, Dharini. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Words Matter: Conversations with Asian American Writers. Ed. King Kok Cheung. Honolulu: U of Hawai'i P, 2000. 140-53. Print.

## Critical Commentary On Divakaruni's Writing

- Davis, Rocio G. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." *Asian American Short Story Writers: An A-Z Guide.* Ed. Guiyou Huang. Westport, CT: Greenwood P, 2003. 65-72. Print.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Everyone's Story: Narrative You in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's 'The Word Love." Asian American Literature in the International Context: Readings on Fiction, Poetry and Performance. Ed. Rocio G. Davis and Sami Ludwig. Munster, Germany: Lit, 2002. 203-14. Print.
- Jahan, Husne. "Colonial Woes in Post-Colonial Writing: Chitra Divakaruni's Immigrant Narratives." *South Asian Review* 24.2 (2003):149-69. Print.
- Leach, Laurie. "Conflict Over Privacy in Indo American Short Fiction." *Ethnicity and the American Short Story*. Ed. Julie Brown. New York: Garland, 1997. 197-211. Print.
- Somdatta Mandal. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Dictionary of Literary Biography. Vol. 323. South Asian Writers in English. Ed. Fakrul Alam. New York: Gale, 2006.

- 112-22. Print.
- Moka-Dias, Brunda. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." *Asian American Novelists: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook.* Ed. Emmanuel S. Nelson. Westport, CT: Greenwood P, 2000. 87-92. Print.
- Rajan, Gitan. "Chitra Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices*: Deploying Mystical Realism." *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism* 2.2 (2002): 215-36. Print.
- Srikanth, Rajini. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: Exploring Human Nature Under Fire." *Asian Pacific American Journal* 5.2 (1996): 94-101. Print.
- Streuber, Sonja H. "Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." Asian American Autobiographers: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook. Ed. Guiyou Huang. Westport, CT: Greenwood P, 2001. 67-75. Print.
- Vega-Gonzalez, Susan. "Negotiating Boundaries in Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices* and Naylor's *Mama Day.*" *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture: A WWWeb Journal* 5.2 (June 2003). Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Wong, Mitali and Zia Hasan. "The Immigrants' Search for Identity: Bharati Mukherjee and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni." *The Fiction of South Asians in North America and the Caribbean: A Study of English Language Works Since* 1950. Jefferson, NC: McFarland 2004. 49-72. Print.
- Wong, Sau-Ling C. "Middle-Class Asian American Women in a Global Frame: Refiguring the Statue of Liberty in Divakaruni and Minatoya." *MELUS*. 29:3/4 (Fall/Winter 2004): 183-210. Print.

#### Critical Commentary on South Asian American Literature

**Please note**: These essays provide background commentary on literary themes and historical, social and cultural contexts relevant to analysis of Divakaruni's work.

- Bahri, Deepika. "Coming to Terms with the 'Postcolonial." *Between the Lines: South Asians and Postcoloniality.* Ed. Deepika Bahri and Mary Vasudeva. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 1996. 137-66. Print.
- Desh/Videsh: South Asian Expatriate Writers and Artists. Ed. Ketu H. Katrak and R. Radhakrishnan. Spec. issue of Massachusetts Review 29 (1988 1989). Print.
- Gupta, Sangeeta R. "Introduction." *Emerging Voices: South Asian American Women Redefine Self, Family, and Community*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 1999. 11-36. Print.
- Hsiao, Ruth. "A World Apart: A Reading of South Asian American Literature." *A Part, Yet Apart: South Asians in Asian America*. Ed. Lavina Dhingra Shankar and Rajini Srikanth. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 1998. 217-34. Print.

- Hune, Shirley. "Asian American and Pacific Islander American Women as Historical Subjects: A Bibliographic Essay." *Asian/Pacific Islander American Women: A Historical Anthology*. Ed. Shirley Hune and Gail M. Nomura. New York: New York UP, 2003. 385-400. Print.
- Katrak, Ketu H. "South Asian American Literature." *An Interethnic Companion to Asian American Literature*. Ed. King-Kok Cheung. New York: Cambridge UP, 1997. 192-218. Print.
- Kibria, Nazli. "Not Asian, Black, or White? Reflections on South Asian American Racial Identity." *Asian American Studies: A Reader*. Ed. Jean Yu-wen Shen and Min Song. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2000. 247-54. Print.
- Lau, Lisa. "Making the Difference: The Differing Presentations and Representations of South Asia in the Contemporary Fiction of Home and Diasporic South Asian Women Writers." *Modern Asian Studies* 39.1 (2005): 237-56. Print.
- Lim, Shirley Geok-lin. "The Ambivalent American: Asian American Literature on the Cusp." *Reading the Literatures of Asian America*. Ed. Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Amy Ling. Philadephia, PA: Temple UP, 1992. 13-32. Print.
- Maira, Sunaina, and Rajini Srikanth. "Introduction." *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*. New York: The Asian American Writers' Workshop, 1996. xvii-xxi. Print.
- Newton, Pauline T. *Transcultural Women of Later Twentieth Century U.S. American Literature*. Surrey, UK: Ashgate, 2005. Print.
- Prashad, Vijay. "Of India." *The Karma of Brown Folk*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2000. 1-10. Print.
- Rudrappa, Sharmila. "The Politics of Cultural Authenticity." *Ethnic Routes to Becoming American: Indian Immigrants and the Cultures of Citizenship*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2004. 132-46. Print.
- Srikanth, Rajini. "Introduction." *The World Next Door: South Asian American Literature and the Idea of America*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 2004. 1-48. Print.
- Tapping, Craig. "South Asia Writes North America: Prose Fictions and Autobiographies from the Indian Diaspora." *Reading the Literatures of Asian America*. Ed. Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Amy Ling. Philadelphia, PA: Temple UP, 1992. 285-301. Print.
- The Women of South Asian Descent Collective. "Introduction." Our Feet Walk the Sky: Women of the South Asian Diaspora. San Francisco, CA: Aunt Lute, 1993. xv-xvii. Print.

#### Reviews of Divakaruni's Books

**Please note**: The reviews are ordered according to the chronology of Divakaruni's publications in the U.S., starting with *The Reason for Nasturtiums* (1990) and continuing through *The Palace of Illusions* (2008).

## The Reason for Nasturtiums (1990)

Beloit Poetry Journal [Beloit, WI] 42.4 (Sept. 1992): 45. Print.

Black Candle: Poems About Women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (1991) Mehta, Nina. *Bloomsbury Review* 12.6 (Sept. 1992): 19. Print.

## **Arranged Marriage** (1995)

Albert, Janice. "How Now, My Metal of India?" English Journal 86.5 (Sept. 1997): 99-100. Print.

Allen, Kimberly G. Library Journal 120.11 (15 June 1995): 97. Print.

Havens, Shirley E. Library Journal 120.20 (Dec. 1995): 192. Print.

Kim, Elaine H. *Amerasia Journal* 22.1(1996): 249-51. Print.

Ryder, Ginny. "Adult Books for Young Adults." *School Library Journal* 41.12 (Dec. 1995): 142. Print.

Sethi, Robbie Clipper. Studies in Short Fiction 33.2 (Spring 1996): 287-88. Print.

Upadhyay, Samrat. "Arranged Marriage: Between Third World & First." *The Kathmandu Post* (26 Oct. 1997): np. Print.

Wallia, C.J.S. *IndiaStar – A Literary Art Magazine*. 2000. Web. 11 Jan. 2010. <a href="http://www.indiastar.com/arrangmr.htm">http://www.indiastar.com/arrangmr.htm</a>.

#### Leaving Yuba City (1997)

Bryant, Eric. Library Journal 122.12 (1 July 1997): 102. Print.

Library Journal 122.16 (1 Oct. 1997): 86. Print.

Seshachari, Neila C. Weber: The Contemporary West 15.1 (Winter 1998). Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Van Buren, Ann. Library Journal 122.16 (Oct. 1997): 86. Print.

#### The Mistress of Spices (1997)

Adil, Alev. "Magic Amreekah." Times Literary Supplement 4903 (21 March 1997): 24. Print.

Benson, Mary Margaret. Library Journal 122.2 (1 Feb. 1997): 105. Print.

- Bob, Tammie. "3 Indian American Writers Examine Cultural Conflict and Identity." *Chicago Tribune: Tribune Books* 150.145 (25 May 1997): 1, 9. Print.
- Graeber, Laurel. New York Times Book Review 147.51083 (1 March 1998): 32. Print.
- Guy, David. "Could a Little Fenugreek Hurt?" New York Times Book Review 146.50761 (13 April 1997): 20. Print.
- Kirkus Reviews 64.24 (15 Dec. 1996): 1753. Print.
- Merlin, Lara. "World Literature in Review: Asia & the Pacific." World Literature Today 72.1 (Winter 1998): 207. Print.
- Mitra, Bansari. *IndiaStar A Literary Art Magazine*. 2000. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Softky, Elizabeth. "Cross Cultural Understanding Spiced with the Indian Diaspora." *Black Issues in Higher Education* 14.15 (18 Sept. 1997): 26-27. Print.
- Wald, Catherine. "Ancient Traditions in a New World." *Poets and Writers* 26.5 (Sept./Oct. 1998): 29, 54-55. Print.

## Sister of My Heart (1999)

- Bose, Sudip. "Family Values." Los Angeles Times Book Review (14 Feb. 1999): 5. Print.
- Curtis, Sarah. "Dreams Come True." *Times Literary Supplement* 5045 (10 Dec. 1999): 21. Print.
- Nazareth, Peter. "World Literature in Review: India." World Literature Today 73.4 (Autumn 1999): 819-20. Print.
- Tepper, Anderson. New York Times Book Review 148.51496 (18 April 1999): 21. Print.
- Williams, Wilda. Library Journal 124.1 (1 Jan. 1999): 147. Print.

#### The Unknown Errors of Our Lives (2001)

Aldama, Frederick Luis. World Literature Today 76.1 (Winter 2002): 112-13. Print.

- Bose, Sudip. New York Times Book Review 150.51801 (1 July 2001): 16. Print.
- Gour, Sarah Neelum. "Fading Folklores." *Times Literary Supplement* 5138 (21 Sept. 2001): 23. Print.
- Gurdep, Deepika. "Odd People, Caught with Odd Thoughts at Odd Moments." *The Sunday Tribune: Spectrum* (30 Dec. 2001): n.p. Print.
- Siciliano, Jana. Bookreporter.com. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.
- Stone, Laurie. "Giving Voice to Unspoken Passions." Los Angeles Times Book Review (6 May 2001): 1. Print.

#### The Vine of Desire (2002)

Aldama, Frederick Luis. World Literature Today 77.1 (April-June 2003): 78. Print.

Brown, Robert. Library Journal 126.20 (1 Dec. 2001): 170. Print.

Chopra, Sonia. *Bookreporter.com*. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Ciabattari, Jane. "Roots in India, Lives in America." Los Angeles Times Book Review (13 Jan. 2002): R4. Print.

Pitt, Helen. New York Times Book Review 151.52151 (16 June 2002): 24. Print.

#### Queen of Dreams (2004)

Donahue, Deirdre. "*Dreams* Channels the Mystical and the Real." *USA Today* (12 Oct. 2004): D4. Print.

Kirkus Reviews 72.14 (15 July 2004): 646-47. Print.

Library Journal 129.13 (15 Aug 2004): 66. Print.

Pietrzyk, Leslie. *The Washington Post: Book World* (12 Sept.2004): T10. Print.

Publishers Weekly 251.32 (9 Aug 2004): 229. Print.

Rifkind, Donna. "India Once Removed." *Los Angeles Times Book Review* (14 Nov. 2004): R4. Print.

Seaman, Donna. Booklist 100.21 (1 July 2004): 1798. Print.

Wells, Susan. Library Journal 129.13 (15 August 2004): 66. Print.

### The Palace of Illusions (2008)

Cullotta, Karen Ann. "Love and Marriage, Times Five." *BookPage.com*. Feb. 2008. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Humphrey, Joy. *Library Journal.com*. 15 January 2008. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Kirkus Reviews 75.24 (15 Dec. 2007): 1257. Print.

Larson-Harris, Mardon. *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 12.3 (Dec 2008): 332-34. Print.

Lindner, Elsbeth. "Palace of Illusions Recast in a Feminist Light." San Francisco Chronicle (12 Feb. 2008): E2. Print.

Lofton, Maria Hashima. *Bookreporter.com*. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Menon, Tara. Parabola 33.3 (Fall 2008): 108-10. Print.

Publishers Weekly 254.47 (26 Oct. 2007): 27. Print.

Sanzgiri, Jyotsna. "The Myths We Live By." *IndiaCurrents.com*. 15 March 2008. Web. 11 Jan. 2010.

Seaman, Donna. *Booklist* 104.9/10 (1 Jan. 2008): 46. Print.