Bharati Mukherjee is an award-winning Indian-born American writer. She is currently a professor in the department of English at the University of California, Berkeley.

Background

Of Bengali origin, Mukherjee was born in Calcutta (now called Kolkata), West Bengal, India. She later travelled with her parents to Europe after Independence, only returning to Calcutta in the early 1950s. There she attended the Loreto School. She received her B.A. from the University of Calcutta in 1959 as a student of Loreto College, and subsequently earned her M.A. from the University of Baroda in 1961. She next travelled to the United States to study at the University of Iowa. She received her M.F.A. from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop in 1963 and her Ph.D. in 1969 from the department of Comparative Literature.


Career

In addition to writing numerous works of fiction and non-fiction, Mukherjee taught at McGill University, Skidmore College, Queens College, and City University of New York before joining Berkeley.

- The Tiger's Daughter (1971)
- Wife (1975)
- Jasmine (1989)
- The Holder of the World (1993)
- Leave It to Me (1997)
- Desirable Daughters (2002)
- The Tree Bride (2004)

Short story collections

- Darkness (1985)
• *The Middleman and Other Stories* (1988)
• *A Father*

**Non-fiction**

• *The Sorrow and the Terror: The Haunting Legacy of the Air India Tragedy* (1987, with Clark Blaise)
• *Political Culture and Leadership in India* (1991)
• *Regionalism in Indian Perspective* (1992)

**Further reading**


**External links**

• *India: In Word and Image*
• Bharati Mukherjee entry in *The Canadian Encyclopedia*

**Biographies**

• *Voices from the Gaps*
• *Emory*
• *BBC World Service*
• *Edwardsly*
• *AMSAW*
• Biography by Jaideep

**Interviews**

• *PBS Interview with Bill Moyers*
• *Jouvert Interview 1997*
• *Powells Interview (April 2002)*
• *A conversation with Bharati Mukherjee* (February 2003)

**Misc.**

• *BBC World Service*
• *A Declaration of Independence*
• *Further links*

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Bharati Mukherjee is a versatile writer whose oeuvre includes five novels, two collections of short stories, some powerful essays, and two nonfiction books which she co-authored with her husband Clark Blaise. Her early work led to her being seen as a writer firmly enclosed in the bosom of Indian writing in English. But this was an embrace that Mukherjee herself sought to avoid. With the publication of Darkness, her third book of fiction, she convincingly declared her desire to be seen as a North American writer.