"Tender, bittersweet, beautifully wrought tales about love and longing, exile and loneliness. I was reminded of the songs of separation sung by Bhojpuri women: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni discovers new nuances in the ‘biraha’ that creeps into the lives of migrants." -- Amitav Ghosh, author of The Glass Palace and Sea of Poppies.

and

"I will never forget Sabitri, Bela, and Tara: grandmother, mother, and daughter after my own heart. Chitra Divakaruni cycles through generations of time, until we come to know our ancestresses - and the goddess. A lovely book." -- Maxine Hong Kingston, author of The Woman Warrior and China Men

Indian American writer Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award-winning author, poet, activist and teacher. Divakaruni teaches in the nationally ranked Creative Writing program at the University of Houston, where she is the Betty and Gene McDavid Professor of Creative Writing. Divakaruni is the author of over a dozen books, the most recent of which is Oleander Girl (2013) which was awarded the 2015 Premio Scanno in Literature. The story follows an Indian woman who is engaged to be married when she discovers a family secret. At a crucial turning point, she makes the decision to immigrate to America and start a new life. Divakaruni’s forthcoming novel-in-stories, Before We Visit the Goddess (April 2016), are beautifully wrought tales of love, longing and loneliness.

Divakaruni’s other novels include One Amazing Thing (2010), Shadowland (2009), Palace of Illusions (2008), and Queen of Dreams (2004). Her books have been translated into 29 languages, including Dutch, Hebrew, Bengali, Russian and Japanese, and many of them have been used for campus-wide and city-wide reads. Several of her works have been made into films and plays. Her work has been published in over 50 magazines, including the Atlantic Monthly and The New Yorker, and her writing has been included in over 50 anthologies, including The Best American Short Stories, the O. Henry Prize Stories and the Pushcart Prize Anthology.
Two of her books, *The Mistress of Spices* and *Sister of My Heart*, have been made into movies by filmmakers Gurinder Chadha and Paul Berges (an English film) and Suhasini Mani Ratnam (a Tamil TV serial) respectively. A short story, "The Word Love," from her collection *Arranged Marriage*, was made into a bilingual short film in Bengali and English, titled *Ammar Ma*. All the films have won awards.

Two of her works have been made into plays. *One Amazing Thing* has been optioned by Hollywood. Divakaruni recently completed a libretto titled *River of Light* for a chamber opera to be performed in 2014 by the Houston Grand Opera's Song of Houston Series.

Her themes include the Indian experience, contemporary America, women, immigration, history, myth, and the joys and challenges of living in a multicultural world.

She has won an American Book Award and a Light of India award. She serves on the Advisory board of Maitri in the San Francisco Bay Area and Daya in Houston. Both are organizations that help South Asian or South Asian American women who find themselves in abusive or domestic violence situations. She served on the board of Pratham, an organization that helps educate underprivileged children in India, for many years and is currently on their emeritus board.
In 2015, she was chosen by the Economic Times for their list of *Twenty Most Influential Global Indian Women*. Her new novel, *Before We Visit the Goddess*, will be out in April 2016 from Simon and Schuster.