



The Vine of Desire: A Novel

By Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

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The beloved characters of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's bestselling novel **Sister of My Heart** are reunited in this powerful narrative that challenges the emotional bond between two lifelong friends, as the husband of one becomes dangerously attracted to the other.

Anju and Sudha formed an astounding, almost psychic connection during their childhood in India. When Anju invites Sudha, a single mother in Calcutta, to come live with her and her husband, Sunil, in California, Sudha foolishly accepts, knowing full well that Sunil has long desired her. As Sunil's attraction rises to the surface, the trio must struggle to make sense of the freedoms of America—and of the ties that bind them to India and to one another.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The Vine of Desire is peopled by Indian immigrants and--just as palpably--by their hopes and dreams. As one character says, "All immigrants are dreamers, but they're practical about it. They know what's OK to dream about, and what isn't." Though it's a sequel to Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *Sister of My Heart*, the novel stands alone as an exploration of the contemporary immigrant experience. Anju and Sudha, cousins and best friends since their Calcutta girlhood, find themselves in the Bay Area, Anju with a husband and Sudha with a baby daughter. Each covets what the other has until finally their relationship collapses. Anju finds solace among her fellow Berkeley students, while the beautiful Sudha learns, for the first time, what it's like to pay her own way. Digressive and overwritten, *The Vine of Desire* can try your patience, but it's so well plotted and compassionately told that you can't help but care about these immigrant dreams. --*Claire Dederer*

From Publishers Weekly

This exquisitely rendered tale of passion, jealousy and redemption continues the extraordinary relationship between Anjou and Sudha, the two exceptional women at the heart of Divakaruni's praised *Sister of My Heart*. The two cousins have traveled a lifetime away from their home city of Calcutta to California, a place so foreign to their native culture and traditions that they must constantly reevaluate their bearings and values. Anjou, miserable after a miscarriage and its unhappy effect on her marriage, and Sudha, fleeing both a husband whose family urged her to abort her daughter, and a first love who wants to take care of her and her child, hope to find solace in their sisterlike relationship. Divakaruni expertly juxtaposes the challenges, freedoms and crassness of modern-day America with the issues, both personal and cultural, each woman faces. Anjou uses Sudha to help her cope with a growing restlessness as well as with dissatisfaction with her husband, Sunil. Sudha is both comforted and suffocated by her life as an escapee from her past, becoming a servant in her cousin's household. At the same time, each woman must eventually acknowledge Anjou's husband's unspoken but obvious attraction to Sudha. Divakaruni combines a gift for absorbing narrative with the artistry of a painter. Her lyrical descriptions of the characters' inner and outer worlds bring a rich emotional chiaroscuro to an uplifting story about two women who learn to make peace with the difficult choices circumstances have forced upon them. Agent, Sandra Dijkstra. National author tour. (Feb. 1) Forecast: Already a reading group favorite, and consistently hailed by critics, Divakaruni can expect excitement for this book to build quickly.

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From Library Journal

This third novel from the well-received Divakaruni is a successor to her second, *Sister of My Heart*. That was a coming-of-age novel following best friends Anju and Sudha from childhood in Calcutta to arranged marriages. This one is a being-of-age novel that picks up the two a year later in America, as Sudha leaves India (and her husband) with a baby daughter to join Anju, who has just suffered a traumatic miscarriage. The two reunite and puzzle their way through U.S. ways, but the bond is threatened by Anju's husband's manifest and growing attraction to Sudha. The plot twists, the characters are engaging, and Divakaruni's vaunted style is evident (although there's some overwriting here, too). Evocative and emotionally charged, this could be a good alternative for your Anita Shreve readers. Robert E. Brown, Onondaga Cty. P.L., Syracuse, NY

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christopher Cunningham:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled The Vine of Desire: A Novel can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

Melvin Hayes:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and and must have the extra time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , if we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not only a robot. Then we inquire again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer can unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading guides. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually The Vine of Desire: A Novel.

Augustus Chase:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 as well as 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your small amount of time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be study. The Vine of Desire: A Novel can be your answer mainly because it can be read by a person who have those short spare time problems.

Marshall Jackson:

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