

## APPENDICES

### Synopsis of The Mistress of Spices

The main character of the book, Tilotamma, owns a spice shop in an Indian community in Oakland, California. She is a Mistress of Spices. She has old seeming-body that she takes on in Shampati's fire when she vows to become a Mistress. It is not allowed for Mistresses to touch those who come to them. Mistresses provide spices not only for cooking but also for the homesickness and alienation that the Indian immigrants in her shop experience. The Old One, the First Mother – the person who trains the Mistresses on the island says that they themselves are unimportant; the important things are just the spices and the shop.

As time goes on, she becomes involved in the lives of the customers and helps them overcome abusive husbands, racism, generational conflicts and drug abuse. When Tilo gets involved in her customers' problems too deeply, her power weakens. In the process, she faces dilemmas of her own when she falls in love with a non-Indian. His name is Raven, a handsome American. This is a great conflict, as she has to choose whether to serve her people or to follow the path leading to her own happiness.

Tilo finds it hard to control her feeling. She more often leaves her shop to go with Raven than solves her customers' problem in the shop. She also uses the spices

and spells for herself to change her appearance though it is forbidden for a Mistress to use spices and magic for herself.

Her love relationship develops very fast. Then, she realizes that she has left the spices indirectly. She chooses to follow her own happiness. Spices, the First Mother and serpents do not whisper to her anymore. Tilottama, which means one who is composed of the finest/highest qualities, changes her name into Maya, who runs the earthly paradise with her love.

### **Synopsis of Practical Magic**

For more than two hundreds years, the Owens women have been blamed for everything that has gone wrong in town; if a damp spring arrives, if cows in the pasture give milk that is runny with blood, if a colt dies of colic or a baby is born with a red birthmark stamped onto his cheek. As soon as there is a hint of trouble or slightest misfortune, people begin pointing their fingers at and placing blame on them.

Sally and Gillian Owens are also blamed by their society. They are raised by their witch widowed aunts who work on herb to heal women's broken heart. Their mother dies of a curse which has been made by the Owens's ancestor that Owens women cannot truly fall in love. In spite of their closeness, Sally and Gillian are entirely different in appearance and temperament. Gillian is fair and blonde while Sally's hair is black as pelts of the aunt's ill-mannered cats. Gillian is lazy, saves up her allowance money to pay Sally to do her maths homework and to iron her party dresses. For them, the life is filled with mortification: No child would use a pencil or a crayon directly after it had been touched by an Owens girl. No one will sit next to

them in the cafeteria or during assemblies, and some girls actually shriek when they wander into the girl's room, to pee or gossip or brush their hair. Sally and Gillian are never chosen for teams during sports, even though Gillian is the fastest runner in town.

When Sally and Gillian grow up, Sally decides to marry Michael, a thoughtful and good natured man while Gillian marries and divorces three times in a row. Sally has two daughters then, Antonia and Kylie Owens. When life seems so perfect, Michael dies in an accident. Sally goes back home with her daughters, planning to raise them up in a normal way. Moreover, Gillian ends up with a bad cruel and mean man, named Jimmy. Gillian also goes back home to get some help. It seems that magic has brought them back together.

In order to save her beloved sister, Sally helps Gillian with solving the Jimmy's dead body buried in the garden where lilacs grow. On the Kylie's thirteenth birthday, she looks the man in the garden where the lilacs grow. Jimmy's soul is restless and soon begins to haunt the sisters. They really end up in a mess because Gary Hallet, an officer from Arizona, comes to find Jimmy. They get no help because their aunts find it necessary to leave for a while. Gary finally helps to free Gillian from Jimmy's haunting, such as; growing roses over his grave, leaving a residue of frogs and then Jimmy's soul possesses Gillian. After a help from twelve witches, Jimmy's soul turns to dust.

In fact, Gary is the man that Sally has cast a spell for, when she was a little girl; a man with one blue eye and one green eye. As Sally realizes there is no longer a curse, she finally accepts herself as a witch and her future with Gary, her little girls, her sister and aunts and lots of new friends.

## **Biography of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award-winning author and poet. She is an Indian American. She was born in 1957 in Calcutta, India. Divakaruni was raised as and still is a devout Hindu. She attended a convent school in India run by Irish nuns. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Calcutta. She came to the United States in 1976. She attended Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, from which she received a Master's degree in English field. And then she attended University of California at Berkeley, from which she received a PhD. She briefly lived in Chicago and Ohio before she settled in Sunnydale, California in 1979. She currently lives in Sunnydale with her husband, Murthy and her two sons Anand and Abhay, whose names she has used in her children's novels, and Juno, the family dog. She teaches creative writing at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, CA. Divakaruni has also been active in her community.

In 1991, she established MAITRI, a hotline for South Asian women who are victims of domestic abuse or abusive situations. Before she began her career in fiction-writing, Divakaruni was an acclaimed poet. Much of Divakaruni's work is partially autobiographical. Not only are most of her stories set in the Bay Area of California, but she also deals with the immigrant experience, which is an important theme in today's world, where the immigrants' voice is rarely heard. Divakaruni did not write fiction until she finished her doctoral studies. She writes to unite people and she does this by destroying myth and stereotypes. As she breaks down these barriers,

she dissolves boundaries between people of different backgrounds, communities, ages and even different worlds.

Many of Divakaruni's writings center on the lives of immigrant women. Divakaruni's interest in women began after she left India, at which point she reevaluated the treatment of women there. The Mistress of Spices is currently being made into a movie, was short listed for the Orange Prize in England and chosen by the Los Angeles Times as one of the best books of 1997. Her works have been published in over 50 magazines, including The Atlantic Monthly and The New Yorker, and her writing has been included in over 50 anthologies. Her books have been translated into 16 languages, including Dutch, Hebrew, Russian and Japanese.

<[http://voices.cla.umn.edu/vg/Bios/entries/divakaruni\\_chitra\\_banerjee.html](http://voices.cla.umn.edu/vg/Bios/entries/divakaruni_chitra_banerjee.html)>

### **Biography of Alice Hoffman**

Alice Hoffman was born in New York City on March 16, 1952. She grew up in a working class Long Island neighborhood. In 1969, she attended Adelphi University, from which she received a BA and received a Mirrellees Fellowship to the Stanford University Creative Writing Center, which she attended in 1973 and 74.

Hoffman's first novel was written at the age of twenty-one, while she was studying at Stanford. Since her first remarkable novel, she has become one of American most distinguished authors. She has published a total of fifteen novels; in addition, her novel, Here on Earth (1999), an Oprah Book Club choice, was a modern reworking of some of the themes of Emily Bronte's masterpiece Wuthering

Heights. Her novel, At Risk (1989), which deals with a family dealing with AIDS, can be found on the reading lists of many universities, colleges and secondary schools. Her most recent novel is The Third Angel, published in 2008. Hoffman's advance from *Local Girls*, a collection of inter-related fictions about love and loss on Long Island, was donated to help create the Hoffman Breast Center at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA.

Hoffman's Practical Magic and Aquamarine have been made into Warner's films; in addition, her works have been published in more than twenty translations and more than one hundred foreign editions. Her novels have received mention as notable books of the year by The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly, The Los Angeles Times, Library Journal and People Magazine. Hoffman has also worked as a screenwriter for many years and is the author of the original screenplay Independence Day; moreover, Hoffman's short fictions and non-fictions have appeared in many magazines, such as The Boston Globe Magazine, Kenyon Review, Boulevard, Redbook, Architectural Digest, Gourmet, Premier, Self and Southwestern Reviews. Hoffman is married, lives outside Boston and she is the mother of two sons.

<<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/4430/Hoffman-Alice.html>>