

APPENDICES

Synopsis of Everything Happens for a Reason

Priya Sohni is the youngest of four sisters and lives in Delhi. Being different from all her sisters who are against arranged marriage, she accepts a man, who comes from America and who is a stranger to her, to be her husband. After her wedding ceremony, she lives with her husband and her husband's family in America. She is shocked when her parents-in-law ask her to go out to look for a job in order to help her husband's cash flow. As a good wife, she fulfills her parents-in-law's wish and works as a receptionist.

Unexpectedly, when Priya works as receptionist, she gets an offer to be a reporter, which has been her dream. She accepts the job although she knows her husband and her parents-in-law will not approve because the job will involve getting in touch with a lot of people and she will have higher salary than her husband. Later she becomes the hottest, most in demand and most envied showbiz reporter in Hollywood. Even though she is very busy with her job, she constantly does her duty as a wife and daughter-in-law well. She does not complain about anything although she has to work hard, either inside or outside the house.

Finally, she confesses about her job to her husband and her parents-in-law. Her husband and her parents-in-law get angry at her. However, when they know how big her salary is, they become calm and ask her to give them all of her savings. They ask her to continue her job because of the big salary. She is aware that she is being taken advantage of by her husband's family to be the money maker. In the end, she decides to go back to India.

Synopsis of Difficult Daughters

Virmati, who lives in colonization era in Amritsar, is the first of eleven siblings. Unlike the other girls in her time, she prefers having education although it is rather difficult because India still fights for freedom from the British Raj. By studying, her mind is opened and she is able to learn about uncommon things in her era, such as the equality between man and woman. After finishing her education, she falls in love with her neighbor, Professor Harish who is an educated married man because he treats her as an equal intellectual.

Then, she has to go through an arranged marriage. She refuses it and confesses to her parents that she falls in love with Professor Harish. Due to this, her parents send Virmati to another city to continue her study. Although they are apart, Harish and Virmati always manage to meet. Owing to Harish's friend's support, he makes Virmati his second wife.

Coming back to Amritsar as Harish's second wife, Virmati is despised and marginalized not only by her own family but also by Harish's family, especially by his first wife. Living with Harish's family limits her space of movement. Finally, she decides to stay apart from her husband and move to Lahore to do her exams.

A lot of turbulences happen before the Independence of India and cause disorders everywhere. Harish's family decides to move to his mother's hometown, whereas, Virmati and Harish live in the camps. She gives birth to her baby there. After the Independence, Harish is offered to be principle in one of the new colleges of Delhi University. They move to a much smaller house in Delhi. Harish's two children from his first wife also live with them.

Biography of Kavita Daswani

Kavita Daswani started her journalistic career when she was only seventeen years old. She was born in Hong Kong to parents who had emigrated from India. She left school before taking her A-levels and began working as a freelance journalist. She lived in Paris and London before returning to Hong Kong. She states that Mumbai is an emotional home for her as well as her Hong Kong-based parents. Because of it, she has written several books that represent her love and passion about Indian culture. Sometimes, she also brings her own life's experiences into her books.

In 2000, she moved to Los Angeles. She now lives just outside Los Angeles with her husband and two young sons. Kavita Daswani is currently a fashion correspondent for CNN International, CNBC Asia, and Women's Wear Daily. She has written for the Los Angeles Times and the International Herald Tribune among many other publications and has been the fashion editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong.

At the age of thirty-six, she has written four novels. The first one is For Matrimonial Purposes (2003). Then, it was followed by Everything Happens for a Reason and The Village Bride of Beverly Hills (2004). Actually, these two novels are the same books published under different titles. The next one is Salaam Paris, (2006) and the last one is Indie Girl (2007). In 2010, she plans to release her other young adult work. All her books have been published into seventeen languages.

Source: "About Kavita Daswani", "Few Men Didn't Like Me Because I Was Dark"

Biography of Manju Kapur

Manju Kapur lives in New Delhi, where she is a professor of English Literature at Miranda House College, Delhi University. She lives in a spacious house in Lutyens Delhi with her husband and their children. Having graduated from Miranda House, Manju Kapur took her MA in English from Dalhousie University in Canada and went on doing her MPhil from Delhi University.

Manju Kapur's works are famous and characterized by grounded, no-flourishes writing styles. In writing stories and poems, she tries not to stand between the readers and the story. She wants to make the stories as transparent and seamless as possible. She sees that writing is such a solitary activity. She divides her time between her home and the library of the Delhi Gymkhana, where she goes to write and she prefers not meeting anyone. She says that when she starts writing, she has a theme not a story. Then, the story takes shape gradually.

She has written several novels such as, Difficult Daughters (1998), A Married Woman (2002), and Home (2006). These three works have linear plots and the stillness of her prose conceals an acute understanding of social hypocrisies. Despite being yet common, the perception of Kapur's works is about human foibles. Her first book, Difficult Daughters received the Commonwealth Award for the Eurasian region for the best first book.

Source: "A Meeting with Manju Kapur", "Manju Kapur's Difficult Daughters and Indian Food Glossaries"