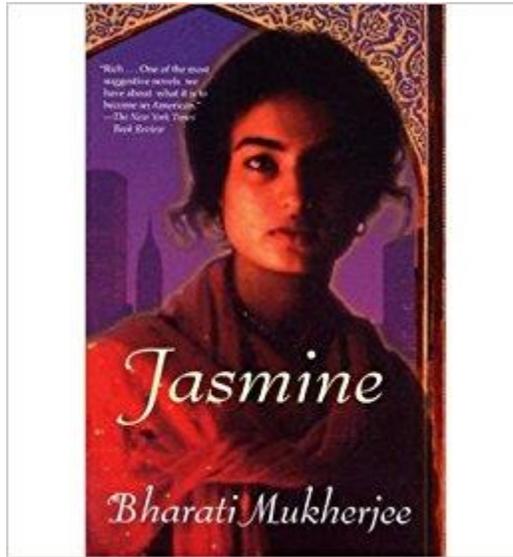


**Identity Crisis in *Jasmine***  
**K. Annapurany and S. Gayathri**

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### About the Author

Bharati Mukherjee was born on 27 July 1940- 28 January 2017. Mukherjee was an American writer and professor emerita in the department of English at the University of California, Berkeley. Mukherjee received her M.F.A. from the Iowa Writer's Workshop in 1963 and Ph.D. in 1969 from the department of Comparative Literature. After more than a decade living in Montreal and Toronto in Canada, Mukherjee and her husband, Clark Blaise returned to the United States. She wrote of the decision in “An Invisible Woman”, published in a 1981 issue of *Saturday Night*. Mukherjee and Blaise co-authored *Days and Nights in Calcutta* in 1977. They also wrote the 1987 work, *The Sorrow and the Terror: The Haunting Legacy of the Air Indian Tragedy*. Mukherjee wrote many novels and some short stories.

### Introduction

Bharati Mukherjee shows in this novel *Jasmine* how the female protagonist tries to tackle the problems of loss of culture and endeavors to assume a new identity in the U.S. In the novel *Jasmine* is the main protagonist of *Jasmine* searching for identity and her self began from the day she was born. *Jasmine* was born as her name is *Jyoti* in the village of *Hasnapur* in *Jullandhar* district of *Punjab* in a village eighteen years after the partition Riots. *Jyoti* was an unwanted child to the family because she was the fifth daughter and the seventh of nine children to the family. *Jyoti*'s mother wanted her to be killed when she was born because she did not want her daughter to suffer the pains of a dowry less bride. *Jasmine* has remembered that it, “I survived the sniping, my grandmother may have named her *Jyoti* like light, but in surviving I was already *Jane*, a fighter

and adapter, but it could be seen that Jasmine had the capacity to struggles, survive and establish he tire self. She never gave up her childhoods memories. Jasmine always remembered that past days. Now Jasmine childhoods days memories have to become the instrument in her fight against fate and her search for self – identity. When she was only seven years old, Jasmine was no dismayed down by fate, “Fate is Fate”. In even in the childhood, Jasmine knew that she had the potential to fight, win all battles and establish a strong identity. Jyoti showed that she was different from in their village girls who had no minds of their own, but “village girls are like cattle, she is from expressing a small part of her dream or ambition. Now she achieved a small past of her dream by falling in love and marrying Prakash, a very young and ambitious engineering. But now Prakash wants that Jyoti to shed off her past and make a new kind of women. So that he changed her name as Jasmine and she wants to break off the past. She wants to be new women in her life. After getting a new name of new identity, Jasmine also took care of her husband driving ambition. Prakash wants to make highly his education level, so that they both wants to go U.S, for passing exam, doing better, something more of his life than fate intended. Prakash and Jasmine was looking forward to going to American with her husband Prakash to pursue his further education. But suddenly her husband Prakash was killed by the fundamentalist the Khalsa terrorists on the eve of their departure. Jasmin dreams are shatter. Now she is helpless widow at Hasnapur, but she wants to decide to go alone to American and commit sati that to study. When she left India to survive against the force of destiny but unfortunately, her American journey began on a sad note, because she missed passport. Now she started journey in ship on that time, she was raped by Half-face who had “lost an eye and ear and most of his cheek in a paddy field in Vietnam”. Half-face was the captain of the ship in which Jasmine reached American. She was reborn not by killing herself but by killing Half-face.

### **Jasmine Meets Lilian Gordon**

Now Jasmine meet Lilian Gordon who entered into her life as a hope. It was Mrs. Gorden who educated her, made her free from her past memories and strengthened her will to survive. She makes a Jasmine to her past and be memories, and she makes a Jasmine to make physically and mentally strong and she help to meet professor. Vadhera and, now Jasmine stayed at professor. Vadhera's house. But Jasmine was disappointed when she learned that Mr. Vadhera was depended not only on his living on teaching but on trading in human hair, she was not earning by the strictly ethnicity in the house that, Jasmine was to follow as a widow. So that Jasmine decided to leave that place “with the actualization of the desire for independence the door is shut to the passive resignation extolled by her grandmother since individual effort means nothing”. Jasmine was not against Indian culture but against its retentiveness.

### **New Job to Jasmine**

After a short time, Jasmine worked in the house of Tylor and Wylie Hayes in Manhattan as a care giver to their little daughter Duff. There her name was changed from Jasmine to change her name as Jase, while she working as a caregiver, and she took up part time job like a answering phones calls and tutoring graduate students in Punjab In the University. Now totally Jase absorbed the alien cultures rather greedily. Pulling of the between these two opposite forces, the Indian and the American did not frighten her but it made her excited. Even through if the other immigrants remained suspended between these two forces. Like Indian to American culture!. Taylor helped Jasmine to very much irrespective of what she was after his wife Would

left him. Taylor needed to show emotional support and confessed his love to Jasmine. But she wants a real loving person. In Jasmine life Taylor and Duff are left and fear and terror because of the presences of Sukhawinder the Khalsa terrorist who killed Prakash in India. Jasmine meet a Iowa bank and Jasmine got a job in Iowa's bank. She also Madera place in the heart of the banker Bud Ripplemayan. Jasmine had a peaceful life in Bud's house, she was happy for a new job and of her status as a step- mother to Du, a sixteen-years old Vietnam war victim adopted by Bud. Bud was separated from his Karin and his grown-up sons had left him. But “Jane” has to change her name has a “Jase”. Now Jase has accepted the American family, but she was waiting for real love. Then suddenly Jase got a letter from Taylor informing her that he would shortly come to take her. Taylor decided to go to California and stay with his sister and her family. She understood DJ’s condition as she herself was an exile and told the news to Bud gently. Now Jasmine is really happy, and she face American Culture. She was a clear and response to her courage. She did not feel any guilt. She only did what she thought was right for her Jasmine’s desire- ‘I want to do the right thing, I don’t want to be a terrible person’ like she is searching for real identity. At last Jasmine said that there is nothing I can do it, Time will tell if I am a tornado, rubble marker, arising from nowhere and disappearing into a could do it. It can be seen at last of Jasmine find its real identity and facing many struggling and many suffering in journey to Indian culture to American culture but she finally get its real identity. Jasmine was out of bonds and has gained her true self and she finally achieving the true identity of journey of Jasmine true identity.

## Conclusion

Bharati Mukherjee is says the in this novel she explores through her fiction the meaning of the life. Issues related to women are central to the vision of Mukherjee in her novels. She deals with the problems of the Indian immigrants mainly, women, she writes about the struggles and problems faced by Indian women. The problem of cross-cultured crisis and the ultimate search for identity is also one of her important themes. Her novel also reflects the temperament and mood of the present American Society as experienced by the Indian Immigrants in American.

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