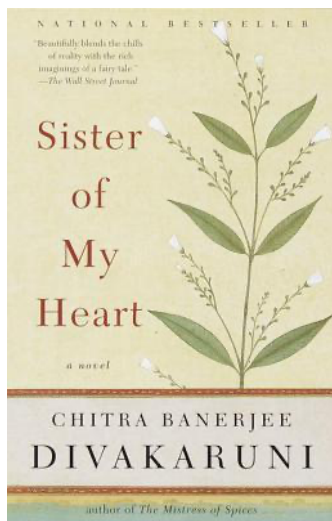




## **Sister of My Heart**

by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

*Number of pages: 352*



*Sister of My Heart* follows the story of two girls bonded by the love of sisterhood. Anju is the daughter of an upper-caste family in Calcutta and her cousin Sudha is the daughter of a mysterious black sheep in the family. Their personalities are like day and night, but since the day they were born, they have been bonded in a way that even their mothers can't understand. The book follows the test of their bond, as they enter adulthood and are shattered with female secrets, arranged marriages, relocation, and motherhood.

If you enjoyed *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith or *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers then we recommend *Sister of My Heart!*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How are Sudha and Anju different, and how are they similar?
2. What moment between Sudha & Anju spoke to the title of the book the most? When did you most feel they were sisters of each other's hearts?

3. Think of someone who is a sister/brother/sibling of your heart - what makes them so special to you?
  
4. Sudha & Anju face a lot of resistance from the Aunties in doing things the way they want to. How do you think the different views across the generations shaped Sudha and Anju's lives?
  
5. Sudha & Anju end up taking living in different continents and being exposed to different opinions about what it means to be a woman and a mother. How do you think the characters changed in these diverging paths?
  
6. There is a lot of emphasis on the role of Indian culture on the character's life choices and experiences. How do you see Sudha & Anju's relationship with their culture evolve throughout the book?
  
7. What was your reaction to the discovery of Singhji's identity?

*Thank you to our volunteer Holly for choosing this title and creating the resource.*