

Bharati Mukherjee

Quotes

Mother, Father, Daughter, Agendas, Cities, Fiction, Real, Home, Iowa, Roots, Country, Mean, Writing, Mind, America, Growing Up, Kind, Taken, Traveler, Coffee

In India, there are real consequences to inattention; drivers who jeopardize pedestrians can be lynched on the spot.

~Bharati Mukherjee

What was the duty of the teacher if not to inspire?

~Bharati Mukherjee

The traveler feels at home everywhere, because she is never at home anywhere.

~Bharati Mukherjee

Through my fiction, I make mainstream readers see the new Americans as complex human beings, not as just The Other.

~Bharati Mukherjee

I feel empowered to be a different kind of writer. The longer I stay here, the more light filters into my work. I feel very American. I belong.

~Bharati Mukherjee

In other words, my literary agenda begins by acknowledging that America has transformed me. It does not end until I show how I (and the hundreds of thousands like me) have transformed America.

~Bharati Mukherjee

What was the function of poetry if not to improve the petty, cautious minds of evasive children?

~Bharati Mukherjee

I am a naturalized U.S. citizen, which means that, unlike native-born citizens, I had to prove to the U.S. government that I merited citizenship.

~Bharati Mukherjee

Growing up in an old-fashioned Bengali Hindu family and going to a

convent school run by stern Irish nuns, I was brought up to revere rules. Without rules, there was only anarchy.

~Bharati Mukherjee

My life has gotten a little more complicated than my ability to describe it. That used to be the definition of madness, now it's just continuous overload.

~Bharati Mukherjee

We do things when it is our time to do them. They do not occur to us until it is time; they cannot be resisted, once their time has come. It's a question of time, not motive.

~Bharati Mukherjee

Dullness is a kind of luxury.

~Bharati Mukherjee

I am aware of myself as a four-hundred-year-old woman, born in the captivity of a colonial, pre-industrial oral culture and living now as a contemporary New Yorker.

~Bharati Mukherjee

A farmer is dependent on too many things outside his control; it makes for modesty.

~Bharati Mukherjee

Ancestral habits of mind can be constricting; they also confer one's individuality.

~Bharati Mukherjee

[On her writing agenda:] Make the familiar exotic; the exotic familiar.

~Bharati Mukherjee

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