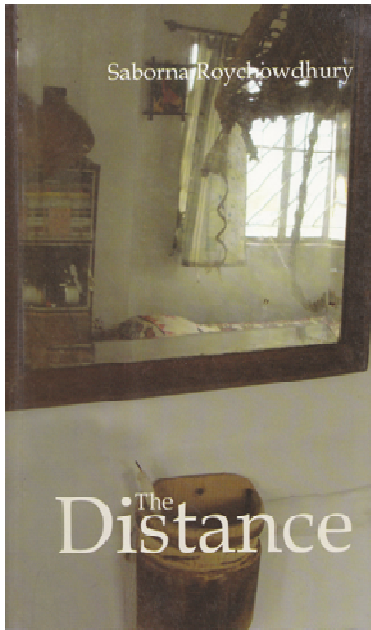


"Powerful tale of a Bengali girl..."

N Magazine (India)

"...captivates readers..." Rupkatha (India)



"...evocative use of space and distance..."

Hyphen Magazine (USA)

"The Distance offers some surprising answers..."

South Asian Review (USA)

"Saborna's laconic humour is delicious..." Dawn

(Pakistan)

"Roychowdhury is a lyrical and graceful author..."

South Asian Generation Next (Canada)

The Distance takes place in both an India of social revolution and a North America of immigrant assimilation. It is about human contradictions and dilemmas, and about characters torn apart by the fast-changing social landscape of two worlds. The narrator, a young Indian woman named Mini, must constantly choose between success and morality, between what she once wanted to be and what she has become....Mini is neither the typical housewife nor the poor uneducated woman that has been the traditional lens in most Indian fiction written in English. She is educated and socially conscious, and her political involvements in India make her a keen observer of North American society, even if they cannot really help her with matters of the human heart.....she will have to choose not only between two continents, two different ideologies, two different ways of life, but between the men she loves.



Saborna Roychowdhury was born and raised in Calcutta, India, and moved to the U.S. for her undergraduate work in chemistry. She now lives in Houston, TX and works as a technical writer. Her short fiction has appeared in New York Stories and Quality Women's Magazine U.K. and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is a contributing writer to Chillibreeze, Hilltown Families, TheWeekendLeader.com, and other online magazines. Her article "Having a baby changes everything" was listed in the "Top stories from around the web" by San Francisco Chronicle. Her novel, "The Distance" was short-listed for 2009 Santa Fe Writers Literary Awards Program and published by Mindscape later that year.

Advance Praise

“...At once political and domestic, migrant and indigenous, bold and sensitive, this is a voice that seldom gets heard in contemporary fiction..”

--Snehal Shingavi, Faculty, South Asia Institute, The University of Texas at Austin.

“Lyrical and full of India's dust, music, grace and horror, this is a deft tale of transcontinental diasporic existence, with beauty and violence both trembling just beneath the surface.”

--Kazim Ali, Oberlin College faculty and author of the award-winning book, "The Far Mosque"

“A smooth rendering of a society changing and the culture of a young woman growing up and choosing the individuals that will people her world. It is a rich contribution to the work of understanding India and the people it is raising for an international world.”

--- Kao Kalia Yang, author of The Late Homecoming: A Hmong Family Memoir.

“Saborna RoyChowdhury's first novel is the eloquent, masterful story of a young woman caught between two worlds who must struggle to reconcile them and, in the process, make for herself a life whose meaning flows more from the human heart than from politics, that is, more from love than fear or anger. This is the kind of story we need in our times if the human spirit is to prevail, and Roychowdhury tells hers with the sophistication and poignancy of a talented novelist whose bright career is just beginning.”

--Bruce McAllister, author of the award-winning novel, DREAM BABY

Reviews/Interviews/Blogs/Discussions

In the July issue of Hyphen Magazine, Mosarrap Hossain Khan gives “The Distance” a glowing review:

“Saborna Roychowdhury deftly weaves estrangements between people, spaces, generations, ideologies, and lives in this worthwhile read.... What makes Roychowdhury's novel tick is her evocative use of space and distance. In the book, space is most often cloistered. Distance, in a physical sense, is equally unproductive. The novelist .. wonderfully exploits the imaginative potential of distance.”

Read the full review at:

<http://www.hyphenmagazine.com/blog/archive/2011/07/book-review-distance-saborna-roychowdhury>

In South Asian Review, Vol. 32, No. 3, Robin E. Field praises “The Distance.”

“Saborna Roychowdhury addresses the perennial questions facing contemporary Indian women in her first novel, The Distance, and offers some surprising answers. Her protagonist, Mini, ponders duty and tradition versus personal ambition, arranged marriage versus a love match, and the allure of living in the West versus the familiarity of life in India. Roychowdhury offers a fresh take on these dilemmas while also underscoring the difficulty of finding any satisfactory resolution.....The Distance offers a thoughtful story about the plight of a young woman trying to find happiness amidst many challenges. Ultimately, this novel offers not a love triangle between Mini, Amitav, and Neel, but a love letter to India itself.”

Read the full review at: <http://www.upj.pitt.edu//30788.pdf>

Other Reviews:

[Dawn \(Pakistan\) Reviewed by Mohsin Maqbool Elahi](#)
[South Asian Generation Next \(Canada\) Reviewed by Sanchari Sur](#)
[Amazon Top 50 Reviewer Charles Ashbacher](#)
[N Magazine \(India\) Reviewed by Beyniaz Edulji](#)
[Rupkatha - Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies \(India\) Review](#)
[Chip Etier reviews “The Distance” for Examier.com](#)

Read Mosarrap Hussein Khan's interview of Saborna Roychowdhury:

<http://marginomarginalia.wordpress.com/2011/07/31/an-online-interview-with-author-saborna-roychowdhury/>

The September Issue of N Magazine interviews Saborna Roychowdhury. Read here:

<http://www.sabornaroychowdhury.com/13557/68001.html>

Online Discussions on “The Distance” at

<http://chillibreeze.in/forums/book-discussion/1140-online-book-discussion-distance-chillibreeze-giveaway.html>

Media Coverage



Krishna Bose former member of parliament and professor launched "The Distance."

Oxford Bookstore, Calcutta and Mindscape Publishers host the launch of *The Distance* — An intriguing mix of love, joy, friendship, betrayal and values, written by Saborna Roychowdhury, Pushcart Prize-nominated author of *Bengal Monsoon*. The book will be released by Krishna Bose, eminent writer, educationist & parliamentarian. Special guest: Dr Chaitali Dutta, reader, department of library sciences, Jadavpur University—*The Telegraph*, September 14, 2010.

Chronicles of love, joy, friendship, betrayal—*Bengal Post*, September 12, 2010.

A piece on emerging south Asian writings—*Rajasthan Patrika*, December 5th, 2010.

<http://sabornaroychowdhury.ipage.com/media/353a39c9a13aae3effff83a3ffffe415.pdf>

Book Launch for Saborna Roychowdhury's "The Distance"—*The AsiaWrites Project* <http://www.asiawrites.org/2010/09/book-launch-for-saborna-roychowdhury.html>

More Accolades

Shortlisted for 2009 SFWP Award.

Saborna artfully exposes the repression of women in society, India's corrupt political system and the injustice done to farmers by crooked landlords-----Payal Doshi
<http://www.chillibreeze.in/.../book-review-the-distance-saborna-roychowdhury/>

THE DISTANCE by Saborna Roychowdhury attempts to gauge the distance between two continents, two cultures, and subsequently, between two men infatuated with their ideologies shaped in these continents by the respective cultures--- Durva Mayee
[chillibreeze.in/.../book-review-the-distance-by-saborna-roychowdhury/](http://www.chillibreeze.in/.../book-review-the-distance-by-saborna-roychowdhury/)

I believe that a good book should make you visualize the flow while reading. Saborna Roychowdhury's simple and lucid writing style clearly fulfilled that quest in me. Her debut book can be summarized as a poignant tale of love and agony.---Shabnam Shaikh
[chillibreeze.in/.../book-review-of-the-distance-written-by-saborna-roychowdhury/](http://www.chillibreeze.in/.../book-review-of-the-distance-written-by-saborna-roychowdhury/)

Reader Endorsements

This book is an excellent summary of much of the change that is taking place in India as it emerges as a strong economic power in the modern world--- Charles Ashbacher (Top 50 Reviewer Amazon)

I'm not an author, but I'm a big fan Saborna. I'll keep talking about your work and hope that someone here in the US soon sees the wonderful story you've brought to life.---- Catherine Jampuppy

I liked *Distance* - especially its bipartite structure -- life before and after the departure of the NRI. It really captures the texture of Bengali life and streets in the first part; and in the second, I like the curiosity with and bewilderment at the new, the exploratory, tentative nature of it.-----Sabitha Satchi (Assist. Prof. Univ. Of Delhi)

As a writer myself, I tend to be quite hard to please, but this first-time author has astounded me with her talent and I look forward to reading more of her books in the future! I can't stop thinking about these characters and certainly hope that a sequel is on its way very soon!---Lisa D. Ellis

Your debut book is indeed a landmark in literature. Believe me, this is just the beginning, Saborna--- Arindam Roy (The Times of India former Bureau Chief)

ISBN 978-0578053639

Visit: www.sabornaroychowdhury.com

Email: saborna_roychowdhury@yahoo.com