

# Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's – One of the most fearless woman of 19<sup>th</sup> century – THE LAST QUEEN - JINDAN KAUR

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*Abstract- The LAST QUEEN is a fantastic novel written by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni pertaining the actual historical and fiction based events and projecting as the first person of Maharani Jindan Kaur who faced the challenges in her life and this novel was published in the year 2021. Though the author has put forth several aspects of Jindan's life in chronological order, it was surprisingly to see her life to begin from the kennel keeper's daughter to the last queen of Punjab. Actually as a reader, when reading this novel, fall in with more emotion and the tears were from my eyes why means that this is the story of a ordinary girl blessed with an extraordinary beauty and intelligence who was come a crossed the many challenges and most test circumstance and attain the stage of queen and also letting readers to learn the peak and fall of the empire's through the Jindan's emotional life. The writer of this novel who narrating the each event in such way to understand easily to project from girl to one of India's most fearless woman of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who fought against the British with all her might. Also narrating this novel by writer who projects the jindan as a inspiring heroine, and woman just like us, and how to travel her life in between the loyalty and betrayal and most challenging in the patriarchal world. In many places, though, the writer of the novel was expressing the queen jindan's intelligence, rebel, brave and indomitable will, jindan will stand in reader's heart as an exquisite love story of a king and a commoner, as well as powerful parable of the indestructible bond between Mother and child.*

*Indexed Terms- Chronological, Excellence, Inspiring, Indomitable, Stumbling, Exquisite And Betrayal.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

When seeing the writing pattern of author of the novel the LAST QUEEN Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indo American, always will be focusing and priority in the literary Genre of Historical Fiction based novels and short stories. The term is commonly used as a Synonym for the historical Novel, in historical Fiction the author pays attention to the manners, social Conditions and other details that characterize a particular period. Authors also frequently present different notable historical figures. This helps Reader better understand how these individuals or heroes might have responded or faced different situations. Historical Fiction is set in a real place, during a culturally recognizable time. The details and the action in the story can be a mix of actual events and the author's imagination.

And also to be mentioned here that the author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni always giving prioritise in her novel for women character and exhibit their quality of attitudes in all aspects. Accordingly, in the novel the LAST QUEEN, the author will project the Rani Jindan Kaur's who challenging journey of her entire life. In this novel, the author is taken more care while blending the real and historical fictions without diluting the gravity of truth, dialogue, situation, incidence and characters of each of one.

In this novel, though the author has explained the many situations, braveness, incidence and characters from her the stages from Girl, Bride, Queen and Rebel, every readers will see this novel as an exquisite love story of a king and a commoner as well as powerful parable of the indestructible bond between mother and child.

While analysing the love and affection between the king Ranjit Singh and Jindan, it will be very surprising to see since the age difference is around 40 years elder than Jindan. Jindan doesn't expect in her life to meet the king Ranjit Singh when she was living with her elder brother Jawahar and her mother at Gujaranwala. It was the situation happened to jindan who left from Gujaranwala to Lahore with her brother and started to live with her father Manna Singh working as a kennel keeper of Ranjith Singh kingdom.

Once when Jindan was travelling with her father, she unexpectedly met the Maharaja Ranjit Singh during a horse ride at Lahore. Jindan struck at once by wonder and dismay. "Then you must be..... 'Ranjit Singh'" he says. His eye crinkles in amusement at her expression. The sarkar take her riding. They take the back way out of the quila down a couple of narrow, oddly empty alleys. He soon they were in the country side galloping across fields, Laila goes faster. She had been frightened, the sarkar laughs. I'll hold you, you won't fell. They have reached Shalimar. His kindness makes her tear up. She no longer wants to go back to the village. She wants the sarkar to fall in love with her. Because he's powerful and charismatic, didn't take advantage of her though he could easily have done so. Because he tells the most fascinating stories and because I foolishly she's falling in love with him. She loves him for his kindness.

When Jindan was sharing this truth to his elder Brother Jawahar asked "Are you doing this because of Manna?" She said, "I know it's foolish, but I've fallen in love". He advised "Careful Sister, Remember who he is – and who you are". Even then, Jindan stands on her love rigidly with Maharaja. Jindan was also thought that maharaja would also fall in love with me. Once jindan will go to sarkar's palace to attend the function and Guddan another wife of maharaja receives her and while seeing the situation, Jindan's head whirls with the things that she learning about the maharaja already married many women who were all from rich families with huge dowries and how could be possibly be interested in a dog trainer's daughter?. In this situation, her father Manna has planned for her marriage which came to know by Maharaja had sent

the Fakir to talk to Manna about his willingness. The confidential

Chieftain Fakir explained the maharaja's characters to Jindan that he won't give priority for rich and will give the preference for the good character, smartness, loyal, and honest through which he gave confident to her. Before leaving, the Fakir said, "The betrothal must be kept a secret – mostly for the reasons related to your safety" and Fakir became a trusted man for Jindan who continuously start training to read books and clarify many things. So, that day was also came, Jindan married a sword of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who unable to come and attend due to some courtier matters. Jindan was also very proudly to hold his sword on her hand though it will be a huge weight because of her extreme love on him. Jindan life has turned in to a fairy tale. Every night she sleeps with the sarkar in the Sheeshmahal and wake in his arms. Sarkar enjoys her company and loves her. She particularly enjoy conversing with him late in to the night learning what's happening in the kingdom.

I' am impressed by your beauty, curiosity and intelligence "None of my other queens care about what goes on outside the quila" he says. Sometimes when he meets with a courtier in the Sheeshmahal, he lets her wait in a backroom and listen. Later they discuss about the visit. She learns many things, especially the growing threat of the British. Over a period of time, Jindan became a pregnant and shifted a beautiful Male Child and Maharaja Ranjit Singh Says, 'I thank Waheguru for this gift, which I never thought to receive again in my lifetime" Tears glimmer in his good eye. He places a gold chain around the baby's neck. I promise to be present for this child as I never could be for my other sons. He hand the baby back to her then holds out a large gilded key. For new palace, it will be known as Haveli Mai Jindan, since Jindan is a mother now. The sarkar has chosen his son's name as Dalip. In durbar, the sarkar announced the birth of his beloved son prince Dalip Singh, thus acknowledging him as his offering. He also promises her that "she will have a special seat in the zenana section, second only to Mai Nakkain, so that you can enjoy all the spectacles". When their life was going peacefully, the maharaja was died suddenly due to illness. After the death of Maharaja Ranjith Singh, his kingdom began to fall

apart. The members of the royal family started plotting nefarious schemes and killed each other for the throne. The queens and their newborns were also brutally murdered. Even the British kept an eye on the progress of the situations and conspired to seize the state. Because of that reasons only, Dalip singh came to throne at the age of 6 years and Jindan Kaur became a Regent on her sons behalf. While her power and influence are continuing, to counter this, the British imprisoned and exiled her and she was separated her son and the British was taken her son to England. After 14 years, she was permitted by the British to see her son at Calcutta. As a mother, her mind churns with questions. What does Dalip look like now? What does he think about? What does he care for? How have his years with the Logins and the British queen changed him? What – if anything – does he remember about her? Then he's at the door, a vague shape in dark firang clothes. If Maahi hadn't alerted her, she wouldn't have known him. Perhaps how much he's changed.

'Biji'? His voice is deep, a grown man's. His Punjabi is strangely accented and halting, as though he hasn't spoken it in a long time. "Is that you? Ah, my beautiful Biji, what have they done to you!" The shock in his voice makes her realize how much she have Changed, how old and ugly she have become. She was nothing like the fiery young queen he must have held in his mind's eye all these years. She shrink back, but the next moment he's kneeling in front of her arm chair, kissing her hands, telling her how much he has missed her, how he feared that he'd never see her again and how he wondered during all those lonely nights in Fatehgarh and London if she thought about him as much he thought about her.

She runs her fingers hungrily over his face, his shoulders, his arms, trying to comprehend that it's really her Dalip, so tall and handsome. And he still loves her! Joy

Chokes her throat, but he manages to say, "You're alive and safe, by waheguru's grace! And they are finally together. What more could she want!" Then her hands touch his head and instead of the pagri that every Sikh man wears, she feels his short hair.

She knew that Dalip had become a Christian, but having the physical proof at my finger tips shocks me so deeply that I cannot hold back my tears. "The British took everything from you, beta", she lament. "Your throne, your kingdom, the koh-i-Noor. I know you were too young to stop them. But your religion! How could you let them take that, too?" she asked.

After meeting, Dalip singh was taken his mother to England and taken care of her for the last few years. "In the morning of 1<sup>st</sup> August 1863, Maharani Jindan Kaur died peacefully in her sleep in Abingdon House, Kensington". Cremation was in legal in Great Britain she died last year in London, but it took the British an entire 12 months to him permission to bring her body back to India for the Sikh rites she had requested. In the spring of 1864, Dalip singh obtained permission to take the body of his mother to Bombay in India, where it was cremated, and he erected a small samadhi in memory of his mother on the Panchavathi side of the Godavari River.

## CONCLUSION

Chitra Banerjee Divakurni tells the story in which Jindan narrating her story in first person point of view. We are introduced right at the offset to her tenacity and will power, a quality that is cemented throughout the novel. Jindan when she was in childhood had an impoverished. The most uncomfortable part of the novel was a romance between Jindan and the king almost 40 years elder. One can understand why the young girl becomes fascinated with the charismatic king. She was raised on the stories of his brave conquests, and meeting him only strengthens her admiration for his chivalry. But in a refreshing twist of events, it is she who first acts on her feelings king Ranjith singh to his Credit, keeps the process of courting respectful sending Jindan to her home town until she is old enough at age 18 to marry.

The excitement for us readers begins after their marriage when royal and domestic politics come in to play, throwing jindan in to a tumultuous fight for survival.

Yet if her tenacity lands her in usual circumstance from imprisonment to asylum, it also empowers her

to energy the event not only in her own life but also in her son's and in the empire her family was built. It is not easy to capture such a tumultuous history in such a short length of pages.

It is an excellent love story of a king and commoner, a cautionary tale about loyalty and betrayal and a powerful bond between mother and a child.

#### REFERENCES

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