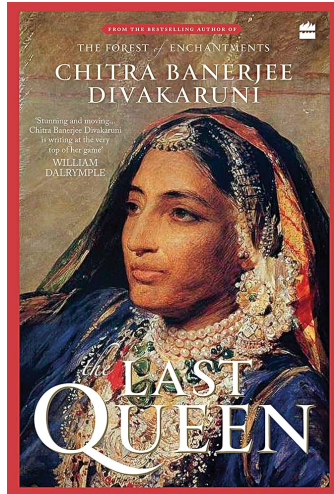


## BOOK REVIEW

**Name of the book:** The Last Queen

**Name of the author:** Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

**Reviewed by:** Debanita Koley, XI A [ Session 2024-25]



'I am Rani Jindan, Mother of the Khalsa. That is my identity. That is my fate.'

Well, I'm quite sure that you all have heard or read about Sher-e-Punjab, Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He was the first ruler of the Sikh empire, a victor in battles, and a torch-bearer of reforms. Behind the glory of a lion, there is always a lioness. This is the book that narrates the unforgettable story of the Maharani Jindan Kaur, the last queen of Punjab, her courage determination and quest to occupy the topmost place among all other wives and mistresses, and her struggle to sustain her life after the Maharaja's death, and most importantly, her longing to reconcile with her son from whom she had been forcefully separated.

This is an exquisite love story of a king and a commoner, a tale about loyalty and betrayal, and a powerful parable of the indestructible bond between mother and child. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's unforgettable novel brings alive one of the most fearless women of the nineteenth century, an inspiration for our times.

Through its poignant tale, the first person narrative pin points the prevailing societal conditions and position of women in such a society. This book is the perfect place where History has met fiction. It's a novel that has worshipped a female character by placing her at its centre.