

CHETAN BHAGAT

Born 1974, New Delhi, India.

Life

Chetan Bhagat, who has become India's best-selling novelist, was born in a typical middle-class Punjabi family. His father served as an officer in the Indian army, and his mother had a government job in the state agricultural department. Chetan Bhagat went to military school for a few years before attending the well-known and highly-regarded Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, where he studied mechanical engineering. He later also studied at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, where he met his future wife, Anusha Suryanarayanan, who comes from south India. After his studies, he and his family moved to Hong Kong, where he worked for more than a decade at Goldman Sachs as an investment banker. When he returned to India, he settled in Bombay and embarked on his writing career. As he has mentioned in interviews, however, he began to work on the manuscript for his first novel while still at Goldman Sachs. That first novel (*Five Point Someone*) was an overnight success and was soon adapted into a screenplay for a film (titled 'Three Idiots'). His second novel (*One Night At A Call Center*) sold very well and was made into a film, although that movie flopped. His next novel (*The 3 Mistakes of My Life*), which deals with cricket, was a runaway success as both a book and a film. His fourth novel, which is based on his own life (*2 States: The Story of My Marriage*) and examines cross-caste marriage, was also highly popular in both book and movie formats. The same is true for the next three novels he has published (*Revolution 2020*, *Half Girlfriend* and *One Indian Girl*). Chetan's Bhagat's younger brother, Ketan Bhagat, is also a novelist, though without the same success. Although some critics dismiss his novels as 'middle-brow,' no one can deny his phenomenal popularity: when a new novel hits the bookshelves, it will sell between three and five millions copies in the first year, and several more millions in the years that follow.

Achievements

Chetan Bhagat has won a series of literary, cinema and social achievement awards, including the Society Young Achiever award in 2004, the Publisher's Recognition award in 2005, the *Filmfare* award for Best Screenplay in 2014. He also featured in *Time* magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2010.

List of works

Fiction

Five Point Someone (2004)
One Night @ the Call Center (2005)
The 3 Mistakes of My Life (2008)
2 States: The Story of my Marriage (2009)
Revolution 2020 (2011)
Half Girlfriend (2014)
One Indian Girl (2016)

Non-fiction

What Young India Wants (2012)
Making India Awesome (2016)