One Amazing Thing

In *One Amazing Thing*, nine people from different backgrounds are trapped together by an earthquake for days, using storytelling to help them survive while they hope and pray for rescue. Their stories of romance, marriage, family, political upheaval, and self-discovery unfold against the urgency of their life-or-death circumstance.

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an award-winning author and poet who writes about the South Asian experience. Her stories explore women, immigration, history, myth, magical realism and diversity. Her books have been made into films and plays, and *Oleander Girl* has been optioned by Hollywood. She teaches Creative Writing at the University of Houston.

Ingeniously conceived and intelligently written, this novel is a fable for our time. The characters, troubled or shattered by their past, vibrate with life whenever they begin to speak. The book is a fun read from the first page to the last.

—Ha Jin, National Book Award-winning author of *Waiting*

**One Amazing Thing** teachable topics and themes:

- Bridging cultural and ethnic diversity through storytelling
- The common humanity we all share despite ethnic, religious, and language differences
- Prejudice, cultural misunderstanding, alienation, and interpersonal communication
- Mental health, addiction, depression, and suicide
- Violence, forgiveness, and redemption
- Planning for the future and coping with overcoming life’s obstacles

*Our students, and colleagues, from several disciplines truly appreciated Divakaruni’s time on campus, from class visits and discussion sessions to readings from her work, all with attention to the interconnections of life experiences and imagination. Bringing together present-day issues with literary and cultural legacies, she brought the presence of mind of a writer engaged in her craft.*

—Brad E. Lucas, Chair, Dept. of English, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX