



# Mitali Perkins



*“Global encounters, whether face-to-face or with characters in a story, help us to disentangle our true selves from what our own cultural context is commanding us to become.”*

Mitali Bose Perkins was born in Kolkata, India. Her name means “friendly” in Bangla, and she had to try and live up to it because the Bose family moved so often—they lived in India, Ghana, Cameroon, London, New York City, and Mexico City before settling in the San Francisco Bay Area when Mitali was in middle school.

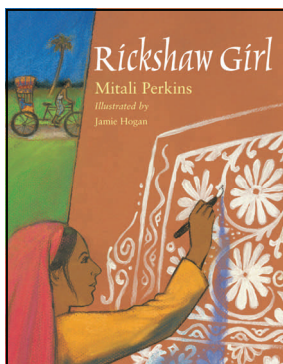
Mitali studied political science at Stanford University and public policy at UC Berkeley, and survived academia thanks to a steady diet of kids’ books from public libraries and bookstores. She went on to teach middle school, high school, and college students. She lived in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and California with her husband and twin sons before moving to Newton, Massachusetts, where the Perkins family lives now.



Mitali’s books include *Monsoon Summer* (Delacorte), *The Not-So-Star-Spangled Life of Sunita Sen* (Little, Brown), and *First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover* (Dutton).

Mitali is also an avid blogger. Visit her at [www.mitaliperkins.com](http://www.mitaliperkins.com) to think, chat, and learn about life between cultures.

## Books by Mitali Perkins



978-1-58089-308-4 • HC • \$13.95  
978-1-58089-309-1 • PB • \$ 6.95  
Ages 7–10

Naima is a talented painter of traditional *alpana* patterns, which Bangladeshi women and girls paint on their houses for special celebrations. But Naima is not satisfied just painting *alpana*. She wants to help earn money for her family, like her best friend, Saleem, does for his family. When Naima’s rash effort to help puts her family deeper in debt, she bravely draws on her resourceful nature and her talents to save the day.