



Binodini

Chokher Bali's (1903) Binodini, was another literary woman who studied through her teenage years in an era when child marriages were the norm. After her father's death, she becomes a burden, and forced by her family and society to marry a dying drunkard. Becoming a widow shortly, she refuses to adhere to the society's archaic customs, and although not completely happy in later life, lives on her own terms.

Tagore's real-life inspiration

Kadambari Debi, wife to Tagore's older brother, was a real-life inspiration to the poet in creating many of the timeless fictional ladies in his novels, songs etc. She was instrumental in his motivation to improve his writing skills. She nurtured his early forays into literature, offering guidance and critique as well as cherished companionship. Kadambari Devi remains the enigma buried throughout Tagore's work, both before and after her early death.

A century and change after Tagore's writing, we are still looking at the same issues plaguing women and their lives in the society. And we also still find his characters walking amongst us — victims of negligence, child marriage, society's archaic norms, and more. As women empowerment activists, FRIENDSHIP COLOURS OF THE CHARS honours Rabindranath Tagore for his contributions to the cause of women's liberation.

We are consistent with the drive for women's liberation, not just via socioeconomic models, but also through liberating their freedom to choose, supporting every woman's cause, those imprisoned by societal stigmas that jeopardize their future and growth. We continue to stand by each other, to ensure dignity, hope and social justice.

By Nazra Mahjabeen Sabet

Model: Barrister Miti Sanjana

Founding partner of Legal Counsel, columnist and an eminent media personality posing for Friendship Colours of the Chars

Photo: Friendship Colours of the Chars

