

Meet the Author

Continuing with our series of interviews with authors whose intriguing stories appear in *The Twofers Compendium*: Chitra Gopalakrishnan. Her story, “Girls of the Sun,” is beautifully written, taking the reader to the location where two pre-teens live and play.

1. What was your motivation in writing your story?

As a theme for the anthology had already been arrived at in this case, the classic ‘egg or hen’ scenario had already been resolved for all the writers involved. While the twins I know in real life function as separate individuals with distinct personalities, I decided to look sideways and let my gaze wander to two individuals, to two young, vibrant girls who share telepathic bonds, physical sensations, and a deep psychic connect beyond the bounds of their bodies. These confident, self-assured, intelligent girls pulled me along their spirited narrative, to their experiences that were not mundane coincidences but occurrences that were far more mysterious and downright fascinating for which there are no credible scientific explanations. I had no control over them as they took me on their zig-zag journey. At the end, like the readers, I could come up with only unintelligible answers as the questions their story posed were unanswerable.

2. Does it have special meaning?

This story with a mindscape of its own, one that calls for a bit of cerebral leniency and lots of imagination, is in its intent all about the singular experience of love. One that never fails, never fades. As they say, love conquers all. *Omnia vincit amor!*

3. What do you do in your real life?

With a masters in English literature and a degree in journalism, I am a New Delhi-based social development communication consultant and work with several national and international non-profits to put out their messages. At heart, I am a writer and have taken to fiction as a serious pre-occupation now. I also manage an urban farm and indulge in organic farming and aquaponics.

4. What draws you to write short stories vs. novels?

Short stories have the lure to pull you in faster into the very world that a novel accommodates. They can as willfully suck you into a whirlpool of ideas and emotions. And to the contrary, it is a delightful template to explore one theme, one mood, say less, and suggest more. It is certainly tough as a form but joyful as here, less is more.

5. When did you write your first story, unpublished and then published?

I have been telling stories of non-profits for over 25 years. My first piece of fiction was published in 2017.

6. Where have you previously been published?

My short stories have been published by *Black Hare Press*, *Me First Magazine*, *Terror House Magazine*, *Unpublished Platform*, *eShe*, *Literary Yard*, *Truancy Magazine*, *Spillwords*, *Runcible Spoon*, *Reedsy Prompts* and *Friday Flash Fiction* among others.