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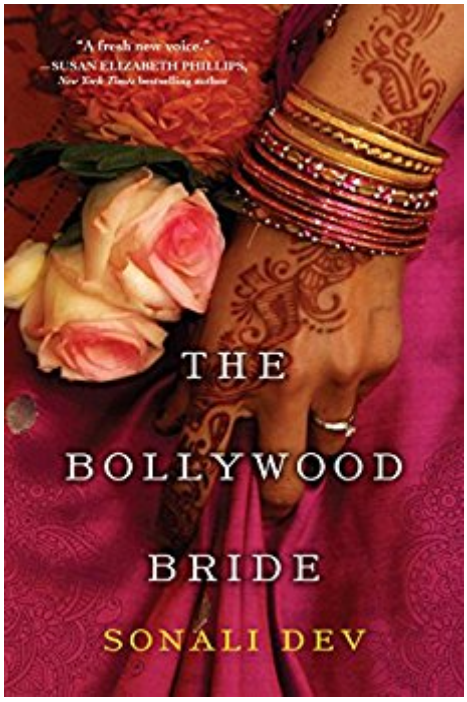
The Bollywood Bride



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Synopsis

"A fresh new voice." --Susan Elizabeth Phillips, New York Times bestselling authorRia Parkar is Bollywood’s favorite Ice Princess--beautiful, poised, and scandal-proof--until one impulsive act threatens to expose her destructive past. Traveling home to Chicago for her cousin’s wedding offers a chance to diffuse the coming media storm and find solace in family, food, and outsized celebrations that are like one of her vibrant movies come to life. But it also means confronting Vikram Jathar. Ria and Vikram spent childhood summers together, a world away from Ria’s exclusive boarding school in Mumbai. Their friendship grew seamlessly into love--until Ria made a shattering decision. As far as Vikram is concerned, Ria sold her soul for stardom and it’s taken him years to rebuild his life. But beneath his pent-up anger, their bond remains unchanged. And now, among those who know her best, Ria may find the courage to face the secrets she’s been guarding for everyone else’s benefit--and a chance to stop acting and start living. Rich with details of modern Indian-American life, here is a warm, sexy, and witty story of love, family, and the difficult choices that arise in the name of both.

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Customer Reviews

I had a little book chat with my friend Lola. Here is what we had to say.It only felt natural to pick the second book in the Bollywood Series since we both enjoyed the first one so much and THE BOLLYWOOD AFFAIR made my best of list for 2014. If youâ ™ve read the first book it bears mentioning that you should adjust your expectations a bit, THE BOLLYWOOD BRIDE has all the cultural influences you may have enjoyed in Sonali Devâ ™s debut book but be prepared to be taken down some familiar tropes such as friends to lovers, second chance romance, and mental health. The overall tone of the book is loaded with angst but balanced with humour. We enjoyed it and here is why.Book ChatLOLA: So we are back again to continue our discussion around an author we both gushed about last year. Her debut book THE BOLLYWOOD AFFAIR impressed both of us and now we are here to chat about her follow up book THE BOLLYWOOD BRIDE. How do the two books compare in tone for you, Lee?LEE: Well, I loved The Bollywood Bride just as much, if not more than Bollywood Affair. It was darker and more intense than the previous book, wasnâ ™t it? The characters were so complex and the story so heart-wrenching right from the beginning. But underlying that you could feel the absolute connection Ria and Vikram had, their love story, their connection was one of the strongest I have felt between a heroine and hero. I felt it right down to my bones.LOLA: I agreeâ | I raved about THE BOLLYWOOD AFFAIR but this one was indeed darker in tone while combining some well-loved tropes such as friends to lover and second chance romance.LEE: From the first page we are thrust into Riaâ ™s internal pain and struggle with her past and present, and her emotional journey in between.

*Review copy provided by NetGalley*This is not a book I would have ordinarily picked up. But when Nalini Singh recommended it in her newsletter and described it as â rawâ œ and â heartbreakingâ œ I was intrigued and decided to give it a shot. I wasnâ ™t disappointed as it is a wonderful love story that had me crying in quite a few places.Actually it is a book with very little action, but that is more than made up for by the intense feelings it evokes. After surviving a terrible childhood-trauma, Ria has managed to become a famous and celebrated Bollywood actress. Hiding her feelings of insecurity behind a mask of polite distance has earned her the nick-name of ice-princess. When a paparazzo manages to take some shots of her that could be misconstrued, she decides to accept her cousin Nikhilâ ™s invitation and attend his wedding in Chicago. Though she has been close to Nikhilâ ™s parents - who have become surrogate parents to her when her own family was struck by tragedy - this is the first time in a very long while she is going to visit them. While being involved in the wedding preparations for her cousin she also comes face to face with her first love, Vikram, who has been her best childhood friend and then her lover. Although Vikram

has a girlfriend Ria is overwhelmed by her resurgent feelings for him and Vikram isnâ ™t indifferent to her either. She canâ ™t help her feelings and engages in a love affair with him. Their love burns as brightly as ever, but the reasons why she left him more than 10 years ago without an explanation and broke both their hearts still hold true. Will they manage to overcome seemingly unsurmountable difficulties and give happiness a chance?What I didnâ ™t like about this book was that for me it was at times a little bit too angsty.

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