



Almost Single

By Advaita Kala

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Almost Single By Advaita Kala

In a city where old is meeting new, daughters are surprising mothers, and love is breaking all the rules, this heartfelt and wickedly funny cross-cultural debut novel introduces a smart, irreverent young woman searching for independence and matrimony in a culture bound by tradition.

Between elegant soirees and the occasional mortifying mishap, Aisha Bhatia's job as guest relations manager at New Delhi's five-star Grand Orchid Hotel is intermittently fabulous—she certainly knows her wines and cheeses. But despite a life filled with good friends and first-class travel accommodations, the fact is that not many twenty-nine-year-old women in India are single—as Aisha's mother never fails to remind her. Somewhere a clock is ticking, though as far as Aisha is concerned, it can be cheerfully drowned out by laughter over a champagne brunch. Yet when the handsomely chiseled Karan Verma arrives from New York, Aisha experiences an unexpected attitude adjustment. Karan is everything she's ever wanted...that is, if she actually *knew* what she wanted. Is it possible that she's about to find out?

Savvy, sexy, and unforgettable, **Almost Single** tackles the loving, exasperating tug-of-war between mothers and daughters, traditional customs and contemporary romance—and what happens when a modern Indian woman is caught in the middle.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this amusing though flawed novel, Kala introduces the Bridget Jones of India. Aisha Bathia is an independent 29-year-old single woman living in New Delhi working as a guest relations manager at the five-star Grand Orchid Hotel. The job seems fabulous, but in reality the hours are bad and so is the pay. And Bathia's life as a modern woman is small compensation: a 29-year-old woman in India is not supposed to be unmarried. With her two best friends, Misha and Anushka (recently divorced from her cheating husband), Bathia searches for love, trying everything from online dating to fasting during Karva Chauth, the traditional Hindu festival for married women. But Bathia has her eye on only one man, Karan Verma, the handsome investment banker from New York, even though as things move along she begins to question exactly what she is looking for. While the romance scenes are not very tense or romantic, Kala hits a bull's-eye with the situations Bathia and her cohorts finds themselves in. With a plethora of disappointing chick lit novels out there, Kala achieves what many cannot—she makes her readers laugh aloud. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Aisha Bhatia enjoys her job as a guest-relations manager at a five-star New Delhi hotel, and her jaunts with her circle of singleton friends, but at 29 she is past prime marrying age, and her mother won't let her forget it. Then Karan Verma, a handsome businessman, checks into the hotel during a move from New York to India. While Aisha helps Karan find an apartment and plan a housewarming party, her role evolves from personal assistant to pseudogirlfriend. Even as they develop feelings for one another, Aisha questions whether marriage is really her calling. Debut novelist Kala offers chick lit with an Indian twist. Although the ups-and-downs of relationships will be familiar territory for readers, Kala's depiction of New Delhi, where tradition intersects with modernity—with such curious results as marriages arranged online—is distinctive. Her likable heroine, witty dialogue, and slightly saccharine plot will also attract romance readers. -- Aleksandra Walker

Review

"The internationally trendy fiction genre...popularized by *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Sex and the City*, now has an Indian avatar.'—*Washington Post*

"Endearing and charming...Just the sort of book that could make a tiresome journey bearable." —*Statesman*, India

"Bridget Jones dons a sari....A new publishing phenomenon."—*Independent*, UK

"Chick lit with an Indian twist"—*Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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