



## The Hindi-Bindi Club

*Monica Pradhan*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

## The Hindi-Bindi Club

*Monica Pradhan*

### **The Hindi-Bindi Club** Monica Pradhan

For decades they have remained close, sharing treasured recipes, honored customs, and the challenges of women shaped by ancient ways yet living modern lives. They are the Hindi-Bindi Club, a nickname given by their American daughters to the mothers who left India to start anew—daughters now grown and facing struggles of their own.

For Kiran, Preity, and Rani, adulthood bears the indelible stamp of their upbringing, from the ways they tweak their mothers' cooking to suit their Western lifestyles to the ways they reject their mothers' most fervent beliefs. Now, bearing the disappointments and successes of their chosen paths, these daughters are drawn inexorably home.

Kiran, divorced, will seek a new beginning—this time requesting the aid of an ancient tradition she once dismissed. Preity will confront an old heartbreak—and a hidden shame. And Rani will face her demons as an artist and a wife. All will question whether they have the courage of the Hindi-Bindi Club, to hold on to their dreams—or to create new ones.

An elegant tapestry of East and West, peppered with food and ceremony, wisdom and sensuality, this luminous novel breathes new life into timeless themes.

### **The Hindi-Bindi Club Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2007 by Bantam (first published January 1st 2007)

ISBN : 9780553384529

Author : Monica Pradhan

Format : Paperback 431 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, India, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Asian Literature, Indian Literature, Food and Drink, Food, Contemporary, Womens, Adult Fiction

 [Download The Hindi-Bindi Club ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Hindi-Bindi Club ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Hindi-Bindi Club Monica Pradhan**

---

## From Reader Review The Hindi-Bindi Club for online ebook

### Annie says

The writing was stellar, the story was awesome. I found the characters super relatable and the ending was adorable. If you loved joy luck club, you would love this -- and love the "desi" or Indian additions.

---

### Laura says

This is a good beach/plane/waiting for the bus book. It's easy to read, and it's not complicated by any real emotional exploration by any of the characters. The plot is predictable, and the conversations between the characters are superficial. However, I enjoyed it. It's a great break from whatever serious stuff you've been reading.

The book jacket advertises this book as following the tradition of "The Joy Luck Club" and "Like Water for Chocolate." The former is true, except that this is an Indian "Joy Luck Club". The latter is rather insulting to Laura Esquivel. Yes, the Hindi-Bindi Club has recipes, and they look excellent. However, the recipes are not integrated into the story in the same way that they propel the story forward in "Like Water for Chocolate." And Esquivel is a much better writer than Pradhan.

---

### Manday says

This book had a few strengths and many weaknesses:

#### Strengths

- (1) Primer of Indian Culture
- (2) Scattered overview of recent Indian History
- (3) Reminds us of the point that everyone has their own sh\*t going on, people are not isolated in their problem/ more than one crisis can occur at a time in the same group of friends or family.

#### Weaknesses

(1) Abuses, instead of uses, multiple narrators. Six in total, and even with 400+ pages this leaves much unresolved. It is very frustrating at both the beginning and the end of the book. At the beginning you just start to become interested in one person when the narrator switches. It makes it hard to care. At the end, the author focuses on one event instead of covering/touching all six events that she has put into motion. Also, the various narrators all have the same voice in terms of tone, and usually also in terms of content. The occasional, and blatant, attempts to give them different voices create unnatural, strange results.

(2) Abuse, instead of use, of first person. The author falls into many of the traps that make first person dangerous. The narrators often tell you WAY too much, or show more introspection or insight than a normal person. It can make for a very tiresome read.

(3) Happy Happy Feel Good - if one of the strengths is that you show that everyone has problems, its kind of counter productive to make it seem like everything always can be resolved.

(4) While I did say that the primer of Indian Culture and History was a strength, its also a weakness. These "lessons" are not woven smoothly into the text. They are chunky and clearly the author saying, "look! here is

what I want you to know about Immigrant Indians!", or "look! Here is a bunch of Indian words so you can know more".

So, overall, it was an OKAY read. I would recommend it to people who are really interested in Indian culture, but do not know much about it yet.

---

## Yuki says

I just spent a good chunk of time writing a review as to why I LIKED this book (as in "it was okay") but why I didn't LOVE it.....and some glitch within Goodreads ERASED IT.

**I hate you Goodreads.** \*insert expletives here\*

Here's the recreated version:

**Monica Pradhan** - decent writer. But no Jhumpa Lahiri so do not expect something on that level.

**Story** - told in the first person by three American-born-Indian daughters and their immigrant mothers.

**Problem** - trying to tell the narratives of **SIX women**, while also exposing the reader to Indian culture, customs, food, dress, language, history (esp Partition), mythology, religion, etc. Technical information overload, at times akin to reading a text book.

**Result** - Too much information crammed into not enough pages, taking up space where the narratives should have been. The individual stories started off strong but in the end some of the women's tales were somewhat lacking. For example, you find out one of the mothers is having an affair with her first love - and that's it. Like, hello? That's pretty significant and yet as a reader, you get nothing more in terms of emotions/thoughts/storyline.

**What annoyed me** - The realism of it all (that was sarcasm, btw). ALL the daughters are professionally "uber successful" (one's a doctor, one's a rocket scientist-turned-successful-artist, one's a corporate something-or-other). Two of the girls have "great marriages", one of the two also has "great kids". Side note: the mothers life-stories seemed a bit more believable (even the mother who married the white guy).

Of course there has to be SOME issue which is provided by Kiran (one of the daughters), who has gotten divorced and decides she MUST meet a man, get married and have a family ASAP because she is 32 years old - therefore she's willing to settle for an 'arranged marriage' with an Indian man (as in looking for compatibility of life goals, not true love).

**WHAT I HATED THE MOST** - During the search for an 'arranged husband' it \*just so turns out\* that there's a TALL, BLONDE, BLUE-EYED, TEXAN who's living IN INDIA (hence no custom barrier), who speaks *perfect Marathi* (hence no language barrier), who has *lost his wife* who was KOREAN (hence no family barrier on his end regarding 'marrying someone of a different race/culture') and....(drum roll please).....they fall madly in love.

And while the book is 426 pages long, this all happens in the LAST 87 (!!!) PAGES. Not only that, you don't get to READ about the falling-in-love process but you're 'told' via phone call when Kiran tells her mother. And of course this culminates into the "perfect wedding" at the end of the book along with all the other

characters wrapping up their stories (and their individual issues) "happily ever after".

### **Do you see the problem I had with all this?**

I like books and storylines to be consistent. When you read *Like Water for Chocolate* you know from the first page it's going to be a whimsical fairytale-like story. When you read *Bridges of Madison County* the gentle theme, pace and tone carries throughout - even as the two characters fall in love over a matter of days.

*The Hindi-Bindi Club* is set up under the umbrella of REALISM (putting aside the fact that none of the daughters had regular office cubicle jobs or marriage problems or "oops babies" etc). It's realistic - from the first generation immigrant experience to the second generation experience of straddling two cultures to the stories of the grandparents in the old country. It's chock-full of 'real stuff' - historical, cultural, etc.

But then...in the end...there's this FANTASY BULLSHXT that gets thrown in to create a "happily-ever-after ending" tying up all the loose ends. \*frown\* That part SUCKED and *I blame the editor*. I don't know what the author was thinking (although at the back of the book there is a 'Letter To the Reader' in which she admits she wanted to keep working on the novel). Nonetheless it was the EDITOR'S JOB to nix such a fake ending.

**The reason this book got three stars** - because like I said before, Monica Pradhan is a decent writer. And she had some really great things to say about life and living (mostly voicing it from the mother's perspective). I felt like I learned something about Indian culture/history that I never knew about before (though it was excessive).

If you read this (overlooking the gag-me-with-a-spoon, eye-rolling, bullshxt ending), I think you would enjoy it too. Plus there were all these YUMMY sounding Indian recipes at the end of each chapter and it made me want to cook them! :)

---

### **Belky says**

It was a fun read. Made think of the traditions and legacy I'm leaving for my daughters.  
Made me so hungry for Indian food.

---

### **Marissa says**

Story had potential but in the end fell flat. Some of the prose was gagging--for example, the emails between Kiran and Preity at the end regarding her wedding. They were supposed enemies as kids but now all of a sudden best buds, because Preity tells Kiran she had an eating disorder so was far from perfect. Just really disappointed. Another silly plot--Preity looks for and finds the boy "that got away" on a semester-break trip to India, only to send him some cryptic letter that the reader doesn't even find out whether he understood. Also, every single daughter marrying a non-Indian? That was a little far-fetched for me. Disappointment all the way.

---

## **Kate says**

I loved that this book dwelled on the Indian heritage, and the recipes included are certainly ones that I want to try. The prose and dialogue felt forced though.

The book cover insinuates that it's on par with "The Joy Luck Club." With the exception of the mother-daughter stories told through different voices and the use of a non-Wonderbread family, it's not, but it's not a bad read either.

---

## **Shana says**

The Hindi-Bindi club was very disappointing compared to it's Indian-American chick-lit peers. The book jacket compared it to the Joy Luck Club. While the structure is similar and both focus on mothers and daughters, Pradhan lacks the writing and storytelling abilities of Amy Tan. And Hindi-Bindi actually suffers from one of Joy Luck's major flaws, a lack of positive representations of same-ethnicity romantic relationships. All the daughters in the book exclusively date white American men. I found this both boring and unlikely. Meanwhile, the mothers' marriages all appear deeply flawed, except the one mom married to an Irish-Italian man. Some of the descriptions of these idealized, ultra-sensitive yet manly American men were truly cringeworthy.

None of relationships, positive or negative, had much depth, nuance or interesting surprises. But then, neither did any of the characters. This book felt like the author was trying really really hard to write a book that would be interesting to both her clueless non-Indian sorority sister and her mom's book club. I think she would have been more successful if she stopped thinking about the audience and simply wrote what was meaningful to her without trying to use the characters as a literal explanation of her ideas. Such an unsuccessful first attempt...but I hope Pradhan tries again because there were tiny kernels of possibility in this book.

---

## **Ariella says**

A generous three stars because the author struck me as intelligent and genuine. She even included a bibliography! :) Even the recipes included at the end of each chapter didnt annoy me. I found them a sweet addition. Although not a new approach, and very risky since if done the wrong way could really become trite. But in this book, it was appropriate since Indian culture is very much about food. And they were Americanized enough for me to think 'hey, we like curry, maybe I will try that!'

But around the halfway point of the book things go a bit bland, preachy and sometimes even intellectually insulting. Note to author: If you do not think your readers politically aware enough or informationally savvy enough to know who Benazir Bhutto is, then don't mention her. Or you can explain briefly who she is in a footnote. But it is highly insulting to readers who DO know who she is to be told about her in a precursory dismissive way.

Bottom Line: I skimmed the end of the book.

---

## **Ella says**

I am very fascinated by Bollywood movies, but do not know a whole lot about Indian culture. Consequently I feel a lot of the movies I have watched have not been enjoyed as much as they could have due to my lack of education in this part of the world's history. So, one day in Costco, when I saw this book among the other stacks I added it to my cart hoping to learn a little and be entertained. Well, I know there is so much I don't know, but I feel like I got to look through a key hole to a beautiful and fascinating culture. This novel was very entertaining and a lot of fun. The characters were complex and realistic. The plot was engaging. I would love to try the recipes, but am terrified due to the complexity and my complete lack of knowledge when it comes to Indian cuisine. My only complaint was the end. It felt rushed. I think she could have taken more time. She had all these interesting plots that had been built up and they just seemed to end in a perfect little bow. I am not complaining as much about the perfect bow though as I am about how quickly she tied it. It felt like she just wanted to get it finished and no longer spend the time with the characters. But, I still enjoyed it and would recommend it to anyone. Oh, and if you have any aversion to "chick lit" you might want to pick up another book. It is sappy and sugary, but it won't cause any cavities and does have some definite meat to it.

---

### **Judy says**

The only reason this book got two stars instead of one was the presence of recipes. It's about three Indian families who moved to the US, and focuses on the mothers and their (American-born) daughters. Let's start with the title: an awkward stretch, supposedly based on what the three girls called their mothers because they were Hindi and sometimes wore bindis (forehead decorations). Please!!! (Not to mention how derivative it is of "The Joy Luck Club.")

The characters were so undifferentiated that I couldn't keep track of who was who. They seemed to be mouthpieces for information about Indian culture and politics. The writing was lazy. This is probably the worst instance: " 'A brush with death changes the way you look at things. It's made me more philosophical. Less judgmental.' She makes an analogy about sunlight hitting a cut crystal, the multitude of prisms. 'That's how I see things now.' "

'Nuff said.

---

### **Elena says**

This is a book that jumped out at me at a used book store but for whatever reason, I didn't buy it. A few months later I came back looking for it because I couldn't stop thinking "why didn't I buy that book?" Surprisingly, it was there and I bought it only to leave it on my book shelf for years! I finally read it while I was sick and looking for some relief from academic research for a class and it was great.

The story is told from the alternating viewpoints of three first generation Indian-American girls and their mothers. The alternating viewpoints threw me at first but after a few chapters you become more interested in the stories and can easily keep up. The three daughters have grown up in a kind of forced friendship (more like cousins) derived from their mothers' friendships. Though all three families hail from different parts of India, their parents found common ground as Indian immigrants and remained close over a period of years--gathering frequently in what their daughters dubbed "The Hindi Bindi Club"--the sole place where they find comfort and understanding and support each other through an immigrant's struggle's. The Hindi Bindi Club is also the only place where they can freely enjoy their Indian heritage and speak Hindu.

As indicated on the back cover, the book weaves a similar tale to Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*. If you liked that (as I did), you will enjoy this book. It's a light read--entertaining, sometimes sad, sometimes funny--but over all worth your time.

---

### Sheila says

Chick lit Asian Style. I didn't care for this book - many of the emails did not ring true to character and the story was confusing at times. The Asian history was the best part of the book. The recipes looked interesting but, to be honest, I didn't read it for the recipes. My book club read this book, 2 girls didn't finish it and the rest of the consensus was lukewarm.

---

### Jami says

Maybe it's the Amy Tan fan in me, but this book was just too much of a copy of *Joy Luck Club* for me to really enjoy. It seems strange to me that the author chose the exact same format as Amy Tan (alternating chapters of the mothers, who are Indian immigrants, and their American-raised daughters), and even titled the book so similarly! That said, the writing is nowhere as good, so setting up the book for such an obvious comparison was really a mistake. The voices of the three daughters sounded exactly the same; I had to keep reminding myself which daughter was talking. The storyline was only so-so and highly predictable.

What was also frustrating was the fact that the book seemed to be geared toward readers who have little or no prior knowledge of Indian culture, clearly defining certain terms or cultural practices part of the time, but at the same time, leaving many of the Hindi terms undefined or unclear to the reader.

I did really enjoy learning some things about Indian history that I was completely unaware . . . like the whole Partition holocaust! Wow, if nothing else, it certainly made me want to read some books on Indian history now.

One more thing I had to add that made me crazy about this book was the use of smiley faces. Each chapter had several "email" exchanges between the characters, and *every single character* used every variation of the "smiley face" that you could possibly think of in their emails. It made me insane. I could see if one or two of them liked to use them occasionally, but ALL of them, EVERY time? Then, to top it off, when Meenal starts writing her daughter these very "meaningful" hand-written letters from India, she seems compelled to add a smiley face to the end of every paragraph! Maybe it's just because I'm not a smiley face kind of gal, but it *really* got on my nerves.

---

### Bliss says

This is a book about love, marriage, family, food, and relationships.

Monica Pradhan did a great job of explaining the subtle layers of Indian culture for me.

In *The Hindi-Bindi Club*, three young (I'm 40; they're younger than me) Indian-American women learn through their relationships with their moms that living up to the expectations of their families can allow room for keeping their own individuality as well.

I also learned many things. Like:

If I choose to cook more, I can try the yummy-sounding Indian recipes found through out this book.

People are basically the same when it comes to family. Most of us want what's best for our families. Sometimes we're pushy but hey, it's what we know. :-)

Maybe arranged marriages aren't so bad. Marriage can be difficult at times. Having the two families who are willing to invest in the survival of one's marriage can be a good thing.

Tradition and ritual can be good things. Sometimes it helps to know what one is expected to do and to do it. Other times, maybe not. ;o)

I really really want to visit India. As many regions as possible. I want to experience it live and in person.

---