



As Sweet as Honey

By Indira Ganesan

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As Sweet as Honey By Indira Ganesan

In her latest novel, Indira Ganesan, a writer often likened to Arundhati Roy and Chitra Divakaruni (see back of jacket for reviews), gives us an enchanting story of family life that is a dance of love and grief and rebirth set on a gorgeous island in the Indian Ocean.

The island is filled with exotic flora and fauna and perfumed air. A large family compound is presided over by a benign, stalwart grandmother. There is a very tall South Asian heroine with the astonishing un-Indian name of Meterling, who has found love at last in the shape of a short, round, elegant Englishman who wears white suits. There are also numerous aunts, uncles, and young cousins—among them, Mina, grown now, and telling this story of a marriage ceremony that ends with a widowed bride who, in the midst of her grief, discovers she is pregnant.

While enjoying their own games and growing pains, Mina and her young cousins follow every nuance of gossip, trying to puzzle out what is going on with their favorite aunt, particularly when the groom's cousin arrives from England and begins to woo her. As Meterling—torn between Eastern and Western ideas of love and family, duty and loyalty—struggles to make a new life, we become as entranced with this family, its adventures and complications, as Mina is.

And with her we celebrate a time and place where, although sometimes difficult, life was for the most part as sweet as honey.

BONUS MATERIAL: This ebook edition includes an excerpt from India Ganesan's *Inheritance*.

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Editorial Review

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Ganesan's first novel since *Inheritance* (1998) is set on the island of Pi in the Bay of Bengal. The tale is narrated by Mina, who, as a 10-year-old, watches in awe as her six-foot-tall aunt Meterling falls in love with a chubby, genial Englishman by the name of Archer, only to tragically lose him just after they had exchanged their vows. Meterling's family is scandalized to learn she is pregnant with Archer's child, but it only fuels young Mina's imagination about their courtship. After most of his family gives Meterling the cold shoulder, Archer's cousin Simon comes to visit her, and he and Meterling fall in love quite unexpectedly. Smitten, Simon proposes to Meterling and spirits her and her baby, Oscar, to England, where Meterling not only experiences profound culture shock but also is thrown by the appearance of the ghost of Archer, who doesn't approve of her relocation. Whether she's describing verdant, lush Pi or bustling, crowded London, Ganesan brings Meterling's two worlds, and her conflicted feelings about each of them, to vibrant life. -- Kristine Huntley

Review

randomhouse.com/book/219620/as-sweet-as-honey-by-indira-ganesan#praise

About the Author

Indira Ganesan was born in Srirangam, India, and moved to the United States as a child. She graduated from Vassar College and received an MFA from the Iowa Writers Workshop. Her previous novels were *The Journey* and *Inheritance*.

Users Review

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