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The Grand Plan To Fix Everything



Synopsis

Rose petal milk shakes and a world of surprises awaits Dini when her family moves to India in this spirited novel with Bollywood flair. Eleven-year old Dini loves movies—“watching them, reading about them, trying to write her own—especially those oh-so-fabulous Bollywood movies where you don’t need to know the language to get what’s going on. But when her mother reveals some big news, it does not at all jibe with the script Dini had in mind. Her family is moving to India. And not even to Bombay, which is the center of the *filmi* universe • (and home to Dini’s all-time most favorite star, Dolly Singh). No, they’re moving to a teeny, tiny town that she can’t even find on a map: Swapnagiri. It means Dream Mountain, a sleepy little place where nothing interesting can happen.... But wait a movie minute! Swapnagiri is full of surprises like rose petal milk shakes, mischievous monkeys, a girl who chirps like a bird, and...could it be Dolly herself?

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0770 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 288 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (February 19, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416995900

ISBN-13: 978-1416995906

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.9 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #445,901 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #360 in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #1163 in Books > Children’s Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

As a mother who screens everything her 12-year-old daughter reads, a lot of books make it to our must-read list because of what we’re currently doing as a family. In the case of “The Grand Plan to Fix Everything,” I knew said daughter would get a kick out of reading it because my husband had just got us all watching Bollywood movies as a family, so we knew exactly what the characters were

about. This is not a book that needs to be read in context, however, although, of course, our current interest in Bollywood movies made it so much more fun to read. Any child who's experiencing a change of circumstance or environment would enjoy this book. It was a short read, but the laughs lasted quite a while longer after the book was closed. Said daughter's review follows: "The book, 'The Grand Plan to Fix Everything' by Uma Krishnaswami was a funny book. "Eleven-year-old Dini loves movies: making movies, watching movies with her best friend Maggie and especially Dolly Singh movies. So when she finds out she is going to India in the middle of the school year, she thinks she will finally be able to meet Dolly. Then she finds out that she is moving into a teeny tiny village in India called 'Dreamy Mountain' for two years. It is upsetting to say the least. But will Dini find a way to make her life better? From actually meet Dolly herself to close encounters with wild monkeys to curry puffs to singing cars and chirping girls, this is a book you will never forget. "My favorite character was Dini. She is really funny and really cares about her friends. I also liked how Dini wrote her essay in school like a movie script and talked about how she wants to change the world.

My 11-year-old daughter and I read this book one after the other, in 3 days. She loved it ("Wow, great fun" was her comment when she closed the book) and so did I. Now, what did I LOVE about The Gran Plan to Fix Everything ? First, the obvious : it is lovingly written and crafted, it is funny in a tongue-in-cheek way (the author mentioned somewhere being inspired by P.G. Woodhouse), it is a breath of fresh mountain air carrying the fragrance of blue flowers, and some goat smells, too. The fusion quality : Dini's parents are Indian, but she's growing up in the US. Dini's BFF is American, and she is as much a fan of Bollywood movies as Dini is. Emails, phone calls, and video computer calls allow both girls to remain in touch. Dini soon meets another girl named Priya whose parents are in Washington DC, but will soon be going to Chile, and then Haiti. This is the kind of world where people from different walks of life, different countries and cultures, all learn from each other. Oh, one last thing : we also get to "taste" curry puffs with a touch of chocolate, and dark chocolate scented with rose petals ! Uma Krishnaswami, being of Indian origin, puts her own stamp on the English language, and I'm not talking syntax or grammar, here, but music, and a unique way of stringing words together. You can see this is someone who loves the picture book medium and studied it extensively. Her language literally sings and dances and follows some of the cadences of the Hindi and Tamil languages that she speaks, as well as English.

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