



The Plunge

Sindhu S.

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Love is madness...

When a thirty-something journalist Anjali meets the charismatic Siddharth, she has no intention of becoming romantically involved with him. Anjali is a strong, independent woman, angered by the man's world she lives in and traumatised by events in her past. She has no desire to fall in love.

Anjali is certain that, after months of chatting online, when she finally meets Siddharth the charm will be broken. But she is surprised to find herself attracted to him – and shocked when they fall into bed together on their first date. Seized by new emotions that go against everything she believes in, Anjali is caught in a battle between her head and her heart, between love and self-protection.

For the first time in her life, Anjali is at the mercy of her emotions and desires...and as she plunges into an affair with a man she knows little about, she risks losing everything.

Set in India, *The Plunge* is a frank and powerful examination of modern relationships that every woman will identify with. Told with astonishing emotional insight, this debut novel will take your breath away.

The Plunge Details

Date : Published February 13th 2013 by Sindhu S.

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Author : Sindhu S.

Format : Paperback 238 pages

Genre : Contemporary

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From Reader Review The Plunge for online ebook

Michelle Willms says

The Plunge by Sindhu S.

Anjali, a woman nearing thirty, has decided she is in love with Siddharth, a happily married man. Anjali is a reporter with the India Independent. Siddharth is over the Sunday desk in the Delhi office of the paper. When the earthquake hit Katch, he assigned her to write a human-interest piece on the survivors.

She didn't really even know him. She had heard his voice and communicated mostly by email. She had seen him only once - then only briefly, when he'd visited her office, yet somehow, she managed to fall wholly in love with him.

When Anjali plans to meet with Siddharth at last, her nervousness is palpable; she has never really been in love before. She has always carefully protected herself and even guarded against lust, but somehow Siddharth's flirty emails have awakened something in her. She believes this man cares for her as a person; she believes he sees her as someone of worth, not just a female to be used for sex and discarded.

Her friends have all tried to warn her to stay away from Siddharth, but she is drawn to this man, her love.

The Plunge is a heartbreakingly beautiful glimpse of the life of a single woman in India who grew up having never been kissed – by anyone. This book illuminates breathtaking images of the country and devastating portraits of the decisions we often make.

Sindhu S. has a rare talent for drawing the reader in so deeply, the reader begins to live and breathe the lives of the main characters. The emotional ups and downs are stunning. This should definitely be an addition to your personal library. And keep an eye open for future works of this author.

Advaith says

A great read . This is a beautiful love story .

Debby Tjong A Hung says

I was really attracted to this book when I saw the cover of it. I have a thing for books about Indian culture.

The story is about Anjali, who meets Siddharth online and is intrigued by his charm. Siddharth, however is married and Anjali can't help but fight the intense attraction she has for this man even though her best friend is against it and tries to warn her to stay away. I would have loved to read more about the interactions between Anjali and Siddharth and a little less of the flashbacks and historical descriptions in the book. Sindhu does do a wonderful job at describing all the places where the books take place, but at times it just felt like it took away from the story and slowed it down a bit, plus I think it also changed the genre of the book as well. The story also had an open ending so I am sure that if Sindhu wanted she would be able to write a sequel to this book, which I wouldn't mind at all!

Karla Mae (Reads and Thoughts) says

An Indian woman. Her trials, happiness, love and her man.

I will start this review with the way I feel about the ending of this book, well, honestly its the only redeeming part of it. The end happened just when I'm starting to get the hype on. I love the emotional and surprising turn of events.

Why is that you ask? I don't really know. The first part and middle part of the story just didn't quite grip me.

Here I am with my expectations once again. Sigh. So I'm expecting a romance story that flows through the same plot as to others but what I get is a story where the girl is involved in affair with a married guy but for her, their affair is simply more than hitting the sack for she harbor deep feelings for the guy. It was really far far from what I was expecting based on the blurb posted.

As for the characters, I really didn't get the chance to connect with them. The story was told in different point of views of Anjali, Swapna and Siddharta so at the beginning I'm a bit confused as to who should I put my focus on - whether it Siddharta, Anjali or Swapna's story though these three are all intertwined.

Anjali is a soft-hearted character. She may be the one girl who has the most horrible sexual past due to idiotic guys that she's been around with. I really find myself questioning what really she did find with Siddharta. I mean, he's hot and cold with her and seems to take what they have too casually, I think Anjali sees it but she's being blinded by what she feels with him. I honestly think, that Siddharta's character was lamely made. I mean, I didn't see an inch of thing that makes him pretty much likable!

Despite those hesitations, I can't erase the fact the The Plunge was a story with a lesson. Oh and a question, why is it titled The Plunge? Feel free to enlighten me about it. ;)

I'm honestly expecting more but didn't get that hype. But as I've said firstly, I like the ending, despite the not so good middle parts, it ended with a bang! It's emotional, heavy and surprising, sometimes I hate that kind of ending but I think it quite suited this one.

Copy kindly provided for review

***Blog Tour deets posted at Reads and Thoughts.**

Deepa Duraisamy says

Sindhu's debut novel, the Plunge, is an honest attempt at portraying modern, often confused, relationships that an Indian woman today finds herself in. The conflicting emotions, points of view of the female protagonist and her close friends are well etched – conversations between Anjali and her friends are very much as in real life. The author has done a lot of work in researching the place and the era she talks about in the book – be it about Shimla, Chail or the time of the Maharajas - that effort certainly is commendable. I particularly liked the narration skills and quality of language employed by the author.

I would have loved to see more interaction and exploration of the relationship between the lead protagonists – in some places the amount of history/geography/back stories of non-characters in the book felt a bit excessive considering the genre/plot of the book. Personally, I would have happily traded it in for some more present-tense human interaction – though the information provided can definitely seem interesting to many. Digressions from the plot – to read about history/geography/back stories is the only thing, which I felt, slowed down the pace heavily for me. All in all, it's a decent debut and I wish her the best for her future releases.

Sanjana Kumar says

The Plunge is a romantic novel and a must read for all romantic book lovers especially if they love realistic love stories. I could easily relate to the characters in the story which are sketched and expressed beautifully. The Plunge ignites your feelings for all the characters, which is something few books can do and this book has been successful in it. Set in India, the author has also done a fantastic job in giving amazing description of most of the iconic landmarks of India. It is interesting to note how the author has mentioned quite a few anecdotes of the main character which I must say is funny and thrilling at the same time. Several incidents shocked me with their honesty and rawness which makes you love the book even more. The story captures sadness, romance, drama, love everything! The story mainly focuses on the lead couple Anjali and Siddharth's love story but it also talks about love for parents, friendship, workplace issues and spirituality. Its a great read, difficult to put down (I read it one go). Do read it, I am sure it will not be disappointing in any sense.

I mostly never found books by Indian authors quite appealing other than Chetan Bhagat, but I have an addition to make to the list of Indian authors I like and that is none other that SINDHU S. (the author of this heart touching book The Plunge).

I wish the author all the best in her future ventures. Waiting to read her next book!

Suresh Kumar says

Amazing!! a must read romantic book.....

M'diya says

Time waste book!

A love story? All I could find was a 30 year-old woman being immature. The writing failed to keep the promises made by the description.

Swati Nitin Gupta says

Extramarital affairs are common these days given the fact that we spend more time at work with colleagues than at home with our spouses and are naturally drawn towards them for their similarities with us. The debutant author Sindhu S has chosen a powerful topic of Extramarital affair between a senior and subordinate, but somewhere in the middle the book becomes predictable hence loses the charm.

I am sure most women in their 30s married or single will identify with the female protagonist and will feel it is their story being told in black and white. All in all a good one time read for all those who believe in Love.

Aurora says

Name of Book: The Plunge

Author: Sindhu S

ISBN: 9781461159254

Publisher: self published?

Type of book: 2000-2004? 2008? India, Shimla, adultery, obsession, affair, relationship status, marriage, friendship

Year it was published: 2013

Summary:

Love is madness...

When a thirty-something journalist Anjali meets the charismatic Siddharth, she has no intention of becoming romantically involved with him. Anjali is a strong, independent woman, angered by the man's world she lives in and traumatised by events in her past. She has no desire to fall in love.

Anjali is certain that, after months of chatting online, when she finally meets Siddharth the charm will be broken. But she is surprised to find herself attracted to him – and shocked when they fall into bed together on their first date. Seized by new emotions that go against everything she believes in, Anjali is caught in a battle between her head and her heart, between love and self-protection.

For the first time in her life, Anjali is at the mercy of her emotions and desires...and as she plunges into an affair with a man she knows little about, she risks losing everything.

Set in India, The Plunge is a frank and powerful examination of modern relationships that every woman will identify with. Told with astonishing emotional insight, this debut novel will take your breath away.

Characters:

The characters are rounded and multi-faceted mainly due to Anjali that undergoes a 360 degree turn when she starts being with Siddharth. Anjali had a horrible sexual past which she does relate to the reader, but she always emphasizes how different and how much better Siddharth is. After a while that part got annoying quickly. She also starts to obsess about him and before long she is not happy with the relationship. Siddharth acts either hot or cold and for him its a casual relationship. (Apparently he likes to have cake and have more cake,) He has no compulsion on morals and until the end never feels he did anything wrong with Anjali.

Theme:

It's not okay to have an affair if you are married, and affair involves more than just sex.

Plot:

This is written in third person narrative from Anjali's, Swapna's and Siddharth's points of view. I felt that Siddharth in particular, has been written clumsily and very little is known or told from his point of view. The times the reader does get a glimpse of Siddharth he likes and is happy with Anjali, while Anjali feels unhappy and despondent as well as insecure about her relationship to him. The transitions from one point of view to another is done clumsily. When I first started to read the book, I didn't understand which character I should focus on: is it Anjali or Swapna?

Author Information:

(from goodreads.com)

born

in Thiruvananthapuram, India

gender

female

website

<http://www.sindhushspace.wordpress.com>

twitter username

Sindhu S.

genre

Fiction, Ebooks, Memoir

member since

July 2010

Opinion:

This is a remarkable book that details the relationship of being an "other woman" and the author toys with the ideas of obsessions, belonging and dark sexual history. I felt there did tend to be repetition and disorder in a lot of parts. The book also delivers a history of Shimla in India and the ending was interesting although in a way I felt it was an open ending.

Quick notes: I would like to thank the author for the opportunity to read and review the book.

4 out of 5

(0: Stay away unless a masochist 1: Good for insomnia 2: Horrible but readable; 3: Readable and quickly forgettable, 4: Good, enjoyable 5: Buy it, keep it and never let it go.)

Tanya Johnson says

this book just wasn't for me...couldn't finish

Mandeep Singh says

Racy, steamy and fast-paced, the book is a not to be put down work. Read it in one go, even though the first few chapters do not tell how good the rest of the book is. A must-read for women - as well as men. Does not feel like it is the writer's debut novel

The Suburban Eclectic says

The setting of The Plunge is India, yet this story could be told in any country and in any language. Modern literature even has a name for it, women's literature, i.e. chick lit. Now that might be a leap for some, but I found The Plunge to tell the story that we're all familiar with, the "office romance." And just as it is on the down low in America, so too is it in India. Anjali has fallen for her co-worker and via email no less. Has she not seen Catfish? These things rarely end well.

The pacing is a bit slow and it takes awhile for things to get going. Sindhu doesn't hit you over the head with exposition or big buildups. I appreciate that she lets the reader fill in some of the blanks. However, given the angst and turmoil in Anjali and Siddharth relationship a bit more emotion and excitement would have gone a long way, but that could be my Western ideology talking.

The Plunge is beautifully written with vivid imagery and a smooth style. I enjoyed the flawed perfection of both characters. I think every modern woman can find something insightful and compelling in this tale.

Neelanchana Kumar says

It was un-put-down-able! Touching, beautiful and heartfelt! It was a wonderful, tumultuous and poignant love story of a young, contemporary Indian woman, her trials and tribulations and her pursuit of happiness, love and her man. The emotions are so raw and real it kept leaping out of the pages and finally when the book comes to a surprising end, I was left with a heavy heart. the emotional turmoil, the confusion, the multitude of emotions that the protagonist as well as the other characters go through have all been so beautifully captured! A heartbreak romantic novel that will stay in my heart now and forever.
