



CityMasala Book Club

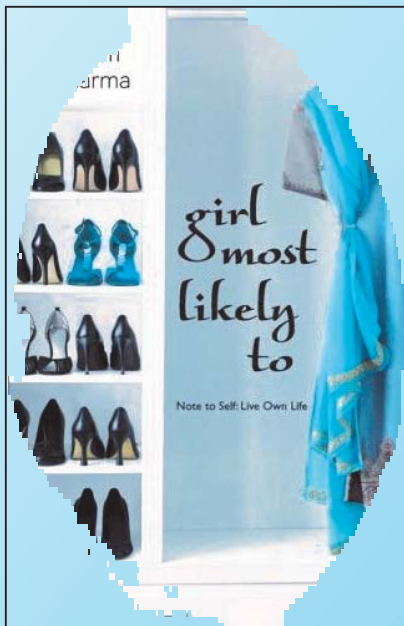
By: Sheniz Janmohamed

BOOK REVIEW

Girl Most Likely To: By: Poonam Sharma

Poonam Sharma's *Girl Most Likely To* is a charming novel about an ambitious Indian New Yorker seeking love and balance in her crazy life. Vina Chopra's life revolves around her friends and her career as an investment banker, and there is little time for romance. She always manages to find the wrong men who end up wasting her time or breaking her heart. After her parent's botched attempt to set her up with a "nice Indian boy", Vina begins to lose faith. A scandal at the office and a failed relationship forces Vina to turn inward to regain her strength and confidence.

In some instances, *Sharma* is hilariously clever, "Question: Wouldn't you like to be more like a man? Answer: Why would I want to be hairier, lonelier and more confused than I already am?" In other instances, her metaphors are excessive and detract from the action of the plot, "The grin slid off his face like caramel and oozed onto the floor between us." The strongest aspect of the novel is *Sharma's* ability to delve into Vina's mind, creating a character that is believable. Vina suffers the fate of being well edu-



cated and overambitious, unwilling to compromise her goals for the sake of a man. However, Vina also yearns for a relationship of mutual understanding and sometimes longs to be cared for. *Sharma* is able to capture Vina's quirks, thoughts and emotional hurdles on the page with sharp wit and unwavering insight.

Girl Most Likely To reminded me of the hit series "Sex and The City". It contains the same verve and spunk as the show, but it goes deeper and channels spiritual concepts to help Vina deal with her messes. Another lure of the novel is cultural references catering to female readers, "What Indian women save in trips to tanning booths and melanoma clinics, we lose in the battle against our follicles. All that waxing, plucking, threading and tweezing could reduce a grown man to tears." *Girl Most Likely To* is destined to make you laugh in agreement, cry in sympathy and bang your hand against the table in frustration. A must read for *desi* gals.

To buy *Girl Most Likely To* visit:
www.amazon.com