



DATING DR. DIL

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Bookclub Discussion Guide

1. Dating Dr. Dil by Nisha Sharma is inspired by Taming of the Shrew but does not retell the same plot line. Instead, the story focuses on deconstructing themes in Shakespeare's anti-feminist play. One example is the reversal of Petruchio's three forms of abuse (Prem and Kareena are always eating, Kareena can only sleep through the night with Prem, and Prem has to change his point of view instead of Kareena changing hers). What other deconstructed themes resonated with you?
2. In Dating Dr. Dil, the characters talk about the difference between a love marriage and an arranged marriage, both concepts very relevant in the South Asian community. Discuss the complexity of approaching long term relationships from these polarizing perspectives.
3. Taming of the Shrew is technically a play within a play. In Dating Dr. Dil, the Indians Abroad News Articles act as a broader storyline that frames Kareena and Prem's romance. Share your impressions of Mrs. W.S. Gupta's hot takes on romance and whether you think they are regressive cultural adages.
4. Kareena and Prem share one intense conversation that felt perfect in the moment. But, after spending more time together over the course of four months, they began to unpack their baggage together through difficult conversations and arguments. Have you ever experienced a moment with a partner that felt perfect at the time it happened, but upon further reflection, you were able to spot the cracks and fissures in the relationship?
5. Much like Shakespeare's Taming of the Shrew, Kareena's family doesn't listen to her, and neglects her feelings. They won't change much like some of the toxic people that we encounter in our own lives. Fortunately, Kareena (and Prem) have found-family through their close group of friends that support them. How do these friend groups affect the choices Prem and Kareena made in the story?
6. The aunties are a cultural phenomena known for being gossiping busy-bodies only interested in comparing the success of children, and asking of single women are getting married soon. Sharma attempts to create a progressive group of aunties in Dating Dr. Dil. These women acted as true mother-figures to Kareena as she navigated falling in love without a family ally. What resonated with you about the aunties and their guidance?