



Tastes Like Shakkar

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Bookclub Discussion Guide

- Tastes Like Shakkar is inspired by Shakespeare's play, *Much Ado About Nothing*. The play is about a Prince who comes to visit an old friend after suppressing an uprising by his younger brother. There are wedding plans, an attempt at sabotaging a wedding, and a group of side characters who complicate matters. What elements of Tastes Like Shakkar are similar to the play, and what elements are different?
- One of the key themes in Tastes Like Shakkar is the idea of a 'family manager.' How did Benjamin and Bobbi adopt the role of family managers in their personal lives with both their related family and their friend groups?
- Bobbi is a plus size heroine who is confident in her body, and the way she looks. However, she's incredibly aware of how the world perceives her. How does this impact the first impression that she makes with Benjamin in the prologue?
- Food is often used as a way to communicate in South Asian culture. From welcoming new friends, to apologizing, sharing a meal opens doors. How does Benjamin use food to communicate in Tastes Like Shakkar?
- The aunties are back in Tastes Like Shakkar, and even more fierce in their protectiveness than they were in *Dating Dr. Dil*. What are some of the stereotypes that you've heard about aunties that the ones in Tastes Like Shakkar seek to dismantle?
- In Tastes Like Shakkar, much of the romance is epistolary with the couple communicating while they are on opposite sides of the country. Do you think that couples who are physically apart have the opportunity to get to know each other better, or are they at a disadvantage?
- Both Bobbi and Benjamin believe they are fulfilling the expectations set out for them by their parents. Do you think both protagonists are misguided in their beliefs about family obligations?