



Only Wheat Not White

Varsha Dixit

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What if the one you completely love is the one you simply can't! Twenty-six-year-old Eila Sood moves to America to mend fences with her estranged older sister, Sheela. Eila and the rest of the family in India had cut off ties with Sheela after she married Steve Jacobs, 'out of caste, and out of color'. Eila soon realizes that Sheela's marriage is on the rocks. To help pay Sheela's household bills, Eila takes a second job at an afternoon strip club. When she crosses paths with the owner, the handsome Brett Wright or 'blue-eyed ogre' as Eila calls him, he both infuriates and fascinates her. Brett turns out to be her reluctant and unquestionably sarcastic knight in shining armor. As Eila and Brett spend more time together their desire for each other builds. However, when Brett discovers the true reason for Eila's refusal he storms out of her life, accusing her of being a prejudiced coward. Will Eila find the courage to break stereotypes and embrace her love? Will Brett find solace in the arms of his ex-girlfriend Cate? Will Sheela and Steve divorce? All of these questions and more are answered in Varsha Dixit's latest and humorous and steamy love story.

Only Wheat Not White Details

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Author : Varsha Dixit

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From Reader Review Only Wheat Not White for online ebook

Namitha Varma says

Let me confess that I began reading this with a lot of prejudice. Prejudice #1 - the genre. I am not a fan of romance, and the amount of mushiness and the forced happy endings drive me crazy. Prejudice #2 - the title. 'Only Wheat Not White' sounded too racist, too unsophisticated.

But as I read, I enjoyed Dixit's writing. The snarky humour and the descriptions of Eila's clumsiness endeared me to the protagonist Eila Sood. In this month's 'romance-themed' reading challenge, this is in fact the one I enjoyed the most.

However, I do have a couple of problems with Only Wheat Not White. #1 - Constant reference to Brett Wright as "the ogre" put me off. I don't think I got enough time to like him as Eila's potential lover. #2 - with a title that directly referred to racial problems between the Caucasian and the Indian, I expected a little bit of confrontation with the parents. Especially because the parents are present throughout the book as strong background characters, though the mother and father have not been given distinguishable personalities. I don't think the story does justice to the story of Sheela and Steve either - for example, how is it that they had never tried to sort their differences until Eila came over?

That said, I loved Eila Sood. A very believable character: gauche but efficient, interfering but slightly scared about making moves for herself... and a wonderful sense of humour that sustains the reading. In fact descriptions of her constant gaucherie are what I loved the best.

Inderpreet Uppal says

Eila, an unusual name for an unusual girl! This is a story that delighted me and I read it straight through the night. The need to know how it all turns out; does Sheela manage to keep her family together? Do her parents forgive the elder sister or is the younger one also painted with the same colors? How long can a man wait for a lady to decide that does she love him or not? Is there any love for her at all or is it all lost along the way?

This novel throws up a delightful mix of issues and questions that I felt drawn to the story. My sympathies were with Brett Wright, poor guy! He did not know what hit him!! Eila managed to bang into him time and again and he just could not get over her.

Eila, the smart, beautiful, and vivacious. I loved the clothes she wore and was a sight for sore eyes. Subtle and sexy, slowly making inroads into the hearts of everyone. She was also a good friend, a hard worker and totally devoted to her loved ones. She made me realize I would have loved to have a sister like her. Even though she was the younger one but she tried to keep it all together and even felt guilty for her own happiness!! Almost like a saint but not quite!

The title of the novel is very apt, it highlights the fact that prejudice is not just for 'white' skin but also for our own kind. Looking down upon anyone who is not 'like us'. Being biased and selective permeates in all sections of our society. It is not just the illiterate or uneducated folks, but from all walks of life who condemn their family and children to unhappiness due to their egos.

Eila comes out the winner here; she helps her friend, Megan with Murli. Her boss, Randall and her new boss Brett. That she finds love along the way is the icing on the cake. When she takes up the challenge to cook with Mrs Das and how it all turns out had me grinning from ear to ear. Just loved the tension, surprise and the super hot chemistry Varsha has created in her book!!

This book also explores the dynamics of NRI love and inter-cultural love. Quite relevant in our lives today. The story explores all angles and effects of falling in love with someone who is different from us. After all in India, you marry into the whole family!!

The insecurity of Eila and her behaving like a martyr for everyone got to me. For a smart girl she was silly sometimes. Also I wanted to know more about Brett, read what he was thinking – his actions were obvious but still his thoughts would have been hotter!

Also some closure with the parents would have been nice; I felt more could have been said about them considering they were the main reason for Eila joining her sister.

Sheela and her husband Steve make a cute couple and I loved the fact that all the characters in the story had flaws and very so human. No perfection but real people. I could almost see a friend of mine in Sheela and even Murli. I think I have definitely met him!!

Did I mention the language is really good, crisp, fresh, youth-full and mirrors the characters thoughts so well? A book that bridges the world with love, a story that simplifies the tough decisions of life and a good wholesome romance to top it all off!!

A must read for a superb weekend – if you read that slow!!

(I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange of my unbiased review.)

Valerie says

Sometimes White Bread Is Good For You!

This was a great story that teaches us that you can't run from true love, even when you find it outside of your race or culture. This book was at times heartbreaking and at other time hilariously funny. This one goes one my keeper shelf!

Sundari Venkatraman says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this ebook from the author (via Blog Tour hosted by The Book Club) in return for my honest review. I never received any monetary compensation for the same.

Eila Sood is middle daughter of three from the Soods in India. She goes to New York, USA to work with OIS Solutions for six months. She plans to stay with her estranged sister Sheela who's married to an

American. Sheela has two adorable sons – Aryan and Adam. Incidentally, her husband's name is Steve Jobs. That made me smile.

The Sood family had cut off ties with their eldest daughter since she had married a firang. Now you know why the title is what it is.

Warning: Don't read further if you haven't read the book. Spoilers galore!

Right from the moment her plane lands in New York, Eila keeps bumping – most times literally – into a blue-eyed ogre. Halfway into the book, we find out that he's Brett Wright. Despite her mother's warning to choose "only wheat not white", Eila finds herself attracted to this restaurateur. Tough times ahead!

Read the complete review here: <http://sundarivenkatraman.blogspot.in...>

Nilima says

Varsha Dixit

Did you check out the Blurb of this book on Spotlight: Only Wheat not White by Varsha Dixit ?

If the blurb sounds interesting, the story is lovely. I loved it :)

What I liked: Oh, everything I can say :D

The cover is super delicious. The Blurb of the book made me want to pick up the book immediately.

Know more:

Book Review: Only Wheat not White by Varsha Dixit

Ruchi Singh says

Rating 3.5 stars:

The premise of interracial relationship in Indian context is refreshing in contemporary romance category. OWNW deals with the effect of parents' insecurity and close-mindedness towards unchartered culture, on the children. Their preconceived notions and impassioned black-mail leads to vacillation and emotional scarring in the next generation. The issue is handled well by Ms Dixit in 'Only Wheat Not White'.

Eila Sood comes to America on H1 visa, with the intention of bridging the gap with her sister, Sheela, after her mother suffers a stroke back in India. But she is shocked to see Sheela's marriage and life falling apart. She tries to maintain status quo and helps Sheela to bring her life on track. While Eila settles in USA, she bumps into Brett Wright, the handsome hunk with blue eyes, many a times and always under unusual circumstances where he rescues her most of the times.

Though the build-up was a little slow but momentum picked up as things began getting complicated when Eila is forced to work at a strip-club. The drama that unfolds is very entertaining with an excellent twist at the end.

Eila comes across as an intelligent, smart girl who had a tendency to attract misfortunes, like some people

are prone to accidents. I loved the subtle wit and humor and the quiet strength of her character. Brett was perfect as his feelings for Eila change from bewilderment to exasperation to deep attraction and love. I loved the build-up of romance between the main protagonists. The charm is all about the journey not the end.

All the sub-characters were distinct and well introduced, including Eila's cute nephews and Randall, who used to call her 'Quickie'. All of them were human with flaws and engaging. The settings of the club, restaurant painted delightful pictures making the story appealing.

The style of narration is smooth and flowing. The fresh and crisp language, invoked right kind of emotions. I felt for Eila and Brett when she tells him that she would prefer wheat over white.

On the flip side, initially Eila's actions and dialogues felt a bit disjointed and unnatural, but as the story took flight I connected with her. Another peeve was the oscillating point-of-view whenever Eila and Brett came together. The frequent change in POV took away the romance depth and immersion in the story. I would also have loved to see how Eila would have dealt with her parents about her choice, some kind of closure to the issue.

Overall OOWNW is an engaging, entertaining read, which also focuses on the interracial cultural conflicts, recommended for all romance lovers.

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this ebook from the author (via Blog Tour hosted by 'The Book Club') in return for my honest review.

More reviews on: <http://www.iluvfiction.com>

Reshma Ranjan says

Love is all what matters whether be it, Wheat or White!

What has love to do with race, caste or skin colour finally it is meant to conquer hearts for the better. Loved every moment of it.

Everytime I read Varsha Dixit I am in awe. Especially how she blends the humour so realistically to the story telling. It's not just the story but also the humour and fun which adds the charm to the book.

The very concept of accepting a White into the very conservative Indian family, a husband and wife struggling to live with a burden of the same. One of them struggling hard to find the roots; she had to leave behind to be with her love... just not the right way. One poor lady trying hard to keep this Mr White out of her heart because he is not Wheat. Also Mr White is struggling hard to understand the very concept of it all. This romance with a blend of humour holds you all the way along.

Detailed Book Review in Book Reviews by Reshma Ranjan

Rubina says

Disclaimer : I got this book from the Author. It is my personal opinion and NOT a commissioned one.

As the world shrinks due to cultural crossovers, the mentality of the humans are taking the time to catch up.

In a country where you cannot marry a guy who speaks in a different dialect, marrying outside the country is a shocker. And this happened to the parents of Eila and Sheela - they could not accept when Sheela marries an American. They sever all ties with her and guess who had to bear the brunt of her 'conduct' - the siblings.

U.S.A calling:

Eila convinces her parents and comes to stay with Sheela when she gets a job in the IT sector. She knew in her heart she had to keep up her parent's faith in her and not do the same mistake that Sheela had committed.

Tentative steps:

Her meeting with Sheela's family could have been a comedy if the relationship between Steve and Sheela was not on a rocky boat. Initially, she did not care for her brother-in-law - for Steve was a guy who had taken her sister away from her family and broken the family up.

Gelling well:

As she merges into her work life, she gets used to many things in the USA like transports, way of life, food and .. mugging. Ouch! And in this hectic work schedule, she constantly bumps into a blue eyed 'ogre' -Brett Wright. Brett also introduces the author's sense of humor the readers.

"Brett Wright not White. Wright. No wonder he is so full of himself."

Subdued sense of humor

Sprinkled throughout the novel, Ms. Dixit's sense of humor will make you giggle. They appear at the most inappropriate of times. Subtle. Catches you unaware.

Portraying the NRI lifestyle.

Ms. Dixit has portrayed the NRI lifestyle to the T. Through Sheela, she has shown how some of the NRI's compensate for their kids, the Indian 'upbringing'. The best phrase we seem to have here is - we don't do it, We are Indians, our culture does not allow it. And when Sheela tried to Indian-ise her family life, it was bound to have repercussions.

Growing Relationships.

As Eila settles down she forms many new relationships - colleagues and family. Her blow hot and blow cold relationship with Brett is very humorous and fiery. A beautiful friendship with Randall and Megan and most of all, the mending of hearts with her own sister, Sheela.

Clash of culture -

As nature conspires to bring Brett and Eila together, she fights the constant battle, within herself, knowing her parents cannot tolerate marriage outside their community. Will she be able to make them accept Brett or like Sheela she too would have to leave her parents?

Reasoning

1. It's a beautifully penned novel. The pages are full of humor, wit. The life of the NRI's are well portrayed and Ms. Dixit has done it with an elan - neither apologizing nor condescending.
2. The humor in the story made me finish this novel at one go. I loved the relationship between Steve and Eila. The way it grows from tolerating each other to being family. Superbly penned.
3. But this novel left a few questions unanswered (for me)

a) Since the parents are given so much importance, why was the ending left to the reader's imagination? My guess would be a sequel is coming up...? Am I right Ms. Dixit?

b) Was Brett so uncaring that he did not care that his ex-girlfriend was present in the room ?. Here I find most of the Indian men ogling over gals when their beautiful wives are just in front of them. Learn from Brett, Guys! Undivided attention is the secret of a successful relationship. :D

Would I recommend the book?

Yes, I would. In fact a must for all romance lovers. You will love the chemistry between Brett and Eila. There are many small instances where you would root for them. They look so perfect together. Read this book when you need a smile.

Line that stayed with me....

Rule number 8: Seriously, only read the bestselling books in horror and self-help genres. The former will help you kill time by making you sweat, shake and fear your own reflection, thereby distracting you from HIS thoughts. And the latter will help you fall asleep faster than any over-the-counter sleeping pills.

Hhahahaha.. Why it is said and in what context - that you all have to read this book and find out. As of me, before signing off must mention (again) that Ms. Dixit's sense of humor is fabulous.

Ameena Mohamed says

Quite a disappointing one after the other books by Varsha Dixit. Too much unnecessary details. Too long without much events or content. I wouldn't really call it a love story as it's more lust than love..however if you're that bored then go for it.

Nikita (NjKinny's World of Books & Stuff) says

<http://www.njkinnyblog.com/2015/07/b...>

Rating: 4.5/5

Only Wheat Not White is the story of Eila Sood who has just arrived in America to live with her estranged sister and try to mend the broken ties once again. Eila's elder sister, Sheetal became a stranger to them when she married a foreigner. Now seven years later, Eila is here to try and mend those ties but before departing she got a strict " Only Wheat Not White" warning from her mother, meaning that she is never to fall for a white man!

But despite all precautions, Eila does fall in love and that too with a foreigner. **Will her love estrange her from her family like her sister's did? or Will she let go of her love and go with her parents' wish of Only Wheat Not White ?**

This is the first book by Varsha that I read and I absolutely enjoyed every second of it!

The first thing that attracted me towards this book was the intriguing and beautiful cover. I loved the saree in it and was captivated enough to pick it up to check out the blurb which had me opening the book to read it!

Right from the start I was hooked. First by the antics and frustrations of Eila as she arrives in a foreign country alone. Her observation of the airport, the people and the formalities had me laughing and chuckling. Then just as fluidly, I was shifted to the uneasy re-introduction of the two sisters after all these years and the awkwardness between them felt like it was my own. The fluid shifts between emotions and situations had me enjoying the myriad facets of life and people, all admirably delivered by the author.

The author has written simply and yet managed to engross and connect me with the story and the characters. Eila is the grounded sister but she has a big mouth. Witty, funny, snarky and then just as easily shy, she won my heart and I thoroughly enjoyed her cat and mouse game with the hero, who was easily the most sexy, enigmatic and swoon worthy hero I have come across recently. He became rude and biting one second and then just as easily shifted to charming and caring making my heart flutter at his every action.

The sister-sister dynamics and the sister-in-law and foreigner-brother-in-law dynamics are explored beautifully and while reading the book, I came to care about all these characters hoping to meet them someday!

The story is entertaining and executed well and had me engrossed right till the end. The author takes up the issues of outsourcing, the cultural boundaries, the parental expectations and the adjustments one has to make when one marries across cultures and then very expertly gives us a simple answer to all these seemingly big issues. She proves that LOVE is the answer to even the biggest of problems and I just loved her reasoning!

The only thing that I feel I wanted to know and was left in the unknown, was the angle with Eila's parents. I would have loved to read about their reaction to this new love story and know if they finally came around or not. Maybe, the author will take us back to Eila's family in one of her future books. However, for the time being this angle of the parents doesn't hamper the story in anyway and the story closes beautifully.

All in all, Only Wheat Not White is truly an entertainer and a book I would love to re-read again and again. I give it **4.5 out of 5** and strongly recommend it to all romance readers. Varsha is a very talented author and I am so glad to have met her books. Will be checking out more of her book in the future.

I received the book by the author to read and give my honest opinion. The above review is my own unbiased opinion and in no way influenced.

Shilpa Garg says

As I read, Only Wheat Not White, I remembered the locker room scene from Bend It Like Beckham.

"So, could you choose a white boy?"

"White, no, black, definitely not, a Muslim, uh-uh!"

"You'll marry an Indian then."

"Probably."

"How can you stand it?"

"It's just culture."

I think that pretty much sums it up for a lot of Indian parents. One may think that education, values, personality and all good characters and traits must matter when you are thinking of marrying someone. It's a bit different for most some Indian parents. For them, it's the colour of the skin that matters. And it is this premise that makes the backdrop of the story of *Only Wheat Not White*.

As Eila arrives in New York to renew the ties with her sister Sheela who has married a 'White' American, Steve Jacobs. As she gets to know the American way of life, she finds herself bumping into the 'blue eyed ogre' - Brett Wright. Though they rub each other off at every chance meeting, they find themselves attracted to each other. As Eila's mother's warning 'Only Wheat Not White' rings in her head, she finds herself cementing the relationships between Sheela and Steve & Megan and Murli. Will she be able to follow her sister's footsteps and marry an American? Well, you need to read the book to find that out.

I enjoyed reading Varsha's book. It has a liberal dose of humor and wit and has a story that flows effortlessly. The twists and turns, surprises and shocks keeps you glued to the story as you turn pages after pages to see where it was going. I liked Eila's character for her sharp and subtle wit and her good Samaritan attitude, of course, at times, I wanted to shake her when she played martyr in her relationships. Brett and Eila's maddening but intense relationship made my heart flutter too.

The detailed description of food, places, decorations and renovations of a club are insightful and interesting. The dynamics of relationship between the two sisters and that between Eila and Steve are realistic and outlined beautifully. And the cover is absolutely gorgeous!

Now the things that could have been included in the story. Since, the story is about the parents being unhappy (so much so that they sever all ties) about their daughter marrying a 'White', I wish they had a role that was a bit more pronounced than the current non-existent one in the story. Also, throwing some more light on relationship troubles between Sheela and Steve. The announcement of their divorce and the acceptance of it by the sisters seemed a bit unreal.

Overall, *Only Wheat Not White* is an entertaining read which is high on wit and humour and also addressing issues of interracial marriages and the cultural differences. Go for *Only Wheat Not White* , if you are looking for a nice light contemporary romance.

<http://shilpaagarg.com/2015/10/only-w...>

Lisa Cullinan says

Only Wheat Not White is a light, enjoyable, innocent love story of a young woman's journey from India to the U.S. Twenty-six year old Eila, arrives in America to stay with her sister, Sheela, who is married to a "non wheat"! The reason for this journey is to try and mend fences between Sheela and her very traditional parents back in India as they have been estranged for seven years due to the fact that she didn't marry someone arranged for her. As we delve into Eila's new life, we meet plenty of really fun characters. My favorite was Megan, who works with Eila, not only was she a hoot and a little ditzy, but she was a truly sincere and caring person. As the story moves along, Eila becomes the relationship "fixer upper" for her sister and her husband, Steve's, struggling marriage. Eila also becomes the matchmaker for Megan and Murli (a co-worker)....! While all of this is going on, Eila meets Brett Wright, the handsome restaurant owner of Cibo, a trendy hotspot. Eila begins working for Brett so she can help out her sister financially due to the unstable state of her sisters marriage. Brett and Eila are immediately drawn to one another. The problem lies with the fact that Eila never shows her true feelings for him in any situation. She assumes what she thinks that Brett is thinking

all the time and she's always wrong. Brett gets frustrated with her just as much because Eila constantly has an attitude with him. I felt that she was a bit childish when clearly he wasn't doing anything wrong. If anything, he was head-over-heels, crazy for her. Men aren't mind-readers and I felt bad for Brett through most of this book.

Eila is a good person...she's reliable and loyal to her family. I loved how she stepped up to the plate when a famous person and their entourage were scheduled to eat at Cibo and the head chef became sick. With Brett out of town, Eila's ability to use all her creative resources with calling friends to help serve and Mrs. Das to cook was pretty funny! It was amazing that she pulled it off!!! One thing that bothered me was that I felt her feelings for Brett should have made it's way to him much sooner in this book. I personally enjoy stories that are a lot more erotic, but this was refreshing to where there was a build up and no jumping into bed within a weeks time...but I felt frustrated waiting and waiting for the two of them to get on the same page.

I enjoyed Varsha Dixit's attention to description and detail. Whether it be the menu at Cibo, (which, btw, she had my mouth watering!) or the decorating details of the new renovations of a club that Brett purchased, it all was outlined beautifully.

All in all, I really enjoyed this book. I think that Varsha Dixit has a bright future as an author...I would recommend this book if you're looking for a nice light read. ♥?

Shantala (Shanaya Tales) says

Rating Edit: 4.5 stars

Before I get into the review, a little background - I picked this book up right after reading (and re-reading) The Raven Cycle Series, and when, oddly enough, I was drifting into a reading slump. I say oddly enough, because I had loved the series, and it should have energized me to read more, but it didn't. I was in a strange lethargy.

And my go-to genre in such situations is - romance. A simple, light-hearted, fun, romantic comedy always picks me back up, and gets me going. And this book - Only Wheat, Not White (OWNW), fit the bill perfectly.

The Plot

OWNW follows the life of Eila Sood, a 20 something, who takes up a project/job in USA to spend time (and mend fences) with her estranged elder sister - Sheela (who had a falling out with her family due to her inter-racial marriage 7 years back).

While coming to US, the one advice/warning Eila's mother chose to give her was - Only Wheat, Not White. And nope, this wasn't nutritional, but matrimonial advice/warning!

The plot then revolves around Eila's life, as she lands in the country, starts a new job, meets different people, makes friends, and (eventually) falls in love.

This book has all the ingredients of a great rom-com. It is funny, witty, charming, and adorable. It's also pretty fast paced with many twists and turns, and not a single boring moment.

While reading this book, I felt like I was watching this story unfold on the screen. That itself says a lot about the writing, characterization, and the author's story-telling ability.

A perfect light read for the summer. Highly recommended to fans of this genre.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange of an honest review.

For more such book (and movie) reviews - visit (and subscribe to) Shanaya Tales.

Mina Khan says

This turned out to be a fun, contemporary immigrant story that delves into the complexity of trying to live in two cultures. Sort of a multicultural & modern Pride & Prejudice.

At first, some unnecessary details and sudden point-of-view switches bogged down the read for me, but the more I read the more I loved the story. The hero Brett was awesome (if I wasn't married, and he wasn't fictional, I'd so want to date him!).

I went through much of the book, wanting to shake Eila, but I understood the guilt, the letting go and the cultural bridge she had to cross. I think Ms. Dixit created an amazingly complex secondary character in Sheela (the heroine's sister) and she's a valuable part of the overall story.

Ms. Dixit's sly humor had me laughing out loud, and (especially in the last one-third of the book) her emotional scenes actually had me sniffing. Kudos!

While the HEA at the end of the book was totally expected, I did do a happy dance when it happened.

Overall, I really enjoyed the story!

book provided by the Author through the PaC Romance group Author/Reader Exchange for an honest review. Thanks to both!(less)

Ruchira Khanna says

Only Wheat not White is a story where cultures dissect as people of different origin mingle, interact on a daily basis of life thus creating a storyline for the readers to ponder upon!

OWnW is a story that revolves around a girl, Elia who comes to the US on a work permit, and unites with her sister, Sheela, who has been alienated from her family in India after her marriage to a "white" guy. The author has described Elia via many incidents as funny, talkative, eccentric and sometimes fun loving thus, helping her make many friends from diverse cultures during the journey. While befriending many, she would occasionally bump into a blue eyed ogre whose synergy could be felt for long with the reader.

When Sheela's marriage was facing cracks, Elia proved worthy as a sister even though she and her family estranged Sheela when she married "out of the box". While helping her cope financially, she gets a chance to meet her ogre face to face, and feelings creep in as they meet on a daily basis since she worked in his restaurant. As Love knows no caste or color; history was repeated for this Sood sister.

Read more at: <http://abracabadra.blogspot.com/2015/...>
