



# Man of Her Match

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## **Man of Her Match** Sakshama Puri Dhariwal

Kicked off the team for a series of misdemeanours, Indian cricket's bad boy Vikram Walia finally has a chance at redemption. The only problem: it involves collaborating with his childhood best friend turned sworn enemy, Nidhi Marwah.

Once a tomboy, now a gorgeous, self-assured marketing professional, Nidhi must put aside her personal dislike of Vikram and leverage his unparalleled fame and poster-boy good looks for her latest campaign.

But the ensuing battle of sardonic jibes and veiled slurs only heightens their blazing chemistry. Soon memories of their past fill their present, pulling them back to that fateful day when a heartless act destroyed their friendship.

Can Vikram and Nidhi put their stormy history behind them? Will their partnership have a second innings?

## **Man of Her Match Details**

Date : Published July 7th 2017 by Penguin Random House India

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Author : Sakshama Puri Dhariwal

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## From Reader Review Man of Her Match for online ebook

### Nitika Karnad says

I love reading Sakshama's books because they are so light and feel-good. This book is like being a part of a Bollywood romance- delightfully descriptive, packed with emotion & effortlessly entwines the humdrum of the lead character's worklife with her exciting personal life, making you identify with her dilemmas.

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### Maarisha Chhajta says

Such a breezy read! \*sigh\*

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### Rumsha A {Stories.and.plot.twists} says

I finished it within 24 hours. It is un-put-down-able, light, humorous, witty and romantic read. It made me weep at page 190 and grin furiously at page 250.

Loved Dhariwal's writing style, i could detect the cheesiness of a few dialogues inspired by bollywood's romances. Added Dhariwal to my autobuy author list.

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### Diptakirti Chaudhuri says

A quickfire read, bringing a crickety and newsy twist to the familiar rom-com genre. Bad boy cricketer rediscovers good girl marketer, who was also his childhood friend and sparks fly. You know the girl and boy finally get together but the glue is really the setting in which it is played out. Brand endorsements, celebrity brawls, CSR initiatives, media gossip, gropey Dilliwalas, dildaar Dilliwalas - all find place and bring a smile often enough.

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### Aditi ~ •A Thousand Words A Million Books says

#### AS SEEN ON: A THOUSAND WORDS A MILLION BOOKS

*I received a review copy from Penguin Random House India in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are entirely my own.*

**Short and Sweet:** *Man of her Match* is the COMPLETE package filled with romance, sass, great friends and chemistry filled moments that will have you smiling, swooning and waiting for your own Vikramaditya Singh Walia.

Let's be honest – even though I'm Indian, I haven't read books from many Indian Authors. I have some authors on my Auto-Buy list (Anuja Chauhan, Nikita Deshpande and Sukanya Venkataraghavan) but you'll rarely catch me a book other from these three authors in my hands.

I'd heard about Sakshama's debut novel, *The Wedding Photographer*, when it released but for some reason, I never got around to reading it. It sounded swoony and perfect but now, I'm SO GLAD that I got the chance to read her sophomore novel, *Man of her Match*.

Let's break it down:

### **IDEA:**

I got sucked into this book because of the tropes it was based on. Childhood Sweethearts who broke each other's hearts, meet twelve years later after one of them has turned into the bad boy of India and is also on the Indian cricket team? Plus, this relationship had all kinds of SASS? SIGN ME UP.

### **PLOT:**

The plot followed your typical romance novel. Boy and girl haven't met in a while, are shocked when fate throws them together, initially only manage to get on each other's wrong side until realising that they're perfect for one another (with some variables and added drama) **BUT I LOVED IT ALL ANYWAY. This is probably because from the minute they met, I could feel the PALPABLE CHEMISTRY that surrounded Vikram and Nidhi as well as amazing best friends and I LOVED IT.**

### **WRITING:**

I really liked Sakshama's writing. She managed to capture the essence of two headstrong twenty-something Indians SO WELL and also throw in just the right amount of sass and love in it. I'll definitely be adding *The Wedding Photographer* to my TBR and her to my Auto Buy Author list!

### **CHARACTERS**

**One word for our main man: SWOON. (And then swoon some more.)** I adored his character from the very beginning – he was just perfect and reckless and your perfect good-bad boy, if you know what I mean. He knew what he wanted, and he wasn't afraid to go after it. AND he was also such a loyal person.

I really liked Nidhi as well – she was headstrong and played sports and well, Vikram and Nidhi really did make a perfect pair.

### **CONCLUSION:**

If you're looking for Romance, Sass and Swoony Men (and really, who isn't?), *Man Of Her Match* should be your next read!

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### **Donna Dias Manuel says**

I grew up in the '90s and this novel was a pleasant reminder of the good old days. My favorite part is the

Nidhi Marwah diary bit. I mean didn't most 13 year-olds have a diary that had a standard line on every alternate page that read...

Dear Diary,

Today was the worst day of my life! The author has kept the story real and that for me stands out.

The emotions are raw and the characters vulnerability is well described. A fun romantic read with just the right amount of drama.

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## **Charanya says**

### **2.75 stars rounded up**

This was fairly middling book. I must admit I was eager to read this book after reading the reviews and checking out the ratings here and in Amazon and was disappointed that it didn't match that expectations

The author's writing style contains liberal use of regional language, not that there's anything wrong with it but otherwise I had zero problems with her style of writing. The chemistry between the leads was great, the girl camaraderie was enjoyable but my problem was with the storyline. The so-called history/past incident that transpired when the leads were barely teenagers felt serious beyond age. I do not know of any normal teenagers who discuss aspects of love of their lives with the girl's father and the father taking them seriously and trying to keep them apart with a flimsy excuse. It was filmy and unbelievable. If I were their dad, I would have told them to focus on their studies and career and told them to worry about other stuff later. This aspect for me derailed the remaining book because the whole meet up in their adult life is overshadowed by this incident in the past!

And for a book with a cricketer, I was looking forward to one match or something around it and there was nothing. So we have a bad boy cricketer (who is secretly not a bad-boy) who is out of action for disciplinary reasons. Even those weren't interesting enough, it was mentioned as passing references and the whole focus was on that one misunderstanding of their teenage life leading up to where they are now.

The saving graces were the good humor, the snarky banter, the chapters with the Trio, their playful and innocent phases of their childhood. Rest was just romantic drama, just not my cup of tea.

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## **Richa Pandey says**

It's an absolute treat for lovers of breezy romance. It's an beautiful, emotional, funny take on love with such colorful characters like the trio added in. I truly enjoyed the book and finished it in 1 sitting, which I think will happen with most of us who decide to read this...and read this you must!! Cute characters, funny settings and great love- all ingredients for a good read. There were many moments where I was laughing out loud. It's just a shame that it got over so soon...after living Risha's and Nidhi's love stories, will have to wait for Shorty's story now to complete the trio...though I hope Sakshama doesn't make me wait too long.

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## **Sara Naveed says**

Devoured this crickety romance real quick!

It's an easy breezy, quirky read with affable characters. I loved the raffish, scintillating chemistry between the lead characters - Vikram and Nidhi. The fact that this book was about childhood sweethearts falling for each other at a later point in life made it more appealing to me.

Sakshama is not only a fabulous writer but a beautiful person inside out. I am looking out for her upcoming book. Meanwhile, let me get hands on her debut novel. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

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## **Ammie \*Ammie's Book Obsession\* says**

**FOR MORE REVIEWS VISIT--** <http://ammiesbookobsession.blogspot.in/>

### **Cover Rating**

### **Book Rating**

Childhood love and second chances? Famous hero and a normal girl? Yep, this is my undoing. How can I not read a book with such an amazing combination of troupes?

I came across this book on Instagram and I was like yesss!! I want it like right now.

As far as the Indian authors are concerned, sakshama has totally impressed me with Man Of Her Match.

What to say about this book.... It was so damn cute, a perfect blend of humor, romance and some sass. Once I started reading this, I was unable to put it down.

This is the type of book you read when you are stressed or when you had a shitty day. Believe me the book made me forget about all the bad things in my life.

### ***After Finishing this book, I was like:-***

So the story revolves around Vikram Walia and Nidhi Marwah. Vikram is a hot shot cricket player with a bad reputation mingled with his own personal demons, so all in all he is an ultimate bad boy and now he has been kicked out of the Indian team because of his bad temper, so all in all everything he has worked so hard for is falling apart.

Nidhi, once a tomboy, is now a gorgeous, successful and self assured marketing professional. She has her own problems. She has always been a perfect daughter but somewhere in the process she has lost herself.

In order to improve his reputation and get back in the Indian cricket team Vikram needs Nidhi or rather I should say he needs her boss or the company she works in. So what's the problem? Nidhi must be elated at the thought of working with India's most notorious cricket player. But that's not the case here:--

The problem is that Nidhi and Vikram Hate each other and by hate I mean kick and strangle the hell out of each other hate 'duh'.

***Stop!! Wait, stop let's go into the flashback!!***

So they didn't always hate each other. Once they were best friends if not more. They cared for each other deeply and protected each other passionately. They were like joint at the hip, always together.

They were as loyal as they go but one misunderstanding and their friendship was utterly destroyed leaving them both with broken hearts.

***Coming back into the present....***

They meet again and all those feelings are back but this time there is also that insane attraction which pulls them to each other. They are no longer kids and they both want each other. As the story proceeds, they get closer and all those invisible walls around their hearts crumble down. That innocent childish love returns but this time there is no going back. So vikram is hell bent on getting the love of his life back no matter what.

This book is a complete package. It's full of family drama and love. It's also very relatable. Every Indian girl can relate to the circumstances. The bottom line is that you won't get bored by reading it. It's your key to entertainment. Believe me if you are in a bad mood just go ahead and pick this book. It leaves you with all types of happy thoughts. Go and get this book right now!! You are going to love it and get all lovey dovey!!

The only thing this book missed was sexual chemistry. There were kissing scenes but they weren't that intense or toe curling. Apart from all this I loved everything about the book along with the main characters as well as the supporting character characters. The plot was beautifully constructed and the author's writing style was amazing!! No complaints there.

### **Safety Check**

Cheating- ?

OW Drama- ✓ little bit!

OM Drama- ? little bit again!

Separation- ✓ Got separated when they were in their early teens.

Cliffhanger- ?

HEA- ✓ Yes Yes Yes!!

### **General Ratings**

Vikram- 5 Stars

Nidhi- 4.5 Stars

Supporting characters- 5 Stars

Plot- 4.5 Stars

Storytelling- 4.5 Stars

Sexual tension- 3.5 Stars

Angst- 3 Stars

Love- 5 Stars

Story Ending- 5 Stars

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### **S says**

Sakshama is one of my favorite authors from across the border and I just can't miss any of her books. Her writing style is sassy and her stories are so relatable. I fell in love with her first book the wedding photographer and was anxiously awaiting for her next book and she totally blew me away yet again with her gorgeous descriptives , spot on dialogue, brilliant characters and storyline . I finished the book in a matter of hours with such a wonderful plot and writing made it impossible to put it down. The protagonists are great and their romance even greater. There is something warm , sweet and fuzzy about childhood romances and sweethearts and Sakshama has captured it so perfectly in this book from the innocence of childhood bonding to the complications when one reaches adulthood. I had fell in love with Vikram and Nidhi characters in the previous story "The wedding photographer " and absolutely fell in love with them in this story Vikram character was so multifaceted and multi dimensional that there was no way you couldn't fall for him and Nidhi had a everyday normal girl feel you could see yourself in her and connect to her and identify with her dilemmas . This book was a beautiful , emotional , fun and absolutely fabulous love story which made me laugh with its witty dialogue and funny situation and to top it off brilliant writing and strong characters. I am literally sad that the story ended so soon I felt like I wanted more of these characters specially since I had been waiting for so long for this new book. I am now hoping to read Rohan and Nitisha story and Shortys story. I hope Sakshama writes her next story soon and doesn't makes us wait too long for the next story or I might have to ask Vikram for #vikramkigaliyan and that might make her gives us the next story soon. Anxiously awaiting for the next book. Definitely this book is a must read!!

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## Neha Khanna says

Just like Sakshama's previous book, it was difficult to stop once I started reading. Her wit, the build up of the plot and the simple, unassuming manner in which she writes keeps one hooked on. Her expression of emotion through the characters is extremely relatable yet the story takes us away from reality. Waiting for the third book already!

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## Pavitra (For The Love of Fictional Worlds) says

**Disclaimer:** A Huge Thanks to **Penguin India** for providing a review copy of this wonderful book. But the thought, opinions and feelings expressed in the review are entirely my own!

Sakshma was my first ever #authorsigning (TYSM to @penguinindia for that opportunity) – and I fell in love with her almost instantly. Not only is she adorable, she was this cute little human that I wish I could have picked her up and carried her with me home \*winks\* - in totally a cutesy stalker way, ofcourse :P

But I had loved LOVED The Wedding Photographer (Read My Review ) – and my expectations from her second book were already very high, even before meeting her in person! :D

In The Wedding Photographer, she gave us the brooding hero Arjun. (*who still remains my boo!*); and a wonderfully sassy heroine, Risha – but here's the twist in the tale – Man of Her Match is sort of like a prequel to Sakshama's debut book! You meet Vikram and Aditi in The Wedding Photographer; but they are already an established couple there, so I was not that curious about them; to be honest, I was more invested in Arjun anyways! :P

But as usual, Sakshama delivers a romance meant for Indian Hearts! <3

**Vikram** is the bad boy of Cricket (*and I do love me some bad boys!*) while Nidhi is a good girl, though a little loud mouth! Told in two warring perspectives of past and the present – we see two story arcs coming together flawlessly in this book!

Not only was it so freaking enjoyable to a Delhi girl, you have to know that I fell in love with my city all over again!

**Best friends in childhood, now sworn enemies** – Vikram and Nidhi have to work together on a campaign; and even though they swear that they hate each other; their past feelings end up coming back to the front, especially when they start working together! :D

*I love reading romances; YAASS! I love me some HEA; but I rarely read romances by Indian authors for somehow they lack the punch. Sakshama is the only author to have broken that barrier – and I think, she has now made it so that I automatically end up buying all of her future books as well! <3*

*For more reviews visit For The Love of Fictional Worlds :)*

### **Sunshine says**

This book was definitely a fun read. It was a complex, layered book filled with relationships that seemed dysfunctional or aloof yet connected together in threads and had strong bonds with each other which diminished over time or due to lack of proper communication amongst themselves. I like the character of the protagonist Nidhi who is trying to create her career yet is going through personal upheaval on meeting Vikram after twelve years. There are multiple emotions that Nidhi goes through yet she holds on to her personality which is strong until she breaks down and shows her vulnerable side as well. The urban context and setting makes it relatable. The strong bond of friendship between Risha, Tanvi and Nidhi despite their diverse personalities makes it even more relatable, most of us have those 1/2 friends who know everything about our lives yet do not know all about our lives and our experiences in childhood. I could not put this book down and was excited seeing this after reading The Wedding Photographer. I would not classify this as a chick-flick, there is much more to the book and the layered characters and their weaknesses and strengths make it interesting as well as an urban read.

Hats off to the author for portraying Nidhi's character and yet showing her life differently and focussing on her individuality and making her a real, relatable character who is trying to make a mark in the world. Wishing her all the best and this definitely makes fiction exciting and fun. This book is far from frivolous and a must read.

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### **Medha Bansal says**

I've read 'The Wedding Photographer' by Sakshama as well, and loved it so much, I was eagerly awaiting this book. Trust me, it is no less. The same wit, quirk, emotions and sharp observations, though in an entirely new setting. I loved how characters from her previous book were interspersed here, and seemed no different than how I remembered them. I love her coherent writing style, which makes the book practically unputdownable. Even if you are a new reader, you'll like it all the same. There will inevitably be a few moments when you will end up laughing out loud. I think there's finally hope for readers who have been looking for good books in the Indian romantic comedy genre. Do give this breezy read a shot, recommended!

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