



Summary

Simi Chopra is on a bad-luck streak. She's lost yet another job, her student loan debt won't stop growing, her basement apartment is a certifiable flood zone, and now her best friend has been accused of stealing a multimillion-dollar diamond necklace. To put it lightly, she's desperate for a break—that's right when Jack waltzes out of the bushes and into her life.

Jack is just as charming as he is mysterious. When he offers to help her find the missing necklace and steal it back, Simi jumps at the chance to clear her friend's name and collect the substantial reward. But every good heist needs a crew. All she needs to do is transform a ragtag group of strangers into an elite heist crew, infiltrate a high-society wedding and steal the necklace from a dangerous criminal before the happy couple say "I do." Meanwhile the bride is keeping secrets, a detective with a slow-burn smile keeps showing up at her door, and the ultimate robbery might not be the wedding con, but the way Jack is stealing her heart.

Discussion Questions

1. Simi's parents are so desperate to see her married, they ambush her with eligible young bachelors. How do familial expectations influence Simi's perspective on relationships? Why does she continue to meet the potential suitors despite having no interest in getting married?
2. When we first meet Simi, she comes across as risk averse. She is still living in the same city where she grew up. She has the same best friend. She remains closely tied to her family. And she has been through a number of dead-end jobs, each one very similar to the last. What motivates her to take the risk of getting involved in a heist with a man she barely knows? How does her life change once she starts taking risks?
3. Simi and Jack have their first fight after he abandons her during a break-in. He explains later that there was a very small chance the intruders would have hurt her because they were after him. He was also confident she could look after herself. Do you agree with his decision? Could he have handled the situation a different way? Was he sufficiently apologetic, or would you have expected more groveling?
4. Every heist needs a crew. Simi relies on people with whom she has a connection—however tenuous. Did all the crew members fulfill the roles expected of them? Did the members grow over the course of the story? Did you have a favorite?

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Discussion Questions

5. If you had to assemble a heist crew from the people in your life, who would you pick and why?
6. Jack thinks of himself as good guy akin to Robin Hood. He retrieves stolen jewelry and artifacts and returns them to their rightful owners. Nothing annoys him more than being called a thief. By law, two wrongs don't make a right. But is it morally wrong to steal back something stolen from you or, alternatively, to steal something to return it? Where does Jack fall on the spectrum of right and wrong?
7. Despite seemingly opposite personalities, Simi and Jack fall for each other over the course of the book. What fuels their attraction? Is it purely physical, or is there something more? Simi also had a flirtation with Detective Garcia. Do you think Garcia or Jack is the better fit for Simi?
8. Simi and her friends are saddled with debt; unable to accumulate wealth; and stuck in low-benefit, dead-end jobs. They see the reward money as a means of achieving the financial security that their parents, grandparents, and even older siblings enjoyed. For each member of the crew, how do you see the money changing their life? Do you think it will pave the way to a better future, or will they blow it all at once?
9. Near the end of the story, Bella steals the necklace and then callously shoots her lover. Do you think the theft was impulsive or planned? Did she truly love Ben, or was he simply an escape or diversion from familial obligation? Would you give up \$25 million for love?

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About the Author

Sara Desai has been a lawyer, radio DJ, marathon runner, historian, bouncer and librarian. She wrote her first novel when she was three years old and has greatly improved since then.

Sara's diverse romantic comedy books have appeared in Entertainment Weekly, People, Oprah Magazine, Marie Claire, Pop Sugar, Bustle, BuzzFeed, Booklist, Hello Giggles, Publishers' Weekly, Kirkus, Library Journal, Frolic, USA Today, Woman's World, and Hello! Canada.

Sara lives on Vancouver Island with her husband, kids and an assortment of forest creatures who think they are pets. When not laughing at her own jokes, Sara can be found eating nachos.

Courtesy of publisher
<https://saradesai.com/about/>

Book reviews

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Oceans 8 meets The Wedding Planner in this dazzling rom-com caper from Desai (The Singles Table). Simi Chopra spends her life rushing from a series of “soul-sucking, mind-numbing entry-level office jobs” to retail side gigs because she has “too much debt to pursue anything interesting, much less find passion.” When her ride-or-die bestie, Chloe, a freelance white hat hacker, gets set up to take the fall for the theft of a \$25 million diamond necklace, Simi mounts a rescue that proves both hilarious and thoroughly ineffective, stymied by the presence of another criminal, Jack. Jack, a thief, doesn’t have a last name he’s willing to share with Simi, but he does have a plan. If Simi and her gig worker friends (each of whom has a relevant talent) can get him into the house of Chicago’s best fence, Joseph Angelini, Jack will steal the necklace, clear Chloe’s name, and give each member of the crew enough reward money that they’ll be able to finally focus on their passions. As the danger increases, so does the sizzling attraction between Simi and Jack—but Simi can’t tell if she can trust Jack’s motives in the caper, let alone with her heart. Desai perfectly balances the lighthearted romance with a fun and twisty heist plot enacted by a kooky cast of indebted millennials. Romance lovers will devour this un-put-downable treat, and even readers generally wary of the genre will be swept away.