

Booklist Review

Books For Youth - Fiction - Romance



There's Something about Sweetie.

Menon, Sandhya (author).

May 2019. 384p. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse, \$17.99
(9781534416789). Grades 7-12.

REVIEW. First published
March 1, 2019 (*Booklist*).

Seventeen-year-old, swoonworthy Ashish Patel is *the* basketball star of Richmond Academy. Bummed after being dumped by his college girlfriend, he challenges his

parents to make good on their constant threat to find him an Indian American girl to date. Their choice is Sweetie Nair, Piedmont High's track star. When Ashish's mother proposes the match, Sweetie's mother adamantly insists that their children aren't compatible—namely because Sweetie is fat. Furious with her mother's constant ragging about her weight, Sweetie takes matters into her own hands and agrees to the Patels' four-date contract without telling her parents. Ashish and Sweetie accept the arrangement, each feeling they have something to prove, wondering if this arranged match will work, and not knowing what will happen when Sweetie's parents find out. Ashish and Sweetie share narrative duties, and both are flanked by supportive friends and caring parents—even if their approaches to love can be painful at times. Menon, as always, champions teens by allowing them the space and pace to make decisions, succeed or fail, learn, and blossom. This companion book to her successful debut, *When Dimple Met Rishi* (2017), hits all the right notes and delivers a joyful relationship that discards society's dictates about appearance in favor of loving the whole person. Give this to readers who love a good rom-com with a message.

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Menon's debut won readers' hearts, and her fans will turn out in droves for its sequel. An author tour will add to the frenzy.

— *Jeanne Fredriksen*



Booklist Editors Recommend

Titles similar to *There's Something about Sweetie*

- *Eleanor & Park*
- *A Very Large Expanse of Sea*
- *Saints and Misfits*