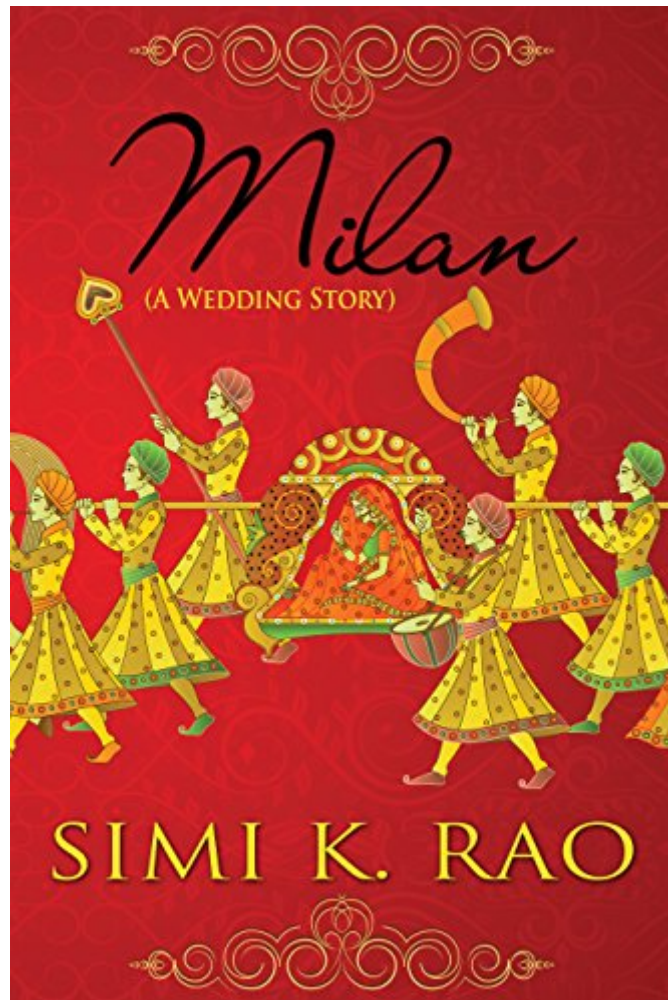


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Milan (A Wedding Story)



Synopsis

From the author of *The Accidental Wife*, Simi K. Rao! When a daughter turns marriageable age, what should a responsible father do? Easy--wed her to the most suitable boy who comes knocking on their door. Jai Bharadwaj, Mili's father and owner of The Serenity Tea Estate in the idyllic Nilgiris would've probably liked to do the same, but being who he was, he had to ask her first. But what would Mili say?

About Simi K. Rao's *Inconvenient Relations*: "A well balanced novel that I thoroughly enjoyed reading."--Debdatta Sahay of Book Reviews "In Rao's debut novel, an arranged Indian marriage sets the stage for an intimate look at the exasperating madness of love.... An often intoxicating...will-they-or-won't-they tale."--Kirkus Reviews "Sassy desi romance--5 stars!"--Rachelle Ayala, bestselling author of *Michal's Window*

The Accidental Wife is an intriguing tale of the best-laid plans gone awry but set straight by the humbling hand of destiny. A delightful novel."--Shobhan Bantwal, best-selling author of *The Dowry Bride* and other books

Milan (A Wedding Story) is a 'behind the scenes' look at a traditional Indian wedding. It showcases a young couple Mili and Ahaan and their families as their marriage is arranged and illustrates the proceedings from engagement to the wedding ceremony. It also attempts to expound on the emotional upheavals that occur in the background and often aren't spoken out loud. *Milan* is more of a 'short story' concept where it shows the before/during and after of an event than is a 'long novel' about characters with hopes and dreams and goals. This story may help the reader get a better insight into the culture of marriage in India.

Simi K. Rao was born in India and has been living in the United States for several years. *Milan (A Wedding Story)* is her third book. Her previous novels are titled *Inconvenient Relations* and *The Accidental Wife*. The inspiration for her stories come from what she has seen transpire among and within the immigrant community. Some of the experiences included are her own; some have been garnered from friends. She currently lives in Denver with her family. You can connect with the author and read more of her work on her website.

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Customer Reviews

Milan (A Wedding Story) is the story of Mili and Ahaan whose match has been arranged by their parents. The book takes us on a journey of two people who are virtually strangers but soon to be husband and wife as they try and understand each other and fall in love before their wedding day. The story encompasses the duration from the first meeting to the wedding. I have read Simi's books in the past and enjoyed them. Like her previous books, this one also has Indian arranged marriage in the mix but unlike the previous books, this is a Wedding Story! The cover is beautiful and reminded me of the fun and happiness that comes when I attend a wedding in India. The blurb is interesting and instantly peaks our interest. The plot is interesting and had great potential. The execution is entertaining but the story left so many questions behind in my mind. So many story lines were hinted at and then never developed which left questions in my mind like it is told that Mili's father is struggling to keep his business and Mili is determined to help her father but nothing is later elaborated on it neither is it mentioned in the story again. Then Mili's friends' angle is also hinted at but then left hanging and so on. Despite these loop holes, the story is well narrated and had me engaged throughout. The arranged marriage customs, rituals and the whole festive atmosphere is beautifully captured by the author. The insecurities, rebellion of the modern youth against this age-long custom is also admirably depicted and then the virtues of the arranged marriage custom in the present time is also very expertly conveyed by Simi. The pre-wedding jitters, insecurities and rebellion is realistically portrayed.

This was nice. Mili and her childish ways at times were grating but Ahaan was wonderful. What

made this story was how we got to see the culture and their practices. Also the kindness and patience of Ahaan as Mili found her way to him. Mili is an independent girl with headstrong ways. She believes that she shouldn't get married because it will stop her from doing what she wants. Her freedom will be gone. Suddenly she is now thrust into a marriage proposal with a man she finds irritating or so she thought. We always are told hate and love are the same coin but different sides with a fine line between them. This is one of those cases. Ahaan shows Mili nothing but kindness and patience. He understands who she is and despite her brashness and rash behavior, her temper and tantrums he finds her endearing. He loves her. What makes him different from others is he doesn't want to change her. He loves her innocence, rash behavior and temper. He wants her to explore who she is and wants to support her in her career. This does confuse Mili as does Ahaan. She doesn't want to fall for him but he slowly breaks down her barriers and walls. This is a sweet book of a boy who has always liked a girl and asks her to marry him. The girl is stubborn and temperamental but agrees. She goes on her own self discovery journey of herself and her culture as she begins to see the boy as more. She realizes that he wants an equal partner and not to change her but to just love her. They fall in love and this is their journey to marriage.

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