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This book centers Ayesha's love for her didi as much as it showcases Ritu and Chandni's love for each other. Ayesha wanted her favorite cousin to be happy on her wedding day, and she found it difficult to understand why others were against a union of two women. As of the year of publication, such a marriage would not be legally recognized in India, where same-sex relationships have only recently been decriminalized. Such a couple would likely face an uphill battle to be accepted within their families.

Growing up, I did not see same-sex couples represented in the books I read or in the movies I watched. There were no role models for the kind of happy relationship I wanted to have with my partner. To make things worse, I felt stifled by the expectations of those around me. As a man, this felt like a burden to me, but I could see that these societal expectations carry far more weight for women than for men. By shining the spotlight on two women in this story, my hope is that the conversation around this book will be multifaceted and nuanced in its discussion of human rights.

To change society's mind, we need to appeal to people's hearts. To do this, we need more people to hear our stories. So, keep reading and sharing and educating those around you. To help you get started on this journey, here are some more great books for young readers featuring South Asian LGBTQ+ experiences—

Shraya, Vivek, Illus. Rajni Perera. *The Boy & The Bindi*. Arsenal Pulp Press, 2016.

Sankar, Himanjali. *Talking of Muskaan*. Duckbill Books, 2014.

Selvadurai, Shyam. *Swimming in the Monsoon Sea*. Tundra Books, 2007.

Khan, Sabina. *The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali*. Scholastic Press, 2019.

To my fellow desis, let us not pass on the fear of 'log kya kahenge?' to future generations. Instead, let us inspire our children to stand up for what is compassionate and just.