

FOLGER BOOK CLUB



Discussion Questions: *Dating Dr. Dil*

Folger Book Club—November 2024

1. What did you think of this novel? If asked, what would you say this book is about?
2. Were you familiar with *The Taming of the Shrew* before reading this novel? If so, how did the context of Shakespeare's play inform your reading? If not, does reading this novel make you more curious about the play?
3. There are instances of feasting in *The Taming of the Shrew* and food deprivation is part of Petruchio's original approach to "taming" Kate. What role does food play in Sharma's adaptation? Does it support or subvert the themes found in Shakespeare's original?
4. Do you find Kareena's behavior "shrewish" in this novel? How does her relationship with Prem change her behaviors, or does it? Does it change his? Is she "tamed" by the end of the novel, and what does "tamed" mean in this sense?
5. What did you make of the family dynamics at play in this novel? Were there relationships you were drawn to or wished to have seen more of? What did you think of the role of the aunties?
6. Both main characters have a close friend group. What role do these friends play within the novel? How does their involvement compare with that of their families? What does the comparison say about found versus genetic families?
7. What different opinions are represented on the subject of arranged marriage? Were there points made that surprised you, or made you think about the subject in a different way?
8. Why do you think Sharma chose to include the posts from *Indians Abroad News*? What purpose did they serve?
9. Text messaging occurs quite frequently throughout the novel and is represented through formatting changes in the printed text. How has modern technology impacted the way we tell stories? How did its inclusion affect your reading experience?
10. This book is the first in a trilogy of Shakespeare romance adaptations, with the others being based on *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*. Will you keep reading in the series? What other Shakespeare plays would you like to see set in this world?