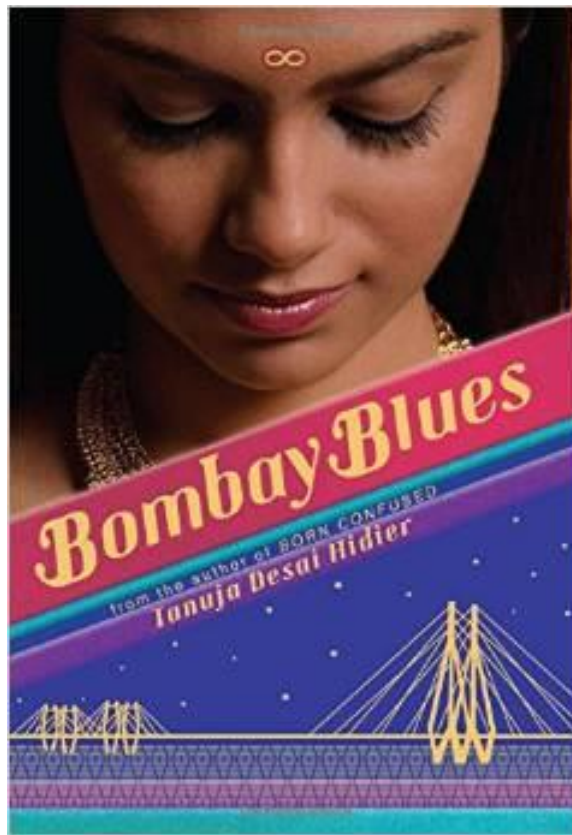


Children and Young Adult Book Review
High School
Bombay Blues

Educator Reviewer: Helene Halstead
Student Reviewer: Deonna Hensley



Hidier, T. D. (2014). *Bombay blues*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

ISBN: 978-054538478 0

Pages: 560

Educator Review:

Reading *Bombay Blues* by Tanuja Desai Hidier (2014) is, in itself, a journey. Hidier takes us not only on a voyage through the smells, textures and colors of Mumbai, but also on journeys of love. Through the experiences of our protagonist, Dimple, and her sister-cousins Kavita and Sangita, we travel through first love, love at first sight, planned love as well as anlove of family, country and aesthetics.

Beginning *Bombay Blues* is similar to falling in love. For some, there will be hesitancy; Hidier's rich descriptions of India are as much a part of the story as the characters and this slows the story down. Others will be captivated by the book's layout, falling for the visually appealing pages. These lovers will notice that Hidier uses no quotation marks in a novel filled with dialogue and after tentatively learning how to navigate the pages, will be hooked by the aesthetics of the page. Still others may tumble head over heels into the story as they realize that the adventurous Dimple has many escapades to share.

While this novel is a sequel (although it can very much stand alone) to *Born Confused*, our story begins as Dimple returns to India for Sangita's planned wedding. Her boyfriend, Karsh, is right behind her, returning not only to DJ the wedding but to launch his DJ career in India and deal with the loss of his father. Each character we encounter is a work of balance. As they lose one part of themselves, they gain another. This happens not once, but over and over throughout the 560 pages of our tale. As Dimple explores and photographs Mumbai and the surrounding towns, readers are treated to snapshots of her trip, her heart and the sum of her parts.

Students who read to explore the world around them will enjoy *Bombay Blues*. The book is appropriate for high school students; younger students may struggle with the language Hidier uses in her descriptions. The novel is poetic and cerebral; understanding the story means delving into the head of a displaced college student who loses her map—to Mumbai and her life.

Helene Halstead
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

*Beginning
Bombay Blues is
like falling in love.*

Student Review:

Bombay Blues was the most meaningful book I have ever read. Once I read the first three chapters I was hooked. The story is told through the eyes of an Indian teenage girl. She leads a highly complicated life because she takes photographs, is having trouble with her boyfriend and is visiting India and her family for her cousin's wedding. While reading about the main character, Dimple, the reader is taken on a magical adventure of love and romance.

Bombay Blues is a book that will captivate the reader, making them want to enter the life of the main character. People will enjoy this book if they like to travel and if they enjoy reading about romantic adventures.

Deonna Hensley
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11th Grade