



Los Angeles MAGAZINE

Book Report: The Two Krishnas by Ghalib Shiraz

The Two Krishnas, a novel by L.A.-based writer Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla, serves as an exploration of love in its many forms: romantic, familial, and filial, among others. The story centers on the Kapoor family and those around them. Pooja and Rahul emigrated to Los Angeles from Kenya following a family tragedy. Ajay, born in the U.S., feels alienated from their culture. His mother, a devout Hindu, spends much of her time relating stories of the gods. His father, a banker, is rarely home when the storytelling begins. Rahul, a character who otherwise follows the traditional immigrant mold, has fallen for a twenty-something, illegal Muslim man named Atif...

The novel provides a refreshing view of life and love in Los Angeles, particularly in the South Asian immigrant community. Both Atif and Rahul flashback to their lives in India and Kenya, respectively, adding variety and cultural depth to the story. The novel's combination of characters and subject matter defies categorization. *The Two Krishnas* isn't strictly an immigrant narrative, a coming out narrative, or a religious narrative but rather lies somewhere between them all...The book draws a distinct line between love and passion and the ways in which those feelings move us to action...*The Two Krishnas* is a poignant meditation on love and relationships. The novel prompts reflection on how we form our identities and ultimately questions our duties to our families and ourselves. - Kaitlin Olson (September 2011)