



Summer of Blue by Saumya Balsari

PRESS RELEASE

Award-winning author dubbed one of Britain's leading South Asian Women, releases novel for young adult readers.

Milly's brother is missing and presumed dead in Afghanistan, but she refuses to give up faith, and believes he is still alive. When she turns seventeen in the summer, she begins to write a journal and makes three wishes, hoping they come true by her eighteenth birthday: get her brother Neel safely home, get into Cambridge University and get a boyfriend. But life is anything but predictable.

Of Indian origin, Milly lives with her family in Cambridge. She is at Sixth Form. Pressure mounts as her Cambridge application looms large and the summer triggers misfortunes and tensions. Milly's father loses his job, her mother falls ill and her younger brother is bullied at school. Milly desperately needs a strong shoulder but is reluctant to let Paris, a bumbling fellow Sixth Former, into her world. He isn't boyfriend material and it doesn't look promising with Dominic, Shaw or Jason, either. How are her three wishes going to come true?

Milly then begins to suffer recurring nightmares about a captive British soldier in Afghanistan and records her disturbing dreams in her journal. Could they have anything to do with her brother Neel? Despite the setbacks over the year, there's one thing that stays just the same until the next summer – her hope.

Summer of Blue is the second novel from author Saumya Balsari. It is set among the spires of Cambridge, sunny Mumbai and the shadows of war-torn Afghanistan and is an off-beat narrative of love, loss and longing – a story of teenage angst and the pressures of modern life.

'Summer isn't a season, it's a feeling.'

An early version of the book received a commendation from the Yeovil Literary Prize, 2009.

About the author: Saumya Balsari is an award-winning British Indian author based in Cambridge and Mumbai. Her debut novel *The Cambridge Curry Club* won the first ever Cambridgeshire Book of the Decade Award and was long-listed for a Vodafone Book Award. Balsari was born in Mumbai. She has worked as a translator in India, a teacher in Denmark, a humour columnist for *The Hindustan Times UK* edition and a free-lance journalist. Balsari's writing has been compared to Booker Prize winners Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. She was named one of Britain's leading South Asian women by redhotcurry.com.

Summer of Blue by Saumya Balsari is available from all major e-retailers including Amazon priced at £2.99, from mid-June. The paperback version launches at the end of June at Heffers Bookshop Cambridge. It will also be available at Waterstones Cambridge and to order online at Blackwell's, London RRP £7.99. More information at: www.saumyabalsari.com.