

First published in the United Kingdom in 2022 by Lantana Publishing Ltd., Oxford.
www.lantanapublishing.com | info@lantanapublishing.com

American edition published in 2022 by Lantana Publishing Ltd., UK.

Text © Puneet Bhandal, 2022
Artwork & Design © Lantana Publishing, 2022

Cover and internal illustrations by Jen Khatun

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Distributed in the United States and Canada by Lerner Publishing Group, Inc.
241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.
For reading levels and more, look for this title at www.lernerbooks.com
Cataloging-in-Publication Data Available.

ISBN: 978-1-915244-00-0

Printed and bound in the Czech Republic.





STARLET RIVALS



By Puneet Bhandal

both headed back outside to the red carpet and as we reappeared, the snappers leapt into action.

They wanted to capture the mood and the moment.

An outsider in step with the biggest insider in Bollywood would make a very rare shot indeed.

IT'S A WRAP







About the author

Puneet Bhandal grew up in West London as a huge fan of Bollywood cinema but struggled to find anything to read that would connect her to her country of origin.

Her first writing job was as a Bollywood film journalist for a London-based newspaper. As the Entertainments Editor of *Eastern Eye*, Puneet enjoyed behind-the-scenes action on Bollywood film sets. The Bollywood Academy was born from her observations of real-life Bollywood personalities – both insiders and outsiders!

Puneet loves being in Bela's world and introducing young readers to the fascinating Indian film industry. She particularly loves interweaving fact with fiction; while Jal Mahal is a real-life palace in Rajasthan, the 5-star hotel is imagined, and while Chandivali Sector R2 is a bustling Mumbai suburb, Kohinoor island, where the Academy is situated, is an imaginary location.

Puneet has spent more than 20 years working as a journalist and editor for a range of newspapers, books and magazines. She has also founded her own occasionwear boutique, with her dresses featured in *Vogue*, *Hello!* and other fashion magazines. "Miss England 2019" chose to wear one of her dresses at the competition finals! One of her favourite jobs is running Bollywood-themed creative writing workshops for schools – complete with a Bollywood dance lesson!

About the cover artist



Jen Khatun is a children's book illustrator of Bangladeshi/Indian heritage who grew up loving all the costumes, dance sequences, and songs from the countless Indian Bollywood movies she watched as a child. Jen lives and draws by the coast of East Sussex.