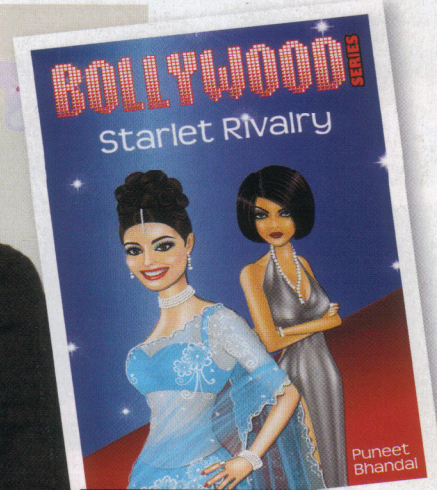


THE BOLLYWOOD LOUNGE

must read...



**PUNEET
BHANDAL**



BOLLY GOOD READ ::
You've seen the movies,
now read the books!

You're launching a collection of books under the Bollywood Series. What's the idea behind it?

Just browsing through bookshops, I realised there was a gap in the market. My one big hope for the series is that it will make young girls want to read. Schools are showing a huge interest in my books because the glamorous look and feel of *Starlet Rivalry* makes people want to pick it up.

What's *Starlet Rivalry* about?

We have a star child, Monica, who is in the industry because of her film industry parents. On the other hand, there is Bela, a middle-class girl and an 'outsider', someone who has made it on her own steam. Let the battle commence!

What's your target audience?

Young teenage girls, or depending on reading ability, those aged 9 plus.

Having said that, many adults have been enjoying the book, too. It's very easy to read and if you like Bollywood and like the behind-the-scenes action, anybody of any age, or gender, can enjoy them.

Why do we love Bollywood so much?

It's escapism at its best. The songs, dances, outfits and locations all make you want to sing and dance along too. You watch a Bollywood movie and you forget about your worries for a while. That's priceless.

What's the next book in the series about?

It's called *Double Take* and will be out this summer. It revolves around a teenage actress who's been pushed into the industry by her money-mad father. She is more concerned about whether her dream of dating a top hero will materialise, and the strange man who's following her...

• www.bollywoodseries.com

