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## BUMPING ALONG JUST FINE

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ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLE

2 *Sass, wit and a whole lot of drama.  
Toronto-based personal*

*injury lawyer, Jasmine Daya's (writing under her pen name, Leia London) book, has all this and so much more. The newly minted author spoke to Suhaag about her debut novel, **Law Girl's Bump in the Road**.*

When law school student Jasmine Daya found herself pregnant unexpectedly in her last semester during law school, the first feeling that overcome her unprepared self was...misery. But she chose not to wallow and began to chronicle her experiences diligently. After her son was born, Daya was pretty sure that there was a book looming in there somewhere. "The book started as a journal 12 years ago, chronicling my pregnancy that perhaps one day my son would read. Although I had shelved the book idea, over the years it was always at the back of my mind.

Between getting divorced, building my practice, remarrying, having two more children and becoming partner, completing it wasn't happening. With my kids being passed the infant stage and with my career on solid ground, I told myself, it was now or never," she says.

Daya's book is about Selena, who is nearly done with law school but there's a bump in her career plans when she finds out she is pregnant. While she is determined to carry the pregnancy to term, she faces numerous challenges- from eager and over enthusiastic in-laws and parents to an emotionally distant husband, not to mention coming to terms with a changing body while studying for her bar exam.

There's a bit about London making it through her graduation ceremony while feeling the full force of pregnant, swollen ankles that will resonate with women who constantly strive to balance the personal with the professional. She also poignantly touches about growing up Indian in Canada and the peculiarities of that kind of upbringing. "Born and raised in Toronto, there were struggles with my parents and their expectations, despite them being very liberal. There were arguments about talking to boys, curfew, clothing, going to medical school and other things. As a writer, it's very natural for me to write about traditional Indian values and ideas because that's my background. But I am a proud Canadian and also blessed to belong to another culture and in fact, such a beautiful one," she says.

Influenced by a wide range of literary voices- from Harper Lee to Sophie Kinsella, Daya is hoping that her travails as recorded in her novel will inspire women to step out more confidently. "I want to share my story and have people realize that with time and effort, success is attainable. The pregnancy at that particular point in my life could have slowed me down or stopped me altogether but that did not happen. I persisted, and it paid off. That's the message that I want readers to realize – to just go for it and make it happen even when life throws you a curve ball," she says. Daya also reveals that there's a sequel being planned to her debut novel as well as a new cookbook! "I'm gearing up for an Indian cookbook series and spice line which will compliment my food and lifestyle blog online, JD in the Kitchen. The first book being released is Appetizers and Chutneys which I am extremely excited about!," she says.

Law Girl's Bump in the Road is now available on Amazon and soon at select Chapters/Indigo locations.