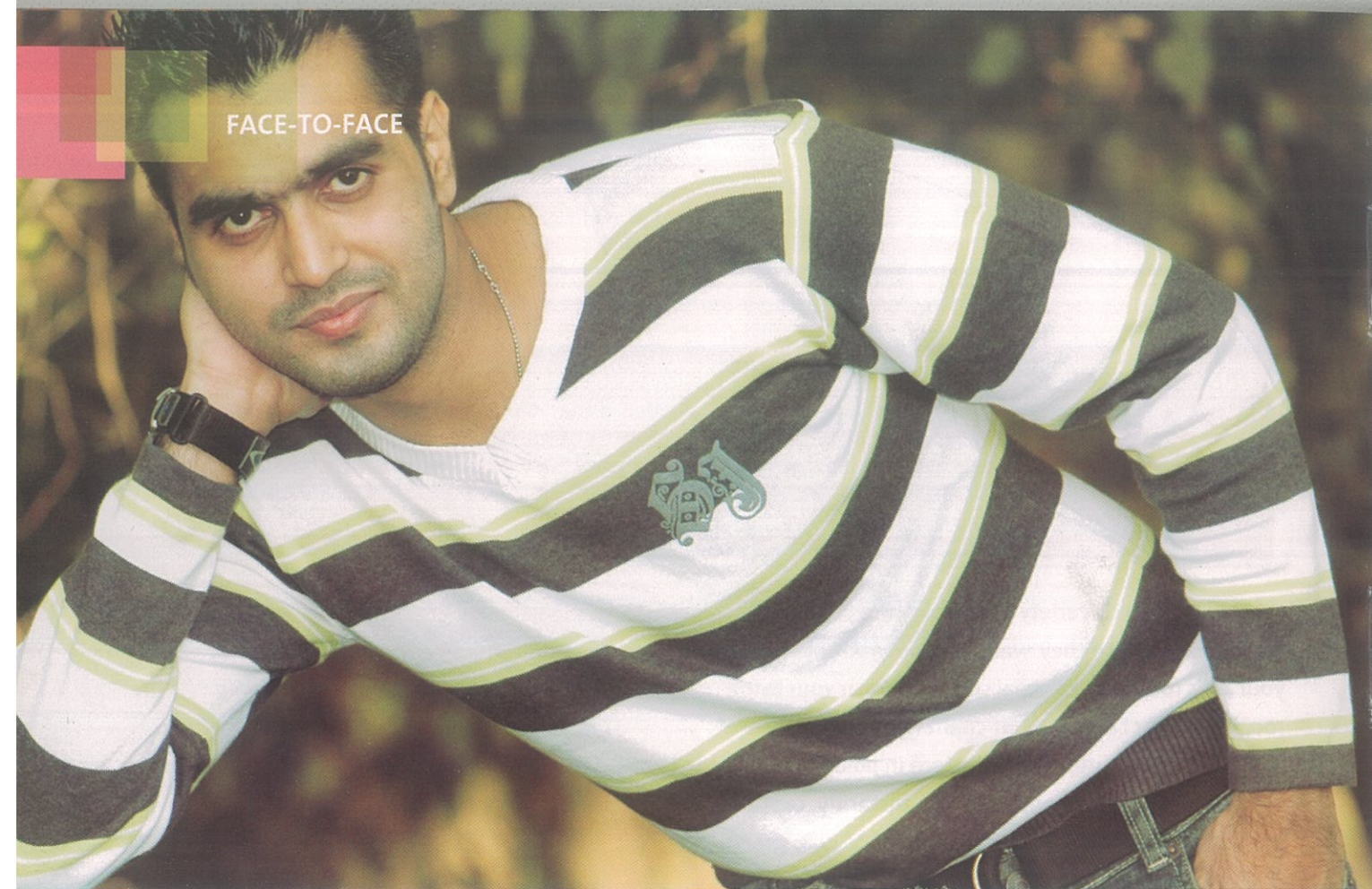


FACE-TO-FACE

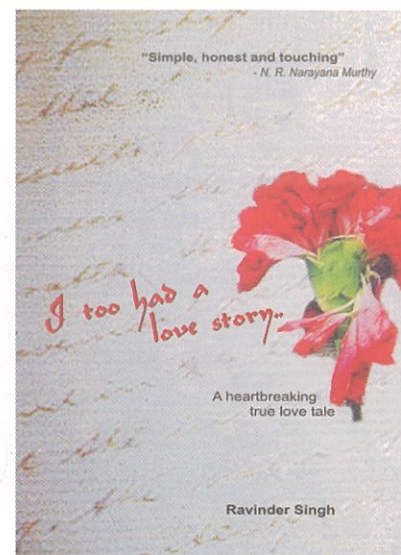


I wish my Love story continued...

Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in the loving memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz a thousand years back. But is the 'I will love you till eternity' tag prevalent in the 21st century?

Jaspreet K. Walia talks to **Ravinder Singh** whose heart still cries in pain for the one he loved more than his life.

A young man, like many at his age, registers himself on a matrimonial site and falls in love with a young woman of his dreams. They talk endlessly on phone and after meeting each other, make a decision to talk to their families about their intentions of getting married. The families give a nod and a date to get engaged is fixed. The arrangements for that one special day are on in full swing and the excitement levels accelerate beyond one's imagination. But destiny plays foul and the girl meets with a fatal accident just a few days before engagement. Every possible effort made to save her turns futile and she leaves the world, leaving her loved one astray and lonesome shattering the 'and they lived happily after' ending. Sounds straight out of a



Bollywood movie, right? Wrong! Ask Ravinder Singh who went through this heart wrenching ordeal and wished it would have never happened.

Ravinder aka Ravin, a software engineer, decided to pen down his past as a tribute to his lady love and keep her alive through his novel forever. He quips, "Some people become religious, and some people just keep the harsh realities they face to themselves. But we humans need a channel to vent out our emotions. In my case, I wanted to share my sorrow with as many as I could as I always felt this urge to talk about 'Khushi' every second." Though it was quite a task for him to inscribe his love life but he braved all odds and touched a million hearts. "It was both easy and difficult. Easy because being a true story, I did not have to think hard on how the story will proceed. Difficult because every time I sat down to write, I used to get choked. The flashback evoked all the moments

spent with her and I could not hold back my tears." He recalls teary eyed. The tremendous support that he got for getting his work published from Khushi's family was beyond compare, as it kept the flame of love ignited in his heart. But his parents were against the very thought, as they knew how disturbing it would be for their son to relive those moments. "Khushi's dad was my biggest support and the sole reason why my work found a new dimension, and I respect him like my father," he smiles.

His work being very similar to Eric Sehgal's famous Love Story many think Ravin picked up the whole idea from there. He clarifies, "You won't believe, I was 100 pages down when I came to know that a novel by this name existed."

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But his journey as a writer does not end here as Ravin is excited about his second novel which he hopes will hit the shelves near Diwali. "My fans had been pushing me to tell them what happens to Ravin after the unfortunate incident? How does he manage to start his life

again from scratch? So, this inspired me to write further," he reveals his next project. Ask him if he is ready to consider another girl, he averts with a glint in his eye, "Yes! Why not? This novel has helped me to come out of my grievance in a big way. A few months back I would have been averse to this thought, but everyone has to move on in life, and me being no exception, also needed to against all hiccups."

Ask him if his profile is still there on *Shaadi.com*, a reason which made his heart skip a beat and enter the writer's arena he laughs, "My profile is still there and people send me marriage proposals as well." "If I don't find my better half then will turn to shaadi.com again and this time I am sure they will give me a discount," he says.

I too had a love story, a symbol that people should not get carried away by their own emotions but rather should change and accept whatever life offers them with open arms. Here's hoping that Ravinder finds that special someone to fill in the void that was created against his desires. Like the eternal story of Romeo Juliet, Ravin's only desire was to have his love story etched amongst the sands of time, but destiny had something else in store for him. But as Ravin puts it in his own words, "Tere jaane ka asar kuch aisa hua mujh par, tujhe dhoondate dhoondate, maine khud ko paa liya...Otherwise I would not have come across an author in me!!"