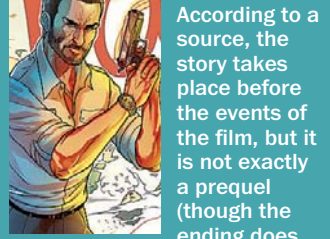


'Book'ed for

Counting days for his upcoming spy thriller, actor Saif Ali Khan is equally excited about his film getting its own graphic novel

Aakanksha Naval-Shetye

There are still a couple of days for Sriram Raghavan's new film *Agent Vinod* to hit the screens, but meanwhile, it's all set to hit the bookshelves in the form of a graphic novel. Apparently, the comic is the brainchild of actor Saif Ali Khan, who himself is a huge fan of graphic novels. "Saif, who is an avid reader and a huge fan of graphic novels thought it would be interesting for the character to get its own novel. But unlike promotional series that are often launched, Saif wanted the novel to have its own story," says a source. And insiders reveal that the novel, *The Jungfrau Encounter*, is not an adaptation of the film but an original graphic novel, which introduces Agent Vinod.



According to a source, the story takes place before the events of the film, but it is not exactly a prequel (though the ending does lead up to the beginning of the film). "It's for the first time here, that a full-fledged graphic novel has been commissioned to complement a film," says another insider insisting that it's not a one-off promotional comic and will continue. Talking about the comic, the source adds that it's expected to be a 90 pager and has been written by comic-book writer Yogesh Chandekar. "The graphic novel is said to be more in tune with European/Franco-Belgian comics," informs the source. Saif, meanwhile, reveals that he's not nervous despite the day of the release of his film drawing close. "You could say I'm anxious, but not nervous." He admits that it's been one of the most challenging films he's ever done, though in a fun way, and that he's already missing the action he got to do in the film. But is he planning a sequel already, as most filmmakers nowadays do? "We do see a great potential in the franchisee and would love to take it forward, but I'm not going to rush into it. I want to take it forward, one step at a time," says Saif, adding, "And the journey's just begun for AV." a_shetye@dnaindia.net



Saif Ali Khan and (inset) a sneak peek into the graphic novel

Sonam to turn journalist?

The actor will apparently play the role of a media person for her new film

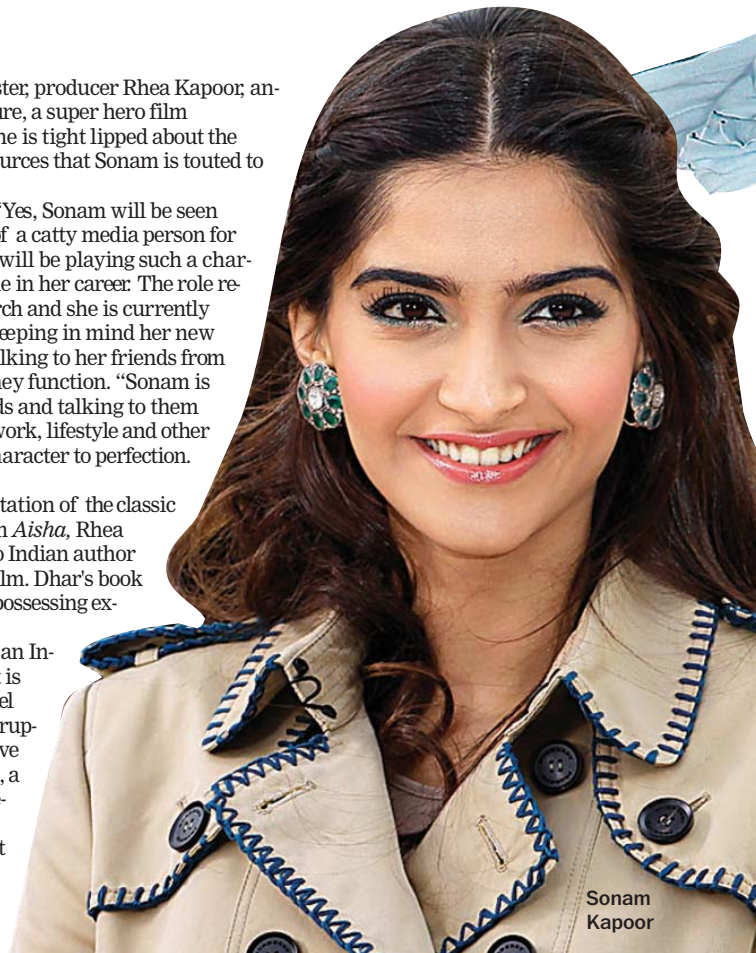
Sayantana Dalal

Recently, actor Sonam Kapoor's sister, producer Rhea Kapoor, announced her next production venture, a super hero film titled *Herogiri*. But though everyone is tight lipped about the whole film, we have learnt from sources that Sonam is touted to play a journalist in the film.

Says the source, "Yes, Sonam will be seen portraying the role of a catty media person for Rhea's film. Sonam will be playing such a character for the first time in her career. The role requires a lot of research and she is currently preparing for that." Buzz is that keeping in mind her new role, Sonam has already started talking to her friends from the media industry to know how they function. "Sonam is meeting many of her journal friends and talking to them for details, enquiring about their work, lifestyle and other things. She wants to portray the character to perfection. She's quite excited about the role."

After presenting a modern adaptation of the classic novel *Emma* through her debut film *Aisha*, Rhea has apparently bought the rights to Indian author Mainak Dhar's novel for her new film. Dhar's book revolves around an ordinary man possessing extraordinary powers.

The source reveals, "*Herogiri* is an Indian take on the superhero genre. It is said to be a racy, action-packed novel about good and evil, power and corruption, love and violence. The narrative follows the life of Arnab Bannerjee, a shy 25-year-old, who has little excitement in his life other than tracking down missing books as an assistant librarian in a Delhi University college. But everything changes the day he discovers he has superhuman powers."



Sonam Kapoor



Priyanka Chopra

PC fights temptation

The actor is apparently trying hard to stick to her decision of taking a break from micro-blogging sites

Sujata Reddy

Actor Priyanka Chopra is a self-confessed gadget freak and more so an internet addict. The actor has in the past admitted to being hooked on to the internet, especially to her account on micro-blogging site Twitter. PC would keep in touch with her fans and update her account several times a day, to keep them posted about what is going on in her life. But then, about ten days back, PC announced that she is going off Twitter for sometime.

"Got some news!! Im off on a Twitter vacation.. Just for a bit..so for all bdays exams n Annivs..lotsa love..and remember ur truth makes u who u r. Love n hugs guys..will miss y'all!c u soon.. Xoxo," she had declared on her account. Though she didn't give any reason for doing so, sources say that PC is caught up with her film projects and wants to spend some quality time with her family as well and that's what sparked the decision. But sources now insist that PC is having a tough time keeping her mind off the site.

"Twitter was the one way for Priyanka to keep in direct touch with her fans. She would respond to most of them and she has a connect with most of her followers. So she definitely misses all the love. But she's determined to stick to her decision," says the source. And what is not helping PC's situation is that even though she has not been tweeting for some time now, her followers on her account are apparently increasing by large numbers every day. "She is being followed by about 4,000 new people on a daily basis. She is looking forward to chatting with all of them but right now, she wants to give herself a break. PC is juggling between the shoots of the *Krish* sequel and *Barfee*."

Both movies require a lot of her time. But more importantly, she is missing her family. Her dad is not keeping too well so spending quality time with family is also on her priority list. But PC will be back before you know it, her fans will just have to wait for a little bit longer," assures the source.

BABE WATCH

The TATLER

All the juicy gossip from the entertainment world

What were Akon and Anubhav talking about?

It was certainly a surprise element when singer Akon turned up in Pune to perform for international DJ David Guetta's concert on Saturday night. But sources tell us that Akon even surprised Guetta with his visit. Apparently, Akon came down to Mumbai and as soon as he learnt that Guetta was scheduled to play in Pune, he rushed there to meet his friend. At the concert, he even obliged and performed for Guetta, much to the delight of his fans. But what was Akon doing in Mumbai?

Apparently, the singer had come down to meet director Anubhav Sinha. A source tells us, "He came down to Mumbai and met Anubhav. They had a discussion. It won't be surprising if we see him crooning to another Bollywood track after *Chammak Challo* in Anubhav's *Ra.One*." The source further adds, "They are very good friends. He has done one song for him in the past and the duo are probably in talks to come together for another project in the near future."

— Sayantana Dalal



Akon

107 kids of SJIS to exhibit their art works

Talent is all about exploring creativity and it's not restricted to any age. To explore such talents Satyameva Jayate International School (SJIS) has organised a painting exhibition of their students, themed 'IMAGINATION'. In this 107 students will participate and over 200 paintings will be exhibited. Participants are from nursery to grade tenth. This exhibition will be held March 17-19, at the Lalit Kala Academy, Law Garden, from 11am to 7pm.



Twitter twatter

Wanna hear what the stars are tweeting about?

Here



Yuvraj Singh
My last stretch 4 mor dya to go Can't wait fr it to end Set me free dear lord livestrong yuvstrong



Sarah Silverman
I know it's not true but I can't stop whimpering "I'm dying" every few minutes



Desi designer steals the show again



After Lady GaGa, Holly hottie Jennifer Lawrence flaunted a gown designed by Indian designer Prabal Gurung at a film premiere

Sujata Reddy

US-based Nepalese fashion designer Prabal Gurung is fast becoming a favourite with Hollywood stars. Only recently Hollywood sensation Lady GaGa had sported a jacket designed by him and now Oscar award win-

ner, actor Jennifer Lawrence wore a metallic sheen flowy gown, with a razor sharp back, that he had designed, for one of her red carpet appearances in Los Angeles.

Back home, actor Sonam Kapoor and filmmaker-turned-designer Karan Johar had previously praised his creations. In fact, KJo was among the first to have expressed his joy over Lady GaGa wearing Prabal's creation. "Hey, so proud to see the world going GaGa over you! More power to you," he had tweeted. Sonam, too, had said that she was a fan of his creations and that he is always sending her out-of-the-box creations to wear. "He will just send you a pile of clothes that he thinks will suit you and say, 'You just have to wear this!'" said the style icon about her equation with the designer.

Sources from the fashion industry say that what works in Prabal's favour is that his designs are very edgy and cater to all kinds of tastes. "His cuts are sharp and the silhouettes almost always have an edge to them. The designs manage to stand out and that is why they're so liked by the celeb brigade," said one designer who didn't want to be named. In the past, Hollywood actors like Demi Moore, Zoe Saldana and Oprah Winfrey have been spotted in the designers' creations.

r_sujata@dnaindia.net

GOWNING GLORY: (L-R) Jennifer Lawrence and Lady GaGa wear Prabal Gurung's creations; (inset) Prabal Gurung

Birthday bonanza



Actor Geeta Basra, who turned a year older yesterday, celebrated her birthday with her family in Delhi. The actor, who has had a rather hectic schedule in the past couple of months, spent the day pampering herself. Geeta apparently wanted to be with her family, so she flew down to Delhi and will spend a couple of more days in the Capital. Talking about her birthday plans, she said, "I was in Delhi with a couple of family members and later spent the day at a spa. I was a bit stressed out the past couple of months and wanted to just relax and that is what I did. I will head to Punjab by end of this month before which I will also have a party for my friends in Mumbai."