

Pen passions

CHAT Author
Neeraj Chibba on
"Zero Percentile"

Yet another campus book has hit the stands. "Zero Percentile" by Neeraj Chibba is the journey of Pankaj, a brilliant boy who misses IIT exam because of an accident and ends up at an engineering college in Russia. A mechanical engineer by profession, this is Neeraj's first attempt at writing. "Coming from a middle-class background, I had to struggle hard in life. Like the protagonist Pankaj, I also could not clear the IIT-JEE exam and finally did my engineering from Volgograd in Russia, earlier known as Stalingrad. In that sense the book is semi-autobiographical," says the author.

With elements of struggle, hope, violence, love and sex thrown in, the book tries to offer all the ingredients of a pot-boiler. "I have added some elements of drama to keep the interest of the reader alive," admits Chibba.

"However, as the number zero suggests, the book is essentially about an average guy succeeding in life. It is a story of hope. I want to tell people that there is a life beyond IIT through this book," he adds.

So when did he decide to write? "Somewhere at the back of my mind the urge to write was always there. But the demands of profession just took over. In terms of confidence, Chetan Bhagat has had a great influence over me. He brought about this whole phenomenon that one need not necessarily have a literature or journalism background to write a book," he says talking about the trend of people from different professions taking to writing in India.

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