

Lady detective



Bhavna Paliwal. Makes: enough

When and how did you become a detective?

Ten years ago, after finishing a course in journalism from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and being utterly bored at my job with a regional daily, I came across a vacancy ad in my newspaper. The Times detective agency was looking for a woman. I went for the interview and got the job!

What inspired you to do what you do?

I grew up in a small village near Ferozpur in UP where women were discriminated against and faced violence. From personal experience and what I saw around me, I wanted to do something that would change things for me and in every woman's world. As a child I wanted to be a CID agent. Today, with my work, I support and empower women. I am particularly interested in investigations for women in distress who don't

have support systems within their families or society. I have collaborated with a number of societies and organisations who have welcomed this support.

Tell us something about the first case you worked on as a detective.

It was a pre-marital investigation case. The groom's family wanted to enquire about the girl's character and reputation. I was sent to Meerut to dig up all these details.

So did she pass the test?

Yes she did, she was a sober girl.

What kind of cases do you handle now?

A range of things. We specialise in marital investigation, personal investigation, finding missing people and cases of employee, corporate and financial investigation.

Are there any advantages of being a woman in your profession?

The relationship I share with my clients is like the one that a doctor has with her patients. It is personal and intimate. Women find it easier to trust women in matters of the heart. My clients include women in distress. They know I can relate to their problems. Even while investigating cases I think it is easier for women to negotiate people and spaces without creating suspicion. Needless to say, there are also serious risks involved here but that is the adventure!

What are your thoughts on love and trust in our world today?

Trust is a funny word. Lack of it in one context creates the need for my clients to seek a detective: trust in me and my work gets them here. I specialise in pre- and post-marriage investigations. Societal changes have resulted in conflicting lifestyle, personal and family needs. It is harder now to hold relationships together. This is not to say that one should cling to a worthless deal. Love... that I am still figuring out. *AM*