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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**
+ **CS(OS) 588/2022**

MANPREET SINGH

..... Plaintiff

Through: Mr.Shyel Trehan, Mr.Manjira
Dasgupta, Mr.Bhargav Ravindran and
Mr.Rohan Poddar, Advocates.

versus

HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS
INDIA PVT. LTD. & ANR.

..... Defendants

Through: Ms.Swathi Sukumar, Ms.Ashima,
Ms.Himangi Kapoor, Mr.Pratyush
Rao and Mr.Ritvik Raghuvanshi,
Advocates for D-1.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMIT BANSAL

ORDER

% **21.09.2022**

I.A. 15461/2022 (for exemption)

1. Subject to the plaintiff filing the originals and legible/typed copies of documents with proper margins on which the plaintiff may seek to place reliance, within four weeks from today, exemption is granted for the present.
2. The application is disposed of.

I.A. 15462/2022 (u/S 149 CPC)

3. The present application has been filed seeking extension of time to file the requisite court fees.
4. Subject to requisite court fees being filed within three weeks from today, the application is allowed.

CS(OS) 588/2022

5. Let the plaint be registered as a suit.
6. Issue summons. Summons are accepted on behalf of defendant no.1
7. Summons be issued to the defendant no.2 through all modes.
8. The written statement(s) shall be filed within thirty days from the receipt of summons. Along with the written statement(s), the defendants shall also file affidavit of admission/denial of the documents of the plaintiff.
9. Liberty is given to the plaintiff to file replication(s), if any, within thirty days from the receipt of the written statement(s). Along with the replication(s) filed by the plaintiff, affidavit of admission/denial of the documents of the defendants be filed by the plaintiff.
10. List before the Court on 18th November, 2022.

I.A. 15459/2022 (O-XXXIX R-1 & 2 of CPC)

11. The present suit has been filed seeking reliefs of declaration and permanent and mandatory injunction against the defendants in respect of, *inter alia*, false and defamatory statements against the plaintiff, along with other consequential reliefs. The cause of action stems from a book titled “*Will Power: The Inside Story of the Incredible Turnaround in Indian Women’s Hockey*” [hereinafter “the Book”], authored by the defendant no.2 and to be published by defendant no.1.
12. Counsel for the plaintiff has handed over a copy of the manuscript of the Book to the Court as well as to the counsel for the defendant no.1.
13. It is submitted that the Book contains several defamatory statements against the plaintiff, which occur at pages 53, 54, 55 and 57 of the Book. The said defamatory content of the Book has been highlighted for the convenience of the Court.

14. Issue notice. Notice is accepted by the counsel appearing on behalf of the defendant no.1
15. Notice be issued to the defendant no.2 through all modes.
16. Reply(ies) be filed within four weeks.
17. Rejoinder(s) thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.
18. Counsel for the defendant no.1 submits that during the pendency of the present suit, the defendant no.1 shall not publish the aforesaid portions of the manuscript and an affidavit of a competent person shall be filed in this regard on behalf of the defendant no.1.
19. I have examined the highlighted portions of the manuscript.
20. In my *prima facie* view, the statements contained in the manuscript of the Book are, on the face of it, defamatory and likely to cause damage to the reputation of the plaintiff. Balance of convenience is in favour of plaintiff. In the event that the aforesaid statements, as highlighted in the copy of the manuscript handed over in Court today, come in the public domain, irreparable harm and injury would be caused to the plaintiff.
21. Consequently, till the next date of hearing, the defendant no.2 is restrained from issuing any statements, interviews, correspondence and releasing/publishing any defamatory content contained in or in relation to the Book/manuscript insofar as it is concerns or is directed towards the plaintiff.
22. Compliance under Order XXXIX Rule 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (CPC) be filed within five days.
23. Affidavit on behalf of the defendant no.1 may be filed within one week.
24. List on 18th November, 2022.

I.A. 15460/2022 (O-XI R-12 & 14 of CPC)

25. Issue notice. Notice is accepted by the counsel appearing on behalf of defendant no.1
26. Notice be issued to the defendant no.2 through all modes.
27. Reply(ies) be filed within four weeks.
28. Rejoinder(s) thereto, if any, be filed within two weeks thereafter.
29. List on 18th November, 2022.

AMIT BANSAL, J.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

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