

BOOK REVIEWS

URMILA

THE FORGOTTEN PRINCESS

We were put on earth to show the world something else, perform your role and leave, never overstay your welcome.

I would not lie; I was impatient to share my thoughts on this book. They say, READ BETWEEN THE LINES, THERE'S A LOT TO DISCOVER, and this is one such book where you will find the hidden meanings between the lines.

We always hear stories about Ram, Lakshman and Sita's Vanvas! How their life was in the forest, the difficulties they faced, Sita's abduction by Ravan and Ram and Ravan's war. Did we ever wonder what happened in Ayodhya in Ram's absence? Did Bharat really handle everything while dealing with the betrayal from her mother? How the 'Ram Rajya' was secured in Ram's absence?

This book has answers to all your questions. We call Sita, Janak Putri Sita! Nevertheless, do we know about her childhood? Her bonds with her maternal family? In Ramayana, did we ever think about the lives that were impacted when Ram went on Vanvas? Did we think about the Unsung Heroes of Ramayana? Did we think, about Urmila's Sacrifices? Her relationship with Lakshman? The lives of Janak Putri's and the future of Mithila?

Did we think about what happened to Urmila when Lakshman went to Vanvas with Ram? Did we know that Urmila was the heir of Jhanakpuri? Her contribution in shaping Ayodhya and Mithila? Did we know much about Ayodhya's relationship with other kingdoms? Did we know the bond between the Ayodhya brothers and the Mithila sisters? How their fates were sealed? How that Pinaka, the Shiv Dhanush, made Urmila feel, that Sita's fate was depended on Pinaka and her fate was depended on Sita?

Did we know their Guru was Guru Gargi, Rishi Garg's Daughter, Did we know about Urmila's Grandmother Netraya from the Kingdom of Patkai? How Urmila's and Lakshman's relationship changed when he returned from Vanvas? What was the Future of Mithila?

By **SMRITI DEWAN**



Urmila's relationship with her mother in law and her confusion for Kekai and Kekaya? Did we know about Sankashya? Mandvi's kingdom? Did we know Queen Sumitra's Father's role in Ramayana? In the Ram Rajya? This book is a must-read book if you love reading mythology. If you want to know more about Ramayana, About Ayodhya, about Mithila. I loved how she portrayed the land of Mithila and Ayodhya, the situations that shaped the kingdom. The childhood of the four sisters. Narrated from Urmila's Perspective, we can now see a different version of Ramayana. The fall and rise of Ram Rajya.

The way the author weaved a beautiful story is commendable. As the story proceeds, it will astound you with twists that came on your way. The fearless, innocent Urmila and her sisters. The love they shared, the different personalities they had and the way they adored each other. Read it all, from their childhood to choosing their Guru to their days in Gurukul to when Ayodhya's prince visited Mithila.

The descriptive narration with an engaging writing style the author impresses the readers with her words. The way every emotion is portrayed and the way the author described the perspective of each personality is commendable. There are unheard stories that will surprise you. I loved how insightful this book is. The amount of research the author did is commendable.

The author develops the strong, fearless and promising characters. One could relate to every situation and will make you think.

Urmila's witty character, her bravery, her dreams and loyalty for her throne, everything was beautifully described. From the story of Ahalya to Shanta to Raja Harishchandra, the author left no stone unturned. From the political games that were played to the wait for Lakshman's return, Urmila has a story to tell.

From her marriage with Lakshman to her Guru's Dakshina, Urmila fought a battle. I loved the author gave focus on all the characters, by showing their personalities instead of just one. Filled with Drama and many Twists, this book holds some untold secrets of Ramayana. I loved the later part of the story most. Lying to oneself is the worst disservice one can do to one's ego.

I loved the later part the most. The Queen Urmila, a mother, a warrior. I loved the Father daughter's bond. It's a bit heavy read and a smooth paced story. Did we know about Nidra that was gifted to Urmila by her Grandmother?

REVIEWED BY VIDHYA THAKKAR

Vidhya Thakkar is a Book Influencer and a Social Media Strategist. She is listed amongst Top Book Bloggers in India. She has worked with more than 700 Authors, Brands and India's listed Publisher's in regards with Marketing and Promotions. She works and manages influencer campaigns for various brands like AKLF 2022, JLF 2022 and others.



Vidhya Thakkar

I loved how the author described the happenings in Ram, Sita and Lakshman's lives when they were on Vanvas. The author told their struggles, the whole Ramayana through her Nidra. I loved that part the most.

How beautifully two parallel plots were narrated by the author. Not to forget, the cousin's bonds between their kids. Yes, you heard it right, the kids of the four sisters. The bond between Luv, Kush and the other kids. (Not spilling out the beans, you must read this book to know an amazing unheard journey). How Urmila missed Sita when she decided to go back to Mother Earth, how she found the essence of Sita close to her heart. Urmila's journey with Lord Parshuram and Guru Vishwamitra. Her encounter with Mantra.

From Urmila's strong opinions and Janak's support and love for the daughters, Mithila left no stone unturned (read to know why and how). It's a crazy book for all the Mythology lovers, yes. This book has changed something in me forever. Urmila's charm and her journey is worth witnessing!

Urmila: The Forgotten Princess

By Smriti Dewan

BLOOMSBURY INDIA

₹375, 398 Pages

FROM THE WOMB OF DARKNESS HOLDING THE PROPHECY

In the fast-evolving world of today, which is driven by technology and desire, crime has found its way and assumed dimensions that are beyond comprehending. This has found its way into the literary world and revolutionized not just literature but also the canon which these works would influence. Undoubtedly, any piece of literary writing is a reflection and bears a strong imprint of the time in which it is written. The same holds true for Ashwin Karthik S N's novel, "From the Womb of Darkness: Holding the Prophecy."



ASHWIN KARTHIK S N
AUTHOR

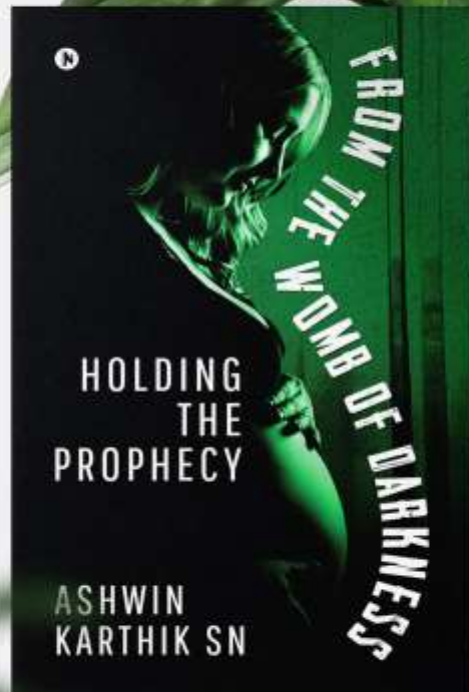
"As intriguing as the title sounds, the book is a package of mind-boggling events that make the readers scratch their brains to decipher and decode the hints laid in every nook and corner of the plot.

"From the Womb of Darkness" begins on a note which baffles the readers and gets their minds racing to interpret and become subconscious investigators of a crime that seems without motive. The author triggers the events with the different styles in which a crime is committed and leaves the readers in a zone where they can only conjecture the whys and the hows. This makes the book not only interesting but also successfully keeps the interest intact throughout the plot development.

AT THE SAME TIME, it makes the readers wonder and has their brains in the super active mode to understand and try to find the reasons for the occurrence of the actions.

Karthik S N, in his "From the Womb of Darkness" packs the plot with a bunch of twists and turns and shows his literary flavour for writing poetry. The few lines show his depth of thought and how his wide knowledge can be compressed into a few words, which comprise pensiveness and clarity. These are the salient features of the novel which make it an extraordinary work that would be read by the later generations also. Simultaneously, the book also features characters who are strongly human in their actions, reactions, perceptions, and interpretations of situations. They embody the emotions which are visible in an ordinary human even when they are thoroughly professional. From Achintya to Rudra to Nandi, the characters in the centre stage or in the background incarnate behaviours which bring them to life and give strength to their existence. Even the character like Shivam, who make a brief appearance, or even the absent Seema or Raksha make their mark through their few words or their mention in the conversations of others.

Overall, the characters are relatable, close to life, and pretty much showcase the people who can be found in the present-day world. This gives weight to the powerful text and adds to its potency. Rudra's character is well-developed, strong, and represents the differently-abled in a unique, special, and distinguishing manner. Similarly, Achintya's character also shows promise, dedication, and a rock-solid determination. But his emotional reactions and behaviours show him to be as much human.



From the Womb of Darkness
By Ashwin Karthik SN
NOTION PRESS
₹309, 232 Pages

Likewise, “From the Womb of Darkness” features a plot that for once may seem ordinary but features a lot more than the ordinary. The plot is set into action without losing a moment from the first few words and has the readers engaged from there. Without losing them at any juncture, it keeps them on their toes with their wandering thoughts of what happens next. It is interesting to observe that the author abstains from dividing the plot into chapters which ultimately means not letting the readers rest until the mystery is unravelled and they have all the answers.

The brief intervals here and there only add to make the readers hungry to know about the events that the author has in store. Almost every page of the book is packed with an unveiling event of a detail or a new strand to the plot, which does not let the readers at a loss of elements that would tickle their imagination. This gives the readers a powerful experience of mystery, suspense, thriller, and brain-teasing action in addition to transporting them into a world where crime has assumed new proportions to prey on the innocent.

This makes the work an extraordinary one among the ordinary and strikes a chord with the brains and hearts together.

The author Karthik S N creates a marvel out of ordinary events, and through his ability to write, he takes the readers into a different world altogether. This gives them a reading experience that is likely to make them want to read “From the Womb of Darkness” again and recommend it to others.

ABOUT AUTHOR: ASHWIN KARTHIK SN ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS A TRUE ACHIEVER FROM THE VERY MOMENT OF HIS BIRTH. HE WAS BORN WITH A DEFICIENT SUPPLY OF OXYGEN, WHICH RESULTED IN A CRIPPLING AND LIFE-LONG CONDITION CALLED CEREBRAL PALSY.

HE IS THE FIRST QUADRIPLAGIC CEREBRAL PALSY STUDENT IN INDIA TO HAVE BECOME AN ENGINEERING GRADUATE. CURRENTLY, HE WORKS AS AN ADVISOR TO THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT AT DELLEMC.

ASHWIN WRITES POETRY IN ENGLISH, KANNADA AND HINDI.

From the title, their interest would be triggered, which is likely to go beyond when they would set themselves on reading and exploring the world the author has created. Hence, all readers are urged to read Karthik S N's “From the Womb of Darkness” not just to understand the world of crime but also to observe the creative genius of the young author.



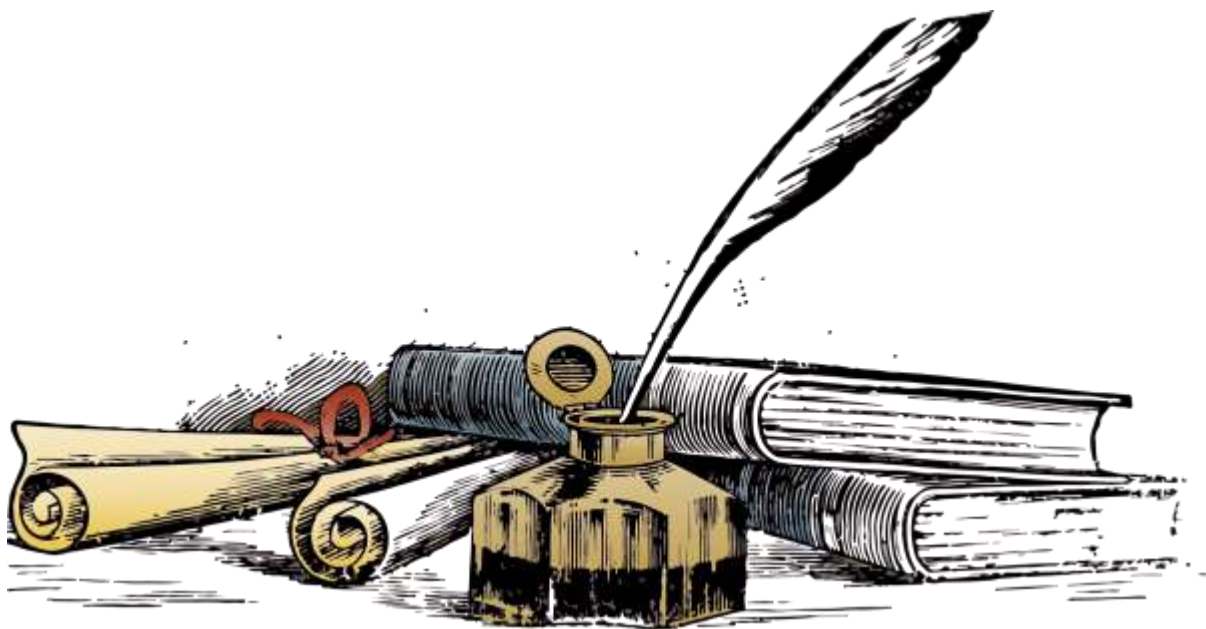
REVIEWED BY
AKHILA SAROHA



Find the Perfect Writer or an Editor for Your Book.

contact us to discuss which writers or editors
would be ideal for you and your book.

Email: inkerspress@gmail.com



HINDI EDITION

YE UN DINO KI BAAT HAI JAB

By Pankaj Johri

Nostalgia is a powerful emotion that takes a person on the whirlwinds of wonder when invoked in the right manner. Pankaj Johri, in his short book, "Yeh Un Dino Ki Baat Hai Jab..."

creates the atmosphere of nostalgia and the air that transports the readers in the yesteryears when the contemporary technological advancement was yet to see the light of the day. Through his book, he explores different facets of human personality as well as the sociological and psychological factors that operate and run one's life.

"Yeh Un Dino Ki Baat Hai Jab..." begins with a powerful thought that creates a scenic view before the eyes of the readers due to the first-person narrative that the author uses. He keeps the narration clear, and it comes directly from the heart of the narrator. This connects the readers instantly with the plot, and they become interested in knowing what would happen next.

At the same time, the author explores the sociological aspects when he depicts the social setup between different families and the mannerisms with which they conduct themselves. The readers subconsciously compare the present and the past, reinforcing the nostalgic emotion throughout the narrative.

Ye Un Dino Ki baat hai Jab

By Pankaj Johri

PRINCEPS PUBLISHING

₹100, 76 Pages

**REVIEWED BY
AKHILA SAROHA**



The characters that the author builds also seem to have been reincarnated from their time and fit in perfectly despite the book being written in the present day. They have the feelings, behaviours, maturity, and thoughts that defined the lives of the people back then.

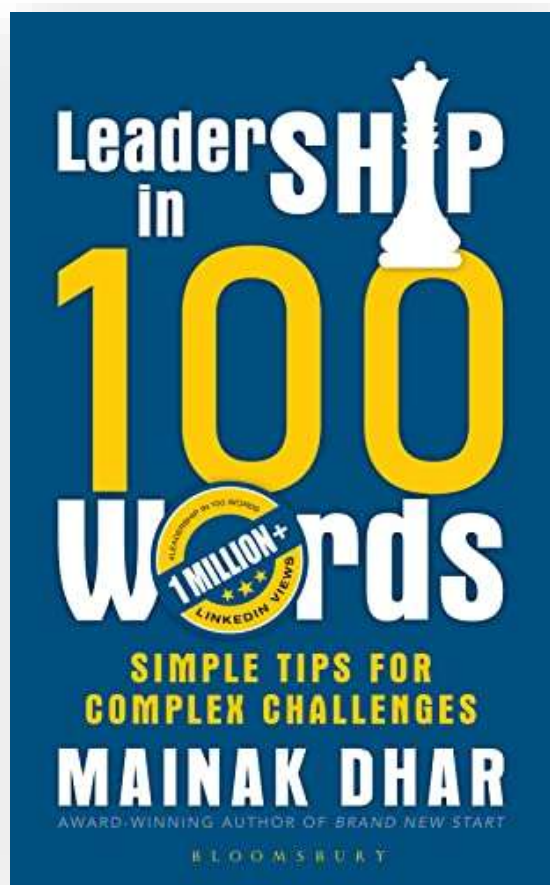
This makes the book a fragment of beauty and a creation that the readers would enjoy irrespective of which generation reads it. Every time "Yeh Un Dino Ki Baat Hai Jab..." is read by any reader, it will create the same atmosphere successfully. Overall, the book is open to being explored from different dimensions.



Readers, who were born or have lived through that time would instantly connect with the book. They may also find the legacy that they would want to leave for the younger generation, which is a product of both ideas and observation.

The younger readers would be able to understand the aspects of the time that has gone by. Hence, the book becomes a treasure for readers of all generations simultaneously.

At the same time, Johri's book successfully recreates a different world through his words, and what connects the readers much more strongly is the narrative being in the Hindi language. This gives the ideal flavor of Indianness to the text, which makes a visit to the past days an enriching experience for the readers. It helps the readers revisit and connect with their roots without coating an alien language and makes them feel the cultural values of what was always their own. Therefore, reading "Yeh Un Dino Ki Baat Hai Jab..." by Pankaj Johri is not just time traveling back. It also contains numerous lessons born from the time when even having a television at home was a privilege limited to a few, and technological products like smartphones and their by-products were far from sight.



I NTRODUCTION

Ever since the pandemic has hit everyone's lives, everyone has been looking for a ray of hope that could catapult their lives to the better days. For that, the essential ingredient is to have clarity of thought in the first place. This would eventually lead to being motivated and driven, thereafter also chalking out the leadership qualities. Here is a book that centres around the idea of leadership and how a person can develop leadership qualities. "Leadership in 100 Words: Simple tips for Complex Challenges" by Mainak Dhar talks about leadership and what a person can do to learn it through daily life challenges.

OVERVIEW

When we ask kids who they want to be when they grow up, their immediate response is the name of the family member they idolize. A result of this inspiration is Mainak Dhar's "Leadership in 100 Words," where he states his maternal grandfather, mother, and father being the inspiration and influencing the leadership qualities he developed eventually in his life.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Dhar has mentioned the role of motivation in the development of leadership quality and has highlighted the role of a motivator in life in general. He also links motivation leading to the development of leadership qualities in a person through the examples of his maternal grandfather, his father, and his mother.

He has explained the role-played in his life by motivators like his maternal grandfather, his father, and his mother. He also describes how he was inspired by observing positive qualities in these motivators and motivations further evolved him into a leadership role and established him in his work life in the corporate world. He honestly states how he observed their hard-working, resilient, determined, and perseverant nature, which led them to strive and not settle until they achieved their targets.

"Leadership in 100 Words" by Mainak Dhar is written very lucidly. He has mentioned the instance where he received several followers on his LinkedIn platform who were seeking guidance regarding the management of the problems they faced during their day-to-day affairs. His division of leadership into groups would give the readers a broad idea about the author's close observation of this skill.

Leadership in 100 Words
By Mainak Dhar
BLOOMSBURY INDIA
₹174, 338 Pages



WHY SHOULD I READ IT?

For starters, the book is from a mind that is the CEO of a multinational firm. In addition, “Leadership in 100 Words” has already received more than 1 million views on LinkedIn alone. It will walk you through mentoring to leading self and eventually leading others in addition to leading through change and trouble circumstances. Above everything, the size of the book is an instant attraction. It is small, lightweight, and portable without taking too much space in your bag.



MAINAK DHAR

FMCG CEO, BEST SELLING AUTHOR

Mainak Dhar wears many hats. His most important job is to be the best possible father and husband he can be. An alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, his ‘day job’ has seen him lead teams and businesses in the corporate world. A self-described ‘cubicle dweller by day and writer by night’, he loves creating and sharing stories. His books have been bestsellers in India and abroad including the Alice in Deadland series, 03:02 and Sniper’s Eye. His books have been translated into Turkish, Vietnamese, Japanese, French, German and Portuguese, reaching millions of readers. He is also a passionate student of Karate, and holds a Black Belt.

WHO SHOULD READ IT?

Overall, it is meant for just everyone! Students, working professionals, even young kids. It would not only develop the quality of leadership in them, but it would also fill them with positivity and hope for a better tomorrow. The professionals who would be leaders of tomorrow can also try reading the product of Dhar’s experience.


CONCLUSION

“Leadership in 100 Words” by Mainak Dhar is not just a fragment born from the experience he has acquired in his lifetime; it is also a treasure to be relied upon by the coming generations. As times get tough, the challenges can be handled with such experience. Going back to this book time and again would not only educate the leaders of tomorrow but also prepare them for the challenges that they would face later on in life.



Hailing from literary background, Akhila has been associated with the education and publishing industry throughout her career. She is majorly known for her objective and mature style of analyzing any content whether visual or written. At present, she is working on tuning her sharp writing skills to the needs of the digital world and writing website content in abundance while stealing day offs to satiate her hunger to read by giving a chance to budding authors.

REVIEWED BY AKHILA SAROHA



TWO FACED THREE KNIVES

BY SAIRAM

Book: Two Faced Three Knives

Author: Sairam Subramanian

Publisher: EVINCEPUB PUBLISHERS (2022)

Total Pages: 186

Reviewed By: Neel Preet

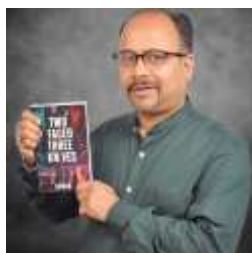
"Life can be too mysterious sometimes and one cannot even imagine what results would occur when those mysteries would be unveiled. One can only hope that the mysteries would result for something sweet and pleasant!"

Well, before starting the review of this amazing title, "Two Faced Three Knives" by Author Sairam Subramanian, let me mention that the Author has made a brilliant effort with his novel. The book covers a great story, which revolves around the main character and the incidents of her life. The way some mysteries will unveil in the life of the prime character of the plot, will make the readers feel the thrill while going through this amazing novel.

About the Author: From Banking to Teaching to Development, Author Sairam Subramanian's leadership career of over 16 years has been driven by a quest for greater meaning, scale, impact and complexity in his work. His early years of career were marked by assignments with Indian and International banks including HSBC, Deutsche, ICICI and Yes Bank before his pivotal transition to development sector where he engaged directly with underserved communities, large NGOs, Corporate CSRs, multilaterals and government.

The confluence of these engagements has shaped Author Sairam's understanding of various aspects of sustainable development as an interplay of these actors. Through his authorship, he is inspired to take the impressions from his experience, the emerging landscape of human development in different parts of the world to a wider global audience by blending field realities, current sustainability challenges and entertainment.

His current work of crime fiction is an effort in the direction to connect with and engage a wide segment of readers in an entertaining way, informing them of the various social issues and inspiring them to participate in solving these challenges.



AUTHOR

Sairam Subramanian

While writing the book he has also been working as a consultant for one of the leading International Consulting Firms, Palladium International. His prior engagements in international development include stints with TechnoServe, GIZ.

Book's Introduction: This book, Two Faced Three Knives by Author Sairam Subramanian comes under the category of '**Corporate Crime & Thriller**' and is filled with suspense at every instances in the plot. The storyline of this book is revolving around Trisha, who is the main character of the novel. Trisha, who is a competitive management consultant from India, works for an international firm and recently has been seconded to London for an assignment.

The story takes the reader across remotest corners of Africa, the villages of India, cities of Delhi, Mumbai and London back and forth through the various twists and turns in life of Trisha. Working on a business transformation project for a multinational chocolate company, Trisha has to travel to remote lands of Africa where she is exposed to corrupt and inhuman practices, which are in contrast to the image the company is projecting internationally!

Book Title: The title "Two Faced Three Knives" for this book, which is a corporate crime thriller novel, is certainly an appropriate one with reference to the collection of chapters added in this book by the Author. Moreover, it is a very '**Catchy Title**' and this is something, which makes the book even more interesting, as the title itself compels you to pick up this book for a read. In this case, the title is giving a very mysterious as well as an interesting vibe. Therefore, as a reader you would feel the urge to go inside the chapters and try to understand the Author's thoughts!

In addition, I must mention that the title of this book is much "**Justified**" with regards to the reading worthy storyline present in this book. Undoubtedly, it is a very apt Book Title for this novel & the Author had been extremely wise to go for this title.

Readers Connect: Through this book, Author Sairam Subramanian has attempted to bring a feel of thrill for the readers and this is something, which will make the readers go page by page of this title. The story in this book covers everything, from corporate journey to crime to mystery, thriller and suspense and the reader are bound to experience everything!

Another very important aspect of this book is that the storyline is indeed engrossing & interesting and the narration style by the Author is so amazingly lucid, that it would totally hook the readers until the very last page of this thriller novel. Moreover, this is a book, which will make the readers think about the plot for several times, even after completing the book.

Verdict: A Book like "**Two Faced Three Knives**" is for sure a **Must Read** one & deserves a chance by the readers. The way Author had presented the central character in this book and made sure to retain the suspense until the very end of the story, making the storyline truly incredible. His work is seriously praise worthy as he has succeeded in making a great book in the category of corporate crime & thriller!

Author, Sairam Subramanian is a promising Author, who is very creative in his writing, which the readers can feel through his spectacular writings. In addition, his honest work makes this book even more Reading Worthy!

Shivshakti The Continuous Continuum

By ANITA RAJANI





About The Author:

Anita Rajani is a Reiki and Crystal Grandmaster, a tarot reader, a Hypnotherapist, an Inner Child Integration Therapist and a teacher of esoteric subjects and an author. She has is a channel and has channeled Saibaba Guidance cards which are available in 3 languages. She is into writing since 8 years, writes as a hobby and now more into serious writing work..

Shivshakti

By Anita Rajani

The Write Order Publications

₹330, 249 Pages

Every form has its evolution and manifests itself, as an evolved matter which ultimately again merges into the primal matter and expansion takes place.

Reading this book was an experience of its own. An experience worth witnessing, a book that each one of us must-read. Rajanianita Anita Rajani's Shivshakti is about conversations between Shiva and Shakti, the eternal Adi Shakti that give us a deeper understanding of life, of the universe. How ShivShakti exists in every form, how they are continuously evolving with time. Divided into 53 chapters, each chapter gives us a deeper understanding, connecting us to the eternal energy. Beautifully narrated, with absorbing wiring style, Anita with her words gives us a spiritual experience for life. The author shares about Sita and Ram, Radha and Krishna about how Shivshakti took different forms to bring balance, love and harmony on Earth. How Tridev and Tridevi's balanced the energies of the earth.

Why did Shakti, the epitome of strength or her many other different forms need to work her way up to Shiva. It was a leela they performed for us to understand the importance of patience, resilience, discipline and faith in one's goals to reach the beloved. So many lack the courage to choose the truth of their own souls.

The Shiv and Shakti's bond, the conversations between them will evolve each one of us, making us a better person. The conversation between Ganga and Sati was the best part of the book. You will enjoy every bit of this. A deep, meaningful book that explains the divine principle of masculine and feminine energy and the changing patterns and evolution over time. Why Lord Brahma and Saraswati are not worshipped, why Ganga is tied in Shiva's Jata, the concept of Jyotilingam and Shakti Peeth's, Ganesha's and Kartikey's understanding of the test, their parents took. Radha and Krishna's love, concept of Meera's devotion, Sita and Ram's bond, it has all.

It's a mesmerizing book, a book that gives us an experience for life. I loved the way the author expressed each concept, the concept of Shiv-Shakti is remarkable. With each chapter, it gets more and more intense, more interesting giving us a beautiful spiritual experience. She explains how Shiva and Shakti's cosmic dance create balance and how they both are incomplete without each other.

It's a book to treasure for life. Would you like to read about Shiva and Shakti? About the balance, they create! A spiritual experience? Do you love reading Mythology? This is the book.

REVIEWED BY VIDHYA THAKKAR

Vidhya Thakkar is a Book Influencer and a Social Media Strategist. She is listed amongst Top Book Bloggers in India. She has worked with more than 700 Authors,

Brands and India's listed Publisher's in regards with Marketing and Promotions. She works and manages influencer campaigns for various brands like AKLF 2022, JLF 2022 and others.



GET

PUBLISHING & PROMOTION GUIDANCE

Visit: www.inkerspress.com
Email: inkerspress@gmail.com



WALK ME TO THE WILLOW

BY ARNAB MAJUMDAR

Dedicated to Thamma, the title **“Walk Me To The Willow”** is divided into 14 engrossing chapters about friendship, loving nicknames that friends address each other with, reunion with old friends and the manner in which life takes its course but it is good friends who lift up low spirits to give strength, joy and motivation.

Memory plays a crucial role in bringing the four friends together as they mop and clean the cottage to bring it back to its old shine.

Sadly, the cover page is rather bland for the kind of entertaining and heart touching plot that rests within the book. It has a dusty window that is perhaps indicative of the window of the cottage that the plot deals with. The perspective that is attempted to be shown is not clear through the cover photo as it can leave readers utterly confused whether the window is showing the world outside the cottage or within in. At 202 pages, the book is a moderate and heartfelt read.

The book follows a third person narrative perspective and deals with the story of four friends who had grown up together. These friends are Sharmishtha, Tilottama, Mainaak and Arundhati. The plot revolves around their reunion and the changes that have come into their life in the twenty years that they were away from each other and the Willow.

The Willow is the nickname given to the cottage in the hills of Northern India where they used to gather in their childhood and play together. However, life happens and that has its effects. This is where the cottage becomes a symbolic aspect of the novel.

It stands for childhood, innocence, joy and the deep peace felt while living in the lap of nature. The realisation that hits hard though it hits the characters one after the other is the issue of laying claims on the cottage. The unwritten rule that the cottage was their haunt in the childhood as they played there is shown to be replaced by the requirement of presenting written commitment towards the maintenance of the cottage. It is not a burden but it is a change that adulthood and responsibilities of adulthood bring along which the carefree days of childhood had failed to realise or envision.

The plot follows a rather slow pace. There is a lot of focus on building up the relationship between characters.

This is done in the form of dialogues which are short, straight forward, and help explain the relationship shared by the friends, the closeness they share and the bond they have. For the most part of a lot of chapters there are incessant dialogue exchanges that make up the script of the novel.

This brings about perspective, and sheds light on the four different characters only to reveal how similar they think and the mutual respect they share for one another. The long gap that they have been away from one another is another angle of the plot.

ABOUT AUTHOR – ARNAB MAJUMDAR

Arnab was educated in Delhi and has worked as a researcher in Delhi and Mumbai, before following his passion to pursue photography and writing. He is a poet, writer and photographer, and he likes telling stories across all mediums. Arnab has been featured in the debut poetry publication titled ‘*Recipes for Hemlock*’, produced by the **DVerse Poets Pub** in partnership with **Boston Poetry Magazine**. He has also written short stories and poems on his blog. His blog is a sandbox for honing and experimenting with his writing. In his writing, Arnab explores human interactions and connections. He loves to unravel the many knots of human relationships and tell their stories. His craft expresses itself in many mediums – visuals or the written word. His stories are a vivid testimony to the strengths, frailties and many colours of the human soul.

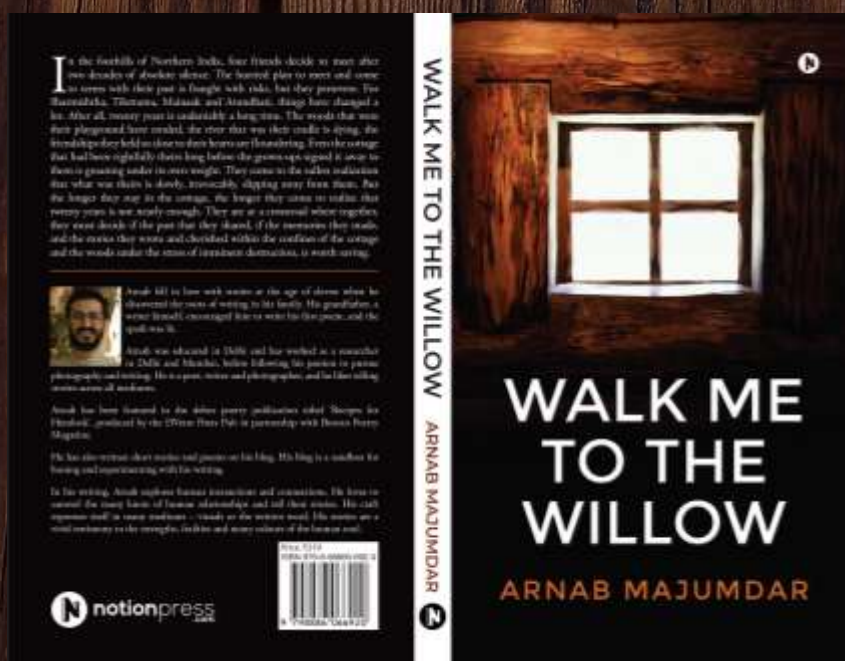
This reunion is presented as a hurried attempt at coming to terms with their past and the times that they have spent away from one another which has brought about a of changes in their lives making them strangers to one another though they share the memories of their childhood.

The time span of being away from one another and the cottage as reflected in the plot is that of 20 years and this is a fairly long time.

Yet, change is the only constant and when people share respect for one another then regardless of the time they spend away from each other's company, they are bound to re-bond. Nature is another important aspect of the plot though it does not respond to the characters and the changes that time has brought about in their lives, it is more of a background set up against which the plot unfolds. The woods had been their playground, the river was their cradle, and the cottage was their usual gathering spot. The plot also deals with the sentiment of feeling attached to a place as a natural urge in humans to bond with their surroundings. It is this sentiment that made them feel as though they were the rightful owners of the cottage much before their parents had written it down for them.

The characters are well rounded and have many sides to their personality. They are caring, passionate, and respectful of one another. The characterisation is central to the plot as it is through the coming together of characters that the plot unfolds. The four characters form the main aspect of the novel and there are no foil characters. Even their parents have been mentioned but only as a passing reference with no particular names given to them.

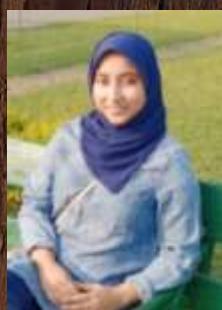
The characters bond with one another and reassess each other's achievements only to realise that they have gone far ahead in life but left a small part of themselves in the Willow and the life that surrounded it. The realisation hits them hard that what was theirs is slowly being worn out by time and as they say time and tide wait for none. Their challenge then is to beat time and restore the cottage to preserve their childhood which is definitely worth saving.



ARNAB MAJUMDAR
AUTHOR

VIEWED BY TASNIMA YASMIN

Tasnima Yasmin is an Indian poet and book critic. Her poetry collections include *Silhouette* and *Other Poems* (2019) and *My Little Book of Nonsensical Poetry* (2020). Her poetry has been published in Indian and international literary magazines, journals and anthologies. She is presently pursuing her PhD in India. She can be contacted at yasmintasnima@gmail.com.



Walk Me To The Willow
By Arnab Majumdar

NOTION PRESS
₹ 218, 202 Pages

MEET THE REAL YOU

BY CHETAN BANSAL

Divided into 3 parts, this book MEET THE REAL YOU functions on two levels. Firstly, it is a blueprint to reboot one's life and a recipe to find meaning and purpose in existing. Hence, it pushes people away from merely existing into truly living their life holistically. Chetan Bansal works around a simple belief: Life is a game. Hence, the book is his practiced and proven strategies to win in this game of life without any collateral damage and ensuring emotional independence, self-reliance, and free-spiritedness. These are all qualities that Bansal believes can be inculcated provided the individual is aware of the nature of life, its attributes, its challenges, and its qualities. Bansal draws an analogy from modern daily life. He compares living life to driving a car. Initially, driving a car can be difficult for those who do not want to learn and practice or understand the method behind this skill. As an acquired skill it takes a lot of hard work to ace it.

ACCORDING TO BANSAL, the same goes for life. Once the rules, laws, and practices of life are understood then one can grasp the formulas of life, mind, and universe and thrive on them. This will make the open-minded learner a skillful driver of life and feel the reigns of life in his hands. This reduces undue stress and eases struggles to make living more enjoyable and a pleasant experience.



While this remains the crux of the content of the book, the unique typesetting and format of the book makes it different from other self-help books. The book is divided into 9 chapters of more or less equal length. The important points that the author wants to drive home and have them etched in the mind of the reader is written in bold letters.

Soon after the main idea of the book and the thought process that drives it, there is an entire page filled with hashtags of several self-motivating words that encourage, persuade and uplift the reader towards meeting positive ends. This lays the entire onus of the success or failure of life on one's actions. It is important to note that these are conscious actions that Bansal deals with throughout the book. In this sense, the book lays emphasis on strengthening one's bond with one's roots, to focus on one problem in life at a time, and untie the knots within the mind to unshackle it from the grips of agony.

The three-part division of the book is helpful because the practical advice that is put in it can be taken in through a step-by-step process. Part A of the book looks into giving the reader a deep understanding about life, mind, universal and personal space. The other two parts that is B and C, try to strengthen the connection of the reader with the omnipotent reality that is considered eternal.

MEET THE REAL YOU

By Chetan Bansal

SELF PUBLISHED

₹390, 432 Pages



Synchronising with the eternal power helps to activate these codes and once codes get activated then the entire programme runs automatically. However, it is up to the individual being to ensure that these codes function smoothly at all times and any glitches in the system need to be assessed without worry or fear. This is where the process of mastering life begins.

Bansal also brings in a few unique terms but they are explained in detail and seem quite innovative. One such is the wow technique: "To develop laser sharp focus, immense emotional & spiritual strength, for connecting with source and activation of all life skills narrated above and thus all success in life." Others include IP thought process, horizontal to vertical alignment, F-TIPP technique, 3G/4G model technique, SSF to DLS breathing, PPN scan model, and a 9 point spiritual attitude.

This shows that the book combines the physical, the internal with the emotional and the external reality to help reach the higher reality for it is a truth universally acknowledged that only when the mind is in synchrony with the higher reality or omnipotent power then only can there be progress and prosperity. This is where the title of the book comes in play and makes perfect sense. Reading the book is a process of self-assessment that helps reader to meet their true self and groom themselves towards that ideal image of themselves in case they have shortcomings.

The book serves to give a deeper perspective but nonetheless, it is a perspective and the author does not at any point seem to coax the reader into accepting or blinding taking in all that is presented in the book. He merely asks for the reader to contemplate and trust the process of being in this world. This is in sync with the writing style that is simple, follows through the course of ideas in a gradual manner and maintains a calming pace that helps to digest ideas.

The book like many books that are innovative in the genre of self-help comes with new concepts that may call for attentive reading. However, Bansal relaxes the reader and almost provides a healing therapy session that rejuvenates, boosts morale and makes for a one of a kind read. This has much to do with Bansal's own belief that all humans have by default some innate or pre-installed codes for emotions like happy, successful, purposeful, loving and passionate.

TheLiteratureToday.Com The Homepage For India'S Most Influential

THE LITERATURE TODAY

AN ULTIMATE DESTINATION FOR LITERATURE

The literature today, founded in 2021, is known for literary articles and book reviews. We at The Literature Today are a group of critics, reviewers and editors who look forward to bring the best content to our readers. We have the best collection of articles on book reviews, author stories and literary criticism. Visit our official website to explore more.

The
literature today



The
Literature
Today

The **literature today**

Enjoyed This Issue?

Explore the whole new world
of writing.

Rekindle your love for books and literature. We bring
you the latest releases, interviews and much more from
the writing world in our every issue.

Get The Literature Today Magazine delivered to your
inbox the moment the issue is released.

Go ahead and subscribe now.

To subscribe
visit -
www.theliteraturetoday.com