



# The Krishna Key decoded

Shreya Mukherjee

shreya.mukherjee@hindustantimes.com

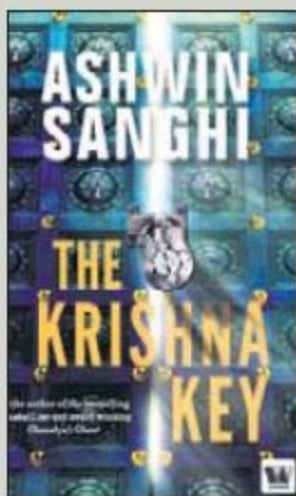
Author-entrepreneur Ashwin Sanghi's books are a mix of history, mythology, fiction and archaeology. His stories are gripping, be it *The Rozabal Line* or *Chanakya's Chant* or the recently released *The Krishna Key* (₹250, Westland). Sanghi spoke to HT City about *The Krishna Key*. Excerpts:

**You wonderfully blend history with fiction.**

I work like an architect. My organised approach is compulsory for the type of stories I choose to narrate in a thriller format.

**How does *The Krishna Key* explore "ancient secrets of the Vedic age and the Mahabharata"?**

It's about a set of ancient relics that seem to point that Krishna may have left behind a secret for future generations. The quest to decipher the key and reach the ultimate treasure — Krishna's priceless legacy to mankind, is at the core of the story. As with most thrillers, the prize is not available without a contest. Two separate groups work towards gaining access to the prize and it results in a series of murders. The characters here have shades of grey. It is impossible to tell what drives any given character till the very end.



**The protagonists of the novel Priya Ratnani and Professor Ravi Mohan Saini, who are in search of the key, reminds us of Sophie Neveu and Professor Robert Langdon's quest for the Holy Grail in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*.**

Well, the similarity lies till the Professor and nothing more. But that is because it is the basic plot structure of most thrillers. Not just Dan Brown, even writers like Raymond Khoury and Steve Berry follow similar formats.

**Christ in *The Rozabal Line*, Chanakya in *Chanakya's Chant* and now Krishna in *The Krishna Key*. How do you choose your subjects?**

I choose subjects that intrigue me. It's not as if I chose to write about these icons, it happened merely because there was an interesting story waiting to be told.

**What is your next book about?**

My next is a little deviation from ancient history and all about the contemporary. Dipped in my usual trademark of a fast-paced mystery, the only historical element it has is a 1949 event.

**UTV has acquired movie rights of *Chanakya's Chant*. When do we see the movie happening?**

The team at UTV is currently putting together a script. I am neither involved in scripting, nor in the filming process. I believe they will finalise the casting by the end of 2012 and the movie will go into production in 2013. As of now, no final decisions have been taken regarding the cast.

**Has anyone approached you for the rights of *The Rozabal Line* and the *Krishna Key*?**

Yes, talks are on. For *The Rozabal Line*, I have co-written the screenplay. As for *The Krishna Key*, it is quite possible that I may simply option the film rights without getting involved in writing a screenplay.

**How much of Ashwin Sanghi is present in all his novels?**

Oh, I live, breath, eat and sleep my books. Many of the little anecdotes or events that populate my stories are firsthand experiences. Much of the spiritual sensibility is my own. In short, each book is a reflection of me at that given time.