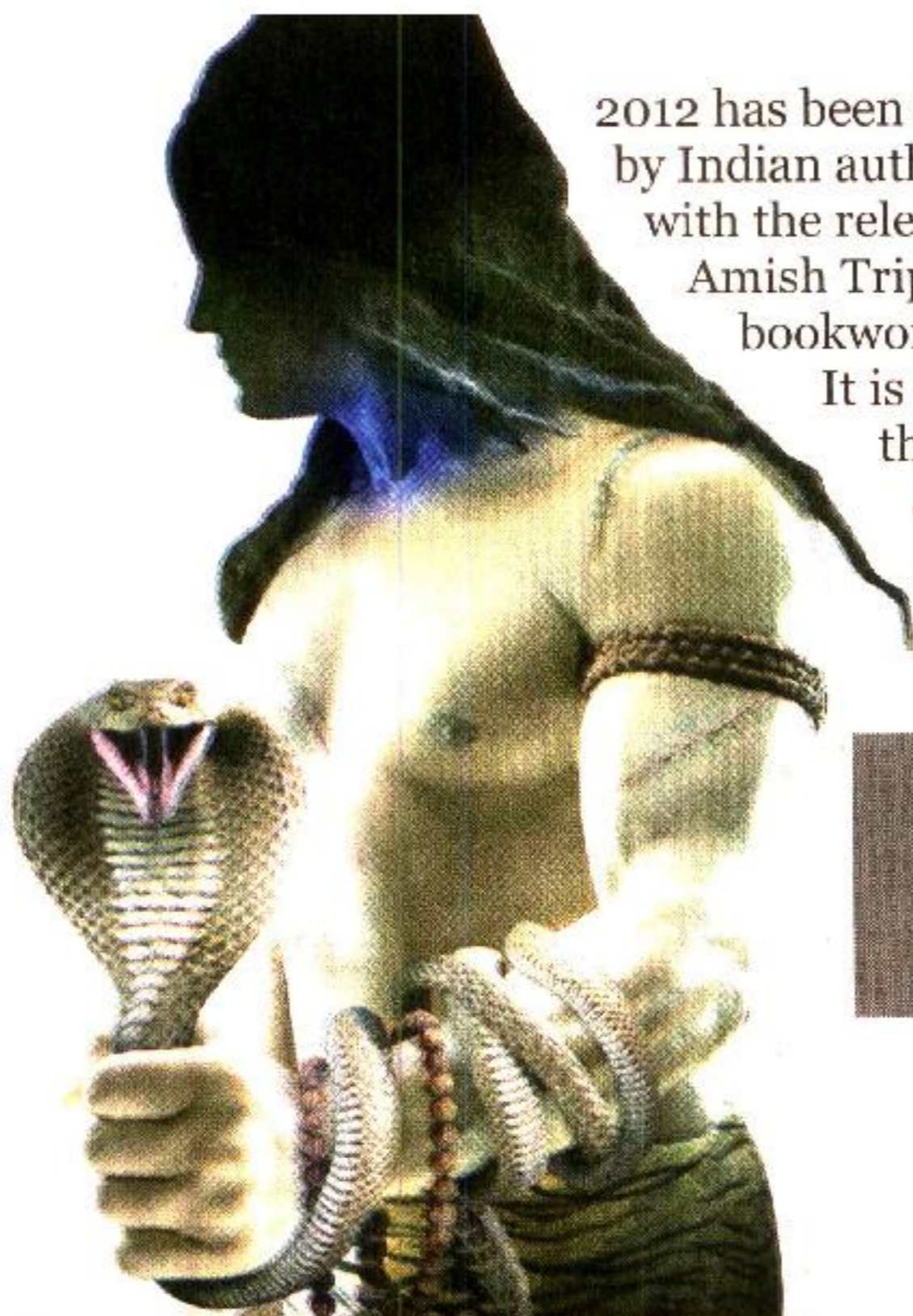


2012 has been the year of mythology when it came to book releases by Indian authors. The floodgates opened earlier in 2010 and 2011 with the release of Ashok K Banker's *Krishna Coriolis* series and Amish Tripathi's *Immortals of Meluha*, which got hundreds of bookworms, and then some, hooked onto Indian mythology. It is no surprise that three of the six bestsellers released this year by Indian authors come under this category. **Janane Venkatraman** does a round up of 2012's most popular books by Indian authors



WHAT YOU READ IN

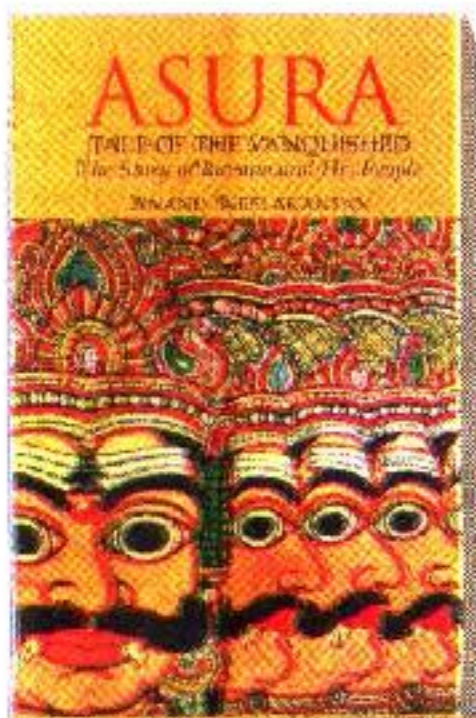
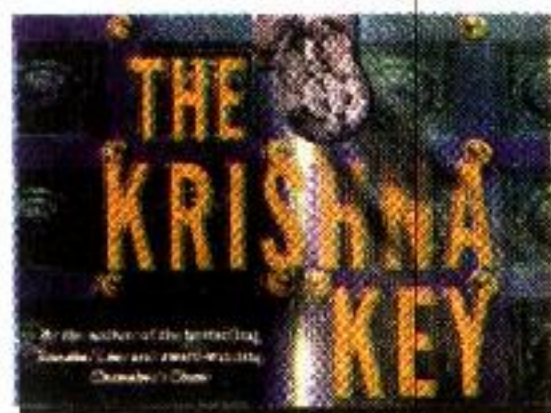
2012

THE SECRET OF THE NAGAS BY AMISH TRIPATHI

The second in the Shiva Trilogy series, this book picks up exactly where *Immortals of Meluha* left off - with Sati's assassination attempt. The story races along at the same blistering pace as *Immortals* with several new characters being introduced. New, but still as familiar to Indian readers as the stories they grew up on. *Immortals...* ended with Shiva going to unexplored territory - Nagas... does the same. The simple writing and flowing language is what made it a hit with the couch-inhabiting, tv-channel-changing crowd.

THE KRISHNA KEY BY ASHWIN SANGHI

Where his previous, *Chanakya's Chant*, had its roots in history, *The Krishna Key* is deeply rooted in Indian mythology and the tales one would hear from their grandmothers. A man grows up believing he's the incarnation of Krishna in Kaliyug as was prophesied, only he's a serial killer. The juxtaposition of Krishna from millennia ago and his so-called incarnation in the modern day drives this book. Dubbed the Indian version of the *Da Vinci Code*, the book lives up to Sanghi's style of writing.

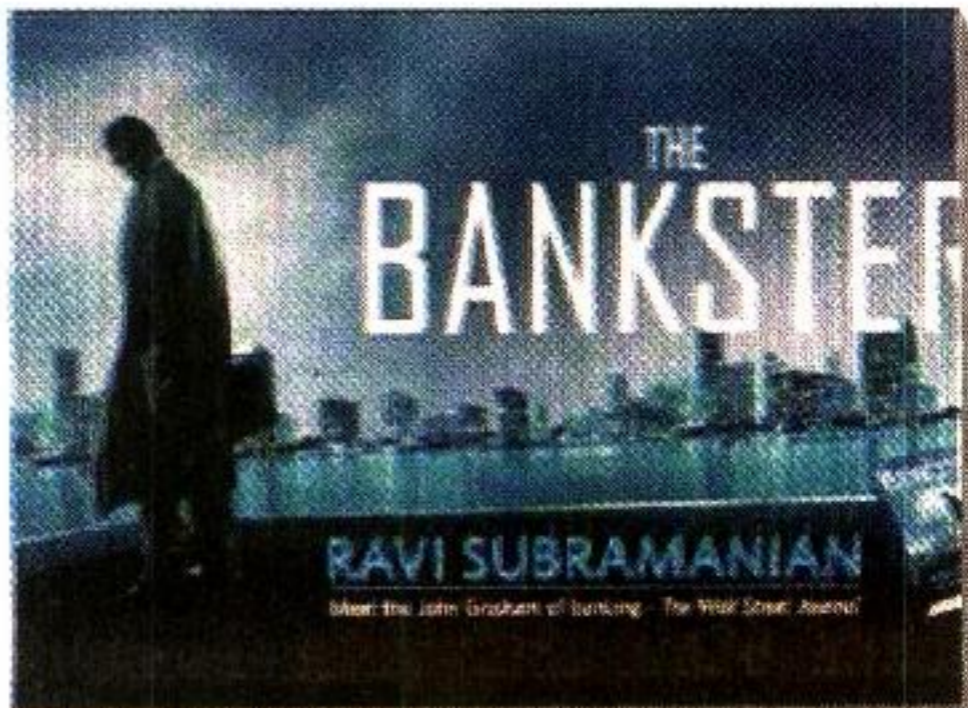


ASURA - TALE OF THE VANQUISHED BY ANAND NEELAKANTAN

Now there's an interesting version of the Ramayana - from Ravana's perspective. The major advantage of this book is that Ravana is neither the deva-hating monster who lusts after Sita nor is he portrayed as the good guy who has been misunderstood. But neither does the book delve too deep into the grey areas in Ravana's character. One well known version of the tale, where Sita is actually Ravana's daughter, is employed here. The book is popular solely because of its different perspective.

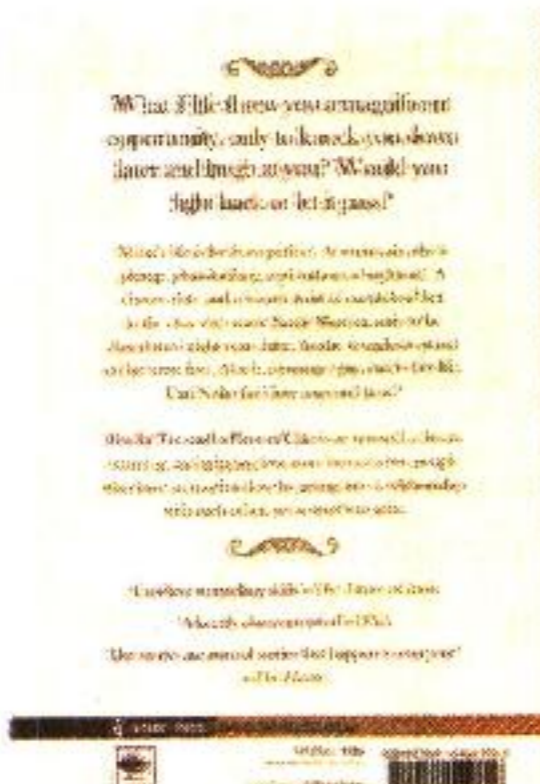
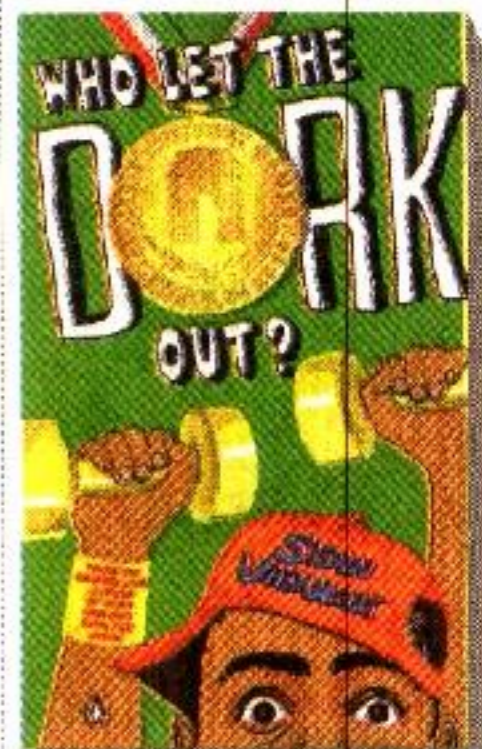
THE BANKSTER BY RAVI SUBRAMANIAN

Lots of comparisons have been drawn with Ravi Subramanian and John Grisham for their corporate thrillers - Grisham writes law and Subramanian writes banking. This Golden Quill Readers Choice awardee's newest explores a series of murders set in a bank, eventually building up to reveal a conspiracy. Books set in such a narrow field usually have few takers; exceptions being those familiar with the subject. *The Bankster* is a surprise dark horse.



WHO LET THE DORK OUT BY SIDIN VADUKUT

Sidin is back and how! The third in the Dork series, *Who Let The Dork Out* is terrifyingly witty. Though this book has been described as not being as good as the first two, *Who Let The Dork Out* manages to tickle the funny bone with its dark humour. If you manage to find any similarities between the 2010 Commonwealth Games debacle and the events in the book, don't lament the non-existence of the title character in real life. He could have saved the day, but then, he's fictional.



TEA FOR TWO AND A PIECE OF CAKE BY PREETI SHENOY

Tea for Two... takes a look at relationships and the modern woman. Panned by reviewers for a weak plot and a Mills-and-Boons-type characterisation, the book is popular because of its portrayal of the modern woman's dilemma when it comes to relationships and their aftermaths. One supposes that the pretty cover adds to the popularity.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES : BOOKS THAT ALMOST MADE THE CUT

They are not bestsellers, but are still on the must-read booklists of popular online portals and bookstores in the city. These are the books that almost made it to the list

THE FREE-THINKER'S PRAYER BOOK BY KUSHWANT SINGH



SHADOW THRONE BY AROON RAMAN



BLOOD RED SARI BY ASHOK K BANKER

