

**Q: What inspired you to write this book?**

The notion that Jesus may have indeed sired a bloodline came to my attention in late 1999 when I read *Holy Blood Holy Grail* by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln. A couple of years later, I read Holger Kersten's *Jesus Lived in India* and was fascinated with the idea that Jesus could have been inspired by Buddhism and that he may have drawn much of his spiritual learning from India. Kersten's research was meticulous, and I was soon hooked... I simply knew that I just had to spin a story around this subject.

**Q: In the modern geopolitical scenario, what message does a book like yours hold for readers?**

As we speak, the strife in Kashmir has peaked once again. Why is it that some of the most beautiful lands in the world need blood to quench the land's thirst? *Rozabal* has the potential of making the world press the pause button — a reflective, thoughtful, contemplative pause to ponder: what exactly are we all fighting for and is it worth it?

**Q: In a world that is questioning the significance of religion, and the value of religion, what does your book say to readers?**

For me, personally, *Rozabal* represents an 'alternative story'. It is representative of the possibility that the story contained in the four canonical gospels may not

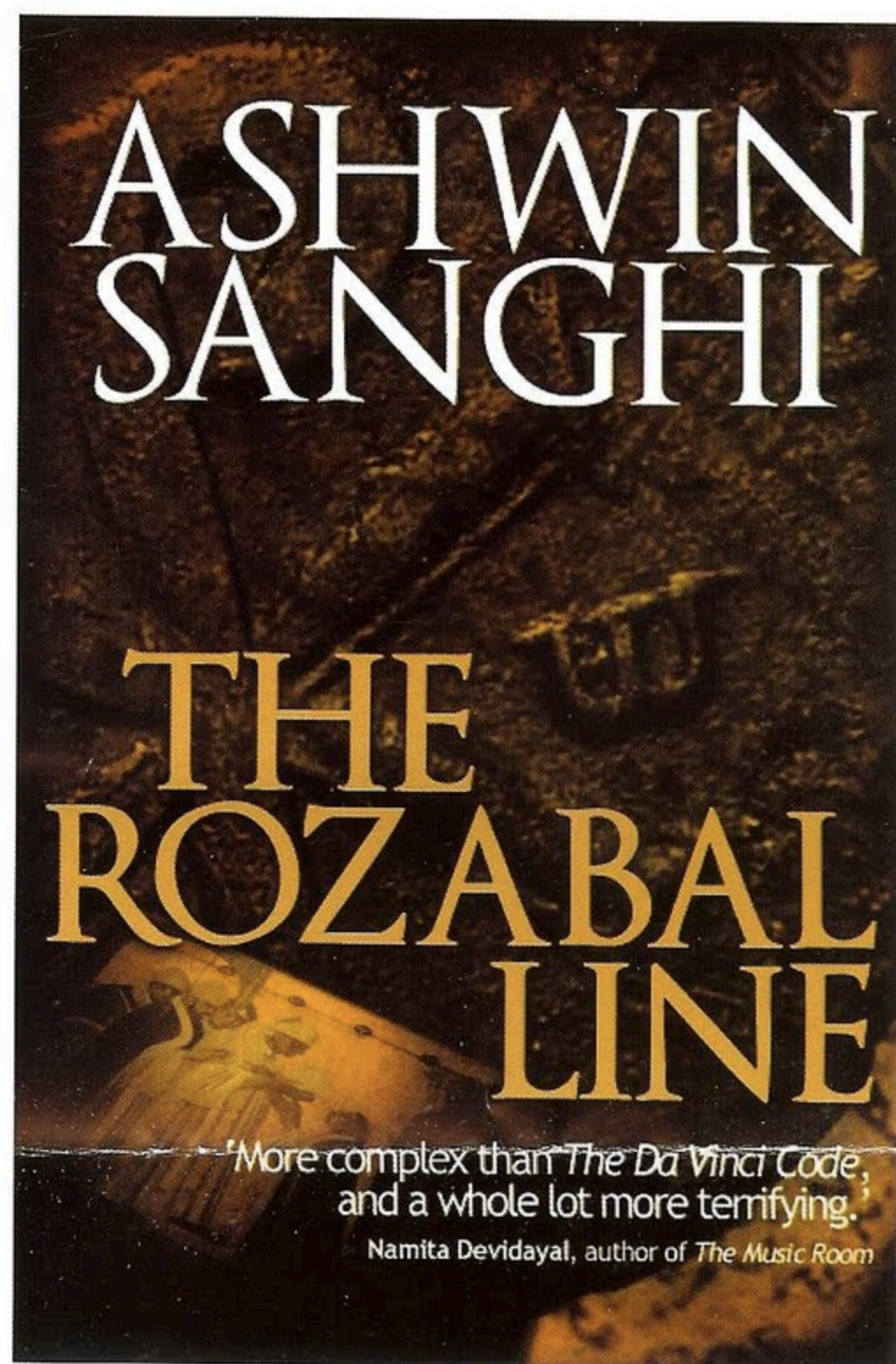
**Interview  
Ashwin  
Sanghi**

author of  
**THE ROZABAL  
LINE**

be the entire truth. It is also symbolic of many facets of the Christian faith that have been obliterated down the ages. The fact that the lost tribes of Israel certainly had a connection with India, the fact that early Christianity drew inspiration from other faiths such as Buddhism, the fact that Jesus may have been one of the greatest men that walked on earth, but a man nonetheless. My aim, however, has remained one: to illustrate that in a world full of religious and political strife, deep down there is much more in common between world religions than we can ever imagine. If we can emphasise these commonalities, it could be a way to heal divisions.

**Q: Are you a believer of conspiracy theories?**

I love conspiracy theories! Let's face it, so do most people. Who was behind the assassination of John F. Kennedy? Was the first walk on the moon just a scam? Did Hitler really



commit suicide in his bunker? Were Jesus and Mary Magdalene really married? What happened to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose? Anything that allows us to question conventional wisdom and allows us to explore a more mysterious (and obviously much more delicious) explanation is a fiction writer's delight. My own view is that the intercourse between fact and fiction is what makes for truly interesting fiction (and interesting fact). Personally, I prefer reading fiction that sounds like fact and fact that sounds like fiction. The publication of *The Rozabal Line* has strengthened my

view that those who like my variety of fiction are those who wish to read fiction that sounds very much like *The History Channel*, CNN and *60 Minutes* blended together.

**Q: Finally, following the great success of your last book, what is your next book about?**

Well, without giving away too much, it revolves around four central characters, evolves around a historical perspective, involves juicy secrets around an archaeological find, and dissolves with the satisfactory resolution of a murder!