

Blast from the past

Five thousand years ago, the earth was visited by a divine being called Krishna who brought to the planet virtues and values. While humanity feared losing hope if the blue God was ever to die, they were reassured that he would return in a new avatar when needed in the dark ages — *Kaliyug*. In the modern era, a young boy grows up to believe that he is the final avatar. However, in a weird twist of fate, he turns out to be a serial killer. In this heart-stopping tale, the arrival of a murderer who executes his gruesome and well thought-out schemes in the name of God is the first clue to a sinister conspiracy to expose an ancient secret — Krishna's priceless legacy to mankind. Ashwin Sanghi, the author of *The Rozabal Line* and *Chanakya's Chant*, brings you yet another nail-biting suspense thriller in the form of *The Krishna Key*.

"After writing my second novel *Chanakya's Chant*, I was looking for a story that I could sink my teeth into. At a friend's house, someone mentioned to me the fact that the prophesised appearance of the tenth avatar of Vishnu-Kalki was very similar to the apocalyptic prophecies of the *Book of Revelation* in the Bible. That got my brain into overdrive. I spent an entire week reading the *Kalki Purana* and there was no looking back. I have always been fascinated by the Mahabharata period. What excites me is not the mythology but the possibility that the epic may be based on historical truths," said Sanghi who further added that *The Krishna Key* is his quest to provide an entertaining read while attempting to nudge the Mahabharata and the character of Krishna from the mythology section of the library into the history section.

The author believes that fiction gives him the freedom and space to delve into issues that would be difficult to explore in the world of non-fiction. Furthermore, there is no better way to bring a topic into the realm of popular discussion than to write a commercial pot-boiler on it. Though, Theology has played an important role in



FAVOURITE AUTHOR

Ashwin Sanghi's favourite Indian author is Vikram Chandra. According to the author, Vikram is a great storyteller. His favourite foreign author is Arthur Hailey who wrote *Hotel*, *The Evening News*, *Airport*, *In High Places* and *The Moneychangers*. Ashwin also said that his books were characterised by in-depth research of the subject

Ashwin Sanghi

Wallace, Ayn Rand, Ken Follett, Frederick Forsyth and countless other Western writers. There wasn't a single Indian author that could offer me a story that was comparable to what they wrote. Today, however, the scene has changed. Publishers are actively looking for authors who have fresh stories and ideas and that's great news. Give it another decade and you will see Indian versions of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot and Nancy Drew," said Sanghi.

— Akshatha Shetty

When I finished writing *The Rozabal Line* I thought I knew everything. After all, I had spent around eighteen months researching to write that novel. Having written *The Krishna Key*, I now realise that I know nothing. I have understood that no matter how many books I read, my personal knowledge as a percentage of universal knowledge will still be insignificant

— Ashwin Sanghi, author of *The Krishna Key*

