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I am a story-teller: Ashwin Sanghi

Sudipta Sengupta,TNN | Feb 14, 2015, 05.17 AM IST

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HYDERABAD: The literary world has given him many identities. Some refer to him as a "fiction conspiracy thriller" writer, while others prefer to address him as the author of a series of "historical/mythological thrillers". He is India's Dan Brown for some, and a version of Salman Rushdie for some others.

But Ashwin Sanghi chooses to brand himself differently. For him, he is simply a story-teller who enjoys narrating tales with one primary objective: that is to entertain his readers.

"That component is non-negotiable. If the other two E's - educate and enlighten—are achieved in the process, I am only too glad," the author who was in town on Friday, told TOI over a tete-a-tete. "Tomorrow I might not be interested in writing on history or mythological, or even crime thrillers for that matter. I might just want to explore a new genre, because I get bored very easily. That is why I choose not to associate myself with one form of writing," Sanghi elaborated.

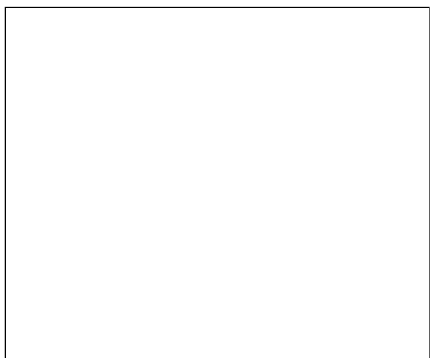
While the hour-long conversation largely centered on the best-selling author's latest non-fictional work - 13 Steps to Bloody Good Luck - that offers multiple pointers on how people can work towards getting "lucky", Sanghi also shared insights from his journey so far that 'Rozabel Line'.

"Following 47 rejections from literary agents and publishers I self-published this pseudonym (Shawn Haigins) first. It was later picked up by Westland Ltd. That's of the closet," Sanghi quipped, stressing the importance of self-publishing and artistic freedom in a country where people, he observes, have developed a knack to take offence too soon.

Three more fictional creations - 'Chanakya's Chant', 'The Krishna Key' and 'Private India: City on Fire' (co-authored with the reputed James Patterson) - later, the businessman-turned-writer opted for '13 Steps...' to share with his readers his take on, 'luck'. "There are three kinds of luck: dumb luck, constitutional luck and circumstantial luck. It is the third one that can be achieved through perseverance and that is what I talk about in the book," he explained, adding, "With this book, I have managed to reach out to a section of readers—like students—who I had not been able to attract with my previous works."

Not one to let down his original fan base of ardent thriller enthusiasts though, Sanghi offers some good news for them too. "I am working on my next book titled 'Sialkot Saga'. I prefer to identify it as a business mystery. The story begins in Sialkot and ends in Amritsar. What happens in between, I will not tell you. You have to read the book for that," the novelist revealed. The book is likely to hit the stands in the last quarter of this year.

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