

# Lady Luck shines on Ashwin Sanghi



Namita S Kalla

■ [htaj@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htaj@hindustantimes.com)

Writer Ashwin Sanghi says he owes the luck in his life to various women with whom he shares a special bond. The author of *Krishna Key* and *Chanakya's chant*, among others, Sanghi says: "Women have constituted a very big part in my being lucky at various stages of life. Hence in my novels, the term *Shakti*, which I believe is the epitome of womanhood, plays a key role." Sanghi, who was in the city on Thursday, tells HT City in a candid interview that he was born a Baniya and was minding his own 'business' for almost twenty years and suddenly turned into a writer one day.

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voracious reader. While my grandfather gifted me classics, my mom would pass me on all the then best sellers. I owe my style of writing to my mom. Had she not given me the sensibility, I wouldn't have become what I am today. That was my first stage of good luck."

The author, often called the Dan Brown of India by his fans, says: "My second stage came with my wife suggesting that I write a book. I remember going to Kashmir and being fascinated by a tomb. I was so obsessed with the story that I did a lot of research and found myself occupied with it. My wife said: 'Listen, since you have done a lot of research, why don't you write it down and make a story out of it? I want you

to get rid of your obsession with this.' It was her constant nibbling that made me write my first book."

Sanghi says another woman was his pillar of support during the publishing process.

"I approached a hundred distributors for my book, and while everyone rejected it, one distributed based in Chennai Hemu Ramaiyyah showed keen interest in it."

He is also full of praise for his editor, who is yet another woman who has been supportive throughout his career. "For the longest time, all my books were edited by Preeta Mahtra. She is one of the finest editors I have ever come across. My writing would not be as polished if it wasn't for her," he signs off.