



## Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy

*Pawan Mishra*

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## **Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy** Pawan Mishra

Coinman is one of life's victims, the receiver of subtle bullying in an office environment and thinly disguised control in his own home, but remains true to his desire to be polite and accepting of how he is treated by everyone. Then an incident at work changes all that.

**Huffington Post:** One of the best literary fiction books of 2016 (Independently Published).

## **Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy Details**

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Author : Pawan Mishra

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## From Reader Review Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy for online ebook

### Monica says

This story was an enjoyable read because it is clever, unique, and charming. The (seemingly) ordinary, mundane setting and cast of characters lend themselves to a plot with a curious twist. A well-conceived and well-written treat for the fun of reading.

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### Susan Hagan says

Very few books are written once. This is one of those books. Most of the books I read, except for the classic stories or the different books that come out once in a while, have something or the other that I would have read somewhere else.

As I started the book, I was a bit lost on the first page, but since the writing was wonderful, I kept going for on the promise of intelligent writing. It was very soon that I fell in love with the writing: every word, every sentence I read seemed to be refined very thoroughly. And the story, the plot, the characters? They were so wonderfully original that I wanted to deliberately go slow to thoroughly enjoy the book. The book is so well written, and carries such an elegant & sophisticated way of storytelling that it should belong in the libraries as text book example for creative writing.

Now on the not so nice part. I don't think the book is for everyone. Definitely not for readers, we have plenty today, who read to increase the count of books they have read, who want to finish a book in a day by browsing through writings that lack substance. This book has to be savored slow to understand two or three layers of wit, sarcasm, and humor. Most readers today turn to books as they turn to fast food. So I am not sure everyone would like this book.

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### Simon Brading says

I had a slightly hard time getting through the first few dozen pages but it was worth it when I did. The story is curious, in a setting that is unusual (for me at least) but I found it thoroughly enjoyable. If you're looking for something different from the usual fare then I'd recommend this.

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### Rebecca McNutt says

This hilarious and often insightful and interesting book, follows the story of Coinman, a guy with a habit he can't seem to break. Wherever he is, he's always with his hands in his pockets, listening to the sound of the money. His glamorous actress wife finds her husband's vice incredibly annoying, to the point where she prohibits coins from being brought into their home. As their ridiculous behavior gets the attention of the Coinman's colleagues from work, it changes them in different ways and what follows is completely unexpected.

Original, imaginative and full of India's culture, *Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy* is a book that will stay with you long after you've finished reading it. The characters are creative and realistic, the scenery is vibrantly-described and it's one that you'll never forget.

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## Ritu Mishra says

Sharing the review from SPR:

*Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy* by Pawan Mishra is a quirky, heartfelt novel about finding your identity – and keeping it.

The search for personal fulfillment is a lifelong journey for most, and along the way, it is necessary to establish the identity you want, the work you cherish, the people you respect, and the love you deserve. In Pawan Mishra's oddly charming novel, readers are welcomed into the strangely neurotic, passionate, and unfulfilled existence of *Coinman*, a simple office worker with a jangling passion for coins.

The title of the book suggests this slightly odd premise, but the majority of the book is actually a “day in the life” look at a humble Indian man trying to make his way through a rather extraordinary world.

The author raises the banality of normal life to new heights within this novel, and does so in an amusing and thought-provoking way. Office pranks and casual crushes are depicted in epic fashion, while simple conversations, glances, or offhand comments are pulled apart and analyzed by the author's tireless narration. This offers room throughout the story for social commentary about the dull pain of dead-end jobs, casual betrayal, the evolution of marriage, two-faced friends, the fear of aging parents, and other less common emotional issues of adulthood.

This book is largely character-driven, and the author gradually reveals the internal mechanics and daily madness of *Coinman* from different perspectives, slowly earning him the empathy and understanding of readers. The different points of view used within the story also show the author's ability to inhabit a variety of characters, and tell a comprehensive tale that can be appreciated from all angles.

Readers are invited to peek in on rather ordinary scenes of *Coinman*'s domestic and professional life, and experience the detailed struggles of adult life from all sides. As readers begin to understand the diverse contexts in which *Coinman* exists, they inevitably see more of themselves in the character. He is not a bumbling fool, nor is he deserving of the mockery and wrath of his co-workers or wife. He is merely a man doing his best to survive without compromising the things he cares about, or the identity he works hard to cultivate.

The search for identity and comfort in one's own skin dominates many of the short vignettes and interactions between characters, and is particularly strong in the character of Imli, *Coinman*'s wife. Her theatrical roles come to define her life, from playing a ghost and abandoning all mortal possessions, to acting as a jealous wife who suspects her husband of adultery with the maid. She is a chameleon in every sense of the word, deriving meaning and purpose from the masks she wears, and forcing *Coinman* to temporarily inhabit those worlds alongside her. This is starkly contrary to *Coinman*, who seems determined to find pleasure in his own strange brand of life, yet also remains endlessly devoted to his unusual partner.

This is far from an action-packed book, namely because the author tends to use narration a bit too much, not allowing characters to speak their minds, but rather utilizing internal monologues and heavy exposition throughout the story. This can get a bit much at times, but this is also Mishra's time to flex his literary and

descriptive muscles.

While the author's native language is clearly not English, the slightly odd dialect of the dialogue makes it a more endearing and authentic story, and isn't as distracting as one might expect. A steady editorial hand would have also helped with some of the more disjointed scenes, and suggested where the plot could be strengthened (or cut down). Despite its occasional failings, the story is uniquely enjoyable, and Coinman is a character that will be hard to forget.

<http://www.selfpublishingreview.com/2...>

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### **Stjepan Cobets says**

In the book "Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy" by Pawan Mishra, In the story, we meet the main character Kesar who because of his obsession with the coins becomes Coinman. But his whole life was a tangle of various events that the condition to become the way it is. His mother and father are full of love for him but also those directed him throughout his life, holding all the strings in his hands. His father and mother take responsibility for his education, work, and marriage. He listens to the decision of their parents and respects their demands and accepts what they want. But if this is what they want does not matter, because it must be so. Jangling coins which rotate in its pocket is the only thing he loves. It relaxes and soothes, but people view him with suspicion. But in this world, if you were different this immediately causes gossip that people invent things that have nothing to do with the truth. Gossip on his work slowly but surely becoming so branched that their makers are gathering in the cafeteria where a wider and eventually culminates in consequences for all participants. The writer Pawan Mishra, the story takes us steady hand showing us through Coinman lifetime reasons why he is the way he is. The writer very good describing draws us into the story in order to understand the reasons why some characters are as they are. Personally, I liked the book and I'd like to recommend to readers who love a good book, and that this book is. My rating is 4.5 out of 5.

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### **Archit Ojha says**

*Thrilled.*

*Bewitched, captivated and mesmerized by the beauty of it! Seriously.*

Well, to begin with :

#### **My assumptions before reading the book :**

It is a mystery and thriller novel with the detective named *Coinman* (similar to James Bond, Detective Gopichand etc. ). He is going to solve crimes, murders and cases never seen solved before! Criminals will shiver hearing just his name! He is the God of the city!!!

The cover itself shows that some bigger racket is going on under police's nose but Coinman will be ultimate and overshadow all the detectives born before!

*Hail Coinman!!!*

**Reality:**

I've no words in my mind to tell you how superb **Coinman** is!!

One thing you should know, it is NOT a mystery book, it is MORE than this!

Other than being honest, a cry baby, obedient, having TOO-much-good-to-everyone attitude and no-friends-at-all-man, his only major, visible and AUDIBLE characteristic is, that the protagonist, Coinman loves the sound of coin jingling!!

That's it!

That's very much it!

And if you are thinking, like I did, that how can someone come up with a story about this good-for-nothing guy! How can a story even exist about this useless person!!

Then, **you are SO SO wrong, mi amigo!!**

Pawan Mishra has nailed it!

Not only he speaks eloquently to readers about the adventurous, unique and honest world of Coinman with vividness and genius intensity but also he makes you feel that you see a Coinman everyday in your office, bus stops and streets until you, yourself become a Coinman!

Everyone in his office is one way or other familiar to you. They are people who love to gossip and that's their life! Hukum, Panna, Sevak, Shimla, Imli, Keshar and Andar, Bandar, Chandar! Tell me, how are you to resist laughing when you have characters with these names!?!

Ratiram's "Coin" was ultimate of all of them!!

Like all my other reviews, I'll tell you where I had to put down the book and laugh for a really long time! For me, it was when Coinman's wife, Imli, thinks, (yes, thinks) that "I'm a stranger!"

*(Read the book, come back to this line and you'll know why!)*

**Verdict: this is THE book, my friend.**

*P.S. I would have written much more, but it's time for my coin-jingling session! Coinman's addiction, you see!*

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**Punya Nayak says**

[Kesar, (hide spoiler)]

## Dannii Elle says

I received this book in exchange for an honest review. Thanks to the author, Pawan Mishra, and the publisher, Lune Spark LLC, for providing me with a copy.

I can honestly say that this book is unlike any other I have read before. Whilst reading, the first two notes I made were “curioser and curioser” and “is the Mad Hatter our protagonist!?”. This book started, in a word, oddly. But it was odd in the most wonderful and fantastical sense. I loved the personal manner used when addressing the reader, I loved the sardonic and humorous tone, and I loved that straight away I was borne away on the story. I had little idea of what was going on, but that was okay: to be a part of it was enough. I did, however, find it initially jarring to feel so totally lost in the world presented to me and dually find it totally recognisable for its contemporary and realistic setting. It felt like two genres has collided and left this medley in its wake. And I think it was a success! Although it did take some getting used to, this book wasn't set out in the typical forward-motion timeline, and the beginning, middle and end felt like they had been stirred together. Over time, this proved to be part of the book's overall appeal.

*Coinman* is the story of Kesar, whose bad workplace etiquette, in reference to his incessant pocket coin-jingling, leads to alienation and isolation from his peers and the subsequent loss of his identity; forevermore to be referred to, as the title suggests, as Coinman. Quite a simple premise, really. What wasn't simple was the multitude of perspectives and angles offered to the reader, the time frame that dipped between past and present and the varied insights into the home, social and work life of multiple characters. All of which combined to muddy the waters of the good guys/bad guys binaries and keep me at a total loss of where the story was going. In short, what I learned was that nothing is quite as it seems in this book...

The characters each have distinctive traits, so enhanced as to almost appear as caricatures. This, I believe, was a deliberate stylistic approach from the author to heighten the discord between characters and the satirical angle of the book. If the characters were larger than life, then the tales they conjured about Coinman's habits outside of work were even more fantastic. These tales were nothing more than fancy, but it was these fancies that fuelled the work cliché's hatred for Coinman and kept them from internalising any of these feelings onto their own innate flaws (they had many) or focusing too closely on the unlikability of each other.

Amidst all the satire and hilarity, it wasn't hard to remember that this book was just a more obvious and heightened version of exactly what occurs in many workplaces. The gang mentality instanced here wasn't an isolated, fantastical occurrence and I felt the book morphed into a didactic outlook on the events occurring, despite never claiming partiality for either 'side'. The workplace bullying instanced was horrific and, despite being an unlikely hero, I found myself continually in Coinman's corner. He clearly has issues of his own – his personification and affinity towards his beloved coins, as though they were living, breathing things with wills and whims of their own and his social anxiety and awkwardness – which did not always make him the most likable person, but the warmth I felt for him stemmed from his treatment by others. My affinity for this antihero continued to grow, and my emotional investment in his welfare was only ever heightened as more and more character flaws of his were revealed, embellished or artificially created. Long live Coinman!

Would I have chosen this book based on synopsis, if not provided for me by the author? Honestly? Probably not. The synopsis betrayed little that immediately grabbed my attention and I was more curious than captivated. I was totally unprepared for the U-Turn my feelings would take. I feel completely grateful that I was given the opportunity to read outside of my preferred genres and comfort zones and to find that I actually love it! I think the overall message here, in reference to the book and Coinman himself, is that

different doesn't always equate to bad.

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## **Bradley says**

Thanks to the author for allowing me to review his book!

This one is a fairly difficult book to review, because while certain elements were done very well, the book didn't stay within the lines of how it began, how it progressed, or how it ended. It started out as a pretty funny Milton-like office satire, with tons of details that really showed us how horrible the corporate world is in bright and shiny satire.

The way the Coinman was shown to us, I was frankly expecting this to turn into a fantasy where the coins jingling in his pockets annoying all his coworkers would turn into some sort of magical realism, and especially when they ganged up on him and made his life a living hell, I rather hoped for some sort of dire revenge or a setup for a greater fall for Coinman, himself.

But no. Instead, the novel became a pretty decent setup for a horror novel, with Coinman's early life, troubles, social isolation, obsessions, and a number of truly pathos-inducing incidents that make him what he is in the modern Office-Space. I felt the dire-build-up. I felt like we were headed toward tragedy town, with Coinman being the tragic hero. The novel set me up for a few anxiety attacks. Hell, perhaps there should be a trigger warning on the novel for people who are introverted and isolated. By this point, I wanted some serious resolution in a positive way for the man.

But then, the novel took another turn and we got to know his wife, his home situation, and things only got worse for him.

Where's the satire? Well, it's there, still plowing away at us and it's still good, but the humor has given way to sadness, and I'm not entirely sure that the novel worked well for me at this point.

The whole office conspiracy was a pretty good setup, and I did eventually like Coinman, even if he was a very flawed individual, and each of the elemental setups were good by themselves, but they were promises that weren't really filled by the end of the tale.

In this respect, it's more of a mainstream novel. Maybe a bit arty. Let you make up your own mind who's the hero or even if there was one at all. Unfortunately, it's not really my kind of thing.

Fortunately, I was never really bored by the book, though, even if the ultimate satisfaction wasn't there.

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## **Pooja says**

You can never imagine what human minds are capable of!

Thoroughly enjoyed it!

You hardly expect any book to be as enchanting as this.

Let me tell you, the characters are super duper simple, real-life ones and extremely likable. Coinman is a person you meet or see in a day to day life. He sits with you. He talks to you and you don't behave well with him. Yes, he's that tragic person. What it's like to hear his story? You better find it out reading it.

Why Coinman? Couldn't the author come up with any other name?

A Big NO!! Coinman, in my opinion, is the best chosen name ever for a character like in this book. He loves to jingle coins. He can't help it. He loves the sound of the coins, colliding with each other. Oh My, would you ever think in your entire life that a novel can be written on a person of this kind?

At least I never thought so. Narration, theme, setting, characters : Everything at their bests!

I enjoy too much drama in a book, how some people bully the protagonist and in the end he overcomes his troubles. Well, Coinman : An Untold Conspiracy was much more than entertainment.

It has been written with humorous punches (Warning : They hit you hard!), a sarcastic tone looming over every sentence and a fantastic set. I was completely arrested to this book and its narration.

Books like Coinman are infrequent to find. This book is nothing less than a trophy for the literary arena. I highly recommend it.

I congratulate the author for picking up the most common character we can imagine and making him a superhero! A Coinman!

Fabulously narrated and one of the most entertaining novel that I ask you to not miss.

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## **Nelou Keramati says**

Refreshingly unique, humorous, and honest!

As someone who is predominantly drawn to the YA/NA/Fantasy/Paranormal/Sci-Fi genres, reading literary fiction was indeed a departure from the norm. With that said, I found the underlying dynamics of *Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy* to be a rather accurate satirical representation of contemporary life. Although I am neither terribly familiar with office politics, nor with living in India, I found Coinman to be a highly relevant tale concerned with addressing the darker aspects of human nature. Kesar's (a.k.a. Coinman's) obsessive attachment to his coins, and the subsequent rousing antagonism from his co-workers (who are incapable of understanding/unwilling to tolerate it) are masterfully depicted, and perfectly balanced with the author's sense of humor.

The prose itself is a plethora of memorable quotes, but I would argue that Mishra's eloquent writing style is itself a feast for lovers of literary fiction:

“Disappointment has quite a penchant for taking one by surprise.”

“The pristine spiritual atmosphere was ideal for immersion in one's true soul and spending time in its rejuvenation.”

This also means that Coinman is not a lazy read. The author has pored over every single word in this novel. No sentences are throwaways, and few of them read at a fast pace because of the author's rich descriptive

style:

“The loss of a reliance on others often helpfully forces a more sophisticated rumination that enables opening of previously unknown avenues.”

If reading in order to get from A to B, the reader is bound to find him/herself in a state of confusion. Mishra’s words are not of the kind one can gloss over. They are intelligent and contemplative, often with multiple meanings and layers that allow for more than basic interpretation, but encourage perspective as well. In conjunction with the powerful themes of identity and intolerance, I feel that regardless of one’s cultural background, marital status, or occupation, readers of all walks of life can deeply relate to this story!

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## **Pankaj Goyal says**

Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy by Pawan Mishra is the story of a junior level office worker in India. Known as Coinman due to his habit of never-ending tinkling of coins in his pocket, Kesar is the laughingstock of his office. He even does not find solace in his home as his wife Imli (a passionate actress) completely dissolves herself into different characters on a regular basis. Something unexpected happens when his office colleagues (getting tired and irritated of the continuous jingling of the coins) come together to conspire against Coinman. This book thus illustrates the permanent plight of an office worker both in home and office due to his eccentricities in a humorous manner. The readers will certainly get impressed by novel’s comedy, its lyricism and its fine intelligence. While the novel will make you laugh, it will also bring a subtle but genuine tragic resonance in your heart.

As indicated above, the novel under review is all about Coinman’s personality, life and career. Even the title of the book is an unmistakable pointer of the basic theme of this book. Coinman’s plight evokes not only our sympathy but his character also wins our heart. His becoming Coinman is itself symptomatic of his identity crisis. The past events of Coinman’s life have been woven brilliantly. The author handles the shifting surfaces of past and present with extraordinary fineness and delicacy, and produces a controlled but intricate narrative structure. Even the rest of the characters leave a long lasting impression on your heart. All these characters are easy to identify with. The author has also paid enough attention to name the different chapters. The names of these chapters go well with the flow of the story-line.

The most striking aspect of the comedy in the novel under review is its apparently bottomless and amazingly diverse fund of linguistic humour of all possible kinds. This sense of humour, according to me, deserves all high praises. The style in which the characters of this book speak can only be described as a well of English well-defiled or a verbal version of the Indian rope trick. In other words, it is a brilliant linguistic muddle and a stunning display of stylistic somersaults. The style of the novel is an intricate mosaic fashioned with care. The author employs different speech patterns for different characters and this makes these characters memorable. The characters often lard their speech with jargon drawn from an astonishingly wide range of human thought and activity. And, most importantly, this jargon does not trouble you or irritate you. On the other hand, it keeps bringing smile on your face. You will be amazed to read the speech patterns and word-plays of different characters of this book. These speech patterns are alone worth reading.

This book is certainly unlike any other I have read so far and I am delighted that I chose to read this. In fact, I am finding it difficult to describe the beauty of this book in words. I would just say that the book under review is a fun-filled laughing ride and will force readers keep laughing.

A must read for all. Go for it!

Note: This review was originally posted on <https://pgalmora.wordpress.com/2016/0...>

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### **Ashley Gallegos says**

As an author myself, it takes a really great book to drag me out of the depths of my writing and get me to take a break. This book was fantastic! We have family in India and this story was true to the culture! I laughed and was fully immersed in the story to the point where I had to remind myself where real life ended and began. For me, that's the true test of a great book! I will definitely be reading it again. Bravo!

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### **Hristina says**

I received an audible copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair review.

Actual rating: 3.5

Coinman: An Untold Conspiracy is beautifully written and the story is nothing like what I've encountered before. The story revolves around a man with OCD who likes to jingle coins in his pocket, so his coworkers nickname him Coinman. The group of people he works with constantly gossip about him, spread rumors, mock him and pull pranks on him... basically bullying him. Coinman doesn't have the easiest life at home either, with a wife obsessed with her own well-being, and a mother obsessed with making her son's marriage successful, the man can't catch a break.

I was really close to giving it more stars but something kept haunting me: this book is marketed as humor. And while it is filled with humorous elements, I was too frustrated by the behavior of all the co-workers to really focus on the satire.

But I still recommend it. It's an amazing read.

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