



The Brahmin

Ravi Shankar Etteth

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It is a time of violence as well as calm. Men of peace are spreading the message of the Buddha even as monks are being tortured in the dungeons of Pataliputra. In Magadha, all talk is about the impending war against Kalinga. While King Ashoka plots the movements of his ships and cavalry, Queen Asandhimitra broods over the growing unrest in the kingdom. There is only one man they can both trust to take them through this period of uncertainty and looming danger: the enigmatically named Brahmin, skilful spymaster and custodian of Magadha's best-kept secrets.

Lush with historical detail and unforgettable characters, *The Brahmin* is an intricately plotted novel that seeks to recreate a near-mythical period in India's past.

The Brahmin Details

Date : Published March 23rd 2018 by Westland

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Author : Ravi Shankar Etteth

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Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review The Brahmin for online ebook

Bhargavi Chandrashekar says

A quality piece of historical fiction tells a compelling story that balances authentic and accurate information with fiction. The Brahmin by Ravi Shankar Etteth is one such book which gives you the perfect historical fiction vibes. Set in 267 BCE, the historical detail is handled reasonably well by the author, the story moves in a fast paced with the right grip.

The book starts with Ashoka questioning The Brahmin about the murder that happened in the harem. Someone is killing Ashoka's concubines, and the only one person who can solve the mystery is The Brahmin; the skilful spymaster. The story then unfolds many truths that's been hiding from the eyes of the Brahmin. He will soon learns about the Blood Flower, the assassin hired to kill king Ashoka. But who hired him? Sword of Damocles is hanging over his head. He just got a week to find the murderer. Will he ever able to solve the whodunit mystery within the short time?

With the exquisite language and vivid characters the author narrates the story with his scintillating wit. It takes some time to the readers to get into the novel deeper. It won't be difficult for the people who have already heard many stories about Ashoka or the Mauryan Kingdom. The one thing I liked the most in the book is about the stories of the Queen Asandhimitra. The author showcases how efficient the Queen is, although I knew her abilities the episodes of Asandhimitra in the book adds the weight to the story.

Apart from the character Asandhimitra there's one more character which I liked instantly. Yes, it is Hao. The Brahmin and Hao dual keeps the readers to hooked up with the book. There's also a mention about the Ramayana more precisely about the Ravana which blended with the main plot gracefully. The story about the Golden Scythe was alluring. The Brahmin was an intriguing story yet, there's was something missing. The story towards the end starts fading, the climax wasn't something that I'd expected. I was expecting more from the Brahmin, he being the seasoned spymaster the action was missing from him.

Overall, The Brahmin recreated the story of history in its own traits. The result may not be a great novel, but it's an entertaining one and should appeal to those who are interested in Indian Historical fiction. I would rate this book 3.5 out of 5 stars.

I Received this book from Writersmelon in exchange for honest and unbiased review. Thanks to Writersmelon, author and the publisher.

Shivangi Rawat says

What an impact full story just wow! Im so much drenched in it that still like im in past! Heads off bcz history any mystery with thriller were never my cup of tea. I have read tons of romance books and this time getting historical thriller was the change! A good change!!

Characters – The king Ashoka, The Queen Asandhimitra, SPY Hao, Mur, Radhagupta, the greek fighter and tge monks! Every character is different and gives you goosebumps like ahh what a portary! Even history says women were never weak, queen has played a strong roll in the story.

Plotline super. Story starts with Muder mystery in the harem of Patliputra. Story line was set in the mauryan era i.e ashoka times 267 BC scenario. Amazing and intriguing masterpiece. What was more notable in it was deep description of food, about minute palace even including furniture and dark thicket. Dialogue are

surrealistic. Language and narration is so smooth that i was boating in Magadha – Kalinga times!

Must read its a rear combination of history+ thrill that too so deep!

Jayasree B says

The plot involves a spymaster in Ashoka's court following the trail of a murderer. Known as The Brahmin, Ashoka's trusted spymaster gets involved in solving a few murders, following a mysterious murderer who leaves behind a token with every dead body. But a kingdom does not come to a standstill because of a few murders. And when a kingdom functions so too do its people. With an unmaskable rivalry and hatred with the prime minister, Radhagupta, the Brahmin has to be on his toes if he wants to stay ahead of the game.

Radhagupta's hatred for the Brahmin, a plot against the kingdom and the king, keeping a vicious weapon hidden, solving murders, avenging slain friends, so many things happening in this one small book. Yet it, at no point, feels cluttered or overwhelming. With all of these threads running together, The Brahmin still manages to tie everything off neatly. There are no loose ends or questions left unanswered. It was worth reading the mystery when the explanations were put forth succinctly. The Brahmin being a descendant of Chanakya's is an excellent character and has an omnipresence in the book. For a book that's filled with subterfuge and political intrigue, The Brahmin was well paced. (Though I did feel it was a bit slow in the first couple of chapters, the rest of the book was fast.)

Overall, an excellent read!

For the entire review, visit [Frost At Midnite](#).

Hari says

Well written plot. Kept me glued until the end.

Bodhisattya Pal says

"A Grand & Magnificent tell of loyalty, power, greed, love, trust, cheat, conspiracy and mystery. A Jewell ancient melody which is played gorgeously by a mastermind storyteller. "

Detail Review: <http://bodhisattwapalreview.blogspot...>

Book: THE BRAHMIN

Author: Ravi Shankar Etteth

Publisher: Westland

Publication date: 23 Mar 2018

Language: English

Review:

Being fully mesmerized, I can't decide from where I start. I picked the book for it's interesting genre. I want to know about the pre Magadha-Kalinga war as I read hardly anything about Ashoka and his kingdom previously. I always love murder mysteries, so I start this one with mediocre expectations. But from the very first chapter the novel impressed me so much that I couldn't put it down. It start with a murder in the harem

of Patliputra. And the author masterfully revealed the all mystery in an adorable style. The real hero of the saga is The Brahmin, spymaster of Ashoka.

Not only the Brahmin, Ravi Shankar showed his great skill of characterization in all the epic characters - Asandhimitra, Suma, Mur, Radhagupta, the Greek fighters and the monks - everyone is different from each other. And who can forget the Hao !

He also created magic to make the royal set alive. The details description can give you goosebumps, from the royal foods, furniture to the mysterious forest. The twist and turns are everywhere. The dialogues are so much intellectual and reflection of Etteth's brilliance. Writing style, progression was also masterful. You will not feel bored for even a second. The royal story will grip you and teleport you to 267 BC. Beside being a beautiful thriller, it's a great historical Jewell also. The historical links are terrific. The brilliant start, poetic and gripping middle and the fine finale makes 'The Brahmin' a Historical masterpiece. A must read. One of the best literary milestone made by Indian Author. Hats off.

Rating: 5/5 (?????????)

A Book Review by Bodhisattya Pal.

Karthik Kailash says

A murder occurs in the harem of Magadhan emperor Asoka, and he issues an ultimatum to his spy master, known as the Brahmin.

What follows is an immersive tale into ancient India, with courts, kingdoms and chases. The book paints a vivid picture of these, and kudos to the author.

Book is tad long, that's the only grouse I have. Still would highly recommend this book.

Urvir says

It's an amazing story of rivalry, spy, monks both of peace and war and human feelings... In the end you think no one is winner.... May the good soul be the winner

Ananya thefoodandbooklife says

The Brahmin is a story set during the rule of Ashoka on Magadha. Almost all depictions of Ashoka talk about him being a visionary who developed the roads and sanitation in his kingdom. It is rare to find descriptions of the King from the pre-Kalinga-Magadha war time period where he is just another shrewd yet power hungry king on a quest to rule the world.

Here we are given a glimpse into the division of power in the Magadhan court and the diplomacy that the kings practiced during that time. I was very happy to discover that Queen Asandhimitra was not a mere wall flower. She was a Queen who played an active part in the administration of the Kingdom by interacting with her subjects. She was kind and just but also had the courage to make risky decisions and was the queen that a king like Ashoka needs.

The character of The Brahmin was loosely based on Chanakya who they claim is his ancestor. The story takes place over the period of one week where The Brahmin must identify the culprit behind the murders of the girls in the harem. It was a fast paced story with twists in every page. Some of them were a bit too fast and far fetched and required a second read. But the story was very enjoyable. I was impressed with the knowledge that the ancient Indians were supposedly in possession of. They had apparently already discovered that radiation sickness kills slowly over time and causes genetic alterations. The also knew that lead protects from radiation.

The chemistry between Hao and The Brahmin was very sweet. The back-flashes to the old war where the King and The Brahmin are blessed by an enlightened soul and correlation of that scene to the end was unexpected.

I loved that characters such as the Queen and the assassins were strong ladies who could hold their own even in a time where women did not enjoy equal status in the society. While some parts of the book did feel a bit stereotypical, it was only natural seeing that the book was set in 261 BC. I enjoyed the descriptions of opulence which was done with great taste.

Full Review- <https://thefoodandbooklife.wordpress...>

Gitanjali says

Introduction: India has been a land of stories enchanting the rise and fall of the kingdoms. It has been read, heard and believed that the cause of failure of any kingdom has been its internal conspiracies, controversies, and spies. Such is a story of Ram Shankar Etteth 'The Brahmin' that is based on the era of Emperor Ashoka, a ruler known for his mastermind and courageous decision. The kingdom undergoes series of murderous and who else can solve it better than the trusted and razor-sharp spymaster of king Ashoka. Lush with historical detail and unforgettable characters, The Brahmin is a mystical and intelligently plotted novel.

The author has focussed on the untold characters and keeps the suspense going with new characters and exciting twist and turns. The spymasters of Magadha goes baffled by the murders taking place in the kingdom and leaves every table unturned in order to catch the murderer. The author has very descriptively introduced the characters in the novel which at times becomes little monotonous for the reader to link it to the flowing story.

Title: The title of the novel 'The Brahmin' is best suited to this new genre of mystical history. As our history stands evident for the spontaneity and intelligence of the Brahmin in era of Kings and Queen.

Language: The language of the book shows the articulative quality of the author and keeps the reader glued to the fictional characters in the story. Though it cannot be considered simple but certainly establishes the characters very uniquely and builds the momentum of the story.

Recommendation: The book is an interesting read for the people interested in historical and mystical stories. The book provides an in depth story to the historical stories of Ashok that we all have read or heard about.

Sreelakshmy Govindan says

I am actually sad to give this book a 3 star because, this had the potential to be a 5 star. Although the story was gripping and fast moving, it didn't appeal to me that much because it was not that nice to read. The flow of sentences was not so smooth and there were numerous grammatical errors.

I would say this book needs a thorough editing. I am so disappointed that a story line which had a huge potential to be an awesome historical thriller, getting wasted because of editing problems.

Devika Ramadoss says

This is a well defined espionage novel to get us mesmerized by one and only “The Brahmin” the spymaster. This novel is set on the era of Magadha and Kalinga war. So the descriptive portions were really interesting as well as knowledgeable.

Well at the start I couldn't get myself into the story because there were so many suspects through the eyes of spymaster and his point of view solely. So it was hard to know who the spymaster is mentioning at that particular conversation. Once the story reached the land of Ujjaini , it paved way to the most compelling conspiracies.

I kind of liked Brahmin character not for his bravery but for the knowledge he has on what he is doing, a neat work, a great Spymaster. King and his disciples believes Brahmin for his loyalty and the enemies fears for the same loyalty which Brahmin has towards the kingdom. Loyalty which I felt is the strongest knot in this story.

The way the kingdoms are infiltrated with spies of their enemies under their very own nose was briefly explained which hints us the toughest task they had during that time. The Greek involvement with the king and their loyalty towards them was indeed remarkable.

I loved queen Asandhimitra ways of hoisting the situations with her immense boldness and serenity. Actually she is the crown of king Ashoka. The mystery was absolutely well kept secret till the end. There was no revelation part at all but only the conspiracies all around. Another positive side of Ravaan was explained in this novel. The second part of the novel was really intriguing.

Overall “The Brahmin” is rich with the era detailing and loyalty which adds a respectful feather to the espionage kind of novels.

Anupama C K(b0rn_2_read) says

4.5 stars

A fast paced, thrilling read. It is a mix of historical fiction and suspense thriller. The story has lots of twists, though i was able to guess few of them, some surprised me. I have only read about Ashoka in my history books, though history does suggest that the Ashoka pre Kalinga war was a warmonger and cruel, I guess I never pictured him like that. We get to see a side of Ashoka which is not much talked about. A man who would go to any lengths to conquer the whole world. I like strong independent queens, and Queen Asandhimitra was that much more. I loved how the court is described, the pictures came alive in my mind. The author has described about the impact Greek culture has on the people of Magadha, i found that fascinating

Recommended for historical fiction and suspense thriller readers

Detailed review up on blog
<https://luvissosranger.wordpress.com/>

Abhisikta Basu says

3.5/5

To read the full review, click on the link below

<https://storyofabooknerd.blogspot.in/...>

'The Brahmin' by Ravi Shankar Etteth has a gripping plot line and is rich in historical details. The story is set in the Mauryan Era, while King Ashoka was preparing for the forthcoming war against Kalinga.

The narrative style is quite intriguing, and the vocabulary used by the author is quite notable. The story starts out slow, but, after a few chapters, it becomes gripping and I finished it in a flow. Although, at times I had to go back in the previous chapters to find out what is happening in the present. The climax is surprising, but I kind of predicted it beforehand.

The things in the book which fascinated me are the intrinsic details of the historic times, such as the description of the palaces, royal lifestyles, cuisines and etc. The descriptions are so intricate and vivid, that while reading I felt like I am a part of their world.

The best part of this book are the powerful characters that is, King Ashoka, the spymaster, Hao, and Queen Asandhimitra. The characters are very well-developed and makes the plot line more interesting. The character of the Brahmin is loosely based on Chanakya, and we get to see a different side of the King Ashoka. Queen Asandhimitra is just not a mere wallflower, but one who actively takes part in the administration of the kingdom. Hao, one of the most trusted spy of the Brahmin portrays a bold and fierce character in the book.

Overall, 'The Brahmin' was a nice read and is recommended to any reader who is interested in historical-thriller fictions.

Sahil Pradhan says

ever since I have started reading Ravi Etteth's books, I have become a fan of him. in March, I came to know that a new book of him was released.....and finally, around the end of the month, I finally laid my hands on it. first of all, I would like to thank the publisher for providing a copy of the author's beautiful work and for giving me an opportunity to give an honest opinion on the book. history is a critical subject and more critical is it's retelling as if you do not know the tale properly and cannot narrate it in a gripping way then the reader would not find it interesting. I feel it is just a cup of tea for Ravi Etteth for retelling history. the book is the story of Ashoka and the Brahmin- spymaster of Magadha- based on the timings of the Kalinga war told in a new twisted and interesting way. the book focuses on lesser-known characters like Radha Gupta, asandhimitra and yes who can forget the beautiful hao and her sister mur- the blood flower. the best part of the book is its beauty in the simplicity of language and gripping narrative. I felt that the beauty of the enchanting narration makes the book truly a "masterpiece". one cannot put down the book in

the middle if you have started once.

for the narration, it is just mind-boggling. the way he captures each character and emotions in her pen would leave you enthralled.

another perk of the book is its philosophy. you would see a lot of beautiful ideas of philosophy hidden within tales. the way the fight scenes are explained truly captures the full attention of the reader.

the book is a new genre- a historical thriller- which is new to me. the way the author the puts down a new character of the brahmin in that bygone era makes you feel gripped to the story. even creating a murder mystery based on a historical fiction is even a great idea.

overall the book is in simple words a "masterpiece".a perfect tapestry of history and imagination.

imaginative. intrigue. intense.

I would recommend the book to all the history lovers and to everyone who loves fiction and I am sure they would love the gripping story.

This is an unbiased review of a copy sent to me by the publisher.

Himanshu says

Engaging till the end.

Ravi didn't search much about Buddha and his teachings (which he should, as it would have made the book much beautiful).

Excellent portrait of "near mythical era" of Indian history.
