

Chanakya's Chant

by Ashwin Sanghi | ★★☆☆

THRILLER

REVIEWED BY KIRAN MANRAL

The author of the bestselling *The Rozabal Line* comes back with his second novel, *Chanakya's Chant* which draws an interesting parallel between the kingmaker Chanakya and a modern-day kingmaker, a pandit in U.P. who succeeds in grooming and installing a woman as the Prime Minister of India.

The novel weaves between the past and the present and linking them together is a mantra from the time of Chanakya which can help the person chanting it install a woman in the position of ultimate power. With the help of financial backing from a merchant and the muscle power of a Muslim strongman, the humble pandit from Kanpur takes his protégée through the strife-ridden turf of state politics and finally to the seat of apex power in the country. The real world happenings around us: the scams, the scandals and the rifts between brothers that impact the world of business find their echoes in the plot, which catapults its protagonists towards what seems to be an inevitable climax. A gripping, fast-paced read, the novel is a true thriller in the tradition set by Dan Brown.

