

RENDEZVOUS WITH AN AUTHOR

Ashwin reckons that he is a storyteller at heart

The 4W's of life

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

Fondly called 'Dan Brown' by youngsters in Chennai, Ashwin Sanghi, the author of *The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant* and *The Krishna Key* was in the city for a reading from his latest book. A visibly excited Ashwin spoke to DC about his love for reading and writing.

THE KRISHNA KEY

It's my take on Lord

Krishna as a possible historical character. When mythology and history overlap, that really excites me and I like blending fiction and fact. I saw *The Krishna Key* as my last book on history/mythology. For my future book, I want to move away from history. Hence, my next book will be a fast-paced business story.

NOTHING MORE THAN 1200 WORDS

My dad used to tell me, "If you have to read, read the balance sheet." And our company bookkeeper used to joke, stating, "Book-keeping is more important than book reading." But my grandfather sent me a book every week when I was in school. I had to finish reading that book in a week and write back my thoughts to

him. That way, I read 400-plus books. As far as writing goes, I hadn't written anything longer than 1200 words till the time I sat down to write my first novel.

THE READERS' WRITER

I got the inspiration to write after I visited the Rozabal Shrine in Kashmir. I was so fascinated by it that the next year I read 53 books on the topic. I did a lot of research and wanted to put my thoughts to paper. That's how *The Rozabal Line* was conceived. So I wrote the book for me. But *Chanakya's Chant* was written for readers. Again, I've written *The Krishna Key* for myself. This 'alternating' formula works quite well for me. I believe that you never choose to write.



Writing chooses you. You don't go to the story. But the story comes to you. As far as I'm concerned, I'm a storyteller at heart.

4W'S OF LIFE

I work and write parallelly and have slightly restructured my schedule. Because of that I'm able to manage quite well. I consider 4W's as important factors in my life. Work, Writing, Whiskey and Wife - not in that order, though!