



ASHWIN SANGHI TALKS ABOUT
WHAT MADE HIM TAKE TO
WRITING

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A story of an author

INTERVIEW

Ashwin Sanghi talks about what made him take to writing despite being engaged with his family business

HUNED CONTRACTOR

Ashwin Sanghi is an Indian author in the thriller fiction genre. He elaborates on his life and about his writing.

About his academics

I completed my schooling at the Cathedral and John Connon School, graduated with a BA (Economics) from St. Xavier's College and earned MBA in



Ashwin Sanghi

- Ashwin Sanghi was born on January 25, 1969.
- He is the author of bestselling novels including 'The Rozabal Line', 'Chanakya's Chant' and 'The Krishna Key'.
- All his books have been based on historical, theological and mythological themes.

Finance from the Yale School of Management. Yale was one of the best things that happened to me. The School of Management had one library but the university campus had over 20 libraries.

The other great thing was that you could sit in any class across the campus irrespective of which college or professional school you were part of. I found myself quite often in history, drama or philosophy lectures.

When did you join the family business?

At the age of 12, I would go to my dad's office to be taught book-keeping and accounting. That was my first exposure to entrepreneurship. When I was 16, I started working fulltime with him. Excepting two years of MBA, it was taken for granted that I would join the firm. My grandfather, Motilal Sanghi, had started business from Jodhpur in 1920s. As years passed, branches of family went their own ways. Our business was based in Mumbai and we had interests in automobile dealerships, industrial gas factories, plant and equipment

engineering and real estate. When I returned from US, I was sent to one of our industrial gas facilities for training. After a couple of years, I shifted to the automobile business.

Later I moved into real estate. I have spent over 25 years in the family business and today though I have no direct operational responsibilities I continue to put in a 40-hour week at work.

So how did you take to writing?

I was fond of reading, not writing. When I was 11 or 12, my maternal grandfather from Kanpur would send me a book every week. From Leo Tolstoy to Charles Dickens and erotica like Fanny Hill and works of William Shakespeare.

When I came back from the US after completing MBA, I was approached by 'Cosmopolitan' to write a column on the relationship between men and women. It was the first time I was asked to write something beyond the business domain. I wrote this column under a pseudonym and for the first time, I realised how comfortable I was at writing it. That's when I decided to take to writing for pleasure.

How did the idea for your first book come about? And why did you get into mythology for next books?

I had taken a break from work and visited Rozabal shrine, Kashmir. That's when I wrote about 5,000 words that went on to become the first draft of 'The Rozabal Line'.

Mythology according to me is a glorious lie to uncover a greater truth as people accept it at face value. Indian mythology is based on history, historical figures and events. Thus, my third novel, 'The Krishna Key' was an attempt to peel layers off Krishna to place him in the present context. In absence of an explanation to origins of its characters, myth remains same.

Does such work require a lot of research?

I had to read 50-odd books and research papers and journals. Lot of information is available on existence of a character called Krishna. The research on submerged city of ancient Dwarka by S. R. Rao is there in the public domain, but to bring it to the realms of popular fiction ensures better readership of research.

Also, it is important that you believe in the facts that you pick for book. If you don't believe in them yourself, it would be incorrect to expect your audience to do so.

EXTRA

To read more about Ashwin Sanghi, visit www.ashwinsanghi.com