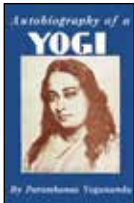


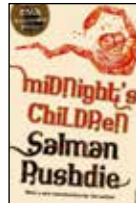


Ashwin Sanghi is an Indian non-fiction writer with three best-selling novels to his name, *The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant* and *The Krishna Key*. His new book is titled *The Sialkot Saga*.

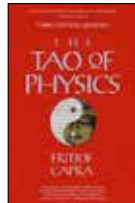
AUTHOR'S PICK



● **Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramahansa Yogananda**
A book that I go back to often in order to understand my own personal connection with the divine.



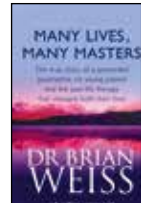
● **Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie**
The very first book in English that was written with a genuinely Indian voice, inspiring me to do the same.



● **The Tao Of Physics by Fritjof Capra**
An incredible exploration of the overlap between science and spirituality.



● **Kautilya's Arthashastra by L.N. Rangarajan**
The ultimate manual on ancient governance and the primary resource for my book, *Chanakya's Chant*.



● **Many Lives, Many Masters by Dr Brian Weiss**
The incredible story of people's previous lives. It inspired me to write *The Rozabal Line* in a karmic format.



Where and how much did you have to travel for research on your latest book, *The Sialkot Saga*?

The two characters of this book grow up in Mumbai and Kolkata. Given that I live in Mumbai and keep travelling to Kolkata, additional travel was minimal. But yes, I did a fair bit of legwork within these cities. The more

intensive part of the research was reading and interviewing people who had lived through those times.

One place you keep returning to?

Mahabaleshwar. It's a place where my family used to spend holidays, and every visit takes me back down memory lane to simpler and more

carefree times. There's a farm that serves the best *makkai-bhaji*, *bajra roti* and *baingan bharta*.

How does travel inspire your work?

I write wherever I am—at home, on flights, in hotel rooms and even inside cars. Surprisingly enough, I get more writing done on flights than anywhere

else. It's probably because writing is my escape from boredom. My first novel, *The Rozabal Line*, would never have been written had it not been for a visit to Kashmir. On the other hand, my third novel, *The Krishna Key*, involved travel to Mathura, Somnath and Dwarka. You can see that it's a two-way street: travel inspires writing and writing often inspires travel.

Most recent vacation?

Jodhpur. That's my family's hometown. In particular, I love Umaid Bhawan Palace which is now considered the world's best hotel but I remember the place from the times when it was just a palace, albeit a magnificent one.

Must-take while travelling?

Laptop, Kindle, whisky. If these three things are with me, everything else becomes rather irrelevant.

Latest shopping acquisition?

A bottle of Bunnahabhain 18-year-old malt whisky. I'm a terrible shopper. The only things I buy are whisky, cigars and chocolates.

Favourite cuisine?

Chindian (the "Chinese" food that you can buy from Indian pavement stalls) in addition to Italian and Indian. I am a vegetarian and must get *kadhi-chawal* or *khichdi* every second day.

—As told to Anuj Sarma