

## BOOKS



### ASHWIN SANGHI TELLS ₹2 HOW HE COMMITTED THE PERFECT CRIME, FOR PRIVATE DELHI, OF COURSE!

Ashwin Sanghi is out with the second in the *Private India* series, which he co-writes with the hugely popular American crime fiction writer, James Patterson. *Private Delhi* is the quintessential murder mystery, with a serial killer doing very cruel things, people in high places being even more awful, an underground racket that goes right to the top, a TV journalist who is everywhere, a tortured former cop as the lead detective and a spunky lady as his sidekick (though Nisha Gandhe will gnash her teeth if she knew we're calling her Santosh Wagh's 'sidekick!'). Ashwin answered some questions for ₹2 over email...

**First of all, congratulations on committing the perfect crime. I couldn't tell till the very end who the killer was! Do you think that's the true mark of a good whodunit?**

I am delighted that you enjoyed reading it. Being unable to tell who the killer is until the very end is one of the important characteristics of a whodunit but certainly not the only one. Balancing suspense and surprise is a key element. In addition, leaving enough hooks to propel readers forward with ample red herrings to misdirect them are others.

**The story of how this collaboration with James Patterson came about is very interesting... could you recount it for our readers?**

I like to call it an arranged marriage of sorts. One of my dear friends in publishing was working

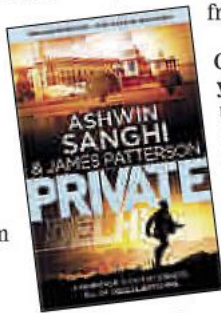
in London and ended up meeting another person in that very office who represented James Patterson. The two ladies felt that combining the strengths of two different thriller writers from exceptionally different cultures would be interesting. The match was made by them.

The two authors entered the frame much later.

**Given that the two of you are in different continents, how did this book get written?**

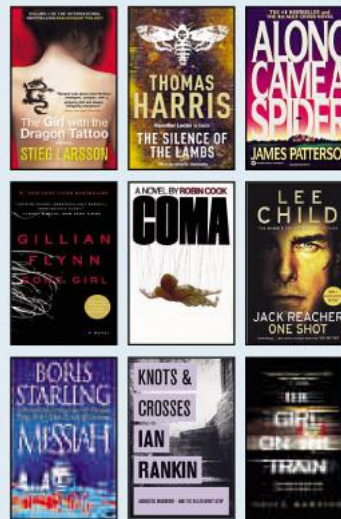
The process that we followed for both *Private India* and *Private Delhi* was similar. I developed an initial plot outline that got reworked between James Patterson and I over several back-and-forth routines. I then proceeded to write the first draft. The second and third drafts were written by James, before the editors took over.

**Why did you choose Delhi as the**



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### SOME SANGHI FAVES



success of Delhi as a political commercial centre has all it the dubious moniker of crime capital'. Delhi was obvious choice.

**You were here last month Kolkata Literary Meet, you said our city could setting of a psychological thriller. Why so?**

Because the city is known intellectual and artistic pro fascinated by the idea of a bly intelligent killer. He o well-read, has an incredil preciates good food, wine music and theatre. Where such a person come from' choice is indisputable. Ca

**Ashwin Sanghi never r genres — this is what w known about you. What the *Private* series made break your own rule?**

Actually, my rule is that I trying new genres, but I d within the same genre. M series (*The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant*, *The K and The Sialkot Saga*) are within the historical-myth space. My *13 Steps* books (*Bloody Good Luck* and *13: Bloody Good Wealth*) are c the non-fiction self-help s my *Private* series (*Private Private Delhi*) are in the c thriller space.

**setting of your second book in the series?**

The *Private* series is an international series that is a global best-seller. The previous cities covered by the series included Los Angeles, Sydney, Berlin, Paris, Las Vegas, London, Rio and Mumbai. This second outing in India also needed to be set in a globally recognised city and Delhi was the obvious choice. In recent years, the magnificent