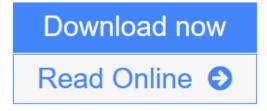


By The Tungabhadra

Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay , Arunava Sinha (Translator)



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Author : Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay , Arunava Sinha (Translator)

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Cultural, India

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From Reader Review By The Tungabhadra for online ebook

Avik says

Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay is perhaps most widely known for creating the quintessential Bengali and likeable sharp-witted sleuth, Byomkesh Bakshi. However, there is a fine set of historical fiction he has authored which is a wonderful contribution to Bengali, if not Indian, literature in its own right. This novel is one of the brightest jewels in that crown.

Tungabhadra'r Teere is set in the Vijayanagara empire in the 14th century. The tale begins with a fleet travelling to the kingdom of Vijayanagara. The fleet bears on it two princesses, one of whom is about to be married to the king of Vijayanagara to strengthen a bond of strategic convenience, along with the wedding party.

The chance rescue of a young man and a tempest just before the fleet can arrive at the destination changes the course of the destiny of not just the ships, but also of some of the passengers. What follows is a tale of politics, love and morals. Like any enjoyable historical fiction, Sharadindu's novel is enjoyable through its characters. Along the way, the age and place become backdrops to a tale which one feels could well have actually taken place in the exact manner as it is told.

Not just this one but even Sharadindu's other works of this genre are highly evocative of Bankim Chandra's novels. Especially when Sharadindu dictates the thoughts of a character and glides from a first-person to a third-person narrative filled the Bankim admirer in me with exquisite joy. I am still biased in favour of the master though and will rate Bankim higher. Nevertheless, Sharadindu has his own undeniable charm and though I could find some themes recurring in different avatars in his historical novels and short stories, these are still pleasurable and at times, delightful reads.

Kazi Shoaib says

Shom Biswas says

Author - Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay

Genre - Historical Fiction, Thriller

Source - Print

Rating - 4

May 2014

First: About Sharadindu Bandyopadhyay. He is a fantastic writer of bestsellers that are NOT devoid of

literary merit. If one has to make the parallel to an English writer, it has to be with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (and our Byomkesh is almost the equal of Sherlock).

Second: About the time and place. You'd say the novel has not dated very well. You'd say that some of the sentiments some characters display are rather out of our times. But hey, this is historical fiction, how do you expect it to be in with the times?

Third: Sharadindu creates such amazing plots. And has such a strong, clean writing style. Two hundred odd pages finished off in one go. This is good stuff!

Fourth: I am lucky that I can read Sharadindu in original Bengali.

Fifth: Nice to read about the history of Karnataka. This is about the Vijayanagar Empire.

Jash Sen says

A powerful translation of a lyrically written original, this used to be one of my favourite historical novels. I read it after years, and realised with some discomfort that although the story still reads beautifully, the author's tone on the state of hindu- muslim relations made me uncomfortable. Were our two major religions really this uneasy sitting side by side to each other? Saradindu wrote this in the forties; had I been a muslim reader, I would have felt acutely uncomfortable with the book's tone in the political climate of the time.

The story is a romantic adventure set in the Vijaynagar kingdom against a backdrop of Vijaynagar-Bahmani hostilities. That, and a healthy dose of intrigue to keep the reader engaged. Saradindu was a master at creating suspense and romance, and this book is no different.

The thing that makes this book work for me is the lyricism of the romance between the different characters, which lifts a simple love story to unexpected heights. And the author's descriptions, although sometimes it is virtually impossible to recreate the music of Saradindu's original words.

I suppose it is because classical Bengali and contemporary English are two such different sounding languages.

Still, an excellent translation of a book that remains a favourite.

Aishu Rehman says

Avradeep Sinha says

Read the Bengali version and it deservingly won the Rabindra Puraskar award. Not only Byomkesh, Saradindu was great in writing historical fiction as well like Jhinder Bandi and now this- Tungabhadrar Teere.

Anish Bhowmik says

8/10

Koushik Roy says

Sharadindu bandyopadadhyay r sera kichu golper modde ata onnotomo. Adventure, romance, bondhutto ki nei golpe. Ak kothae oshadharon.

Fahad Ahammed says

awesome

Neha says

As a kid we all have read Chanda Mama, Amar Chitra Katha, Nandan, Panchtantra and other stories which contained incidents and characters from ancient India. The stories of Raja Rani (Kings & queens), courage and cleverness, wars and valour, love and friendship. They just did not satisfy your appetite for stories, historical characters and fictional accounts but also came with morals and teachings. As we grow up we move to more modern, more real and popular fiction. Somewhere we leave behind our childhood stories.. and then one day when you are just surfing through the shelves at a book shop, you find this one book with images of ancient India, kings and their beautiful queens, adventures and plots and you can't help but pick it. On reading the brief the world of your childhood opens up.. the colourful world and its images and characters.. how we used to enact these scenes when playing with your cousins or street friends, how with a

fake sword you became a king and your mom's dupatta made you a princess... how u got on your imaginary horse and went to war and how adorning make up and jewellery was all that princess did...

This book is such a story based on kingdom of Vijaynagar whose ruins still stand at Hampi... it of course is a fictional account on a historical king but the writer's imagination is ripe and vivid.. all the characters Arjun Varma, Devarya, Balram, Manikankana, are endearing and you can't help but get transported to that world.. Its not a piece of literature or epic but a children's classic which can be equally enjoyed by adults...

Not to forget that Saradindu Bandhopadya, the creator of 'Byomkesh Bakshi' has written it. It is not suspense or detective story like his most popular fiction but it does have an interesting plot and smart twists in the tale. Its modern as well as traditional in its treatment, its detailed as well as precise in its flow and wordings.. The translation by Arunava Sinha is very smooth and simple. The book is a quick read and can be finished in 6 hrs flat... So I would suggest any one who likes a light read and wants to revisit the days of 'Chanda Mama', surely pick this book and you won't be disappointed...

Lsharathkumar says

I visited Humpi a month ago. I could neither explore the ruins properly nor learn the greatness of Vijayanagar. While my heart wept at the brutality of the barbarians who destroyed the greatest city in the world in 15th century, Shorodindu takes us back in time when Vijayanagar was all that stood between barbarian foreign invaders and the ancient vedantic culture. I also thank Arunav Sinha for not changing the narrative to suit political correctness. While the work itself is fiction, Saradindu expertly weaves a fascinating tale around the dreary existence of people living under foreign rule and how Vijayanagar was the last bastion of resistance until the great Shivaji Maharaj arrived on the scene...

Darcey says

An interesting read; I'd prefer to get my tongue around Bengali and read it in the original, since there were some turns of phrase I think may have been awkward, and certain things stick out ("he raised his left arm") as overly specific. Still - it was an enjoyable read, if fairly predictable.

Tanjina Tamanna says

Mony Shamim says

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