



When Shall We Meet Again?

Abhimanyu Rajarajan

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What happens ?...

when a software billionaire finds his company's attrition rate scaling new heights? ...when a programming de-bugger meets his 'break-up' girl after 5 years? ...When a revered Swamiji is asked to become a corporate trainer of an IT company?... when a cheerful flirt proposes to a girl who is yet to recover from a relationship shattered by infidelity?... when a college couple gets into a tent in an inebriated state during picnic? when a software Team leader is physically assaulted by her lover in front of her colleagues? ...when a drunkard father meets his estranged daughters after a decade?when a pervert manager cajoles a new recruit to his private cottage? ...when a doting couple's aborted child enters the body of a Sadhu? ... when a lonely girl is lying in bed fully intoxicated and at the mercy of a famished lecher? What happens?..... Passion, Love, Philosophy, Perversion, Thrill, Drama and Wit "When shall we meet again?" has a bit of everything....A IT industry romance thriller with lots of life's philosophy thrown in...

When Shall We Meet Again? Details

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From Reader Review When Shall We Meet Again? for online ebook

Divya Mani says

Compelling , author has a beautiful and natural way of portraying an intense love story with lots of expressions , feelings , wit,humor , thrill and of course love !

Must read for all those who have fallen in love at least once in their lives ... And for those who have not experienced love , i am sure you are going to fall in love with this book pretty soon ...!

Urmila Khanna says

Books are aplenty. And run of the mill boy meets girl stories are on the rise especially in India . But , I've clearly stumbled into something unique and I realized this as soon as I finished the first 4 chapters of When Shall We Meet Again by Abhimanyu Rajarajan. The book has made me cry. Made me laugh. It has touched so many chords deep inside that I am yet to recover. How can the same book be so funny at times, filled with such melancholic love at times and then plunge into deep insights of philosophy . I think, Abhimanyu Rajarajan is altogether different from the new breed of Indian Authors. The story is about the people working in IT industry. So, needless to say, I was able to connect with the characters almost immediately. The first half is a tender breeze with romances and life IT company experiences . With effortless flow, the second half novel switches into a high octane thriller, with psycho Narayan , out to get the girls. Romance suspense thriller also may not be an apt genre for this book for it extends these too and makes us look at our very own lives differently. I loved this book. If you are in India, an young adult, I'd say, grab a copy and read When Shall We Meet Again. For such good things are quite rare to come by !

Madhu says

There isn't a core idea in this book to classify with a label "genre". If the demographic is young software professional then true love and the typical environment in which they work would reach out to them. Those with ideas and experience in management would gravitate towards the problems and solutions to basic HR and labour problems. If the older demographic is the target audience the result would be lots of shock value, interest and appreciation of spirituality ideas in this book. It is not difficult to guess the extrapolation small work group to society that the author is trying to achieve.

I am reviewing this book because the author was kind enough to give me a copy to read. Had I merely browsed the few pages in a store I honestly would not buy it. I would not have expected this book.

Recent books by a few Indian authors about the cultural changes in India have created an impression of shallow characters, less ideas of plot and character development merely appealing to young target audience and leaving it at that. It is a great compliment to this author that though he writes about conventional culture change he has sought to go beyond boundaries of genres and captured my interest thoroughly for a brief period.

The protagonists are the typical Indian male Naren stuck between middle class conservatism meets western ideas and very well portrayed Lisa who is held up as role model for "selfless love". Both 3d characters are

the protagonists alone with hopes and vices. In effect the story begins in the middle and moves outward the company's problems and entrance of a typical *dues ex machina* a Swamiji all powerful who effects great changes.

The other characters problems are slowly revealed and solved by the Swamiji. Still waters run deep with Prem, but Aarathi comes and goes, the story about her past is merely about comforts and childhood but she remains kind of cardboard cut-out of a middle-class *demure* girl. Her choices are easy to understand.

The evolution of Aarathi & Naren story is clichéd yet holds that genuine ring of truth. I have to say that the second meeting and ending of the relationship is very well portrayed. Finally, there is someone who understands trust broken cannot be merely mended and go back as if it never was. The author definitely broke convention here and I would not know if this would be a popular move.

Lots of contrived scenes especially Prem's rescue of Lisa for the first time it seems that the author wanted to ratchet up the tension. Particular parts are well done - such as, the reunion of the daughters and father scene. Suddenly, a back story of Bhagya and maybe the Swamiji appears and I find it very unbelievable that a girl who at eighteen was bold enough to ask a Sadhu for a parting gift is unable to confirm her suspicions at nearly 40? The book then veered off into typical Bollywood cinema damsel rescue villains subdued etc.

The unrealistic part about Aarathi comes back here. A woman drugged and nearly raped is ready to laugh-off the entire incident? where is the trauma? Lisa hearing it second hand shudders, but Aarathi is not only ok, but contemplating other persons' relationships? Utter disbelief!

There are a lot of grammatical and typographical errors and bad phraseology to be sure. Yet, what matters is whether the readers will be patient enough to slog through some pages for a good read. I did not get the story relation to the title and if anyone figures it out let me know.

Badri says

This is not my kind of novel. I'd not have picked it up had the author Abhi not been a good friend from college days.

Perhaps the intended audience is the narrow group of young Indian IT industry workers, in which I do not belong, and can't relate to very much. So I need to give this book the benefit of the doubt. And that's in fact why I persisted and finished it.

The central theory of the novel is an interesting one. It is that this certain section of workforce is fundamentally unhappy with their personal lives, especially their love lives, and so as a reaction, they change the one thing in their lives that's easiest to change - their jobs. The book does a decent job of driving this point home, while keeping it entertaining. The characters are drawn up to illustrate this pretty well, though one wishes there were more dimensions to them. The plot is quite contrived, frankly. But it is not boring, and there are flashes of brilliance in the narrative.

Two things put me off quite a bit though. One was all those grammatical errors and wrongly used words. A very poorly edited book in other words. The other was - this is perhaps the effect of I not belonging to the intended audience - a certain level of immaturity in all the characters, as though they were all stuck in their hormonal adolescence. And I didn't like the frequent brush with near-pornographic content.

In summary, I'd say it's a decent debut novel, which has quite a few rough edges. I'd keep my eye out for Abhi's next work, and hope I'd belong in his intended audience next time.

Meghant Parmar says

A book on love and a bit of thrill added too. It has some spiritual angle to it too and covers a lot of aspects and problems of man's life through a spiritual medium.

The romance angle has nothing new in it and thrill comes bit too late in the book to excite the readers.

The first half is very slow and build up takes a lot of time. Second half is more exciting and some excitement too.

Overall it's a good read but not an exceptional romantic thriller.

Socrates Chinniah says

Entertaining read and a good debut from the Author .

The story is set up in an IT company in Chennai and revolves around various characters - Ex lovers ,a loving girl . Happy go lucky guy , pervert , Swamiji , divorced couple and an Unhappy couple . The story line unites the various characters and goes into the life of these characters.

+ives : The story of the book is not extra-ordinary , but the author has taken efforts to make it interesting and succeeds. The book is like a movie which has got an ordinary story but an excellent screenplay.The character development and profiling of the characters are the strong points. Swamiji , Prem and Lisa were my favorite characters and there were lot of things that could be related to these people from everyday life and the other characters too had their fair share. And i really liked the way the story moved back and forth. Some parts of the book kept me smiling and some engaging. Overall the book was worth for an entertaining read. I prefer happy ending and good that the book did not disappoint me. Surprisingly , the book also had a tinge of philosophy. The book could even be made into a good movie.

-ives: In fact the book was pretty decent , It had way lesser -ives than i had anticipated . Few typos and grammatical errors , but that does not prove to be a glitch , They are just a few potholes in a rather smooth highway.

Overall the book is worth a read when you want a light read for an entertaining read. And for the quality of writing , Will i read another book from the author ? , Yes i will.

Disclaimer: The review was written for the author for an honest review in exchange for a free copy of the

book. The views expressed are purely matter of opinion and not influenced.

Abhishek says

This book has all the elements of a Bollywood movie but despite all the cliches and expected twists at many occasions, it was an exciting read. I spent my weekend only reading this book and by the end of it I felt good, not just because of the happy ending but also because despite being nothing extraordinary or new, it was one of those stories that reminds us of some essential things we may forget about life.

I think the character of Swamiji made the book worthwhile. Even though all the characters were well defined and had their own presence in the story, as a reader I kept wondering and was eagerly waiting for what Swamiji would do next.

I also particularly liked the inner monologue that Narayan kept having. Reminded me of Dexter from the TV show, Dexter. I could totally relate to the inner monologue thing because I keep having it with myself about my day to day activities and decisions.

Ignoring some typos and grammatical glitches, the book is well paced and is quite engrossing. Characters and their situations are quite familiar, so one gets comfortable with the book and after some chapters of back stories, when the interaction of the characters begins, the story gets more exciting. Prem was my favorite character and I think you'll like him too!

Finally, this didn't feel like one of those must read books before you die. But if you choose to read it, you won't be disappointed!

Karunakaran N. says

When Shall We Meet Again - by Abhimanyu Rajarajan... A romantic thriller by a debutant author... A wonderful accomplishment as a writer. Gripping till the end in a colloquial style. The story line is from the day to day happenings in the corporate world. Employees of a IT company not really satisfied with their jobs, swamiji enters the picture brought in by the MD of the organization to bring about change in the employees. Hence a peek into the personal life of all those concerned and solutions provided. The author has dwelt every nook and corner of management (Short sightedness, USP, SWOT et all), defining the concepts explicitly through the swamiji...

Of all the characters depicted none took the center stage till the end, be it Naren, Lisa, Prem nor Arthi - The author might have taken this stand so that the importance of the characters would not get diluted. But from the readers point of view the character that takes the center stage lives in the mind. This can be the reason that the reader feels too many characters being deployed in the novel.

On loose ends - Not many, but a couple of them that I noted. When Naren goes to the Trekking camp the campers are provided 3 tents and the winners of the "made for each other" get these tents what happens to others? Where and what was the Professor doing? - The crux of the Novel lies on this incident.

Arthi's Grandfather dies when she is in college, again later on when she reminisces her past she says she returned from school to see her Grandfather dead. Might be two different Grand fathers but it makes the reader wonder how?...

I should thank the Author for providing this novel for a genuine review....

Kudos the Novel was one of the fastest page turner...

Ipshita says

Before all else, let me tell you that I rarely read the works of contemporary Indian writers. The main reason being that most of their books have the same overused plotlines, and after reading a few chapters one can almost figure out the end. Another reason is poor grammar and abysmal editing.

However, this book came as a pleasant surprise not only because of its negligible grammatical errors, but also for the fresh outlook on life that the author provides. Although it's the author's debut novel, his writing skill is very cultivated and shows a lot of potential.

The story is not only about the love story between a boy and a girl. In fact, it deals with a lot of different kinds of relationships, each with realistic issues. At times it seemed more philosophical with romance taking the backseat, but it doesn't fail to be interesting.

Now, I am not a fan of sages, neither am I a fan of philosophy. But in this book, the 'Swamiji' does play an important role in consolidating the characters' relationships. He is more of an intellectual person with an astute observation, so believe me when I say that he proves to be a very interesting character himself. It was like looking at the Hogwarts Castle at night, all dark and intimidating from the outside, then getting the first glance of the Great Hall filled with the lights and magical decorations.

I felt there were too many characters in the book, but as I got to know each of their stories, I actually started to like them. Narayan, of course, is the exception here. He is such a stinking pervert that my skin crawled whenever I came across his POV. My favourite character is Prem, who is very endearing and quick witted. The author manages to create different personalities for each character which is laudable.

The author is cognizant of many small details which add to the ambience of the story, but my only problem with this is that the writing felt repetitive due to it. Sometimes the authors try to describe each and every feeling of their characters to a T, but I think the readers should be given a bit of freedom to imagine these characters in their own way.

Regardless, this author has created an admirable story not just in terms of romance, but in a way that is refreshing and leaves a feel good vibe long after its end.

My thanks to the author for providing me with a copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

Manisha says

4 stars..

I got this book for free from the author in exchange of an honest review

First let me outline what I didn't like

Too many characters. Got a little confusing at first but the author managed to get me acquainted with all of

them as story demanded.

I don't like philosophy and this story had loads and loads of that. So I had skip a few pages of that.

So Why 4 stars?

Because am a sucker for happy endings. And this book definitely had one solid HEA.

This story was like a breath of fresh air in a stuffed up apartment. Though this was Abhimanyu's first book, his writing was pretty mature and his perspective was really fresh too.

The characters who seemed little too much in the beginning. You start to enjoy them as u get a little more in depth point of view.

The dark and brooding handsome Naren

The happy go lucky Prem

The flamboyant Lisa

The petite and demure Aarthi

The pervert Narayan

The self destructive Manohar

And the ever philosophical Swamiji

They are all dealing with their lives as they seem fit and some of them are happy and some of them are not. Their lives take sharp turn and they embrace it. And they way everything turned out it was worth reading the whole book.

There was humour, pain, love, care, surprises,schemes and a superb ending. A perfect recipe for a masala movie.

And in the end I would summarise it as...

True love has way of finding its path, even if you are searching for it at all the wrong places.

Enjoy reading..

Jeeva Sk says

I confess that I got this book from the author in trade for a review.

OK, first things first.

Plot- A Chennai software company with lot a of characters, Dan Brown style, it takes some 60,70 pages to sort out who is who. 5/5.

Language- Not up to the mark, since the story is for young adults, I may have felt so. 3/5.

Pace- Whole story ends in a week, a fast paced one with little flashback here and there. 4/5.

Character Depth- Here too there are only prototypes of joyfulness, wisdom, forgiveness, bitch,etc..., 3/5.

Others- A happy ending, Ha, It really bores to have one. A lot of Indian philosophy thrown in, a recital. Debut author, can't expect more. 2/5.

Quotable lines:" When love is not there, life too walks out of place"

And may I know why does the book is named so...

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

Enjoyed reading the story. Normal story that one comes across the day to day life. The narration part is really interesting. Though at times philosophy is included that fits into the story.

Nikita (NjKinny's World of Books & Stuff) says

When Shall We Meet Again is Abhimanyu Rajarajan's debut book published in November 2013. Jeevan, the MD of a big IT company is worried about the high attrition rates in his firm. Despite being the highest payer and most considerate of bosses, people are leaving his company and he has no clue why. To get to the root of it and also to motivate his employees, he asks his spiritual guide Swami Aathmananda to take a week's course and be a "**change agent**" for them.

What follows is Swamiji's experienced handling of Jeevan's company's employees who are all afflicted with one or the other problem. *One is a man defeated in love, another is a divorcee who is still in the shadow of his perfect wife, then there is a lecherous pervert who takes advantage of unsuspecting girls* and so on. When Shall We Meet Again? takes us on a philosophical journey with Swamiji who teaches us the real meaning of life and how to live it fully.

"To be born blind is bad but to be born with sight and then become blind is worse. That was Paradise Lost. And here was a man who had lost his Paradise."

When I first started the book, I was afraid that it would prove to be the same typed girl-meets-boy-and-they-fall-in-love book but soon I was proved wrong. The story is handled very differently and I was able to connect with it. The first half of the book is a bit slow but still it manages to keep the reader engrossed. The story picks up pace in the second half with several nail biting moments and tense situations.

The one thing that baffled me was the title of the book. There seems to be no connection between the title and the story. Also there are a few typos and misworded phrases but other than that this is a very enjoyable read and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The author has delivered an intelligent piece of fiction with well developed characters. I especially liked the characterization and the ease with which Abhimanyu enhances them. Each character is as different from the other as day from night and still they are cohesively portrayed. The philosophical approach in the story is also very interestingly done and does not bore. The solutions to the problems of the employees are novel

approaches, totally unconventional and I could not guess these solutions to the problems.

Several beautiful dialogues also made my day in this book and I felt satisfied after reading the story.

"No matter where you are in the world, if you have decided to do something deep from your heart...there is nothing that can stop you from doing it!"

"One who knows not what he knows not is a fool, ignore him.

One who knows what he knows not is a learner, teach him.

One who knows not what he knows is a potential, tap him.

One who knows what he knows is a leader, Follow him."

A very admirable first book from a very promising writer, I give When Shall We Meet Again? a 4 out of 5 and look forward to reading more from him in the future.

I received When Shall We Meet Again? from the author and I am very thankful to him for introducing me to this great book. The above review is my personal and unbiased opinion and in no way influenced.

This review is also available on my blog <http://njkinny.blogspot.in>

Pri says

I got this book for free from the author in exchange of an honest review.

"When Shall We Meet Again" is one of the few Indian Contemporary books that I have read.

I loved the plot line. I think it's different and refreshing. The story is set in an IT company based in Chennai. It outlines the trials and difficulties faced by the IT employees. At first I felt that there were too many characters, but I quickly got engrossed in their stories. Among the characters, I liked Swami Athmananda the most. He has really nice observation skills and his philosophies actually made sense. Prem was annoying at first, but he grew on me a bit. I neither liked nor disliked Lisa. I disliked Naren mostly because he blamed all his problems on women. He was really immature and selfish. Aarthi was bossy, she wanted things her way and there was something about her that just ticked me off. Narayan gave me the creeps..! I really liked what happened to him at the end..!

Even though the plot is good, the execution was not that great. There were typos, grammatical errors and bad phrases thrown in.

Like one of the reviewers said, I too did not find any connection between the name of the book and story.

I would probably read more of the author's work in future.

Subhadra says

A Feel Good book which is enriched in romance , suspense, drama, emotions

