



Her Nightly Embrace

Adi Tantimedh

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The first in a trilogy of whip-smart novels—currently in development as a TV series set to star Sendhil Ramamurthy (NBC's *Heroes* and *Heroes Reborn*)—about a destructive private investigator and his eccentric coworkers, who handle cases so high-profile that they never make the headlines.

Ravi Chandra Singh is the last guy you'd expect to become a private detective. A failed religious scholar, he now works for Golden Sentinels, an upmarket London private investigations agency. His colleagues are a band of gleefully amoral and brilliant screw-ups: Ken and Clive, a pair of brutal ex-cops who are also a gay couple; Mark Chapman, a burned-out stoner hiding a great mind; Marcie Holder, a cheerful former publicist; Benjamin Lee, a techie prankster from South London; David Okri, an ambitious lawyer from a well-connected Nigerian immigrant family; and Olivia Wong, an upper-class Hong Kong financial analyst hiding her true skills as one of the most dangerous hackers in the world—all under the watchful eye of Roger Golden, wheeler-dealer extraordinaire, and his mysterious office manager, Cheryl Hughes.

Thrust into a world where the rich, famous, and powerful hire him to solve their problems and wash their dirty laundry, Ravi finds himself in over his head with increasingly gonzo and complex cases – and the recent visions that he's been having of Hindu gods aren't helping. As Ravi struggles to stay ahead of danger, he wonders if the things he's seeing are a delusion – or if he might, in fact, be an unrecognized shaman of the modern world...

Her Nightly Embrace Details

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Author : Adi Tantimedh

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From Reader Review Her Nightly Embrace for online ebook

Julie says

Her Nightly Embrace by Adi Tantimedh is a 2016 Atria/ Leopardo &Co. Publication.

I had no idea what to expect from this book, but the publishers were so enthusiastic about it and their plans for audio and television projects featuring “Heroes” star Sendhil Ramamurthy, I couldn’t resist taking a look at it.

When Ravi Chandra Singh gave up his religious studies after his reputation was impugned, he is hired by Golden Sentinels, a detective agency located in London. While Ravi may not seem like detective material, he’s a quick study. However, he does have a few, shall we say, abnormalities. Every time Ravi is stressed out, he sees a variety of Hindu Gods, and they seem to be tweeting about him. No matter how many pills he pops the visions persists, causing Ravi to continually question his sanity.

This is an introduction to Ravi, but we soon learn a great deal more about him and his family, as he gives us an up close and personal view to his highly unusual adventures as a private detective and the offbeat and occasionally dangerous cases he and the eclectic team at Golden Sentinels are hired to handle.

It’s no secret this book is being shopped for a television series and I do think the book was written in such a way that it would appeal to anyone who enjoys media tie-in material, perhaps with the hopes the book will enjoy cross-media attention and sales.

There are four complete short stories in one book, all individual cases worked on by Ravi and his team, but there is a common thread or continuance that binds the stories together.

I like Ravi’s voice and the stories are imaginative, fast paced, quirky and are even humorous on occasion. Over the course of the four installments, the cases become more serious, more dangerous, and more intriguing.

I always applaud creativity and imagination and I’m all for giving books a little boost by offering podcasts, movie or television tie-ins, or even some kind of interactive multi-media enhancements to keep readers engaged and to promote a love of reading. To that end, this book gets my seal of approval.

I thought the stories were stylish, if a bit outlandish, but the characters were terrific, each member having a unique skill to bring to the table. There are several well placed twists that propel the story along from one installment to another and the dynamic between the characters and the plot is ever evolving.

I can see how this book would easily translate to the small screen and I predict it will appeal to a certain demographic. It could pick up steam easily, but I’m not sure how long it would sustain the audience in that fickle environment. However, in the book world, if the author plays their cards right and doesn’t let the video appeal mar the integrity of the books, this is a series that could see a long and successful run.

Personally, I got a kick out of this book, for the most part, and would be interested in reading more about Ravi’s adventures in the future.

4 stars

Lata says

3.5 stars.... Interesting idea, that a former religious studies student then secondary school teacher who is now a detective suffers from hallucinations of hindu gods. Ravi takes medication to deal with these, and works at an agency that appears to be staffed with a variety of oddballs, but who are all very effective at their jobs. Ravi is funny, caring, profane, and actually pretty enjoyable, and it's pretty funny seeing various gods in contemporary garb tut-tutting Ravi.

Heidi Kirsch says

Appalled. Whether its a man or woman, rape is rape

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

You can find my review on my blog by clicking here.

There's nothing like stumbling into a whole new life when things don't go your way. Adi Tantimedh writes the story of Ravi Chandra Singh, a failed religious scholar and a former high school teacher who becomes a private investigator right out of the blue. This Indian P.I. isn't like any other (who is, right?). People see something special in him. At least that's what everyone at the Golden Sentinels, a London private investigations and security company, think of him. Even if Ravi doesn't believe in his unique abilities, he does know one thing about himself. He can see Gods. They don't seem to want to speak to him. No, no. But they do appear at random moments and seem to have been thoroughly modernized to our time and age. Don't expect them to be represented as they usually are in Hinduism. Enrolled in a company that deals with highly placed members of society—they always seem to have really sketchy lives and the most messed up stories to tell—Ravi quickly finds out that his new job is about to drastically change his life. And the exit? Not really an option.

The book contains four stories about four different investigations. They can basically be seen as four distinct episodes of a TV show. In fact, readers will quickly catch on that the book was written like a screenplay. After all, Her Nightly Embrace is a soon-to-be TV adaptation and there's nothing more perfect than having everything set for filming. If the style of writing, the various plot holes and the difficulty to emotionally attach to the characters weren't direct indicators of what that the filming and actor performances were meant to make up for, this book would probably suffer a lot in story-telling and be a lot harder to pardon for its problems. Nonetheless, Adi Tantimedh delivers stories with increasing intensity and quickly shows readers that Ravi tumbled into a life filled with disasters. The character rapidly learns the ropes to being a great private investigators and doesn't shy from reiterating the importance of social engineering. That very concept is held up as a trophy among the members of the Golden Sentinels, and Ravi makes sure to it whenever he goes into the real world. After all, he needs to make up for the lack of P.I. experience somehow!

Filled with a quirky cast of characters, Her Nightly Embrace uses them sparingly to draw out their unique

stories. While it was easy to spot the different molds of personalities, a lot of their dialogues felt corny and could only be improved thanks to actors and their respective performances. The novel does contain a fairly numerous amount of characters, but as soon as you are acquainted with their stories, they quickly become easy to identify and remember. The book doesn't dive deep into character development, but it is something to be expected when you're only a couple episodes into a series. Ravi also has romantic relationships throughout the book to spice up his complicated life. Even if these love interests felt awkward, everything still ended up having a purpose for the stories that were being told. To mix things up a little more, readers are also presented with various Gods that appear in Ravi's life. Each God was quickly mentioned and the author stayed concise in his explanation of their symbolism. This supernatural touch does make things quite interesting and funny.

Adi Tantimedh's decision to put an Indian protagonist in a British context does open him up with various ways to embrace the Indian culture throughout the story. Ravi's adventures are filled with a strong comedic value and a bunch of swearing. It sadly still remains a little distant from the never-before-seen when the plots are looked at for what they were. The stories are also filled with pop culture references and has a bunch of book title references to cultivate readers and spark a little smirk across the face of readers. However, *Her Nightly Embrace* honestly felt like a low-key crime drama that was meant to solely put in a laugh or two for its readers. Because the book felt a lot more like a screenplay, a lot of its potential for great storytelling were kept at a minimum. All the ideas were in place, but the driving force to keep everything together felt light and simple. It's also in the interactions between the characters, which relies strongly on what the television adaptation will do with it, that threw away any chance to really capture my interest in the characters.

Her Nightly Embrace is a fun crime drama novel. It still has ways to go before it truly finds its identity, but its potential is there. Ravi's ability to see Gods is probably the most noticeable element in the book and if the author continues to delve deeper into that angle, things can get quite thrilling. Trying to figure out how to deal with this problem, the protagonist finds himself wondering about his sanity more often than not. Although he doesn't show signs of mental illness, the Gods continue to show up in the most unexpected moments throughout his adventures. In fact, they often foresight outcomes or represent emotional states of the character, and that was quite refreshing compared to the usual P.I. work. I personally thought it was a fascinating asset for the character since it was something pretty new for anyone who doesn't often come across stories with Gods. While the first book in the Ravi PI series were simple and pretty predictable, the series has plenty of angles that it can explore to deliver compelling stories. It all lies in the hands of Adi Tantimedh and what he desires to show his fans.

Curious about the book? What about its TV show adaptation? As mentioned earlier, Adi Tantimedh's book series will get an TV adaptation that is currently still in development. It will star NBC's *Heroes and Heroes Reborn* star Sendhil Ramamurthy (the same man who's on the cover of the first book; although all you see on the ARC is his shadow). Interestingly, the TV show will also be co-produced by Idris Elba. The same man behind the famous British TV show *Luther*—not too surprised by his presence when similarities between his show and Adi Tantimedh's book can be observed! The Ravi PI series is fantastic for fans of *Scandal*, *Luther* or *Castle* (with a more comedic vibe) who are looking for something fun and entertaining.

Thank you to Simon & Schuster Canada for sending me an Advance Copy for review!

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

Adi Tantimedh writes the story of Ravi Chandra Singh, a failed religious scholar and high school teacher who becomes a private investigator out of the blue. This Indian P.I. isn't like any other (who is, right?). People see something special in his way of thinking and acting.

He can also see various Gods that have been thoroughly modernized to our time and age.

The book contains four stories (they can basically be seen as episodes of a TV show). In fact, it doesn't hide the fact that the book was written as a screenplay. A lot of plot and character development were probably left out so that the soon-to-be TV adaptation fixes it thanks to cinematic editing and actor performances.

Her Nightly Embrace is an episodic action adventure crime-solving novel. Its identity doesn't go beyond the never-before-seen, but does bring some Indian culture into the spotlight. Ravi's adventures are a lot more comedic and filled with swearing than other Private Investigation based books shows, like Scandal.

On a side note, I also found it funny that Idris Elba is co-producing the currently in development TV show based on Adi Tantimedh's novel. The show Luther popped into my mind for several events that occur throughout the novel.

Thank you to Simon & Schuster Canada for sending me an Advance Copy for review!

P.S. Full review to come soon

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <http://bookidote.wordpress.com>

Donna Davis says

I was invited to read and review this title by Net Galley and Atria Books. I thank them for the opportunity. The first two chapters showed signs of promise, but in the end, this book is poorly written and for most, it will also be offensive. I can't recommend this title. That said, it's about to become a television program, so perhaps you will enjoy it more than I do. But I have to call them as I see them, and if they give this writer a host of awards, I will still say this book is worth one star and nothing else.

Ravi Singh is our protagonist. He has dropped out of a program of religious studies, to his father's profound disappointment, and become a detective. He had something of a breakdown, and under stress he sees Hindu Gods that no one else can see. An added pressure is financial; he has bills to pay, and his mother has racked up some gambling debts for which she may be harmed if not paid soon. I warmed to the unlikely loan shark, and I thought this was going to be a fun read. And if it had been well written, it would have been.

In other reviews, I have occasionally noted the way in which a tired, overused plot device may become brand new and almost magical in the hands of a capable writer. This one works the other way around. It's a unique, if somewhat gimmicky idea, but the author will have to develop a vocabulary before I can enjoy his work.

Profanity has never been a hot button for me. I've been known to toss the "f" word into my own reviews when feeling particularly warmly. Unfortunately, Tantimedh uses the word the way I've heard teenagers do

it; when someone is too lazy to consider what word might be interesting and hasn't been overused yet, the "f" word can become noun, verb, adjective, and interjection. Everything, everything, everything in this book is said, by either narrator or in dialogue, to be "fucked up". By the 40% mark I was so distracted, and it was so obvious that I wasn't going to engage with the text as I had hoped, that I started keeping track to see whether my perception was accurate. Was I being snarky, or was that word—and a few other similar ones, especially the mother-f word—all over the place? And as I started highlighting, I was amazed to find it on almost every page. Some pages were miraculously free of it, but then there'd be another page where I found it twice, or thrice. At this point I gave myself permission to skip to 80% and see whether something wonderful would happen at the end to redeem this thing. It's been known to happen; just not here.

I've only panned a title I was invited to review once before, and that was because of ugly racist references throughout the text. I'm generally a generous reviewer. But suddenly I felt as if I were before a class of eighth graders once more, explaining that not only will profanity offend some readers, but when it's overused, it's often because the writer doesn't want to do the work to find a more specific or eloquent term.

Whether the issue is due to a translation issue—I didn't check to see if this was published in something other than English originally—or laziness, or a lack of facility as a writer is moot. The end result is the same. This is bilge. Save your money.

Note: I posted this widely, knowing full well that I had never panned an Atria title before and had no idea what this might do to my ability to get galleys from them or for that matter, from Simon and Schuster and their other imprints, in the future. Humble blogger versus great big publishing house; daunting. But I figured the one perk of unpaid reviewing is independence and its uncompromising integrity. I want you to know I got a wry note from a S&S rep in my email a couple of hours after I posted, and that same evening, I was approved for another Atria DRC. Great folks!

Babs says

Received in a Goodreads Giveaway.

What a slog this was! Seemed an interesting premise, a private detective who really doesn't seem the type, muddling through cases and family crises all whilst seeing judgemental Hindu gods.

Alas, really basic writing and paper thin characters really let the intriguing premise down. Almost seems slapdash writing, as one case lurches into another. The poor characterisation renders this mystical effort truly unconvincing. Probably more depth in a LinkedIn bio.

As you can tell by the cover this new book series will also be a tv show (with Dr. Suresh!!!!) and it really feels like they just ripped the dialogue from the teleplay and cobbled it into an episodic novel.

Found it pretty tough to get through, and nearly gave up where an avid reader of yuri manga is described as a fujoshi.....

Ming says

DNF. I read about 100 pages and stopped. The writing is capable but the story is flat in tone. I felt it was "light" and uninteresting and too gimmicky. I did like the diverse mix of characters who are multi-racial

(though a few boring tropes are present).

♥Marie Gentilcore says

This was a good but quirky read. It is the story of a private detective, Ravi Chandra Singh, who happens to see Hindu gods. Ravi is an entertaining character and there are a number of supporting characters who are also written well. I read somewhere that this will be adapted for a television series and I can see that being successful. I probably won't continue on with the book series but I'll check out the tv series if I can.

Heather says

I loved this story of a private eye handling high profile cases while the Hindu gods watch him and text on their phones. There are several cases discussed here and they were well done. I want to read more in this series to see what happens with the gods.

BUT....

The first case in the book is super problematic. It only covers maybe the first 1/3 of the book so discussing it isn't going to spoil the whole thing but here's your warning.

A politician comes to the agency because he says that his dead girlfriend is having sex with him at night. It turns out that the politician takes a lot of sleeping pills at night so he isn't fully aware of what is going on. His former girlfriend was a transwoman and he didn't know. She was mid-transition when she got sick and then met him. Instead of talking to him about, you know, her life or anything, she would have her twin sister switch places with her at night. Her sister had sex with him. Then the girlfriend died of her illness and the sister kept sneaking into the house and having sex with the drugged guy because she was a sex addict.

(Go ahead and pick all the nonsense out of that paragraph at your leisure.)

Ok, so no matter how you dress that up, that's a rape case. But, the word rape is never uttered. I think the closest they get is saying assault. I believe you are meant to feel bad for the woman who might get prosecuted if the politician decides to go public. I didn't.

But then wait for it.....

The woman who should be in jail for rape not only starts dating the main character but she gets a job in the agency.

via GIPHY

I kept listening in hope that something was going to happen to get them to all see that this was wrong. They don't. The rest of the book is so much better than this. This story could easily have been gotten rid of and not affect the rest of the book. I would love to think that when they adapt this for TV that they will live this case

out but these things never work out the way I'd like. This review was originally posted on Based On A True Story

Patty says

**** 4.5 stars ****

Review to come!

Elizabeth Fensin says

A schoolteacher joins a strange private investigations firm, and things get steadily weirder as one case leads to another. Bizarre and entertaining but not nearly as supernatural as the book blurb leads one to believe.

Cardyn Brooks says

Her Nightly Embrace could just as accurately have been called Golden Sentinels: The Ravi Case Files. It's a grab bag of diverse characters with an assortment of neuroses and methods of not/coping and self-medicating. Some Equalizer, Punisher, amoral versions of Judy Smith-like fixers, and otherworldly acid trippiness (which may or may not be real) make HNE a fun read as a satirical scrutiny of modern society in general, and for the privileged in particular. Shadowy elements in institutions and psyches abound.

Book of Secrets says

3.5 Stars → I heard a lot of buzz about this book, so I decided to give it a listen on audio. HER NIGHTLY EMBRACE is the first in a series that follows the investigations of Ravi Chandra Singh, P.I.

I enjoyed Ravi's character. He's smart, witty, flawed, and conflicted. He can also see Hindu Gods; they even tweet about him to each other. Ravi was once a religious scholar, but left his studies to become a teacher, a career that didn't last long. Eventually he landed a job with an exclusive detective agency called Golden Sentinels.

This book is set up differently than I expected. Instead of having one central plot, the book is a collection of stories covering a different case Golden Sentinels is investigating. I think it worked pretty well. I do wish the secondary characters had been fleshed out a little more, which was probably harder to do jumping from story to story.

One note of caution: there is a lot of foul language in this book. A LOT! After a while it became jarring and distracting. Swearing is fine when it's called for, but this was over the top for me.

As the blurb says, this book is "currently in development as a TV series set to star Sendhil Ramamurthy," so it makes sense that he would narrate the audiobook! Loved his performance as Ravi, and he also did

brilliantly with the other characters' accents and mannerisms. I will definitely keep an eye out for HER NIGHTLY EMBRACE to come to the small screen.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this audiobook from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Stargazer says

DNF. slogged through 100 pages but just could not get into it, maybe it will translate better onto screen. I apologise if anyone reads my reviews for overuse of the word 'flat' to describe many a book I've read lately, but it's the most accurate description I can find both of the story and how it left me feeling - this book being added to a growing list.

Purple Country Girl (Sandy) says

I received a copy of Her Nightly Embrace from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

3.5

Her Nightly Embrace is the first in a series featuring a somewhat reluctant PI named Ravi Chandra Singh. Formerly a religious studies professor, Ravi lost his job after trying to help a student who was having an affair with another professor. Out of desperation to not only pay his own bills but to pay off his mother's gambling debts and to pay for his sister's wedding, Ravi takes a job with the Golden Sentinels, a private investigation agency which caters to an elite clientele. The agency is populated by a group of outcasts from ex-cops to a disgraced PR agent to a hacker.

The book is broken into four parts, each covering a different case. The title refers to the first investigation during which Ravi is assigned a bizarre case. A rising star in the Tory party and possibly the next Prime Minister, has come to Golden Sentinels claiming that his dead girlfriend is visiting him at night and having sex with him. Admittedly, the man takes several medications to help him sleep but he claims he's not hallucinating or dreaming this wild story up. Is it the meds or is someone trying to mess with his head? It's Ravi's job to find out.

I found the first story to be over the top and not very believable. The second story, War of the Sock Puppets, is more interesting. The agency is hired to find out who is harassing a writer and television host. She is under vicious attacks from internet trolls who not only attack her character but also threaten to kill her. Someone even leaked her home address online which led to her having to move. The client believes someone is egging the trolls on and pulling the strings and she hires Golden Sentinels to find the head troll.

In the Hideaway Bride, the third case, the owner of a timber company has hired the firm to locate his daughter who has run away, possibly due to the prospect of an arranged marriage. It's during this case that my interest was truly piqued. It is revealed that there is some mystery about the origins of the agency and its ties to things much larger than itself. The case isn't groundbreaking or exciting but it's entertaining. It's the behind the scenes of the agency that I wanted to know more about, however, not the runaway bride to be. Ravi is thrown when he learns the truth.

The Leaky Banker, the fourth and final case, is the most intriguing and exciting one. An investment banker comes to Golden Sentinels for help because her life is in danger and she needs their protection. It's hard for the agency to protect her, however, because she is not telling them everything. They hide her in their safe house as they begin their investigation into the practices at her bank. Ravi is still uncomfortable with what he has learned about the Golden Sentinels but he motors on. During the case, he runs into an old acquaintance and lover who causes all sorts of trouble and leaves Ravi confused, shocked and a bit hurt.

Her Nightly Embrace has ups and downs. I really didn't fully get into it until the third and fourth cases when the agency's connections started to become clear and when some of the other characters really started to be fleshed out. The last case is really the best of the lot and, until I read that one, I wasn't sure I'd be interested in reading more in the series.

My main issues with the book are the language and the forced quirkiness. I have no problem with bad language in the books I read. In this case, however, it is overused. It's like a bunch of kids just learning swear words and using them at every single opportunity. I found it ridiculous, really. Ravi having visions of Hindu Gods when he is super stressed struck me as trying too hard to make the main character quirky. It's not a "natural" quirk, it just feels forced. Luckily, Ravi is a very likeable character who is easy to root for so I tried to ignore his visions.

The book blurb mentions the book is in development to become a television series with the wonderful Sendhil Ramamurthy set to play Ravi. I think, once some things are cleaned up a bit and other things are ironed out, it would make an entertaining television show. I would definitely tune in. Though I had some issues with Her Nightly Embrace, I would probably read more in the series.
