



R.I.P

Mukul Deva

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R.I.P. The Resurgent Indian Patriots. Self- appointed guardians of a nation seething with anger at the endless scams and scandals rocking its very foundation. Vigilantes who vow to stop corrupt politicians and colluding civil servants. Even if it means killing them.

Colonel Krishna Athawale and his team of Special Forces officers rally to protect the country from the enemy within. They call themselves the K-Team. And no one is safe from their deadly intent.

Hellbent on stopping them is Raghav Bhagat, rogue para commando, gun for hire and Krishnas bete noir.

Caught in the crossfire is Vinod Bedi, Special Director CBI. Reena Bhagat, a glamorous news anchor, embittered by her husbands betrayal. And two young boys, Sachin and Azaan, torn apart by the loss of a parent.

It doesnt get bigger.

R.I.P Details

Date : Published 2012 by Westland Ltd.

ISBN :

Author : Mukul Deva

Format : Paperback 286 pages

Genre : Fiction

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From Reader Review R.I.P for online ebook

Deepak says

Just finished reading a fast paced thriller by Mukul Deva titled 'RIP – Resurgent Indian Patriots'. Had never read any of Mukul Deva's earlier books, and he has written eleven so far, and this is the ninth. Thanks to Blogadda, I got this book to be reviewed, and had a great time reading it.

Mukul Deva has an army background. His profile on his site states 'Completing his education from La Martiniere College, Lucknow, the National Defence Academy, Pune, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, Mukul was commissioned in the SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY of the Indian Army in 1981. An eventful Army tenure, which included a decade of operational service in India and overseas, ended in an equally remarkable transition when Mukul turned his attention to the corporate battlefield.

The result was MSD SECURITY PVT LTD which, in the ensuing decade, grew into a dynamic, professionally managed company.

Another twist in the tale followed when Mukul turned to his first love - writing. The result was a series of books spanning genres as multi-faceted as his personality.'

I mention this because his writing has that crispness of the the military induced discipline. And he does seem uncomfortable writing about romantic relationships. Actually it would have been much better if he had not devoted as many pages as he has to the romantic interludes in his book. It takes away some of the hard hitting moments.

The book is very contemporary and talks about the present state our country is in. There are also references to present political leaders though slantingly as also the movement led by Anna Hazare. This is what forms the core of the book wherein a group formed by ex paratroopers take on the mantle of saviours and decide to wipe out the corrupt leaders. It makes for very interesting reading and rarely do you feel you are reading fiction. It feels like reading a current news magazine! One also hopes all that one reading is true!

There are times while reading I felt as if I was watching a commercial Hindi movie. This is possibly due to his Indian roots, though he has been touted as India's answer to Ludlum. The pace slackens when he indulges in sentimental family scenes. It is a 286 pages book filled with plenty of thrills and does not let you keep it down.

This excerpt will give you an idea of how exciting the book can be 'Unwittingly he checked his watch. Twenty past midnight. It was almost as though his watch was on speed. Wasn't that always the case when on a mission?

Within the next twenty-three hours and forty minutes one of his targets would be dead. Possibly less. The RIP message had said within twenty-four hours... hadn't it?

Raghav re-opened the mail and read the RIP threat again.

RIP! Nice name. Raghav's lips twisted into a bemused smile. Very appropriate... considering they were trying to make a lot of people rest in peace. The ones whom they'd killed at least. The ones still alive, but in their gun sights, were certainly not getting any peace. He was unable to stop the laugh. Whoever had thought it up, definitely had a sense of humour. Wacky? So army! Yeah, the acronym was very army... like the damn code words and nicknames they used to select. Unwittingly memory swept him back... back to the day he'd joined his unit.'

A definitely must read!

Athul says

The following is the overview of the book which prompted me to read this book.

“R.I.P. The Resurgent Indian Patriots. Self appointed guardians of a nation seething with anger at the endless scams and scandals rocking its very foundation. Vigilantes who vow to stop corrupt politicians and colluding civil servants. Even if it means killing them. Colonel Krishna Athawale and his team of Special Forces officers rally to protect the country from the enemy within. They call themselves the K-Team. And no one is safe from their deadly intent. Hellbent on stopping them is Raghav Bhagat, rogue para commando, gun for hire and Krishna's bête noir. Caught in the crossfire is Vinod Bedi, Special Director CBI. Reena Bhagat, a glamorous news anchor, embittered by her husband's betrayal. And two young boys, Sachin and Azaan, torn apart by the loss of a parent. It doesn't get bigger.”

Sounds like a promise plot promise doesn't it? Sounds like the story is something which will rise above the breaking headlines sort of overview doesn't it?

Unfortunately it doesn't.

Politicians, voluntarily retired army officers, CBI officers all seem to favor 'arsehole' NOT 'asshole' as their favored choice of expletive. The book opens with brief acknowledgement and an author's note. The latter sermonizes and indicates the germination of the idea behind the story. I blame my modest id's inflated sense of good taste in movies and books to have wanted to move from the black screen to the story. But...

I am more than well aware of the effort which goes behind writing a novel. Not a novella, not a novelette. But a novel. It is hard work. And I would have marveled the book and probably cherished it. IF... If it had been the debut novel. I would have ignored the shoddy editing in places, I would have ignored the manifesto, propaganda styled, pro – Anna Hazare, anti – ruling party voice of the author and concentrated at the “story”. But apparently, the author has 5 best sellers against his name. The book doesn't delve into the “story” till about 120 odd pages (the book is 286 pages long). In movie terms, this book for me is like... Take somebody who is completely unaware of Ram Gopal Verma's body of work, and the first movie he/she is made to watch from the director's movies is 'Ram Gopal Verma ki Aag'. 'RIP' is my 'Ram Gopal Verma Ki Aag.' The following is my assumption, based on my limited understanding of the author's style of writing on the sample size of 1, (this book). I can see why the author's previous works have been best sellers. And I can firmly say that this one will too be described as a best seller, if it already isn't. The proclamation has got nothing to do with the morbidly grotesque PR job which the cover boasts of, like a poorly spelled tattoo in Sanskrit. The language is simple, the characters are one dimensional, the clichés and stereotypes are plenty on offer, the cussing is limited and unimaginative. The plot promises 'A Wednesday' and one can optimistically view the story as being just that. The problem I had with the book is that the execution was more Rohit Shetty's 'Golmaal' series. And we all know why the latter's movies are considered blockbusters. They appeal to the lowest common denominator. The LCDs I refer to here are people who like to write 'reading' under the heading of hobbies in their resume.

I am still of the firm belief that there are very few Indian authors who can write good thrillers set in India with Indian characters. This book made me sorely miss Juggi Bhasin and his stellar writing. If you are looking for a good thriller, then give RIP a miss like you would ignore playing in the sewers during the monsoons and grab a copy of Juggi Bhasin's 'The Terrorist'.

Sparsh says

"Kuch bhi" is the word.

Subramanyam K.V. says

When Anna Hazare first picked up the cudgels and tried to put the government in dock over corruption and Janlokal we were all there with him, weren't we ? Most of us, the young men and women of this country are seen seething in anger when scam after scam is exposed and the governance goes into a tail spin. Yet, not much happens, and we see the governments come up with some tactics or the other and we see the agitations lose steam. We lose the focus as something comes up in the middle and we also have our own work and life demands.

While most of us let this anger fizzle out, some people take it to the next level. Mukul Deva, an army man who has served the the nation for 15 years took a different route to keep fight against the corruption alive. "RIP" his latest work, is a result of his anger, anguish and frustration at the falling standards of governance and the rampant corruption plaguing the soul of the nation.

"RIP" in this book is the not the "Rest in Peace" RIP we know, it stands for "Resurgent Indian Patriots". The name 6 ex-army officers who rededicate themselves to the service of the nation give to themselves. This group pledges to weed out the corrupt and create a chill in the spines of the ruling elite of the country.

Krishna, Kevin, Kashif, Karan, Kamlesh and Kulwant, or the K-Team as they are fondly called manage to hit the headlines with their initial successes. Will the K-Team achieve the target they put for themselves, will they make the political class bend and more importantly will they prove to be a match for the wily Home Minister Karunakaran and his tricks? Can CBI and its duty loving director Vinod Bedi reach and save their masters in time ? You ought to read the book to get the answers.

Coming to the style of the book, it is an easy read one might finish it in 3-4 hours of at a stretch reading. The author has taken enough care to ensure that the interest of the reader is sustained and the suspense maintained. The conversational style of writing and use of day to day English are the icing on the cake.

In the author's note Mukul Deva says "This book was out of extreme sense of anger and shame. Anger at the appalling, naked greed so shamelessly displayed by the Indian political class. And shame that they happen to be fellow Indians" . After reading the book, I felt how true. For, as it comes with most of the works of fiction, this book too has a disclaimer which says that all the characters in the book are fictional and any resemblance with the real life characters is purely a coincidence. However, I doubt this for the scams mentioned and the names and the situations almost give away the identity of the people the author is referring to. It indeed seemed like a bold attempt to me.

Coming to the stuff I thought could have been improved in the book, the k-team sometimes seemed like silver screen hero's. How can someone pull off breathtaking feats and still come out unscathed. The other bigger complaint is regarding the fate of some of the characters in the book , can you accept violence and killing of the politicians of India as a solution to the problems of India? The very thought of killing them and creating a political vacuum seemed dangerous to me. What if some innocent public are also killed in the process? We have been the land that loved debate and fair treatment of everyone aren't we ? But then, I am

again divided in opinion , for I want India to change but I abhor violence. If change can happen in the country without things that were mentioned in RIP I would be the happiest.

Do read it, I am sure you would like the 2-3 hours you spend on it.

I definitely thank blogadda for introducing me to this book.

Pallavi Kamat says

Mukul Deva's latest thriller comes at a time when the nation is up against the series of scams which have rocked us and the youth is disillusioned with the unabated corruption in almost all spheres of life.

Though the book is a work of fiction and the author has categorically mentioned that all references in the book have been fictitiously used, one can easily relate to a number of characters and/or events which the book takes us through.

The self-appointed guardians (who are all ex-para commandos), who form the protagonists, call themselves the K-Team, primarily because all their names start with K. So, we have Colonel Krishna Athawale, Major Karan Singh, Major Kevin David, Major Kashif Nadeem, Major Kamlesh Saikia and Major Kulwant Singh Bajwa who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of cleansing the system. Their modus operandi is to target and kill some of the corrupt ministers, judges, arms dealers, etc. They hope this will wake up the Government into taking some immediate and strong action benefiting the country as a result.

However, there are two sets of teams trying to stop the K-Team from achieving its mission. One is the official team led by Vinod Bedi, Special Director CBI and Nandakumar his deputy while the other is the unofficial team led by Raghav Bhagat, rogue para commando, who has been hired by the Home Minister to take down the K-Team. Needless to say, the Home Minister is equally involved and wanting to protect himself as much as the others.

Involved in this crossfire are some civilians such as Athawale's young son Sachin (his wife Pooja has died under unforeseen circumstances) and Reena Bhagat (Raghav's estranged wife) and their son Azaan.

The book details the killing of each of the targets in precise fashion and one can almost visualize the events as they unfold. Not wanting to reveal too much and spoil the surprise, the book covers events such as the IC-814 hijacking, the Bofors and 2G scams and the shoot-out of a lady in a bar. The characters mentioned in the book also appear quite familiar to the political scenario today including Madam, who runs the nation, and her son, who is being groomed to take over; ministers involved in land grab scams and arms dealers wanting to make a quick buck at the cost of the nation's security.

The book has a Rang De Basanti like feel to it where, citizens frustrated with the malaise in the system, feel quite helpless and adopt unethical means to cleanse it.

The entire act from targeting a person to tracking his every move to actually standing in front of him and killing him without even his bodyguards getting to know anything is very well-written. The relationship scenes between Athawale and Reena, Athawale and his son, Athawale and other members of the K-Team and Athawale and his sister are also well drawn out.

My only point of irritation was the usage of profane language. Other than giving the book a bit of a casual approach, it also came across as being written only for the sake of it being there and not really forming a part of the story.

This review first appeared on my blog www.pallosworld.blogspot.com

Swarnali Das says

Starting with the cover, the book has a very interesting and apt cover with a soldier carrying a gun, a syringe at the top and a bullet replacing the "I" in R.I.P. The significance of all three can be understood as the reader finishes the very first chapter.

The main plot concerns a group of six ex-army men who call themselves the K- Team pledge to avenge the wrong that the corrupt politicians have been doing to the nation and its people since its very independence. Why are they called the K-Team? Simply because all these six men have their names starting with a K - Krishna Athawale, Kevin David, Kulwant Singh Bajwa, Karan Singh, Kashif Nadeem and Kamlesh Saikia. Corruption, nepotism, favoritism and the "rape" of the nation that has been happening for over 60 years have reached the ebb as these R.I.P- Resurgent Indian Patriots decide that it is high time somebody made an effort at changing the prevailing conditions. A very utopic idea if you ask me but the book does manage to provide the readers with a momentary wish fulfillment at a time when the real scenario of the nation is exactly the same as depicted in the book. What I found very surprising is how the book managed not to create any political ruckus despite the fact that the author uses names and characters directly from contemporary politics. Characters like Hazarika, Sheila Kaul and her son Ranvijay, D.M. Karunakaran and Lalit Yadav are completely based on current social-political leaders like Anna Hazare, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, Karunanidhi and Lalu Prasad Yadav respectively. Incidents like the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC 814 (which actually took place in December 1999) and the Ajmal Kasab case (from the 26/11 terrorist attack) are entirely taken from history (the author however, takes the literary freedom to change the time frames of the two incidents).

The book is a complete page turner as the very first chapter has three quick immaculately planned murders taking place one after another, taking the reader into its grip for the rest of the 298 pages. The language used in the book is extremely simple with very few ornate words used. I loved the description that the author uses at certain points to describe the particular type of weapon and chemical used for the operation. The effects of the succinylcholine, the C-18 hand grenade and its functions are explained briefly to help the reader understand the mechanism and yet not losing track of the main plot by excessive detailing. The occasional flashes from the past are nicely blended into the stories which help in understanding the characters better. Apart from the occasional repetitive phrases and a few grammatical and typographical errors, the book is a pleasant and quick read.

The book does extremely well for a military thriller (a genre completely new to me) and I'm planning to read the other books he has written. Grab a copy or borrow it from a friend, if you love thrillers and action, this book won't disappoint you.

Ankita says

See other reviews @ Booklok Coffee

Book cover is dominated by the shades of fire, anger, blood and a soldier silhouette gazing the bright golden sun peeking out of the dark clouds. This explosive cover got everything that will boil your blood and The detailing with the syringe and the bullet is commendable. "Mukul Deva" written in RED is textured giving the illusion of blood smear. It's the brief of the story, very appropriate and I loved it.

The book was born out of extreme sense of anger and shame. Anger at the appalling, naked greed so shamelessly displayed by the Indian political class. And shame that they happen to be fellow-Indians.--
Author's Note

Well R.I.P stands for The Resurgent Indian Patriots but is also an innuendo to Rest in peace (My perception). I usually start the story without reading the Disclaimer/author's note and read it after am done with the story, It's more fun that way so would suggest to do that specially with this one. (ALERT) Or you'll miss loads of laughs. The concept of the story is wicked. Although it is a complete work of fiction but the connection between fiction and reality is astonishing, down right blunt and Hilarious in many ways. This heart pumping thriller is first and foremost about the administration of the long-overdue justice, Right!!

Mukul Deva does a nice job of capturing the setting and providing an authentic feel and voice to his characters.

R.I.P is a group of ex-commandos, hardcore patriots having the same believes and motive of freeing India from the greedy clutches of the Corrupt Leaders who are draining Indian trasure to fill their own pockets. These RIP guardians goes by the name K-team (K being the initial of every member) Retired major Kevin David, Kashif, Kamlesh, Karan and Kulwant, If you look closely you'll find that the team members are from every caste which is a nice touch from Author boosting the UNITY of RELIGION in such a bold and blatant mission.

"The safety, honour and welfare of your country comes first, always and every time...
The safety, honour and welfare of the men you command comes next, Always and every time."

The leader of the K-team is Colonel Krishna Athawale, a daredevil ex-paratrooper, strong built, honest, widower and a victim of fate. He hopes to see a day when all Indians will have a roof on their head, proper meal to fill their bellies and the right to live with dignity and security. And to achieve that he has taken a huge risk.

"In the space of a heartbeat, the man within died and the warrior came alive"

The fortifying distress and zeal to protect India from the enemy within made the K-team choose the route of assassinating the corrupt politicians and bureaucrats, And they do that in open, After giving fair warning. And things got more interesting as one of the dishonest rough ex-para commando Raghav Bhagat joined the blood-shedding party for the opposite team. One of the fair special director of CBI is caught in this deadly web trying to find the start and the end.

The K-team actions and the mentioned Hazaria's hunger-strike in the book gives the feel of Revolutionist and the Gandhians movement during freedom struggle.

In addition to the whole action pack, A sweet romance is also kindling between a widower and a divorcee with an obvious love triangle. I liked how Author has put up a point of giving freedom to his characters to move on with their lives and choose their happiness and life partner no matter the age, and it's beautiful how the kids are coping up despite of pain of losing a parent.

I had couple of issues while approaching the climax, Krishna remained unaware about his tail, very poor quality for someone who is leading such a risky mission and on the scene of crossfireing by the end how is it possible that all three major forgot about... (I am not saying anything). It would have been better if Author have approached it differently then I would have given a 'Starbucks Coffee cup' :(.

It's fast-paced and a true page-turner lucid writing, there's a gravity and social conscience that pervades the story and adds a weight to the narrative. There is depth here, more than I expected. I really liked that writing style wasn't too fancy, sometimes in order to choose fancy words authors tends to break the flow of reading and mess up the story theme.

This one engaged me in a sense that no matter how hard I try to keep it all serious while reading, I was helpless but to exclaim "OH Bring it on baby!" "BOOM"... "Yeah, That's the way".

All in all a well-written, emotionally-charged thriller certainly delivered the right message to the patriots, politicians and citizens of this nation =D. Overall, a satisfying read that held my attention throughout.

Jaideep Khanduja says

Book Review: RIP by Mukul Deva: An Exhilarating And Engrossing Thriller

<http://pebbleinthestillwaters.blogspot...>

Book Review: RIP by Mukul Deva: An Exhilarating And Engrossing Thriller

The tag line of website of Mukul Deva says - If you can imagine it - you can achieve it. RIP by Mukul Deva was released in December 2012. Before writing about this engrossing thriller , it is quite important to know about this super hit author - Mukul Deva, who besides being expert in this trait, is also well known as a Mentor, Coach, Speaker, Entrepreneur, and a great human being. Almost all leading newspapers and publishing house admire his work published so far. Business World says - The God of all things... it's tough describing Mukul Deva. The Statesman - Deva has a Nostradamus touch. And that is in fact true as he has a tremendous power of foreseeing the things happening in future. In his books Lashkar (Persian word - meaning military camp or army) published in the year 2008 and Salim Must Die published in 2009, Mukul Deva projected a global terrorist resembling Osama and and about U.S. troops locating him in a village in Pakistan.

Indian Express narrates Mukul Deva as a man with a license to thrill and the first Indian writer expert in writing military thrillers. The same has been written about him in The Hindu. The Business Standard designates him as a literary storm trooper. Well with 5 super hit books in 5 consecutive years - demands more to say about Mukul Deva.

R.I.P. is a story about patriotism. It talks about selfishness versus selfless goals. It talks about Corruption at a

large scale and up to the highest level in India. It talks about the doers who dare to die while fighting against corruption rather than accepting it and keep cribbing about it or becoming a prey of political mafia. It talks about almost real situation in India where people elect their leaders for the growth of country and the moment they get elected, their personal growth becomes prime for them and that too at any cost and by getting down to any level. RIP indicates that the biggest crime is to dodge the people who elect a leader and bring him to power. There is only one punishment for corrupt politicians who mold country and administrative powers just for their personal, selfish motives; and that is nothing less than DEATH.

R.I.P. stands for The Resurgent Indian Patriots. Some people can still stand tall against all the odds in life and have guts to fight against corruption. They attain the power to fight against all kind of wrong powers and ultimately reach to their goals without thinking twice about their own life. Out of such people there is a group of few Indian Army personnel who left the job and started fighting against termite that is eating the nation, called corruption. This group is called K-Team led by Colonel Krishna Athawale, and comprises of brave-hearts like Karan, Sanjive, Kulwant and few more. All have the same mission of getting this country Corruption Free.

Just reverse of Colonel Krishna Athawale is Raghav Bhagat who is as corrupt as the leaders of this country though he is also from army. Home Minister hires Raghav Bhagat to kill K-Team so as to survive and save his corrupt face. Raghav's ex-wife Reena is as strong a character as Colonel Athawale and she divorced Raghav when she found him enjoying with another lady in a compromising position, after she cut short her trip and reached home unalarming. Reena is a news anchor with NDTV living with her son Azaan.

Col Athawale lost his wife during a fight against terrorists who were trying to hijack a plane in which she was an air hostess. During this combat Col's wife dies and that becomes a reason for him to leave army. Colonel Athawale lives with his son Sachin and both miss the most precious person in their life who left them all of a sudden. Sachin and Azaan are in the same school and class and that becomes a common link between Col. and Reena who finally marry.

There is CBI special Director Vinod Bedi who is tired of serving corrupt ministers but is helpless having no other choice. Story is highly engrossing keeping you asking all the time right since you start first page - what next?.

The Prime Minister is just a toy in the hands of Ruling Party's President. Her son is being expected to be the next Prime Minister of the country. Colonel and team tried to warn corrupt ministry by killing three influential political figures who were sunk in corruption till neck. But Home Minister refuses to pay any heed to the demand of K-Team of resignation of all corrupt ministers, bringing back all black money for the welfare of country.

A long wild goose chase keeps happening among Trio teams of Vinod Bedi, Raghav Bhagat and Colonel Athawale. Three more killings of high level officials and ministers, by K-Team, as a stern indication to corrupt government makes no serious impact except that price money for Bhagat is doubled by Home Minister on killing K-Team and increasing task force of CBI special Director for chasing and finding K-Team. But nothing helps against the selfless motive of K-Team and finally government gets defeated. Cells in Tihar Jail become short when it starts filling corrupt ministers and there is no space left for normal criminals.

Overall R.I.P. by Mukul Deva is an intensely woven engrossing thriller.

Amit Gupta says

R.I.P. The Resurgent Indian Patriots. Self appointed guardians of a nation seething with anger at the endless scams and scandals rocking its very foundation. Vigilantes who vow to stop corrupt politicians and colluding civil servants. Even if it means killing them. Colonel Krishna Athawale and his team of Special Forces officers rally to protect the country from the enemy within. They call themselves the K-Team. Team is a self appointed guardian of nation and is fed up of current political structure, corruption and scenario of the country. They want Jan Lokpal bill to be passed and a lot of other demands which they keep in front of GOI and want them act on them immediately. And no one is safe from their deadly intent which is illustrated by three murders committed in three days with prior hints given about the targets.

Hellbent on stopping the K-team is Raghav Bhagat, rogue para commando, gun for hire and Krishna's bête noir. Caught in the crossfire is Vinod Bedi, Special Director CBI. Reena Bhagat, a glamorous news anchor, embittered by her husband's betrayal. And two young boys, Sachin and Azaan, torn apart by the loss of a parent. Playing across various plot lines and back stories, the narrative unfolds briskly and gives you various high points which stays with you.

The reason for the whole insurgency is something with which we can all relate to - corruption portrayed by the wily politicians and the influence of such douche bags on the Indian society and economy. The author cleverly mixes the fact and the fiction with almost all the characters pulled out directly from the Indian army and political milieu with names changed, of course. You are always second guessing who is who in the middle of some strong ideas and action against the wrong doers.

The personal turmoil the people involved in defense might face has been portrayed very delicately. The acute qualities they develop, the amazing sensory abilities they possess is just aptly described. The angst of losing a beloved, the anxiety of a bad relationship, the joy of finding new love, the blind trust shared between the team, the connection between true friends, the stress even kids go through is all excellently rendered by the author.

But the narrative slows down when the writer concentrates too much on brewing romance between the two lead protagonists which takes away from the fast pace of the thriller. There is also a lack of closure on lot of the characters in the climax and epilogue seems poorly etched out with specific details about the K-Team deliberately edited out in the hope of a sequel to the book.

So, that's 3.5/5 for Mukul Deva's 'R.I.P'. Barring a few sentimental detours, it is a hard hitting thriller which is fast paced and keep you turning pages as you go along. It is a crime thriller with comes with a solid ideology with it. Worth your time and money!

Sandeep Sharma says

This is a kind of book that grabs your attention, every time you try to put it down. This book is like an action movie with all the flavors of good and powerful writing. It takes time to pitch up with the pace that the author is having for his write up but once you are in the arena, you'll never lose the control and will not put the book back till you get to the climax.

The only drawback was the introduction of so many characters within first few pages of the story otherwise, the book is a complete action thriller.

Manoj Sharma says

A good time pass.. not a great thriller but still it keeps tightened to the book till you finish it... possibly he @mukuldeva could have used some other politicians rather using the real one with name change...

Vikas Singh says

Originally reviewed at --> <http://vps3361.blogspot.in/2013/02/bo...>

Background:

This novel is my first read among any of Mukul Deva's so many acclaimed ones out in the market. And now I know for sure why he is sometimes referred to as India's first military action thriller storyteller. As the back cover of the novel proclaims --

R.I.P. The Resurgent Indian Patriots. Self appointed guardians of a nation seething with anger at the endless scams and scandals rocking its very foundation. Vigilantes who vow to stop corrupt politicians and colluding civil servants. Even if it means killing them.

Characters:

The lead characters, i.e., Col. Krishna Athawale, Captain Raghav Bhagat, and Reena Bhagat are truly the essence of storytelling here.

Rest of the characters of the K-team, as they are called (since the names of all the vigilante's of RIP group start with K) and CBI director Vinod Bedi, fit in perfectly with every scene progressing forward but have been given very less face value except maybe for Karan.

Not all characters are well-established but such ain't missed as the story has its own pace to follow.

Story:

In author's own words: "*Colonel Krishna Athawale and his team of Special Forces officers rally to protect the country from the enemy within. They call themselves the K-Team. And no one is safe from their deadly intent. Hellbent on stopping them is Raghav Bhagat, rogue para commando, gun for hire and Krishna's bête noir. Caught in the crossfire is Vinod Bedi, Special Director CBI. Reena Bhagat, a glamorous news anchor, embittered by her husband's betrayal. And two young boys, Sachin and Azaan, torn apart by the loss of a parent. It doesn't get bigger.*"

This pretext is sufficient enough to guess the theme of this novel. Colonel Krishna is the head of K-team. An early-retired Special Forces officer, he takes on himself to remove the corruption out of political and

judiciary class thro' his special means (of taking them out of the equation of life), after the deaths of his wife and his brother-in-law owing to corruption issues remarkably prevalent in Indian political class. Captain Raghav Bhagat, a corrupt and rogue paratrooper, is handed over the responsibility outside system to capture and kill the assassins, the RIP. That said, it's like the right guys are going for right thing but by not-so-right means, and the wrong guy is wrongly given the duty to rightly pursue the right guys. Whole lot of interesting characterization from the start, isn't it!

RIP as it is, Resurgent Indian Patriots, acts as a vigilante group to give a hard lesson to the corrupt in power in order to bring a stop their nefarious scams and make them resign and bring all black money back to India. This all at a time when non-violent anti-corruption protests are being observed on a large scale under the leadership of a Gandhian, Hazarika.

The story starts directly with the action of killing vital aides of a few most corrupt politicians and bureaucrats. And the thrill starts when RIP sends out killing threats for its next set of victims (*amusingly, they aren't victims at all :P*). The planning and precision of taking out the next three targets in 3 days and their chase by Capt. Bhagat hired by corrupt home minister constitutes the most part of the first half of the novel. The second half picks up pace when the govt. still doesn't take any action against the scam-guilty and RIP plan to kill the most important target which will cause tremor in the heart of the nation, and CBI director Vinod Bedi (clueless most of the times about RIP) finally getting some clues in to who is behind it all.

Amidst all this, the human interest (in author's words only, when I met him at a recent Bangalore bookclub meet) is taken care of by the isosceles love triangle between the two lead males and Reena, ex-wife of Capt. Bhagat. The blossoming relationship between Krishna and Reena is quite romantically captured as well as the doubts in their minds about their future together speak out very well.

What happens at the end? Who wins and how? Does RIP get successful in making their intent visible to the political high command? To find out all these interesting twists, pick & start reading RIP asap.

Likes:

The measured writing Deva has provided just to make the storytelling quite believable and authentic too

Fast paced full-Indian military action adventure

The chase and hunt game between K-team, ex-Capt. Bhagat, and CBI is the actual page-turner

No unnecessary raunchiness put up in the story

Expectations/Dislikes:

Writing, I should say, is quite amusing and so many real life people and actual scams have been taken fictitiously used throughout the book, that at first it is hilarious **but** after sometime, it starts feeling like an overuse of it.

And that the whole setting has been fictitiously taken from the recently real life scenario in India sends a wave of lack of a bit of originality in the minds of readers.

Plus, it seems that the novel is written as a ready-made Bollywood story, just waiting to be launched as a movie, which should not be the case with a novel (*as I think*).

Well, nevertheless, the novel is author's treat to us, and I, as a matter of fact, really liked it.

Overall, 3.75 out of 5 stars

Rishi Prakash says

The author is a product of the National Defence Academy, Pune, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun. He was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry of the Indian Army in 1981 where he served as an officer until 1996 till he retired as a Major. The book clearly reflects his deep understanding on the subject which obviously comes from his rich background.

He knows how to keep the readers glued. The book is a page turner. The action is literally throughout the book. I won't go in the details of the book except the title! RIP here means Resurgent Indian Patriots. A team of 6 special forces ex-officers who come together to teach a lesson to the corrupt politicians.

The book definitely gives you a feel that a movie is in the making!

Pranav says

I regret the hours I spent reading this piece of shit.

The writing itself is not bad, maybe a bit tryhard at places, but the plot is absolutely terrible.

Ignoring the barely veiled political propaganda the novel shoves at you, the story is still very unoriginal and stale.

The author fails to write characters of any depth, with most of the vigilante crew present purely for religious diversity.

The story feels like it was written to be a cheap Bollywood thriller, with all the characters unbelievably connected to each other, and everything wrapping up in a happy ending.

There is no tension whatsoever in this so called thriller, despite the author's laughable attempts at inducing it.

Overall, read RIP only if you're the mood for a masturbatory wish fulfilling fantasy about ending corruption, with black and white caricatures to target your rage at.

Jiten Upadhyay says

[You can find detailed review at: <http://thinkerviews.com/books/english...>]

The Plot:

A retired para-commando and his team come to the conclusion that the political system in India needs a serious cleanup. It doesn't matter which party comes to the power, the wrongdoings with the public and the motherland are not stopped. It is the country and countrymen who suffer at the end. Corruption is so deep-rooted into the system that it exists in almost all the segments.

The story moves ahead on the theme of nationalism and patriotic feelings.

Colonel Krishna and his K-Team think that this is the best time to strike. As the public is awakening and fed up with the system, once people will see some serious actions they will come ahead with new clean and patriot leaders, who actually want to serve the country.

He runs a clean up drive and to perform it, it is necessary for corrupt prominent people from various areas of the society needs to go, how otherwise, there can be the place for new clean fellows?

And the opponents, are not just remain silent and ready to be hunted, of course. They will launch their counter attack and try to uncover the real identities of the people who are running this drive, to hunt them instead of being hunted.

Who will succeed and how? Well, you need to read the book to uncover it :) .

Views and Reviews:

Overall, the story is good and it goes with the feelings of most of the common citizens, and that's why a large number of readers will like it for sure. In that terms, you can compare the book with a complete masala entertainer movie with the flavor of patriotism. Mukul Deva himself has served in Indian Armed Forces for around 15 years, and he possesses authority in various stuff.

The book falls into the thriller category and despite being a crime thriller, just considering it a crime thriller is an injustice to the book. It is a combination of detective fiction, spy thriller and almost all the ingredients of a typical masala film. You can see it as a complete package for thriller lovers.

There is some adultery associated with a character in the book, so be warned for that.

Mukul Deva is a good author, he pens some of the lines in the book which will remain with you even after you complete reading it. Eg:

Stressed men were dangerous men.

— — — — —
No matter how good, no warrior lasts forever. And death needed only just that one tiny window of opportunity.

The conclusion could have been more specific, but the author has left many things half-said. Should we expect a second book in the series to know more?

And yes, you can draw parallels to some of the living/dead people along with the characters explored in the book and you will enjoy it for sure.
