

Clarion Review $\star \star \star \star \star$

MYSTERY

Third Librarian Detective Series

Bobby Cinema

Aspire Publishing Hub (Jun 20, 2023) Softcover \$12.99 (206pp) 978-1-960758-40-8

Two powerful brothers face new challenges following their father's death in the mystery novel Third Librarian Detective Series.

Bobby Cinema's mystery novel *Third Librarian Detective Series* follows two brothers' efforts to protect their country and families.

Sai and Srinivas are brothers who work in the United States government. Sai is in the CIA, where he works alongside his wife to thwart acts of terrorism, and Srinivas is the vice president of the United States. On the day of their father's funeral, Sai delivers a eulogy that delves into how a dark secret from the deceased's past came back to haunt him and his son.

The novel is broken into two parts. The first half follows Sai and his father on a mission to confront an enemy from the past; in the second, Srinivas rises to the role acting president after an assassination attempt on his predecessor. A brief synopsis precedes each section, in which asterisks appear rather than chapter breaks to switch between scenes and time periods.

Despite its presentation, the book is devoid of true mystery elements. Instead, the book serves as a bridge between series entries. Characters' backstories and motivations are explained at length before any action takes place, and the characters seem to know the information they need about their enemies without investigations being necessary. Further, there are lengthy flashbacks that introduce information that's irrelevant to the main conflict. Exposition also interrupts fight scenes, and some information is repeated soon after it was first stated. As a result of these choices, intrigue is absent throughout.

Inconsistencies with the supporting elements of the plot and characters are prevalent. Flashbacks involving Sai's father during the Vietnam War contain major historical inaccuracies, as well as the unfeasible inner workings of the CIA and its operations. Sai states at the beginning of his eulogy that he is his father's only son, directly contradicting Srinivas's existence and the novel's second part.

Grammatical and formatting errors pervade the text, including misspellings, missing punctuation, and tense switches. When dialogue arises, it is often unclear who is speaking absent clear quotation marks, sufficient spacing, and clear attributions. In addition, people's voices in conversation do not fit their characterizations or the situations: military generals, CIA operatives, and government officials speak in juvenile tones. Run-on sentences and incomplete sentences also impede the book's progression. Elsewhere, a speech given by a doctor is plagiarized from the pilot episode of *Grey's Anatomy*.

The third installment in a mystery series, *Third Librarian Detective Series* is a novel in which brothers thwart enemy forces on behalf of the US government.

Source: https://www.forewordreviews.com/reviews/third-librarian-detective-series/

GRACE ROGERS (July 27, 2024)

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