



# Baramulla Bomber

*Clark Prasad*

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**Baramulla Bomber** Clark Prasad

AN ANCIENT WEAPON FROM THE VEDAS & BIBLE  
ONCE HUNTED BY THE NAZIS  
POWERED BY THE SOUND OF UNIVERSE  
REBORN WITH HELP OF QUANTUM PHYSICS  
GOING TO BE UNLEASHED ON TO THE WORLD  
AND KASHMIR HOLDS ITS SECRET

Multiple intelligence agencies are tracking Mansur Haider, a god-fearing aspiring cricketer from Kashmir. His girlfriend, Aahana Yajurvedi, is trying to locate her missing mountaineering team, who vanished after a mysterious earthquake strikes Shaksgam Valley.

Investigating Mansur and the Shaksgam Valley incident is Swedish intelligence officer, Adolf Silfverskiold, whose only relationship to god consists of escorting his girlfriend to Church.

A dual China-Pakistan battlefield scenario facing the Indian Home Minister, Agastya Rathore, whose ancestors carry a prehistoric secret linked to the stars. He is faced with the challenge of finding a lasting solution to the Kashmir crisis.

Which Biblical Weapon was Tested in Shaksgam Valley? Why is Mansur Haider Important? Is There a Solution to the Kashmir Crisis? Can Destiny be Controlled? Does a Cosmic Religion Exist?

## Baramulla Bomber Details

Date : Published August 2013 by Niyogi Books, India (first published July 27th 2012)

ISBN : 9789381523971

Author : Clark Prasad

Format : Paperback 316 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

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# From Reader Review Baramulla Bomber for online ebook

## T says

An Interesting thriller set in India. Filled with science fiction and mythological elements - kind of Dan Brown meets Fredrick Forsyth meets Bollywood. One problem is the book attempts to cover every possible cliché overwhelming the reader at times. Otherwise a decent read.

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## Shail Raghuvanshi says

“Quantum Physics meets Bible and Vedas in Background of Kashmir and Cricket!” the cover picture screamed at me. While one part of me was inquisitive about this combination of faith, terrorism, ancient weapon, science and logic the other part was treading slowly, wondering what this book was going to hurl back at me. Was I going to survive it unharmed? Would I complete the journey of reading the book enticed to read more? Or, would the whole concept of this “Scientific Fiction Espionage Thriller” just blow over my head?

The protagonists are many in the novel but the ones that we are made to follow are Mansur, Aahana and Adolf.

Mansur Haider is a man of faith from Kashmir aspiring to become a cricketer. Is it possible for a man from troubled Kashmir to aspire and convert his dream into reality?

Unknown to him, intelligence agencies from across the globe are trailing him for their own selfish purposes. His girlfriend Aahana Yajurvedi is working hard to locate her friends from the mountaineering team that vanished mysteriously during an earthquake. The Swedish intelligence officer, Adolf Silverskiöld is investigating the mysterious disappearance and Mansur.

So, what is so thrilling about this espionage novel? Well! For one, it is very realistic and the moment you begin reading it albeit after a few moments of confusion you are thrown into the conspiracy of a novel filled with characters and situations that seem to have jumped straight out of a thriller movie.

The manipulation of the chant AUM along with some Sanskrit mantras is used to take control of another matter. So, were Dr. Nasir Raja, a predominant scientist and thinker, the ISI and China getting together to create a weapon based on the combination of the primordial sound and modern contemporary science? Was it possible to kill by using an infrasound?

Writing more would be revealing the plot which will prove to be a spoiler for this unique book. The author, Clark aka Suraj Prasad has done a great deal of research to make this wonderful book as realistic as possible. It is as if he himself is on a mission. That is why I cannot refrain myself from mentioning a few lines which a character in the novel representing India at the UN Assembly says:

“Pervez, there are people like you who feel that by shouting a few threatening words, and then using religion as a tool to manipulate emotions, you can blackmail the world. But I stand here to tell you and people like you that we Indians are an ancient race. A race that not only values its own culture, but also respects every other culture. We do not need lectures on it. If your way of thinking was right, then why aren't you the most prosperous country on the planet? Why aren't your people the happiest people on Earth?”

Once you are through the first part of the Swastik Trilogy don't miss out on the Dvitiya part of the novel titled, The Consultant: Shopno Paradox.

Happy Reading!!

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### **Amrit Sinha says**

“Quantum Physics meets Bible and Vedas in Background of Kashmir and Cricket” – so says the cover, and I ask, my left eyebrow touching the roof of my temple – “Really?” A few breezy pages follow, and I get my answer. Yes, we have our very own ‘Indian Dan Brown’ among us.

Welcome Clark Prasad. Welcome to the mind, and heart of readers.

I am a sucker for thriller, and anything related to this T-letter word makes me drool. Thus, it was no surprise that my mind started playing tricks on my heart, insisting me to get this book as soon as I heard of it. One look at the cover, and God, you just couldn't resist the temptation.

A hell lot of difference can be made by the cover, as it is the first thing that grabs hold of your attention. If the cover isn't as per your liking, your senses feel dejected, and your fingers quickly move across to the next book on the shelf. It, however, won't happen with 'Baramulla Bomber' though. It has one of the best cover designs that I have ever come across.

'Baramulla Bomber' is a 'Science Fiction Espionage Thriller' and marks the beginning of the Svastik Trilogy (yes, there will be more to come in this series). However, the word 'Fiction' stands as a misnomer here, as many events seem related to theories we have heard for real, in subjects ranging from science, technology, politics and religion. Clark has done his homework well, and it shows perfectly in the manner he has depicted the scenes in the book.

The plot moves across several locales, from India to Pakistan to US to Norway, and many more, the strings tightly connected, and the movement harmonious. Like an orchestra where the members play notes in sync with each other, the characters and the happenings in this book gel along nicely, making the book fluent and lucid to the mind.

Talking about the story-line, it is as unique as it can get, and that's where Clark scores a perfect ten. How can you relate Cricket to an ancient weapon from the Vedas and the Bible, and recreate the history of Nazis with grains of Quantum Physics adding flavor to the whole meal? Impossible, I would have said, but not anymore. Clark Prasad does full justice to the idea, bringing out a novel that's unique and one of its kind.

This guy really has miles to travel. Surely, there are a few areas that needs improvement, character building is one of them. Though there are several characters, none of them really leave an impression, except apart from Mansur Haider, but perhaps, that's what the author had intended, to let the characters not take domination over the plot. And if that's the case, then I would be absolutely ok on that front.

There is no denying the fact that Clark has a lot of potential to take the Indian thriller genre by storm. If this debut is anything to go by, we will surely love the rest of the parts in this Trilogy. I am really looking forward to them. Are you?

If not, give a try to the 'Baramulla Bomber', and you will know what I mean.

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## Vaisakhi says

Reviews at <http://vaisakhimishra.blogspot.in/201...>

Espionage thrillers and Indian authors are a weird combination, and this thought has been embedded in my mind for years now. Being a voracious reader and a big time fan of spy and suspense thrillers, I can confidently say Espionage thrillers by Indian authors have strongly disappointed me over the years and thus my mind set. But what if I tell you, I am ready to let go of this belief finally? Readers like me would find this to be a joke, but brace yourself because Baramulla Bomber is here to change our beliefs.

The book Baramulla Bomber by Clark Prasad was sent to me by Readers Cosmos and I can't thank them enough for sending this amazing book to me(not to forget, all gift wrapped)! Anyways the book impressed me in the first look itself. I have to say its cover design is awesome, but like it is said never judge the book by its cover, I dived straight into the story. The story begins with the ill fated meeting of an royal decendants' group called Chos Skyong. There is a blast while the meeting is on and most of the group members are killed. But in the survivors is a man named Abhimanyu Kashyap who cheats death with his determination to preserve the secret. But what secret?

Soon this incident gets tied up with Mansur Haider who is nothing but an aspiring cricketer from Kashmir. But as the story moves we know Mansur is being tracked by intelligence agencies around the world. Adolf Silfverskiold, a swedish intelligent officer turn out to be tracking Mansur and a mysterious earthquake that happened in the Shaksgam Valley. Also Shaksgam valley incident is being investigated by Mansur's girlfriend Aahana who lost her mountaineering team there. The readers realize the small hole drilled by the bombing is nothing but a stepwell with steps going from anywhere to everywhere, storylines joined to form a huge web of danger.

### Pros:

1. The book is fast paced and keeps on the edge of your seat till the very end.
2. Character sketches are perfect to the 'T' and every character is well used.
3. The story explores intelligence agencies other than the much explored CIA, and yet does complete justice to it.
4. The integration of quantum physics, history and modern world spies is the whole and sole of the book, and personally I loved it.
5. The looming secret of Shaksgam valley and the much talked about weapon, as I am not allowed to give spoilers(though I am dying to) is too engrossing.

### Cons:

1. Too much to digest and too much used – movies, cricket ,physics, Kashmir, Sweden, India, politics and so much more. It just felt a bit cramped.
2. Editing could have been crisp. Dialogues didn't seem powerful or memorable.

The author explores a lot in a very short time, or so it seems as the book is super racey. He also does full justice to all the characters of the story as they are given ample time to evolve and the story is thoroughly entertaining and engrossing. I would give the book a 4 on 5 rating and am desperately waiting for the next books. I hope the editing of the other two books is better but at the same time don't want them to turn out to be a disappointment like the 3rd book of Shiva Trilogy. Best of luck to the Author, may you succeed in giving us awesome stories always...:D

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## Sohni Basu says

Book source: received for review via Reader's Cosmos

Book: Baramulla Bomber

Author : Clark Prasad

Publisher : Niyogi Books

Genre : Mystery

Ratings : 4/5

ISBN : 9789381523971

Number of Pages: 316

Review Date: 2nd December 2013

Review on behalf of - ReadersCosmos

My Ratings:

Plot – 4.5/5

Characters – 4/5

Style – 5/5

Climax – 3.5/5

Cover Page – 4/5

My Review:

The Novel, "Baramulla Bomber" is a larger than life one. I am Thankful to the Author for sending me a copy of the book for review. The book had been an amazing journey. I completed reading it in a span of 2 days, I remained totally involved in the characters, the way each moment have been portrayed and pictured. As a reader, I had something critical, some tweak in the story, some changes to put a bit more interest into the story in every alternative page. One cannot let go the book till finished reading completely. The most interesting part of this novel is that it grows in the reader gradually and the plot becomes more interesting as we read ahead.

The number of pages are towards the higher side. The diagrams and maps are very well described. The cover page is the best part of the book. An attractive, rich and action packed cover page, the readers will get drawn by the look of it in the first place.

The Author has exhibited extreme skills with The Maps, the diagrams and the character sketching, all has been done perfectly. It offers the readers a sense of location and time. He has defined each and every character in the novel with a striking outline. He has created a powerful character and strongly delivered the protagonist Mansur.

The author has put in a lot of effort and done amazing research of physics, quantum, psychology, history and geography. While there is a lot of information in the book, at times it feels like a white paper reading rather than a novel. The first 50-75 odd pages have a lot to offer and to carry them till the end of the Novel, a reader has to turn back pages to refer. But still, this is a book one cannot keep down till finished completely. The author has been successful to completely engage the readers with a lengthy one like this.

This is a new Genre altogether. Indian fiction writing has a new theme now and as the 1st one of the Svastik Trilogy, author has done an amazing job. I wish Mr. Clark Prasad Congratulations for the amazing work of the "Baramulla Bomber" and would love to recommend this Novel to all the readers. This is a must read.

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## **Rinaya says**

Sounds quite intriguing doesn't it? When I first came across the book via BlogAdda's book review program, I was very much curious as to how can a plot be carved around such a diverse range? For Baramulla Bomber claimed to have one "that revolves around Kashmir, Pakistan, China, cricket, ancient secret societies, and espionage". Well, the end result is bit of hopscotch.

Frankly speaking, the initial 20-30 pages gave me a headache. I hate chapters that start off in the middle of nowhere & then the next one too begins wham! in the midst of something else. Nevertheless having gone through that, I was glad the author picked up pace & did turn this into the racy thriller that it claimed to be.

Baramulla Bomber has a political backdrop with our neighbours China & Pakistan being involved, but of course. Not to mention the CIA. The ancient weapon is sonic in nature, one that had been used since ancient history. But now the secret of its use has been revealed to the wrong people who are planning to use it against India. I'd read about the spiritual power of the Hindu scared chant of 'Aum' but the author has given a much more detailed explanation of the same. The description of the beautiful land of Kashmir is what I enjoyed the most. Though this book does reflect the in-depth research done by the author, it somehow fails to do so in a clean, smooth manner.

Coming back to the story, Mansur Haider is the protagonist & unlike normal thrillers, we do not come across him until a few pages have been read. And even then we don't realize that he's the lead for he comes across as just a calm, deeply religious human with a natural talent for cricket. I liked the way the others like Samir- his best friend, Aahana- his girlfriend as well as Adolf- the Swedish intelligence officers Adolf, have been given fair amount of introduction & as much importance in the story.

To sum it up I'd say that this book being a debut is fairly good barring some typos, the lagging first few chapters that try to feed you with too much information that one can keep track of at a time & some rather far-fetched scenario(specially related to the cricket team selection). Suraj Prasad who goes by the pen name of Clark Prasad has done a fair amount of research into this &; you can see that the author holds promise as the book starts to get better at the end with an apt climax. Baramulla Bomber is the first of the Svastik trilogy. I just hope the next time Suraj Prasad would definitely cut down on all the information-cramming in the first few chapters. For now I'd give Baramulla Bomber a decent 3/5 rating.

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## **Ila Garg says**

Baramulla Bomber  
By Clark Prasad  
Review By Ila Garg

Baramulla Bomber is a novel by the debutant writer Clark (Suraj) Prasad, published by Niyogi Books. Looking at the cover of the book you will come across two eyes staring directly at you. There is a symbol of AUM - the primordial sound around which the plot is set. And just above it, is the caption which declares 'SCIENCE FICTION ESPIONAGE THRILLER'. Yes, Baramulla Bomber, is the debut thriller by Clark (Suraj) Prasad and is the first of the Svastik Trilogy.

Ofcourse, I loved the cover. I liked the colour combination, the font, and the paper quality. That hard mysterious face tells a story of its own. When I got this book, I was rendered speechless. I am a sucker for thriller, so when Nimi asked me if I would like to review it, I could not say no! I was nervous as I started reading the blurb to get a taste of this book, though.

The blurb reads as, 'AN ANCIENT WEAPON FROM THE VEDAS & BIBLE ONCE HUNTED BY THE NAZIS POWERED BY THE SOUND OF UNIVERSE REBORN WITH HELP OF QUANTUM PHYSICS GOING TO BE UNLEASHED ON TO THE WORLD AND KASHMIR HOLDS ITS SECRET.

Multiple intelligence agencies are tracking Mansur Haider, a god-fearing aspiring cricketer from Kashmir. His girlfriend, Aahana Yajurvedi, is trying to locate her missing mountaineering team, who vanished after a mysterious earthquake strikes Shaksgam Valley. Investigating Mansur and the Shaksgam Valley incident is Swedish intelligence officer, Adolf Silfverskiold, whose only relationship to god consists of escorting his girlfriend to Church.

A dual China-Pakistan battlefield scenario facing the Indian Home Minister, Agastya Rathore, whose ancestors carry a prehistoric secret linked to the stars. He is faced with the challenge of finding a lasting solution to the Kashmir crisis.

Which Biblical Weapon was Tested in Shaksgam Valley? Why is Mansur Haider Important? Is There a Solution to the Kashmir Crisis? Can Destiny be Controlled? Does a Cosmic Religion Exist?'

I can't tell much about the plot as this is supposed to be a spoiler free review as per the request of the author mentioned inside the book. What impressed me about it is the fact that the author has well researched for writing the book and it is evident in the plot.

The cover has a tag line - "Quantum Physics meets Bible and Vedas in Background of Kashmir and Cricket", which clearly makes it the amalgamation of various themes and yet the story has a smooth flow for the readers.

The plot moves across several locales, from India to Pakistan to US to Norway, and many more, so the reader has to be attentive to grasp all the details. There are various maps, illustrations, and other such stuff to aid the understanding of the story. The characters and the happenings in this book gel along nicely, making the book fluent and lucid to the mind.

This book gets a bit complicated because it has a lot of characters, from Mansur Haider (the protagonist) to Kurt; the author has created memorable characters and used them efficiently to move the plot further. Every single character has contributed in some way or the other to the story (including Kasha and Ann). Also, I feel a deep thinking was involved while naming the characters as the names are superb and they suit the characters well. For example, Adolf Silfverskiold is a perfect name for an intelligence officer from Sweden and the name has also got a certain degree of command.

This story is complex, meant for intelligent readers. Pace is very important aspect when it comes to a novel



which I felt can be worked upon in a little better manner in future by the author. This book was uneven in terms of pace.

Initially it came across as a scary affair to me, as I read till about 100 to 150 pages, I was exhausted. It was like the author has almost stuffed the readers with enormous amount of facts till page 150 and it is a heavy read till there. Till the end of the novel, a reader has to turn back pages to refer.

There onwards, the pace becomes comfortable and the story too becomes light to read, though. Due to the heaviness of the facts the book is not a single sitting read. You need to take breaks in between, though the plot is tempting and manages to keep you hooked.

It was gripping, thrilling at times and in the middle it lost the initial fervor, but gained the momentum towards the end again. Yes, the story is interesting, partially because it's a new kind of genre, well written. Author is really good with words and has a command over the language. He manages to keep the readers in awe till the end.

Quantum Physics, Bible, Vedas, Kashmir, so much in one book. A commendable job done by the author. Though I would like to see some improvements in the second and third book of the trilogy. The author needs to work on making the story smoother, the little lighter or evenly paced. He needs to level up with the readers.

The 316 page book is filled with a lot of facts. I mainly loved the book because of the element of thrill and an apt cover. First few pages tested my patience but soon it engulfed me into its world. It is an action-packed quirky-witty-techno-mythical head spinner which takes you on a roller coaster ride and leaves you breathless. I liked the author's quirky style and the research that he has done. Loved and really appreciate the meaningful use of maps, instances, and quotations from Vedas and Bible. The way he has linked these topics is an ambitious task that the author managed to accomplish well. Hats off! As a debutant, he has done a good job and the flaws can be ignored. Best wishes!

Rating: 3.5/5

This (Unbiased) book review is a part of "The Readers Cosmos Book Review Program". To get free books log on to [thereaderscosmos.blogspot.com](http://thereaderscosmos.blogspot.com). Thanks Nimi Vashi for giving me the opportunity to read such a nice book!

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**Tathagata Kandar says**

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**Ankita says**

Read the full review @ Baramulla Bomber review @ Booklok Coffee

(I am giving 3.5 coffee mugs to the story and .5 to the amazing cover, impactful use of maps and quotation from Vedas and Bible.)

First you eat with eyes then you gobble down the food, right! Yes, it's just that with this hellova book cover. I loved the cover that I devoured it first then devoured the book. That hard mysterious face tells a story, and I wondered after reading the book blurb what it could possibly be, and whatever I expected right then, I was dead wrong. I tried many connections/combination between mythology and the politics and the rival nations and bible, Vedas and Quantum physics and cricket but this book surprised me like anything. I remember my first word when I received the book from Blogadda.com, it was "WOW". I was that impressed. The fonts go with the word 'Swastik' very well and being an art lover I really like the experiment with the fonts and color scheme is beyond doubt amazing.

NOTE: I am late in putting up this review, due to many other reasons revolving around festive seasons one of the reason is that this is not an easy-breezy read. No, this is one serious action-packed thriller and I enjoyed and devoured each page.

Now let's talk about the Story line, plots and sub-plots, author's writing style etc, though I can't tell much in story-line department because this is a spoiler free review, I can tell one thing, the story line is very well researched. Author Clark Prasad didn't just pick his pen and began writing, No, he knew very well what he was getting into, he made a point to weave the facts and fiction so poignantly and dynamically that in spite of many sub-plots it never distracted me or irritated me. In fact the effective use of maps to make a reader understand the location of the situation at hand and proverbs from Vedas and Bible both by the beginning of a chapter made the whole experience much more interesting.

At some points story was predictable possibly due to the mix of facts or possibly because I was so into the story that I was almost part of it and predicting next step was easy which in some twisted way a big plus point in my opinion.

I can't say this book was evenly paced because first 120 or so pages were head on collision causing fast, giving heaps of information but then it slowed a bit in comparison giving my mind a rest then picked up, so yeah it was very well paced and spellbinding in some terms but I wouldn't say it was Dan Brown-ish paced but for a debutante, it was good .

The protagonist Mansur Haider is supposed to be the guy on the cover and in many ways he did match up to the details it was revealing, he is indeed interesting as he hails from an ordinary family, is a cricket lover. It's quite intriguing to see him weaving the web of Baramulla Bomber. The other characters like Adolf (one of my favs from the book) Agastya, Ahana, Samir and others were nicely formed who played their roles pretty well though I would have liked to see more of Adolf. Since it's a trilogy and this book had so many sub-plots I am not giving much thought to character development but next book better show some good developments in the personalities specially of Mansur :) .

The writing style of the author is quirky, witty, smirk-ish and Though there were some loopholes here and there which can be questioned by an avid thriller lover, otherwise for a regular reader it will definitely do and Author being debutante, I guess I can give it a pass.

Action-packed quirky-witty-techno-mythical head spinner, well paced to cause a head-on-collision. Poignant use of Maps and quotation from Vedas and Bible.

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**Srikanth says**

First a big thanks to Ms. Nimi of the readers cosmos for the opportunity to review the book.

There is this stereotype, that most of the Indian books in the fiction genre seem to have followed the path of Vedic mythology meets modern physics with action thrown around all the places the author has been.

Ok, so how different is the "Baramulla Bomber" from the above cliché. To be frank it ain't that different. Thank god it ain't that different!!!! I am biased towards this, as Sanskrit is slowly but steadily marching into the mainstream. Its sort of the pop language that is trying to grab its space from scatological pseudo-Dravidian trash. Ok.. now lets move on ay.

Steve Jobs said that opening of any product should be a spiritual experience. I got this book from flipkart so it was not spiritual to say the least. But hey, i got a card from the author welcoming me to the family. Not bad, not bad at all. I open the book, there was one warning and one request.

1. The warning was not to skim through the book, as it will give away the plot by just looking at some diagrams/maps. ( Me thinks it was over done)
2. The request was not to reveal too much on blogs & social media. (Hmmm it was akin to killing a mosquito with a grenade)

To cut the long story short: Respecting the author i would like to cut it short. This is a thriller with some elements of science fiction embedded in it. It involves India, Pakistan & China, an age old weapon of mass destruction with Kashmir as the center piece of the whole conflict.

Things i liked about the book

- A. There were multiple story lines and they fit well within the overall story.
- B. The pace was good, really really good for about 75% of the book.
- C. The overall maps, organizations and incidents given in the book are relevant and do exist or have existed sometime in history.
- D. The usage of Sanskrit within the book. Probably an immense service being provided. I thank him from the bottom of my heart.
- E. The author has worked extremely hard on the marketing part of it, with the usual fb page, a marketing video etc.
- F. The cricket matches and the method it was described were really good.

Things that need to improve

- A. The characters need depth and connectivity to the story. Towards the end they are in places where they are not supposed to be and without reasons which if they exist are not given.

B. The overall science fiction component even though well researched needs to be made more interesting.

C. The pace towards the end start sagging and the roller coaster ride becomes a test drive of wagon R in peak monday morning traffic.

The author to focus more on the flow of the story and its connectivity to the overall story, with shortening the length of the book.

Few free bits of advice that i would like to give the author

A. The price of the book to be reduced by half and sold in a easy to ready format. Say like Rajesh Kumar novels from Tamil Nadu. Multiple translations to be made available.

B. There are many books that are available with the same format & genre. Run of the mill just won't do. Too many people wanting to become a Bhagat or Amish these days. I am not sure what or how? But apart from the usual something different is required.

I would rate this book 3 stars out of 5

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### **Arnab Nandy says**

Prasad deserves credit for his very well-researched debut. But I would have loved it more if the story was tighter.

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### **Abhinav says**

Is this for real?

That is precisely the question that crept up in my mind throughout the course of this book, which is by no means what I consider an encouraging sign.

'Baramulla Bomber', the first book of the Svastik Trilogy, follows the story of Mansur Haider, an aspiring cricketer from Kashmir who is being monitored by various intelligence agencies around the world, for he might be the key to an ancient secret. His girlfriend Aahana is investigating the disappearance of her mountaineering team following a mysterious incident at Shaksgam Valley in PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). Swedish intelligence officer Adolf has been dispatched to keep an eye on both of them after his bosses receive an encrypted message from a fellow undercover agent breathing his last. In the meantime, India faces a dual military threat from its neighbours Pakistan & China as the men in power try to defuse the situation & resolve it before it escalates to all-out war. In the middle of all this is an ancient secret weapon developed from the knowledge in the Vedas, once coveted by the Nazis & now perhaps in the wrong hands as an international terrorist threat looms large.

The cover of 'Baramulla Bomber' claims the book is a 'science fiction espionage thriller'. Espionage, of course. But sci-fi? Perhaps not. The thing is that the amount of 'sci-fi' is just not enough to lay claim to the

genre, for it requires much more than just an ancient weapon to be so. The plot is evenly paced & moderately engaging with its share of twists (some I never saw coming), though I cannot say it's a total page-turner. The multitude of characters & international conspiracies being hatched in every corner of the world (something that reminded me of Ashwin Sanghi's debut novel 'The Rozabal Line') ensure there is something always going on, though it became sort of perplexing after a point to keep track of so many parallel narratives simultaneously. The writing seems to be verging on being pulp fiction at times, though overall it passes muster.

The book explores themes like the ultimate quest to understand the origins of the world as well as concepts of quantum physics, like universal determinism which is well elaborated & can be understood by the average reader without much difficulty. Even though it doesn't exactly emerge with flying colours, the scope this novel aspires to is nonetheless worth of appreciation.

And then comes the climax. Unfortunately for the novel, it stays true to its name by bombing right where it shouldn't, making it rather an anti-climax. A thrilling climax often makes amends for the story's earlier failings & makes the reader reflect upon the book in a positive light overall. As the old saying goes, "All's well that ends well." Instead, what we get is a hurried, contrived climax in which each of the protagonists seem to transform into super agents (with the exception of Adolf, who is already one) out to save the world, which looks straight out of a film that would probably be directed by Michael Bay. The final chapter & the epilogue plugs some of the gaps in the plot & leaves some unattended, possibly hinting at further answers in the sequel.

I'm going for 2 & a half stars for Clark Prasad's debut novel 'Baramulla Bomber'. Even though infused with healthy doses of espionage, cricket, politics & thrills, the final outcome is less of a melange & more of a mishmash and one cannot help feeling this could have been so much more. Recommended for readers of Indian popular fiction looking for something different than the usual fare of candy floss romances.

P.S. I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway & I solemnly maintain that my review was in no way influenced by the same.

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### **Infantina Nivetha says**

There are some novels which makes you to want more and there are novels which drives you crazy and makes you to quit reading. Then there are some novels which gives you mixed feelings, such is the novel, Baramulla Bomber.

The author has done a lot of homework for this one book which I noticed throughout. When I started reading the book, I was totally into the book. What was the problem is the unimportant things that comes later. Less explanations, more story could have worked better for grabbing the attention of the readers to keep them on the edge of their seats.

At the start of the novel, we learn Baramulla is a place where barely 1000 inhabitants were left alive out of 14000 people because of the pakistani troopers and Kabali tribal people. Then we learn about the theoretical physicist Openheimer who is nuts about wanting the weapon of universal sound that brought down the wall

of Jericho as per the Bible. His hope is heightened when he finds a Kashmiri student of the same interest.

Though this is a hard to explain kind of novel, the cover image and the title what leads even a non-reader towards the book. But that is not enough for the story's success. The author learns eventually. Details into the research were interesting at first, the author must have noted it cannot remain the same where the whole book is concerned.

But the reader is taken for a ride at any stage of the story as the author is well versed in political background of many countries especially India, China and Pakistan. To highlight the cosmic metaphysics, a science of sound and effect may be novel in concept, but the author is very much matured enough to handle the subject comfortably.

Overall, the book can be termed as a crime thriller, political thriller, religious mystery and science fiction. A four in one novel. It's a mind blowing read for those who have a thirst for knowledge about the universe and its mysteries.

3.5

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## **VaultOfBooks says**

By Clark Prasad. #1 in Svastik Trilogy. Grade: A

The ambitious tagline, "Quantum Physics meets Bible & Vedas in Background of Kashmir & Cricket", first inspires scorn, then disbelief, eventually awe and finally applause. There are espionage novels, and they have a huge following and there are sci-fi novels, they too have a huge following. Novels of both these genres have immense potential, if they're well written. Imagine what the potential could be if a novel combines elements of both the genres, and it is well-written.

There are three concrete elements which work in favour of Baramulla Bomber:

**Pace** – Baramulla Bomber is barely above 300 pages, plus the plot moves at a pace worthy of a thriller. There are no morose descriptions or scenes of chemistry (even though there are two female companions). With a possible exception of one or two scenes, the novel throughout doesn't talk too much about the allied paraphernalia and has maintained its focus absolutely on the task at hand.

**Connect** – As mentioned in its tagline, the book has three core elements – religion, Kashmir and cricket. These three core elements have a very strong connect with the Indian audience, but they all ping three very different emotions among us Indians. Cricket, with or without victories in reality, evokes passion amongst us; religion is something which a majority of are very conservative and to a certain extent, possessive about; Kashmir is no doubt a very sensitive issue, but at the same time, arouses in us a very strong sense of patriotism.

Structure – This is one of the most underrated factors when it comes to judging or even writing a novel. A structure to the plot can add so much to the impact that a novel makes on its readers. The sequencing of events is so very organised that it makes it very easy for the reader to connect the dots at the right time. Full points here as well.

I would have raised the issue of lack of exploration – the author put up many ideas but didn't go into their depth, probably due to dearth of character space. This issue is however still a question mark as Baramulla Bomber is the first in the trilogy, so hopefully the exploration is done in the sequels. A very strong complaint that I have to make is the weakness in character sketching. A plot which was extremely well-knit deserved very strong faces to be in the fore, something which was lacking; this is invariably the case with all the characters, right from Mansur to Agastya Rathore.

At the risk of sounding extremely sceptical, I rarely find Indian authors writing fiction novels which are worthy of even qualifying to compete at the global scene, leave alone competing there. This novel, by the man of nom de plume Clark Prasad, is one of those rare novels which are worthy of representing Indian fiction worldwide. Kudos to the author for his brainchild and its crafting. He has shown great promise and I sincerely hope that Mr. Prasad sticks to this genre.

The book was received as part of Reviewers Programme on The Tales Pensieve.

Originally reviewed at Vaultofbooks.com, a close-knit community of fanatical readers. We are looking for perceptive readers who can write well, and we are eager to provide lots of free books in exchange for reviews. Shoot us a mail at [contact@vaultofbooks.com](mailto:contact@vaultofbooks.com)

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## **Mugdha says**

The review for this book has been posted at: <http://pustakalu.wordpress.com/2013/1...>

This book is a complimentary copy received as a part of Goodread's First Reads.

I would rate this book as 2.5 out of 5.

This book has taken me the longest time to complete. The premise is good, and that was what attracted me to vote to review this book in the first place.

The first thing that struck me, and managed to get me through the first half of the book was the amount of detail and research that has gone into this book. It is reflected in the amount of background information that is given.

On the con side, this is also a drawback to large extent. The amount of detail also bogs down the story. When I did reach mid-section of the book, I almost put it aside because I didn't want so much detail! I wanted a story that moved forward, and that's something I wasn't getting.

I don't want to add any spoilers here, but I really got frustrated with not knowing the direction the story was going. Keeping suspense is fine, but not giving clarity as to why Mansur is important right until the last 20 pages was just plain silly! He's the main character, and I just couldn't understand why! Having clarity might have added a dimension of "what next?!" to the book, rather than give the feeling of "when next?!"

Overall I'm not overly impressed with the book. It definitely needs tighter editing. The story isn't strong enough to hold interest for so many pages.

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