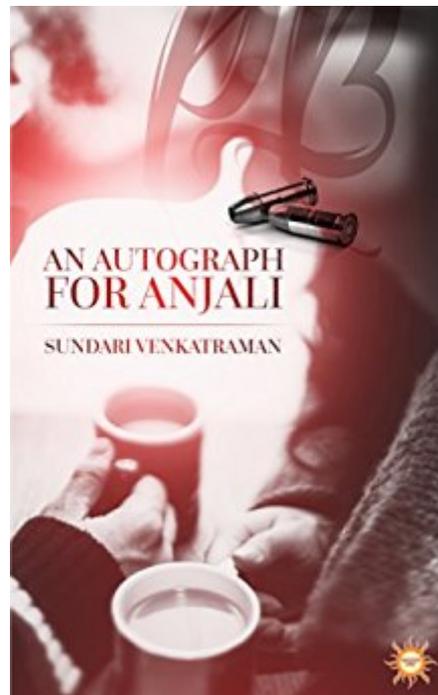


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An Autograph For Anjali



Synopsis

Editorial Review 1:Rubina Ramesh (Author of soon-to-be published romance FINDING THE ANGEL & contributing author for MARIJUANA DIARIES):Author Sundari Venkatraman conquers the hearts of women by depicting woman in all her glory. A mysterious beginning, a thread of romance and a roomful of drama, all will keep you glued to the pages. The Bold and the Beautiful - as the characters make their paths, crisscrossing each other's lives to reach one destination; a destination which might destroy the lives of the members of the Mathur Family.Ms.

Venkatraman's novels always show the female protagonist as an emerging power. From their lowest point they rise like the phoenix till they become trendsetters. Anjali lives up to this trend. A quiet firebrand who is not afraid to face her desires, stand up against her husband's tyranny and above all, is a woman in all her glory. Anjali is a celebration of womanhood. She will slowly creep into a reader's mind. Ms. Venkatraman has come up with a few shockers in this one.Line that stayed with me...“He was pleased to note the color that ran up her cheeks as her eyes closed tightly. Without a pause, he ran his finger over the other eye too, smiling as her lashes fluttered like butterfly wings under his touch.” Temptation, thy name is Parth.Editorial Review 2:Devika Fernando

(Author of many romance novelsThe story starts with a bang “ almost literally, as there's a murder to be discovered and discussed. What follows didn't read at all like the romance novels I was used to by the author for a while, but it did capture my attention and hooked me. Keeping in mind that this is a stab at romantic suspense, I found the beginning almost perfect in hindsight (yes, I read it again after I had finished the book, just to see it all in a different light). The author set up the stage, introduced the main characters and threw in the tiniest inkling of the romance to come, like a bee buzzing against a window. And that window was thrown wide open when I entered a sort of flashback and finally found out more about Anjali and Parth.Speaking of the main characters “ the couple and another “couple” “ I am full of praise. Being an author myself, I love reading about authors, and Parth was no disappointment. His mix of intelligence, insistence, to-die-for looks and calm confidence really drew me in. Her strength, intelligence and determination were always palpable, yet in a more subdued way. And I loved her attitude and behaviour towards her son Arjun and her husband Jayant.As for Arjun, he was like a refreshing breeze throughout the book. Fanning the flames when needed, becoming a whirlwind at some times, cooling down and soothing at other times. Jayant was just the right antagonist. I loved hating him, though at times I have to say I couldn't even hate him. He struck me as a cliché personified, as a canvas for portraying all that's wrong with society. The story was fast-paced, brisk and to the point, lingering just at the right moments while only scratching the surface at other moments. The Story Jayant Mathur is

found murdered in his bed, shot at point-blank range with his own revolver. Though sheâ€™s extremely disturbed by his death, Jayantâ€™s wife Anjali is way more upset about something else. Who stands to gain by killing the multi-millionaire businessman? Parth Bhardwaj is a friend and neighbour of the Mathurs. Parth is an author who goes by a pseudonym. He appears more than a friend to Anjali; while heâ€™s also on good terms with her son Arjun who lives and studies in the UK. What role does he play in Anjaliâ€™s life? Jayantâ€™s relatives are curious to know. Jayantâ€™s brother-in-law Rana is convinced that Parth and Anjali are the murderers. But Inspector Phadke has his own doubts about this theory. In comes Samrat, the private detective who appears as quiet as a mouse. Will he be able to find the murderer? Will Anjali find happiness and peace?

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Customer Reviews

An Autograph For Anjali follows the journey of Anjali a stay at home lady who also happens to be a wife of a very rich guy. She wants for nothing but still searches to fill her emptiness. The book is a commentary on the 'empty-nest syndrome' parents especially mothers face when grown up kids leave the home for education or jobs. This is more acutely felt by Anjali since she is emotionally alone. Her husband openly cheats on her and has no emotional connect. I found Parth to be the

most well-etched character as if he were the author's favorite from all the characters – he could say no wrong, do no wrong and the journey he had to reach where he is added depth and integrity to his character. I was impressed with him as well. However, given his life, I felt he needed a bit more grey in him – a tiny bit of grey. ;) Arjun the son was a bit incomplete persona for me since I found him to be very mature at times but his interaction with Parth made me cringe. A grown man would not be so open to another guy who is just a friend or whom he just met. He is a young man still getting the hang of life and loses his father so I suppose it is possible but he should have some friends he could count on? However, I would love to read his story where he comes in as his own man. Here he was just a bit aimless, kind of a simpleton and docile. The catalyst to the change Anjali heralds in her life is her husband's apathy and the other woman as well as her own attraction to Parth. That she is afraid of her emotions and fears the turn her life is taking is written so realistically by Sundari. If we just read the confusion and dilemma Anjali faces it reminds us of the sad fate of many ladies who happen to get divorced in the mid-30s or 40s since their husband found a new squeeze.

This is the third book that I have read by the author, and I have liked the earlier two better than this one; *The Madras Affair* being the clear favorite. In each and every one of her books, the author addresses a social issue (though they are primarily romances), and this one is no different. While the other two books dealt with more obvious social evils, like child marriage (*The Runaway Bridegroom*) and marital abuse/rape (*The Madras Affair*) - in this one the author has addressed a seemingly perfect, yet unhappy marriage (which isn't so much of a social evil, but social pressures are a big reason why people continue to live in such marriages). The author also deals with mental health, which very few talk about. And this one has a (small) mystery angle to it too. I really liked the premise; even more, the author's choice of social issue. The thing I did not connect with was the romance. It was too direct at times, there was a lot of telling over showing, and felt very awkward (to me) at places. It is possible that I had higher expectations after *The Madras Affair*, and that is why I found this disappointing, but the romance did not work for me at all. The other thing is that while I loved the fact that the author chose to address the issue of mental illness, I have mixed feelings about the treatment of the subject. Here too, the expectations have possibly played spoilsport, because I had loved how the author had handled child marriage and marital abuse/rape, but in this case, the portrayal and the treatment of depression did not sit well with me. The element of suspense was executed well.

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