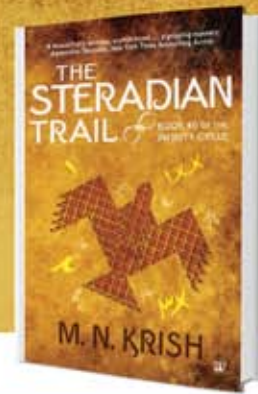


THE STERADIAN TRAIL



A Pacey, Juicy Thrill-Ride on Science, Culture, and Crime.

A Book Review by Jennifer Kumar

If you are looking for a gripping novel featuring a foreigner experiencing India and a thrilling page-turner that keeps you fastened to your seat till the end, look no further than *The Steradian Trail: Book #0 of the Infinity Cycle* by MN Krish.

Over the years, many have presented me books and novels where the main character, a foreigner, visits India. After living in India for a few years, I am acquainted with the real India and am sorry to say that most of those books really didn't appeal to me. Within a few pages, I discarded them as I could not relate to the story, characters, and circumstances. To be sold in a foreign market, those books had to feature so many stereotypical symbols of India that really have nothing to do with the lives of Indians in modern India. However, this book is refreshingly different and portrays the life of real Indians living in India. It just so happens that a foreigner is in their life at the time, and not the other way around! The foreigner does not seem out of place but fits into the story and environment beautifully.

It's even more amazing that the main character is indeed an American in India! As the book opens, Joshua is preparing to leave India. He is identified at the airport and 'forced' to stay in India for an indefinite period of time due to the mysterious death of someone known to him in the US. Uncharacteristic to the typical 'foreigner in India' books, this foreigner has a long history of traveling to India, staying in India, and has many local contacts that include a few close friends. This allows the reader to portray a balanced perspective of India through a foreigner's eyes. This means that while Joshua is trapped in India, uncovering many mysteries along the way, the typical stereotypes of India found in other books simply aren't found here or form a very ordinary part of life, rather than divorced from it.

The realistically portrayed characters give readers a glimpse into the real lives of Indians. The characters are not created superficially or for dramatic effect. The characters aren't the 'mysterious Indians living in India' but are authentic Indians living in modern day India trying to balance their modern lifestyles with the traditions that define their culture. While the foreign reader can relate to average Indians through the story, an average Tamilian or Keralite can certainly relate to the characters. The novel speaks volumes about the author who really understands the Indian culture and has brought it out well in the story and its characters.

Most novels that feature a foreigner talk about cross-cultural challenges and these challenges form the central theme of the novel. While the cross-cultural element, sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious, is sprinkled throughout the book, the story neither focuses on culture shock nor on culture superiority. It is an original, idea-driven mystery that beautifully unravels connections among culture, science, technology, and crime. That is precisely what makes this book so endearing.

Hardcopies of *The Steradian Trail: Book #0 of the Infinity Cycle* are available on Amazon India and Goodreads.com. E-versions are available on Kindle India. ■

Through Authentic Journeys, author Jennifer Kumar helps Indians bridge the culture gap while working with Americans. Editor, Chris Sufi lives in Bangalore. She likes to read, write, proofread, and edit. Contact them at www.authenticjourneys.info.



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