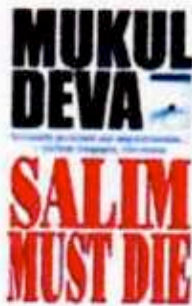


and-a-half back, is coming true already." He sounds like a soothsayer when he says he "wishes he would have also been able to foresee the sensex falling"! On a serious note, Deva attributes his predictions to logic and history. He says "History has a habit of repeating itself and whatever I have written is firmly grounded in reality and in history. And although these are fictional books, even they require bedrock somewhere.

For instance, Deva says he wrote about the newly-formed National Intelligence Agency a year-and-a-half ago. "So when you read it you will realise how uncannily it's coming together now." Research, he adds, plays a very important role in writing such potboilers. "For the last four years, I spend a few hours reading and understanding the smallest terror incident in the world. Else you cannot write military action thrillers. So, I have been breathing and living terror in all its forms!"



Deva is part of a new breed of Indian writers whose works stem from incidents in everyday life. More often than not, they are criticised for not being too 'literary' (*a la* Chetan Bhagat and Vikas Swarup). Simple storytelling and interesting plotlines — sans highbrow language — is the key. As a result, these novels are often labelled as 'pop-literature'.

This Delhi-based author, however, refuses to accept to be classified under these media-induced jargons. "Terms like pop-lit, chick-lit really don't matter," says Deva. "Not every story has to be Shakespearean or an Arundhati Roy," he explains. "People like Chetan Bhagat and Vikas Swarup have great stories to tell. These are stories which happen all around us and people from different backgrounds narrate them."

And what about the highbrow language? "Dude, when you quit school in class 10, how many big words do you really know?" laughs Deva. The author deliberately chooses the potboiler narrative tool over a scholarly one as it would ensure more readers. "It's like making a movie: do you want to make it for the masses or do you want to make it for the Cannes film festival?"

Deva's reading tastes are as eclectic as his writings and he ranks Chetan Bhagat and Advaita Kala amongst his favourite authors. But his all-time favourite book is J.D. Salinger's *Raise High The Roof Beam*. And Deva's works are not just restricted to literature.

About his future plans, Deva is writing a crime thriller *The Shades of Black* "which explores the dark side of the human mind. You know who the killer is and you know how he did it but you have to understand *why* he did it." Despite a prolific 'literary' journey, Deva is still unsure of any other genre he plans to explore. "I am growing as a human being and evolving in my own head. I don't know which way I will go."

Time After Time:

A witty take on women, God, religion, war, menopause and men in an effort to decipher the madness called 'Life'.

StripTease

The Art of Corporate Warfare: A study of military strategies and military campaigns and their application in corporate life.

M.O.D.E.L

Return of the Employee: A spoof on happiness and success. As Deva says "It shows how you can be happy and successful or how you can be happy and appear to be successful"

Women In Indian Cinema: A limited edition coffee table book celebrating the work of Indian cinema's most succesful actresses.

Lashkar

An action-packed, military thriller with the Sarojini Nagar bomb blasts as its backdrop and terrorism as its core theme.

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