



Artifact

Gigi Pandian

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When historian Jaya Jones receives a mysterious package containing a jewel-encrusted artifact from India, sent by her ex-lover the same day he died in a supposed accident in the Highlands of Scotland, she discovers the secrets of a lost Indian treasure may be hidden in a Scottish legend from the days of the British Raj.

But she's not the only one on the trail.

From San Francisco to London to the Highlands of Scotland, Jaya must evade a shadowy stalker as she follows hints from the hastily scrawled note of her dead lover to a remote archaeological dig. Helping her decipher the cryptic clues are her magician best friend, a devastatingly handsome art historian with something to hide, and a charming archaeologist running for his life.

When a member of the dig's crew is murdered, Jaya must figure out which of the scholars vying for her affections might be the love of her life--and which one is a killer.

Artifact Details

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Author : Gigi Pandian

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From Reader Review Artifact for online ebook

Kevin says

[Scottish Fairies and Indian Treasure (hide spoiler)]

Roberta says

I received this ARC from first-reads.

Jaya, the main character in this murder mystery, has received a long lost ruby Indian artifact from her recently deceased ex-boyfriend. She is apparently the only one who suspects that her ex-boyfriend's death is not a simple accident and she sets out to solve the mystery of his death and the source of the mysterious artifact.

The thing that I particularly like about this book is that so much history was included in the story without bogging it down, making it more interesting rather than less.

Jaya has all the qualities that we have admired in other female heroines. She is independent, intelligent, has an interesting career and plunges into adventure full-speed-ahead. She has a good sense of humor and enough personal quirks to let us know that she is one of the girls.

I debated a little about how to rate this book because I kept having the distinct feeling that the author was straining to keep this from being a YA book. If so, the effort was wasted because this is a book that I would certainly recommend to older teenage girls.

Suspense Magazine says

If Indiana Jones had a sister, it would definitely be historian Jaya Jones, the likeable—and very curious—protagonist in “Artifact,” the debut treasure hunt mystery by Gigi Pandian.

Jaya receives a mysterious package from her ex-lover, Rupert, sent the same day he died in a supposed accident in Scotland. The package contains a jewel-encrusted artifact from India, and a cryptic note asking Jaya to hide the artifact for him because she’s the only one he can trust. Delving deeper into the provenance of the artifact, Jaya discovers the piece is part of a long-lost Indian treasure, which may be hidden in the Scottish highlands from the days of the British Raj. Realizing that Rupert’s death was no accident, Jaya follows the trail of the treasure from San Francisco to London to an archeological dig in the Scottish highlands...the same dig that Rupert was part of when he died.

The author is the daughter of two cultural anthropologists from New Mexico and the southern tip of India. She grew up all over the world, and the characters in the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mystery series—yes, it will be a series—come straight out of her own childhood adventures. Gigi was also awarded the prestigious Malice Domestic Grant for “Artifact.”

The first book in this series is loads of fun (a real roller coaster ride) and sprinkled with fascinating facts about the British presence in India. I can’t wait to see where Jaya goes next!

Reviewed by Susan Santangelo, author of “Marriage Can Be Murder” for Suspense Magazine

Heather Fineisen says

This debut featuring historian extraordinaire Dr. Jaya Jones could and should develop a great following. *Artifact* is a fun and informative introduction to a cast of characters as diverse as Dr. Jones is, and Pandian captures the quirks and distinctions with aplomb. Conversation is one of the most enjoyable features of this mystery as Pandian has a knack for dialogue and cadence that is charming without turning anyone into a caricature of their nationality. The romance is not overdone, and there is much to look forward to in future installments as we learn more about Lane, the love interest, and Jaya herself. The historical and archeological facts interspersed throughout made this most enjoyable and I can only hope this continues in the next adventure. And I will be reading the next adventure...

Kribu says

I'm not exactly original in saying this, but *Artifact* by Gigi Pandian is very much a story in the vein of Elizabeth Peters' Vicky Bliss mysteries, combining adventure with treasure hunt, murders, academics, humour and a dash of romance.

Is it as good? Hmm. The Vicky Bliss stories I've read so far aren't my favourite Elizabeth Peters books, but they're nice, entertaining, fun reads, and Pandian's *Artifact* is much the same.

I found the pacing pretty good, the research & historical detail interesting (it was obvious the author had either done considerable research into the chosen topics or rather already wisely based the action/mysteries in a field she's familiar with), plenty of twists and turns along the way to keep me guessing (some of the twists I could predict, others not). The cast of characters was interesting and varied enough and the dialogue flowed reasonably well.

I also liked that the romance, the implication of which was there from early on, never overtook the plot. I'm not sure I quite cared for how easily Jaya trusted Lane or how quickly that romance seemed to develop, perhaps because I prefer a bit more than "he has gorgeous cheekbones" to go on, but it wasn't really any worse than in most books with some romance.

My main issue was that I felt there was comparatively a little too much telling and too little showing for my taste. The parts with action - the parts where Jaya and Lane actually got up to stuff - were good and well-paced, but there were perhaps a few too many (and too long) parts where one or another character simply told others (and the reader) things we needed to know, whether background, exposition, or simply "what happened before". Some of this is of course needed and useful, but I'm not sure the balance was quite perfectly captured in *Artifact*.

This is also why I'm rating this three stars ("I liked it") and not four ("I loved it"). I did enjoy the book, and may well be interested in reading the next one.

* *ARC of this book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley. Thanks!*

Jonathan says

Excellent, absolutely excellent. I was wanting an adventure, and I got one! Ms. Pandian did a wonderful job of combining theft, treasure hunts, and murder. Overall an absolutely wonderful book. Highly recommend!

Fox says

I received this book from the Goodreads first reads program.

What a fun read!

Gigi Pandian writes with a quick wit, a loving attention to the eccentricities of the anthropological trades, and a keen eye for history. She wrapped the history of British India up with snippets of Scotland and even a bit of San Francisco culture quite well. Classic treasure hunt, classic adventure tale, classic mystery... what's not to love?

Indeed, this book did bring to mind Indiana Jones, and I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking forward to more in this series. Great fun, and a perfect book to while away the hours. I'm quite glad I had a chance to read it.

Dorsi says

This one was just okay for me. I couldn't really connect with the main character, Jaya Jones. I love another series by this author, *The Accidental Alchemist*. It features an adorable French gargoyle. I read the audio version of this one. The narration was quite good. It was read by Allyson Ryan.

John says

Another women sleuth but this one is special and unique as she is a PHD seeking tenure at a San Francisco Bay area university. Her specialty is centered on the history of the relationship of Britain and India. She is very smart, very clever, very motivated, very head strong, very attractive, has relationships with mysterious men and knows and practices ju-jitsu.

What more could you desire as a female mystery protagonist? And did I say she is cute and from from Berkeley.

I particularly enjoyed how Gigi Pandian's tale included and relied upon historical information concerning periods and subjects that I had never previously focused upon or knew I would have the slightest bit interest in. The history, information and mystery is very well presented and I enjoyed it through the last page.

Gigi indicates she plans to publish Jaya Jones next adventure soon, I'll be looking forward to it.

Kristen says

This sounded fun and cute. It was cute, but it came across for me as trying to be so cute and clever that it always felt like it was trying just a little too hard and seemed forced.

I also couldn't connect to any of the characters as real people I cared about. They all felt like comic book characters who did cliched things, and said forced lines.

This was just the wrong book for me, I think. It didn't connect for me at all. When I got almost to the halfway point and still wasn't truly invested in either the people or the events, I decided it was a wrap for me and this went back to the library.

Tami says

I haven't received my copy yet, just received notice I had won. 8/28/12
Received 8/31/12 started 9/1/12 and finished 9/2/12

Jaya Jones receives an Indian bracelet and mysterious note from her ex boyfriend Rupert in the mail. The package was postmarked the same day Rupert died in an automobile accident in Scotland. She decides the coincidence of the date was fishy and she needs to determine if the artifact was the reason Rupert was killed. She meets Lane, and jewelry historian expert, and together they travel to England then Scotland to follow the clues. Throw in a magician best friend, a Russian landlady, and a whole host of other characters and Jaya really has her hands full solving this mystery.

I hadn't won a book in so long and then I won this one. WooHoo number 1. It arrived really fast. WooHoo number 2. and it was a great read. WooHoo number 3!

Jaya is a fun character and her thought process and her actions seem realistic and not forced at all. I love that she wears heels all the time. She did have a little too much patience with the boys. I want to go to Scotland and stay at a small pub and inn and have locals that tell all sorts of Fairy Stories. Good story line, great characters, and a fun read.

Selah Pike says

A fun romp! Jaya Jones is an appealing heroine, with some actual skills that set her apart from the normal cozy sleuth (she's a historian and trained in jiu-jitsu). Her half Indian heritage adds interest and makes her perfect for the Popsugar Reading Challenge!

HENERY PRESS PUBLISHING says

“How wonderful to see a young, new writer who harks back to the Golden Age of mystery fiction. *Artifact* is witty, clever, and twisty... Do you like Agatha Christie? Elizabeth Peters? Then you’re going to love Gigi Pandian.” — Aaron Elkins, Edgar Award-Winning Author of the Gideon Oliver “Skeleton Detective” Mysteries

Karen says

Cozy History, Archaeology mystery

When historian Jaya Jones receives a mysterious package containing a jewel-encrusted artifact from India, sent by her ex-lover the same day he died in the Highlands of Scotland, she discovers the secrets of a lost Indian treasure may be hidden in a Scottish legend from the days of the British Raj.

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A nice change from the cozy novels of quilters, cooks, librarians and other assorted walks of life I have been reading!

Mark Baker says

New history professor Jaya Jones is trying to process the death of her ex-boyfriend when she receives a package in the mail from him that contains a bracelet. It looks to be old and possibly valuable. Now, she's wondering if he really died in an accident like everyone thinks or if it was murder. And what is the story of the bracelet?

While I always enjoy a cozy mystery, I love when an author adds something else, which is the case here. I was hoping for a caper feel to things, and this book delivered on that perfectly. Between the mystery and the treasure hunt, there is always something going on. Along the way, we get to meet a great cast of characters. I'll definitely be back for more.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).
