



Curiosity kills the KatHA

Ashok Kallarakkal

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Curiosity is a collection of short stories each with a twist at the end.

Assessing performance of one's student is what every teacher does many times in his/her career. But what if the teacher is a terrorist trainer and the student a suicide bomber?

What if a visit to a historical place throws up an unexpected opportunity to listen to a firsthand report of the historical event from a person who was present at that time?

This is the age when everyone talks about zero tolerance to corruption. How would one react to a typical malpractice at a railway booking counter? When does a deal become a steal? Or more importantly does stealing make a purchase a better deal?

These and other similar questions are discussed in Curiosity Kills the Katha, a collection of humorous yet thought provoking stories with surprising endings.

Curiosity kills the KatHA Details

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Author : Ashok Kallarakkal

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From Reader Review Curiosity kills the KatHA for online ebook

Pooja C says

An ensemble of interesting short stories. One is different from other and the twist at the end makes it all the more interesting and worth reading.

Boban S. says

A collection of nine short stories with an unexpected twist at the end. What appealed to me is the breadth of subjects covered in the book. No two story is alike. I liked the one on the trip to Vidurashwata most. There are some twisted views on known stories as well. I could predict the final twist on two of the nine stories. That itself would be an interesting game while reading the book; predicting the final twist. The author uses tougher language in couple of stories which was avoidable, though that does not take away the fun.

Bhumika says

Curiosity kills the KatHA is an excellent read for all genre! I rate this book first of its class in the short-stories category. It is a combination of high intelligence, creative thinking, narration and language. True to its name, you are curious about what will happen next in each story, the ending is very well thought through and not easy to imagine. I sat up all night to finish the book and sensed the author come alive on numerous occasions during the narration.

What's more, I found it absolutely hilarious several times. My 10-year old son caught me laughing while reading the first story before he announced that he wanted me to read the stories to him aloud. My throat went dry after a while. For many nights there after, he wanted to hear ONLY Ashok's stories before he went to sleep :-).

I have taken several copies of this book to gift to my family and friends for Christmas!

Can't wait to read Ashok's next book - Palette of Love.

Aravind Vivekanandan says

one of the very few occasions when I have felt utterly disappointed with a book. It stems from two aspects-

1. The cardboard cut out characters and their senseless motivations for the acts they commit. Digressions that try to be funny, but fails every single time. this is a supermarket for stereotypes and plot twists you can see from a light year away. The Malayalam dialogues come across as something one would hear in a soap opera or read in the poorly written serialized novels of the 'M' publications.
2. The political apathy propagated by the text is characteristic of typical middle-class mentality in

storytelling. Most of the stories revolve around Kerala and the history and politics of the state is portrayed through a narrow perspective, especially the rayons incident.

If you want to reaffirm the stereotypes in your mind, this will suit you well. Else, you will be disappointed.

Rakhy Pillai says

Great collection of short stories. It was very interesting !!!!!.

Nags says

A waste of time and money. The so-called twists in the end were weak and mostly predictable.

Sandhya says

This is one of the best collections of short stories published in recent years. It reminds me of O Henry and Jeffry Archer, but a bit more philosophical.

Nirvan Krishna says

This collection of short stories by Ashok is very nicely written and quite compelling - perhaps because he has written stories about issues that touch us all in daily life. His writings are definitely reminiscent of O'Henry's short stories. Though it is a collection of short stories, one would not like to put the book down till one is through it entirely. Would recommend it as an excellent read!

Jayant Swamy says

Writing a short story is tough and tricky; more so than writing an entire novel. The author has limited space to tell an interesting tale AND make an impact. Ashok's Curiosity Kills the Katha (CKK) scores hugely in that sense. Present day urban India is the backdrop. The dialogues are a sheer pleasure to read. The twists in the tale - some expected others not so - succeed in keeping the reader riveted to the very end. While there is an undercurrent of a deeper subtext in every story (sometimes dark) - Ashok succeeds in keeping it subtle and non judgmental - giving the discerning reader a choice - to take it or not. Personally speaking, while I have always preferred novels to short stories and made the odd exception only for an author of the caliber of Jeffrey Archer or Guy de Maupassant, I thoroughly enjoyed CKK; that Ashok's style is vaguely reminiscent of the above named authors may have been only one of the reasons.

The book could have benefitted with stricter line editing and some occasional Point-of-view adjustments. While brevity is the soul of wit is Ashok's mantra (understandably and rightly so!) - there were times when I wished he would adopt a more relaxed pace and unravel details that were seemingly suppressed and waiting

to be revealed! Ashok is at his best when he is narrating the story in the first person (Best example: Picking Out The Bad One) - the narrator has a definitive voice and added conviction - it made me root strongly for the protagonist - usually the underdog - not withstanding which side of the law he was on. The relatively slim size of the book (under 150 pages) left me asking for more!

Shiela Davis says

I am not much of short story reader. My love is for thrillers. I read this book based on the suggestion by a friend. To my surprise, every story in the book turned out to be good enough to keep me hooked till the end like a thriller.
