



God is a Gamer

Ravi Subramanian

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Aditya runs a gaming company that is struggling to break even. A banker slips off a highrise building, plunging to her death. The finance minister has made some promises that he is finding hard to keep. The LTTE has unleashed terror in America that sends the FBI on a wild goose chase, bringing them to Mumbai.

Enter Varun, parttime drug dealer and fulltime genius. He turns around the gaming company before disaster strikes. Meanwhile, the investigators plunge headlong into the shady world of bitcoins and the Dark Net, websites that only exist for illegal transactions—drugs, sex and money. *God Is a Gamer* culminates in a stunning climax where money means nothing, assassination is taught by the ancient Greeks, and nothing is as it seems.

God is a Gamer Details

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Author : Ravi Subramanian

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From Reader Review God is a Gamer for online ebook

Jay says

Ravi Subramanian has perfectly carved out a niche for himself in the fiction category. A smart move which is bearing him fruits, considering the fact that he has a long legacy in the banking industry. Although, don't get misguided by the word 'fiction', for a lot of the subjects talked about and mentioned in this book have their origins in real life people, technologies and scams.

Ravi works like a master craftsman working at high levels of accuracy and agility to keep the story moving forward. He deftly brings stories from different angles and locations to a single point in the end. The screenplay of the entire book runs like a fast paced Hollywood action flick, so there are very less chances of getting bored.

Assassination of US Government officials, hacking into gaming companies, phishing scams of MNC banks, murders, deaths, deceit and vengeance. This book will be able to satisfy your desires on a wide range of aspects.

I really liked his thought on real wealth and wish to share it with all of you,
"I wish I had looked back. Life would have been different. We are all chasing illusory pleasures. Our real wealth is not in our bank accounts"

The infamous online black market, Silk Road, also finds its place in the book in the form of Cotton Trail. The author has done substantial amount of research in the areas of Bitcoins and its origins as well as the online TOR and Silk Road network. (The Silk Road creator recently got caught and is undergoing trial, a sign of things stemming from the book? Maybe.)

Go ahead and read this book before it gets turned into a Bollywood blockbuster.
Read the complete review on my blog

Shravanthi says

God is a Gamer:

An excellent, unparalleled plot coupled with amazing story-telling!
Truly, I did not expect this from an Indian author. It was a pleasant surprise.

A thriller that managed to make Sidney Sheldon and Dan Brown look like kiddos scribbling random stuff.

I'm not going to give anything away in the name of spoilers. Everybody who reads this book deserves to go into it without having any preconceived notions. If you think that Indian authors don't cut it as Thriller authors – then take this! In your face ! (Yep, that's my experience literally. I am sorry Ravi Subramanian, I should have picked up your book earlier. I was judgmental and wrong.)

The author clearly knew what he was doing. He has done his research and his home work perfectly. He is an exemplary, masterful, superlative story crafter in the Thriller genre.

The story took off like a rocket. Not a single line was wasted in preamble. The story kick started with a scam, hooking the readers on. Reading the book was like watching a commercial Kollywood (Like Hollywood but in South India) movie. It had politics, affairs, drugs, murder, sex, greedy money launderers and slander. It's nothing we haven't seen or heard of before, in the way of story; but there was something different about 'God is a Gamer'. Even with these classic themes of crimes, Ravi Subramanian has managed to deliver a fresh plot.

The biggest plus point is that, the story takes place in two parallel lines, across nations. Events are happening simultaneously in India and the US. The Governments and the Intelligence agencies from both the countries are flummoxed. Neither of them can solve the mysterious murders and cyber thefts that have taken the nations by storm. Bringing together these two disconnected plotlines is the overall script.

The plot progresses in breakneck speed; there is a twist after twist. It maintained the suspense all throughout its 300 odd pages, without ever succumbing to lag even once. The clues are so subtly given that even the most experienced, self-proclaimed mystery-solver, reader cannot break it.

One tiny detail that I felt was far-fetched was the seamless operation of a huge online network. If running a government is tough, running an incognito cyber network of criminals is tougher. Gathering bitcoin-laundering, prostitution, pedophilia and pornography under the same umbrella wasn't very convincing. I think he could have limited the crime rate for these goons and stuck to one of these.

And of course don't go looking for deep characters with meaningful backgrounds. This book is about racy story and high from thrills. I was honestly lost when trying to figure out who the bad guys were. I couldn't eliminate anybody, while people I truly suspected were murdered!

This is a huge success for an Indian author. I am so glad there are people like him among Chetan Bhagats and Durjoy Duttas and Ravinder Singhs. I finished it in one day, so that should be testament of how good this is. And yes, that was my Sunday that was sacrificed. No regrets.

Vani says

What could connect the murder of a top American Senator, the suicide of an Indian banker, an ATM heist, the rising fortunes of a gaming company, an underground network of drug, sex and money and a malware? This seemingly incongruous set of events has even the FBI in a fix. What loops them together is a story that progresses at a break neck speed and opens up the world of bitcoins and cotton trail to its readers. Ravi Subramanian's writing is without curlicues, he cuts to the chase without wasting time on unnecessary descriptions. His women are just described as beautiful (imagine what you want!) his men are, well, just people with different names, Stan, Aditya, Tony, Sundeep, Varun, make of them what you want. His plot takes precedence over all else but boy, the plot itself is so engrossing that you'd rather want as less of description as possible. I cannot imagine how much research has gone in to writing such a novel but I'm glad the author's dumped as little of it on the reader as possible. The story takes you across two continents and yet is not difficult to follow. Keeping to the standards of an international thriller (read: Lee Child or John Grisham), the chapters are small, a page or two at the max and the suspense element high till the very end which makes it an out an out page turner. I'd commend the author for that. This is the first one of Subramanian's novels that I read and loved it.

Maria says

Hi Ravi Subramanian. I was eagerly awaiting your latest, GOD IS A GAMER. It finally arrived and I was so pleased. So as I eagerly took the time to find a nice, quiet spot where I could read your thriller undisturbed. It took some doing, as I'm a busy mother with three teens and a preteen and they all need Mom now at some time or another. Yeah, they're all grown up, but they sometimes need someone to give them undivided attention, to listen to them and give encouragement - and that can be more intense than taking care of youngsters. Then there's the MIL, the nemesis of the Indian wife. But the less said about that the better. The husband is no trouble at all, but I guess I'm lucky. So there I was, turning page after page. Bitcoins? A new, virtual internet currency? Wow, I had no idea. An American bank with branches in India and an ATM heist, excuted in an army type operation?? Wow, could it be possible. A US senator assassinated on his way to meet Obama? Chilling! You know what, Raviji, you are a game changer when it comes to the writing of thrillers. I mean, who needs crazed serial killers when you have high finance? Seriously. I can't look at an ATM machine anymore without a quiver of anticipation running up my spine. I'll never think of the boring old bank down the road in quite the same way again. Who woulda thunk, as the Americans say? Well, some of them. And as for gaming? There's a virtual universe in itself. My experience in gaming hasn't really gone beyond Tetris and Pac Man, but I do know that gaming is going extremely sophisiticated. In fact, it's a type of storytelling now. An online university, Iversity, ran a course ont he future of storytelling last year and the basic conclusion was that gaming is the new storytelling method. Are you sure you didn't do that course, Ravi Subramanian?

Your method of storytelling is something rather innovative and I have seen at least one other Indian thriller writer using it. It reads like a movie script. The chapters are short, just one scene at a time. One scene gives way to another and the story proceeds seamlessly. It's action all the way, no meaningless meandering. In fact, reading a Ravi Subramanian, any of them, is a viable alternative to watching television or a movie.

Yes, Ravi Subramanian, your book ticks all the boxes when it comes to fulfilling the requirements of the most discerning thriller reader. Suspense? Tick. Excitement? Tick. Characters for whom the readers can feel and with whom they can identify? Tick. A compulsive storyline? Tick. Tick. Tick. Double tick. In other words, my message to readers is: get this book.

And you know something else? Your book was educational. Yes! I found myself Googling bitcoins and the onion router. Just imagine that there's, like, an alternative world wide web where people with dark desires hang out without fear of exposure. Shivers up the spine again..... What a bold move, revealing the identity of the bitcoin founder, Satoshi Nakamoto. That's a real person and, like, no one knows who he really is.

Complaints? Nope, not too many. Apart for the fact that the narrative is sometimes so fast paced that it leaves me breathless, not a complaint when it comes to suspense thrillers. But Ravi Subramanian, you need to talk to some of your characters. Some of them have multiple personalities. Take Tanya, for example. She starts off as a bechari with a problem mother and ends up as a very black character indeed who is nonetheless more sinned against than sinning. And that Nikki Tan has to be the worst mother I've ever come across, giving her daughter carte blanche to use the Onion Router for criminal activities, however soft. And Varun? Don't get me started on Varun! He makes my blood boil and that is just about as nice as I can be. Tell me, Ravi Subramanian, why did you create a paranormal monster in what is so obviously a contemporary suspense thriller? Frankenstein has nothing on this guy. Varun is like a freaking Dracula. Be you in Brazil or in Goa, he will step out of the shadows into your life and sweep you off your feet. And then he will make

mad, passionate love to you on the beach andwell, I'm not the reviewer who will provide spoilers for the readers. But I tell you, I have severe difficulty with Varun and some of his escapades. Is he black or is he white? Is he good or is he bad? I'm still not quite sure what the heck Varun is supposed to be, but if I ever run into that guy, I will give him a piece of my mind for sure. He's a most amoral character and all I can say is, the man is surely endowed with multiple personalities.

But Raviji, I want to thank you for a great read. Do keep them coming. But go easy on the multiple personality type characters. They freak me out, somewhat.

I received a complimentary copy of htis book in return for an honest review.

Afshan Khan says

God is a gamer is the first book by Ravi Subramanian which I read and I must say I am impressed. I don't read many books of this genre specially written by Indian authors but this one took me by surprise. Ravi truly felt like the John Grisham of banking. All in all the book is good and I wish Ravi comes up with many more interesting plots in future and entertains his readers. My detailed review is below.

Story line , characters and my Review:

The story starts with two big shots Vijay Banga, President of Mastercard International and Joseph Saunders, the CEO of Visa International discussing business and the amendments , profits and the losses, followed by the mysterious murder of Gillian Tan. Initially when the characters get introduced one by one it gets tough to connect the dots but slowly as the story gets unfolded one can put all the pieces together and solve the puzzle. The episodes happening in Newyork , Mumbai and Goa seem disconnected but by the end of it it everything makes sense. The element of surprise and the essence of suspense are intact in the story. The central plot of the story is based on author's creation of "Bit coins" which is the virtual currency and can revolutionize the world. Like pros and cons of every great invention, this has loop holes too and gives scope for illegal activities. The chance to hide one's identity is like a boon to the criminals and helps them to do money transactions using bitcoin wallets and private keys easily which other wise would be tough.

I am truly amazed by the author's imagination here. The technical jargon he used is not that tough as I am aware of banking and computing. It increased my knowledge and I learnt many new things. Kudos to the research he has done to pen down various aspects of the entire plot. He explored the gaming business, made us aware of the fact- how dangerous phishing can be, made us aware of many nuances of banking and much more. As the story picks pace two more murders happen and open the can of worms for Tanya who is the daughter of Malavika. The entire plot is about connecting the dots - Gillian Tan's murder , the murders in India, the illegal businesses handled by "Cotton Trail" so on so forth. The book definitely kept me glued. I rarely read this genre and the story for sure didn't disappoint me.

Characters and things I liked: I loved the character Aditya Rao the founder of eTIOS and Indispace (the gaming company). His passion , perseverance and his desire to stick to ethics is inspiring. I liked Varun's quick witted brain. I liked the way the author tried to strike the chords of almost all who use social media (Facebook) and who play games. Knowing how the gaming business works was the most interesting part to me. The various episodes which seem haphazard are seamlessly blended once the mystery gets resolved.The

"Bitcoin" idea was fresh and innovative. I loved the cover page with a Bit coin symbol and the silhouette of a man. It is stylish. The title is apt too. The ending was a surprise which gets disclosed once Kabir Khan and Adrian Scott assemble every one to interrogate. It was not that easy to guess who the actual culprit was! Most of the characters portrayed felt realistic.

Few minuses :

There are few stories and episodes which definitely were needed but were not connected strongly to the actual plot and hence got compromised but I was willing to know more :)

Even if it kept me glued there was too much to take in and the pace of the book slowed down after completing almost half of it.

Few dialogues and descriptions of few characters seemed repetitive.

There are 2-3 words which were spelled wrong but you will observe them only if you have a keen eye to find mistakes :)

Other than these minor glitches which can almost be ignored, I loved the book, the plot and the fresh feeling I got after reading few crap books penned down by any one and every one these days. My rating would be 3.5/ 5.

If bollywood has guts the film makers should try making a movie of this book by executing it correctly. It would be wonderful to watch the movie adaption! All the best to the author Ravi Subramanian. I will definitely try reading his other books starting with Bankster first as I already own it. Thank you Blogadda for sending a good book to review :)

Icing on the cake is the author signed copy I own now !! Thank You :-)

Jaideep Khanduja says

<http://pebbleinthewaters.blogspot.com>...

Book Review: God Is A Gamer by Ravi Subramanian: A Journey of Scandals, Murders, Heists and Money Laundering

God Is A Gamer by Ravi Subramanian is a crime story plotted in an international arena involving political leaders of the United States and India; investigation agencies of both the countries and some high level banking professionals. There are many interesting characters in the story. Their journey starts in isolation in the beginning chapters of the story but later all the links between them come into light gradually. Story starts with an international bank NYIB (New York International Bank) with its operations in India. Three friends - Aditya, Swami and Sundeep. Aditya and Sundeep move out of the bank and start their own organization eTIOS to handle banking operations as an outsourced agency. NYIB is the first bank to outsource them for their operations. Aditya and Sundeep are also engaged in running their gaming industry launching online games from time to time.

Swami was aspiring to become overall operations head in a short time until he gets a big jerk in his career, when Malvika (his boss) sends a confidential negative report about his performance to the Asia Pacific

Headquarter of the bank. This all resulted from a heist that takes place in the country and customers lose money in fake money withdrawals through ATMs from their account. Then there are murders, more heists on a larger scale, involvement of many international names in scandals, murders, heists etc.

My View:

I became a die hard fan of Ravi Subramanian when I first read his book *The Bankster* (reviewed here) in November 2012. This is fifth fiction novel from Ravi and all of his stories revolve around crime related to banking in one way or the other. Having a large amount of his career spent in various portfolios in banking, he is probably aware of in and out of banking business. He also has a non fiction to his credit. Overall story is quite interesting and keep you hooked to the plot throughout 300+ pages. The virtual money floating over the internet in large amounts is an interesting bit in the story.

Somewhere in the story, Varun visits Tanya's residence and is stopped abruptly when he is taking a bottle of wasabi nuts from one of the shelves in the kitchen to taste some nuts. Varun likes Wasabi Nuts and hence could not stop himself for this action. Tanya immediately stops him with a reason that the bottle has crossed its expiry date and hence let him not take nuts from this bottle. She brings another bottle for him. This is something that Ravi would have kept as a point to be talked about at the end when the suspense is being disclosed, but probably forgot it or skipped it.

You will feel it a quick read and running the book faster as each chapter is not more than 2-3 pages. Otherwise also story has been kept crisp and moving at a right pace to keep you engaged throughout. The story is about good and bad, crime and investigation, law and violations. Bigger the crime, more is the research and analysis required to reach to the crux of crime and criminals. Ravi might have plans to come out with a sequel to tackle Varun later. As far as title is concerned, more than God, it is the human mind that is behind all crime related plannings and executions. The crime becomes so big that law is forced to crack it but still a criminal with a different bend of mind is still able to play with the law and give a twist to the final outcome.

Soumi Homeroy says

A very smart fast-paced thriller. Got the ebook on the release day itself. Visa, MasterCard, bitcoins, facebook, gaming and their strategies on FB....so many interesting topics. Now I understand why I used to get stuck in some levels while playing Candy Crush or Pet Rescue saga. I recommend that anyone who loves smart intelligent thriller should read this.

Prity Malhotra says

I never Dare give my Favourite Author Ravi Subramanian's Books anything less then a 5 Stars but like Ashwin Sanghi's *Private India*, *God is a Gamer* turns out to be a Cold Turkey. Ravi Subramanian introduces a new writing style where he gives the reader short snippets/chapters which span upto 2-3 pages. This is what made me Cringe about reading this Book. I felt as if I am reading a Timeline of events occurring across the globe rather than reading a Novel. The Drawback of this was that even after reading this 324 pages long book, I didn't feel connected nor I vouched for any Character. I just wanted this book to End, no matter who gets killed.(Inspired by Game of Thrones author) A lot of Deaths happen in this book, yet it didn't make me bat an Eyelid or feel Sorry, no matter how good the Character was.

Inspired by Dhoom 3 movie, the Author makes FBI appear like Retards. FBI is kidnapping people for Enquiry, arresting people without evidence & even being to lazy to question theories.

There are a lot of Twists thrown in, which are so unbelievable, you start questioning them. The Climax is rather funny yet Cliched. The Zigsaw puzzles don't fall in their place, the dots don't connect, the justifications given are too manipulated to be True. It is a Royal Mess. Touted as a Bit coin Thriller, I felt the author didn't do full justice to this fresh new concept.

Guttu says

I have no idea why this book is titled "God is a gamer"? It should have been something related to bank. Just like any other Ravi Subramanian books, this book is speedy. But unlike the previous books, It's very tough to guess who is the culprit? Who committed crime? And what crimes EXACTLY did he/she commit? There is so much information flowing through this book that there is very less scope for characters to develop. There is not a single character you would attach to. And yet this book keeps you glued till the end. Till the last page and the last line.

The climax will surprise you. It has set premises for a sequel.

Seemita says

Its a racy thriller which is taut and zippy. Not a dull moment. I read it in one sitting and yes, it does keep you hooked! The characters have been well sketched and one doesn't struggle to keep pace with the narration and names. The subject is interesting. Keeping the average reader in mind, a lot of bitcoin theory has not been thrown into it, which would be relief to many. It does just about its work, keeping you guessing! And yes, I did let slip a victorious grin when the climax was revealed.... I knew the culprit way back when I just at 40% of the book :)

Namrata Ganti says

I received this book via Blod adda in exchange for an honest review and I really enjoyed this book from the moment I started reading it. This is the second book I have read by Ravi Subramanian and I believe this book is as different from the previous as it is wonderful to read.

God is a Gamer is a story of revenge, a story that touches upon the various emotions of betrayal, trust, lies, love and family. The story starts off with the murder of a high profile person in America. The prologue introduces us to a discussion between the President of Mastercard International and the CEO of Visa International followed later by the emergence of Wikileaks and its impact on the US Government. The author then talks about the existence of virtual money called bitcoins, slated to be the future of money and thus is formed a plot that will turn the world upside down. An explosion that kills an American Bureaucrat has the FBI running around trying to solve the case as soon as possible.

In India, a prominent banker, Malvika dies by falling off a rooftop at a party held in her house which raises quite a few doubts. Aditya Rao owns a small gaming company that suddenly becomes well known all around the world once Varun joins the team. There is a lot of internal politics that arises within the Bank where

Malvika worked and the author has drawn this out beautifully. The concept of virtual money turns out to be a part of a darker plot and the internet doesn't seem to be such a safe place anymore.

Ravi Subramanian has woven a master plot that will keep you hooked till the end. Throughout the story, he will keep the reader guessing, wondering what is going to happen next. The author manages to keep the suspense till the very end when the entire plot unravels in a brilliant ending. This story is as much an expose on how various agencies around the world function as it is an in depth analysis on how people think. The base plot is strong and the sub-plots help in strengthening it.

The style of writing is wonderful and the author keeps up a good pace throughout the story without losing track. I particularly enjoyed all the information he has incorporated regarding Bitcoins which shows just how much research has gone into writing this story. I love the characters he has created and the way each one has an important role to play. In the end every loose thread is tied up and the whole plot is laid as the author ends the story in style.

All this boils down to a fast paced thriller that will have the reader on the edge of their seat reading until the very end without a moment's pause. The reader will keep turning the pages of the book just to know what happens next. The way the author has indirectly said that God is indeed a gamer and we are all just a part of his game is a brilliant take on how this world functions. This is a must read for all fans of thrillers and mysteries.

Meghant Parmar says

A lot has happened in one of the most prestigious banks of India i.e NYIB and the honchos are at loggerheads and the departmental heads completely down and out. There is no clue as to what hit them hard and fast. Meanwhile in U.S somebody is trying to meet the President and finish off an unfinished business. But there's a lot more for him in store. So what will happen from Mumbai to U.S when complexities in life will add up and come to haunt them forever? Will the guilty be guilty or will take down the entire system? Who's got the poker face and who's truly innocent is to be seen and who's the mastermind of all? That's what the story is all about.

The author has offered the first bitcoin thriller and rightly so. The expertise of the author in penning down banking thrillers comes handy in the latest one too. As a thriller book manages to pull out all stops to keep it tight and high on drama and numerous banking suspense which keeps the readers busy most of the time. The book has got a new touch to it with smaller chapters and fluent narration which gives it an extra edge while keeping it all under wraps. The book towards the end comes back in good measures and saves the best for the last. The banking saga continues with good real life connections. The vivid imagination of the author taking story to great lengths should earn him some positive credits too.

The downside of the book is the lack of bitcoin hype in the story. The bitcoin takes a back seat in a number of other smaller plots and twists and turns. The number of characters in the story are one too many and could have been kept to a minimum. The numerous characters makes it clumsy at times and involvement of some fizzles out which doesn't quite look to be clean. The book dulls in the middle and doesn't quite deliver the entire bitcoin scenario convincingly instead manuvers around other parallel plots bit too much. The gaming bit in the book eats up a lot of bitcoin space and proves to be its nemesis too. Probably toning down the story by few chapters would have helped as it gets dragged along too much.

All in all the book turns out to be more of a gaming thriller rather than a bitcoin affair. The bitcoin holding up true for sometime but not a glamorous deliverance unlike the previous works. The term bitcoin proving to be a good and bad in equal measures for the book. It's point blank thriller experience if something you are looking forward to but at the expense of some distractions. It all comes packed in one and gives a good experience of getting glimpses of the life of high profile banks and gaming industry. It's a good story but not a great one.

Swathi Kiranmayee Manchili says

Amazing story telling by Ravi Subramanian!

Story links Indian politician, CBI, banking sector, FBI, US senator and technology students. Author links them in an interesting way. The author keeps the reader engaged through out the book. There was no point in the book where I felt it to be boring or something which sounded redundant. I liked the short chapters format and it was a quick read.

I would definitely recommend this book. I am looking forward to reading more of Ravi Subramanian.

Ishani Malhotra says

Good job Ravi. Congrats for the book once more.

Pooja Jeevagan says

I now feel that Ravi is fast becoming a serial novelist...a novel a year or lesser...that puts him in the Jeffrey Archer kind of league...and while Jeffrey brings series of novel, Ravi follows the same backdrop...banks (always there, but never so much so that non-finance people are turned off...or so insane as to offend the real finance ones)...off late credit cards included in them...and some good dose of terrorism or technology...

This one is different from rest for each chapter was just a couple of pages long...few characters having good dimensions whereas most were just there...for a moment, a scene...and then forgotten...to come back again, suddenly somewhere...but then again you don't read his books for characterization (or you usually don't read any Indian author for detailed character sketch)..

The book does what it planned on doing...getting you hooked...make sure you pick it again soon after you've left it...catching your attention..be fast thrilled (even at the cost of being unbelievable at places)...the suspense, you kind of guess it about 50-60 pages before the book ends but the way there r twists enough to make you feel you were wrong...a job, well done!
