

***HOW I WROTE A BESTSELLER***

**By Kulpreet Yadav**

I started out with the central character, Andy Karan, who mirrors the Indian youth. He is intelligent, hates corruption and has an amazing ability to survive the daily odds.

Once I was sure I knew Andy Karan well, I began with the plot. The plot reveals the laziness of Indian bureaucrats and the greed of big business houses. A considerable amount of time was spent creating a plot which I thought had all the elements that were relevant to today's life and was fast enough to keep the reader's interest. The novel is set in Mumbai and Delhi and on the island of MurudJanjira. The setting was carefully established too. I have tried to create a clear image without being too verbose. The point of view is third person as it allowed me more room to navigate through the story.

Establishing the conflict in Andy Karan's life was one of the key elements I gave a lot of thought to. Andy Karan, in his late twenties, has worked for 5 years in the Indian army but is employed as an investigative journalist in the novel. Thought patriotic and someone who hates corruption, Andy has had a damaged past. To hold these values comes natural to him, as it does to the modern Indian generation. He works hard to keep his past buried so that it doesn't override his present. But this is not easy.

There is a moment in the novel when he has to choose between his own life and that of his countrymen. He doesn't want to die, as, for the first time in his life, he has found love. That conflict defines his character and is the root from which the novel grows. I won't give any more of the plot away, as it will be more enjoyable for readers to discover it on their own.

The launch of the novel on 18<sup>th</sup> July at The Arts House at Singapore was a big moment for me. But the real joy came on 17<sup>th</sup> August, when in exactly one month, the novel reached the number one position on Amazon India (Mystery and thrillers). It continues to do well on Amazon and by

now has reached the traditional bookstores all across the country. On 5 Sep The Asian Age has listed it at number 10 position in Top 10 Indian Bestsellers list.

At the core of my heart I am a storyteller so these numbers are not important to me. My real happiness is in people reading this novel and enjoying it. The great Indian tradition of storytelling, which has seen a decline in the recent times, is something I would like to nurture in my own way. Open Road Review literary magazine is one such platform I have created besides conducting regular creative writing workshops.

**About Catching the Departed (Andy Karan Thriller # 1):** The dead don't speak. But sometimes they leave a trail. Andy Karan, an investigative journalist, is sent to probe one such—the death of a local lawyer.

He ends up grievously wounded. His new found love Monika's life is in danger too.

It's not that Andy wants to live forever. But to die in the hands of enemies of the nation will be a shame that will transcend even death.

**Bio:**

Kulpreet Yadav's latest novel 'Catching the Departed' was shortlisted by Hachette-DNA in a contest called 'Hunt for the Next Bestseller' and launched at 'The Arts House, Singapore' on 18 July 2014. He is the Founder-Editor of Open Road Review, an international literary magazine that has published over 130 writers from 20 countries in the last three years. As a Creative Writing Mentor, Kulpreet has conducted several workshops for aspiring writers in India. Shortlisted numerous times in literary contests, Kulpreet's stories and essays have appeared in over 30 publications, in India and elsewhere. He lives in New Delhi.

More at [www.kulpreetyadav.in](http://www.kulpreetyadav.in)