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Shikhandi: And Other Tales They Don't Tell You

Devdutt Pattanaik

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 **DEV DUTT** 
PATTANAIAK
INDIA'S BESTSELLING MYTHOLOGIST



SHIKHANDI

AND OTHER **QUEER** TALES THEY DON'T TELL YOU

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Devdutt Pattanaik : Shikhandi: And Other Tales They Don't Tell You before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shikhandi: And Other Tales They Don't Tell You:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fluidity found atlast in bound Indian mythology!By CustomerWhen I first read the name "Shikhandi", I was like 'oh what kind of a name is that?' I had read author's editorial published in TOI when Sec 377 was reimposed by Supreme Court throwing the ball into parliament, as I guess the judge knew he would be evaporated as the conditions were in favourable of tyrant non secular political party. So, its better to save

your own hide than worry about others, isn't it? Anyways, I got the main reason why Bhishma lay on the bed of arrows, which was never shown in any Mahabharat series played on TV nor in any story telling sessions by grandparents or temples. But the best part of the book is the starting poem. It is brilliant. Rest of the stories (if you tend to believe Ramayana, Mahabharat, Krishna, etc. you need to believe these stories too...) speak more about gender fluidity, neutrality and most important is it can gently bring you to the understanding that gender is something what you feel and think, something in your mind, while your body might be of any shape and sex. These stories also puts forth about kind of sex a human can have due to being born a human. Its refreshing to read fluidity in the current stagnant and moulded society. One suggestion to penguin people: Please proofread! Even if its written by Indian author on a controversial subject, don't just shrug off your responsibility to 'spell check' for spelling mistakes. There are quite a lot spelling mistakes for e.g. 'from' is converted to 'Prom'. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Felt Cheated! By Kaveri Mayra While reading this book I felt cheated many times. I have read Ramayana and Mahabharata in school (was there in curricula in CBSE) and now i realise it was a very digested version what we learned is what needs to be passed on to the next generation. I have come across people complaining about Indians (where they mostly mean Hindu) who have plenty of erotic text as part of their religious books and still the persistent neglect in talking about sex, gender and sexuality. I think part of the reason is that what's retold is usually the selected stories and then one needs to accommodate all the transmission loss which the author also mentioned. This book is a must read for people who advocate for 'Queer Rights'. I revisited the poem given in the beginning of the book that made more sense with every passing chapter. I might have it by heart by now. My eyes popped out while reading many of the chapters and I think most readers will relate to it who know parts of the stories told here but not the whole story. The title of the book is apt- these definitely are stories that elders choose not to tell or probably don't know themselves. These are not stories that are passed on. The question is- does it show some fault in our gods? I am definitely going to keep reading and referencing the chapters in my work of and Dr. Pattnaik needs to add me in his growing list of fans. Lastly, I applaud the initiative of Zubaan. I had earlier read seeing like a feminist and loved it. PS: Kamasutra added to my list of books to be read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was never bored. And By Shari's Peculiar Fascination This was a very enlightening read. There were some fascinating stories/myths/history. To be sure, I was never bored. And, what's more, I learned a great deal without realizing it until the end. Devdutt Pattanaik managed to educate and enlighten with a subtle style of storytelling that made it hard to put the book down. What a great college course this would be! Mr. Pattanaik's observation/perspective on Krishna was especially inspiring and positively thought-provoking.

Patriarchy asserts that men are superior to women, feminism clarifies that women and men are equal, and queerness questions what constitutes male and female. One of the few people to talk frankly and sensitively about queerness and religion, celebrated Indian mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik explains that queerness isn't only modern, Western, or sexual. Rather, by looking at the vast written and oral traditions of Hinduism, he finds many overlooked tales with queerness at their center, some over two thousand years old. There's Shikhandi, who became a man to satisfy her wife; Mahadeva, who became a woman to deliver her devotees child; Chudala, who became a man to enlighten her husband; Samavan, who became the wife of his male friend and many, many more. In Shikhandi, and Other Tales They Don't Tell You, Pattanaik recounts these stories and explores the importance of mythologies in understanding the modern Indian mindset. Playful, touching, and sometimes disturbing, when Shikhandi's stories are compared with their Mesopotamian, Greek, Chinese, and Biblical counterparts, they reveal the unique Indian way of making sense of queerness. Pattanaik is a master storyteller Bibek Debroy, translator of The Bhagavad Gita

"Pattanaik is a master story-teller" - Bibek Debroy, translator of The Bhagavad Gita About the Author Devdutt Pattanaik is a best-selling Indian author, speaker, and mythologist. He has written over twenty-five books and four hundred articles on mythology for people of all ages.