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AUCTION DESCRIPTION

Lord Vishnu's Love Handles: A Spy Novel (Sort Of) Details

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Author : Will Clarke

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From Reader Review Lord Vishnu's Love Handles: A Spy Novel (Sort Of) for online ebook

Tom McLean says

This novel is not for everyone, but it's perfect for me. I'm a sucker for the smartass protagonist thing, especially when you throw in some supernatural or sci-fi into the mix. I can see why the reviews of this book are so polarizing. One can tell the author struggled in keeping the literary and fun sides of his voice in balance. But I think Lord Vishnu's Love Handles is a resounding success. Worth reading, but only if you've got a dark sense of humor and can appreciate a protagonist you might actually hate in real life.

Abbey says

I selected the rating, "really liked it," simply because I could not put the book down. But I don't know that I LIKE, LIKED it (to sound a like a teenage girl). The language is not for the faint of heart. And the whole tail is curious - much in the vein of a Tim Robbins book. There probably was some big metaphorical meaning hidden in among on the craziness, but since I was looking for escapism - not theology - I chose to simply read it for the very peculiar, action-adventure that it was....

Lena says

This story of a yuppie with a psychic gift who suddenly finds himself mixed up with covert operatives and Hindu holy men was a mixed bag for me. I loved the premise and loved the title, and enjoyed much of the writing. But I was disappointed in the direction the author took the story and it fell apart for me at the end.

Christina Hebert says

This book was totally NOT what I expected. Only reason I grabbed it is because the cover caught my eye on the bookshelf at the library. Another reader described the writing "first-person, overly informal, annoyingly unhinged style", which is EXACTLY what it is, and I loved it.

This protagonist is a douchebag. After reading a books with strong female leads, it was quite the flip jumping into this mans mind. Though he is a douche, you cant put the book down as it leads in to what seems a mental breakdown, yoga, a sci-fi twist and "WTF is happening" feeling.

It was a very quick read, and something I would normally read on my kindle.

Ashley says

This is a silly, mindless, sometimes annoying comedic romp through the head of a psychic yuppie desperate to please his wife and keep his Stepford family intact - often to the point of "why bother, dude?" It was a

mindless read, slightly laughable, to the tune of Tom Robbins (but not nearly as wordsmithy), Christopher Moore, or Carl Hiaasen. Two-and-a-half stars; I'm halfway between it was ok and liked it, but it was a quick read.

Stacey says

Lord Vishnu's *Love Handles* is unexpectedly fleshy and overly brash. Its protagonist spends so much time shooting his mouth off that I think the author may have forgotten that, as readers, we're probably more apt to enjoy his work if we don't hate its main character. There's no redemption here. There's barely a coherent plot. What there is, in spades, is a lot of unnecessary bawdiness.

The premise is simple, and then convoluted. Yuppie man leads charmed existence, with a side of psychic abilities and a drinking problem. His life is turned upside down and he ends up making a deal with the devil (in this case a super-secret government ESP organization). Enter the bad guy and a dozen or so plot mishaps magically healed by convenient sixth-sense-iness. Sprinkle with lots of excessive aggression and pseudo-sexy undertones and viola!

Don't get me wrong. I love a good silly yet dirty romp as much as the next girl, but this one left me feeling unfulfilled. Like I'd somehow just read a big mac and then wiped the grease off my hands onto a second-hand negligee.

Robin says

Usually I dislike books with whiny, self-indulgent, and deluded alcoholic protagonists, but I could barely put *Lord Vishnu's Love Handles* down. The protagonist, who tells the story in first person, is over-the-top brash and often obscene, but adds a black humor edge to his diatribes that is rather compelling and funny. He is psychic, and is often overwhelmed by his premonitory visions. And as for his paranoia—is it really psychological breakdown or is there some kind of trickery afoot to watch and control him? The twists and turns of the plot and the oddly funny yet scary and in-your-face characters make this book quite a page-turner. The plot involves sex, drugs, relationships, psychology, and government, a heady combination. There's violence, some of it rather graphic. Yet, the story is told with irony and humor—a very unusual book indeed.

I recommend this to readers who are looking for a unique thriller—as long as they can handle some rough language and blood. But really, what is a thriller without sex, violence, and serious grit?

Ben says

Tia really liked this, but I didn't care for it. Couldn't get into it and never found it anything about it interesting.

Dergrossest says

I did not see this one coming. In fact, I did not see this one coming until about 50 pages in when I was just about to abandon it. Maybe it was the first-person, overly informal, annoyingly unhinged style, which is a constant throughout the book, but which suddenly became more palatable once the story kicked into full-on crazy mode. Anyway, the full-on crazy premise of this very original book is that a man seemingly slipping into madness may actually be the James Bond of psychic espionage. Or maybe he is just a bat-shit crazy Mr. Bean. Either way, the story is a twisty mystery, wrapped up in Hindu mythology and sprinkled with a generous portion of X-Files silliness.

I loved this book and cannot reveal much more without spoiling everything. Just beware that you might not make it through the odd writing style. Too bad if you don't, because this book ended up being lots of fun.

Recommended.

Quiet says

A genuinely funny psychic novel that is loaded with cheeky humor, a terrific asshole of a main character who's a lot of fun, and a really weird snowball story concerning psychic powers and secret institutions and Disney World too.

It's a weird fun book, and I had fun reading it and I'd recommend it based on that; it's just good, solid fun.

My complaint, and why I don't love the book, is I actually don't quite see the "point" other than the story. I know that's odd, but there's just no impact or proximity with the novel once you finish. It really is just a fictitious story where you get to hear this strange tale of this guy--- but it doesn't mean anything? There's nothing really pensive or intimate about the story, not even in it's conclusion. You just finish it and think, "Huh. That was a book." And all you really take away is that it was fun to read--- but it doesn't really offer any feeling or larger thought, and there's absolutely no reason to ever reread this book again because of that.

I wish I could explain that better, but even kind of lousy books I always feel like, at least in the ending, have that "thing," that "it" that makes you look at your own life and maybe feel something about some silly thing like love or the soul or friendship or some shit like that. But that's really not here at all; it's just this character's story, which you read, and then it ends, and you go "Okay."

So it's funny, and I do recommend it. And I see all the criticism below targeting the main character as a turn-off; whatever, he's the part. An alcoholic yuppie who doesn't care about anything but his own life and that's really cool and nice and for fuck's sake there's nothing more refreshing than an author who doesn't go goddamn Marxist just because a character has some wealth, so I really love the main-character and is easily the highlight of the book for me.

So check it out!

roy seeley says

This book has to be the worst book I have had the misfortune to read in many years. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody. Maybe guys like Hitler or Stalin. The language in the book is also bad, as well as the sexual episodes. DON'T BUY THIS BOOK!

Lyall says

Really, really funny in a few parts. Was definitely not a style of writing I am used to. It certainly got a bit strange for me near the end.

Mick says

Let's set things straight: Will Clarke's LORD VISHNU'S LOVE HANDLES is a darn funny book--some of it literally laugh-out-loud funny. Clarke's here-it-is, straight-forward style is fun to read, and the author can set up a scene, antagonize his protagonist, then knock it out of the park with ingenuous comedic wit and ease. Clarke's goofy, ultra-fantastic story--about a yuppie psychic who goes to work for the government in exchange for forgiveness of his IRS debt, yet subsequently loses his family when they're kidnapped by his wacky cohorts--is fresh, innovative, funny. . .but just takes darn forever to wrap itself up.

To be sure, this is not your Aunt Sadie's light comedy; Clarke's story is quite dark, fueled by violence and death. While Travis Anderson, the protagonist, more or less keeps his wits about him as his life hopelessly unravels, I couldn't help but feel frustrated as the plot descended into catastrophic goofiness. And kept descending, page after page, chapter after chapter--until I was begging for the book to be over, and the insanity to end. (And then the author punctuates all of the nonsense with a final, four-page chapter that left me scratching my head in sheer bewilderment.) LORD VISHNU'S LOVE HANDLES is well-written and funny--but when you have to suspend disbelief to this degree, for a comedy, mind you, much of the positives this book brings vanish like the blue Vishnu gods the protagonist imagines he's seeing.

Tal M. Klein says

One of the most creative, funny, and thrilling books I've ever read. I was a bit concerned because there's a *lot* of set up through the first act—which felt like a lot of info dumping, but all of this information comes into play in the final act. It's so well done. I can't wait to read more of Will Clarke's writing.

Bayneeta says

Listened to this for an RA SIG. Funny in parts, though the language and sex might offend some. I'm usually pretty good at suspending my disbelief, but this book pushed the limits and, while I was mildly interested in where this might end up, by the time we got there I was bored. Man with mild psychic abilities is taken in to

a government program in return for the forgiveness of a \$5 million IRS debt. Who can be trusted? Is his wife sleeping with his partner? Is there an alligator in the swimming pool? Is his mentor a reincarnation of Vishnu? In the end, I didn't much care.
