



## **Blood Red Sari**

*Ashok K. Banker*

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*Blood Red Sari is India's first all-women action thriller series that all but replaces estrogen with adrenalin.*

Missing social activist Lalima has picked four women to carry out the task she was unable to finish...

**Sheila**, the owner of an all-women's gym in Kolkata

**Nachiketa**, an attorney in Delhi who is suing her in-laws

for the violent abuse that left her wheelchair-bound for life

**Malayali**, a private investigator

and lastly **Anita**, whose own brothers are out to get her.

Lalima's adversaries use influence and hired killers to track down all those who have been sent incriminating evidence against them, forcing Sheila, Nachiketa, and Anita to battle for survival even as they race against time to understand the import of the documents they have received.

Spanning the murky underbelly of the country's metropolises and the international human trafficking mafia, Blood Red Sari is a pulse-pounding action thriller with a feminist punch.

Long before he became India's favorite epic storyteller, he was the author of the first Indian crime novels in English. With Blood Red Sari, Ashok reinvents the action thriller in a new global all-female avatar.

## Blood Red Sari Details

Date : Published 2012 by HarperCollins

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Author : Ashok K. Banker

Format : Paperback 300 pages

Genre : Fiction, Thriller

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## **From Reader Review Blood Red Sari for online ebook**

### **Kaajal Shrma says**

started off at a slow pace but gained momentum and a lot of speed gradually....the action towards the end of it is breathtaking or rather doesn't give u time to even breathe.....special mention to the details n descriptions....the story writer has definitely made it a point include all sorts of crime against women....but has done it in a beautiful way.....the three women seem to someone from the neighbourhood....i havent finished it yet....but ask my heart-i don't want it to end at all!

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### **Pratibha says**

I had forgotten about this series until this year I happen to see this book again. And now that am reading the whole set of 4 books ,I realise the first one is brilliant in setting the context and the cast.

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### **Sameera Kamulkar says**

After a very long time, a 'cant put it down' thriller.  
Cant wait to read the other parts.  
I recommend.

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### **Shirin Laturkar says**

You can find this review on The Opinions Of A Bookaholic

This book just dragged and dragged and dragged.

It was the most boring book I've read this year. You know a book's bad when you wish it would get over when you're barely half way through.

That said, I do like ideals the book showcases. These are problems that HAVE to be fixed. But I'd rather just read a newspaper article that 300 extremely slow paced pages.

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### **Shaili says**

iam reddit et

(Translation: Now returns Justice)

-Virgil

This is how the book *Blood Red Sari* by Ashok Banker starts, being the first in the Kali Rising series. What follows is a power packed story of tremendously courageous women who fight to save themselves from an unknown villain.

To give a brief introduction about the book, it's a story of four women (technically, three since I am assuming the fourth one will come into the picture in the book next in the series) whose lives change when they receive a mysterious parcel containing documents that they can't make head or tail of, at first. Their lives change when they are pursued because of the documents that threaten to damn a powerful business entity involved in trafficking of humans through NGOs.

Some good quotes from the book:

"...because you didn't simply replace one social system or religion with another, you just layered it on top of the old one, layer after layer after layer, until bits and parts of the older layers peeked out through the new and it all made up the whole."

"Come on, bitch. Man up,' she said, then snorted a burst of laughter, spraying mucus from her running nose. Her eyes and nose and throat were all running because of the pain and because she was literally weeping with the pain. She had laughed because of the incongruity of her being a woman telling herself to 'man' up. 'Woman up, bitch,' she corrected herself. That sounded better. Toughness wasn't an exclusive male privilege.

If women can have babies without epidurals, I can fucking walk on a broken foot."

On the whole, I really liked this book. I am looking forward to reading more books in the series. This also encourages me to check out more books by Ashok Banker. For a change, it's a book by an Indian author which is not about women having stereotypical roles or professions.

More book reviews, author interviews and other cool stuff about books on Books and a lot more.

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## **Abhishek Desikan says**

I don't think I've given a lower rating for any book I've read so far. I would have given it 0 stars if I could. That should, in a nutshell, explain how I felt about this book. A terribly slow and sluggish novel, with a wafer-thin plot about a manila envelope and how three women try to discover the meaning of it's contents, disguised within the authors failed attempt to make the narrative thrilling.

Right from the first page, one gets the impression that the aim of the book was to eventually make it a movie. Unnecessary descriptions, too much emphasis on the handicap of one of the central character, and purposeless chase scenes, make the book an inescapable drag.

Any book positioned as the first in a series, still needs to stand out as a solitary novel. All this book does is to set things up for future novels, and by the time the "reveal" is made, it made me wish I hadn't read this book in the first place.

I think it's safe to say I won't be reading it's sequels.

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## **Sundarraaj Kaushik says**

The story that the author tells is about three ladies who (one later comes to know that there is a fourth lady who is alluded to, but never introduced in the book) receive similar packages from a lady in Kerala.

In just a couple of days time the lives of all the three ladies are turned upside down. The gym run by one of them is shutdown by political goons in Kolkatta and an attempt is made on her life.

The second, in Delhi, who has just won a case against her abusive husband and in-laws finds that her office is ransacked, her secretary is raped and killed the pet dog outside her office and her pups are killed and her office is burnt down with her inside it. She finds herself being chased by a blond guy and few others and thanks to the security guard in her office she manages to keep her life. She finds all her friends turning against her overnight and finds that the ruling the court case that she won has been changed against her in the records of the court.

The third returns to her native town Thiruvananthapuram at the behest of her abhorred brothers and finds herself running for her life from her own brothers. She ends up in a zoo where a father comes to her rescue.

All the three are incapable of understanding the contents of the package that they receive, but have somebody interpreting it for them. They are too late to prevent the disaster that is spelled out in the package.

The book culminates with the beginning of the execution of the plan which is in their hands.

Possibly the author is planning a second part of the novel as he has managed to save all the three ladies in question and has kept the fourth one in the dark.

A decent read.

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## **Monabi Mitra says**

Ashok Banker would do well to sort out the genre to which this book belongs: is it crime, a novel of ideas, an epic of modern types like Joyce's Ulysses or simply a mismatch of all the above with disastrous consequences.

Coming to this book after Abir Mukherjee's A Rising Man, Tarquin Hall's The Case of the Missing Servant and of course the classic The Mask of Dimitrios made me want to send Banker to a Creative Writing School ASAP. Life is short and books are many, one should not waste time on Kali Rising!

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## **carlyle says**

Fast paced, unputdownable, also bit unbelievable.

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## **Bipin says**

The first and foremost thing you should know about this book is it is part of a series and the plot is not revealed completely in the first book. So if you are reading just to know where the plot goes, you are in for a nasty surprise. The ending is abrupt, sort of like a 'to-be-continued' cliffhanger in our soaps. I almost registered a complaint in amazon that my ebook is incomplete (to justify my paranoia, this is my first ebook from amazon) before some sense kicked in and searched about it.

The narration was similar to that of 'Vertigo' except that, different perspectives narrate different parallel stories, which is difficult to keep track initially. The characters are slightly.. okay, somewhat stereotypical. There was no antagonist in this part, just a few goons, chamchas if I may, trying to kill the protagonists. The blurb of next book mentions the introduction of two more protagonists. The author is planning on combining the strengths of all protagonists and make them fight a worthy opponent, but a glimpse of him/her would have pacified some of the irked readers.

On the whole, it seemed that the author eked out the plot with the help of verbose descriptions (sometimes, a little too much for my liking), but as the saying goes, that's where the devil lies!! It's a good, pacy read, but if you wish closure, you better pick it up after all books are out.

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### **Agnivo Niyogi says**

There is not a wingle moment in the book when you would want to put it down. A pacy thriller spanning Kerala, Delhi and Kolkata simultaneously, the plot is gruesomely awesome. Hats off to Ashok Banker for the brilliant read.

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### **Ruchika says**

The narrative was stilted and extremely boring. The author tries too hard to make his characters strong women and fails miserably simply because he is trying too hard. Somehow, the author is under the misconception that only lesbians and handicapped women doing their own things and having a regular life means they're empowered. He focuses far too much on these traits than the traits that would really show their strength. In this way, Mr. Banker comes off as a highly prejudiced man trying very hard to be the exact opposite.

The book is the first one in a new series and as a result, I didn't expect any resolution of the drama or the entire plot to unfold but I did expect to understand more about the story than the characters' orientation. A shoddily written, extremely voyeuristic, sex scene does absolutely nothing to add to the sleaze of the book and reeks of desperate writing aimed at targeting a select audience.

The book is agonizingly slow. The plot does not develop at all. The only thing you know is that the manilla envelope given to the characters is what is propelling the story forward. By the end of the book, you have as much idea about the story as you did when the book started.

Each chapter comprises of 3 mini-chapters which are written from each of the protagonists' pov. The voice of all these characters is so similar that you could easily mistake one for the other were it not for the repeated mention of their orientation and handicap.

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### **Reshmy Pillai says**

I am unworthy of writing this review for, Ashok Banker is a talent that is an institution. He packs the right

ingredients, in the right measure to deliver a super word-ride. The book is racy and saucy in the right measure. It builds up at the right places and carries through with momentum. Full review: <http://wp.me/p2DEiS-F9>

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## **Adite says**

Ashok Banker is one of the best selling authors in India and I so wanted to love this book particularly as it has been touted as a thriller with a feminist punch. It turned out to be a huge disappointment.

Three women in three different cities in India receive a package of documents and their lives are upended. They are on the run and they need to figure out why they are being hunted down by gunmen. In fact there is a fourth woman who is supposed to have received the same package but the author doesn't bother to go into the details in this book, supposedly keeping it for the next book in this trilogy.

What I found particularly annoying is that more than 70% of the book is devoted to figuring out how these women are connected with the contents of the package. And then, suddenly Mr. Banker chooses to dump all the info about the big-bang conspiracy in the last third of the book. Rest assured, this is one series I'm not going to pick up.

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## **Sitharaam Jayakumar says**

When I was searching for books to read in the library last week, I happened to come across this book with the title 'Blood Red Sari' written by Ashok Banker. The name Ashok Banker sounded vaguely familiar and I pulled the book out of the shelf and read the blurb. The book definitely sounded very promising as the blurb informed me that all the three protagonists were independent single women with strong characters and one of them was a lesbian. Being a vocal feminist and a strong supporter of gay rights I got the book issued along with two other books.

It was four days later that I began reading it. The book started off on a promising note with an interesting prologue and progressed smoothly. The first few chapters definitely livened up my mood. The story revolves around documents in a yellow envelope that have been dispatched to each one of the three protagonists by a murdered social activist just before her death.

The first few chapters introduce us to the protagonists who are definitely very interesting people. There is Anita who had grown up with the murdered woman and was also her lover during their formative years. Anita had been abused severely by her brothers (read raped) with the active encouragement of her mother when they find out she is a lesbian.

Read the rest of the review [here](#).

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