

MOVIE REVIEW

Ponniyin Selvan



Director: Mani Ratnam

Cast: Aishwarya Rai, Jayam Ravi, Sobhita Dhulipala

Karthi, Trisha Krishnan, Prakash Raj, Vikram Prabhu

STORY: The Chola kingdom is under threat from forces both internal and external, and with crown prince Aadithya Karikalan, his younger brother Arumozhi Varman and the emperor, Sundara Cholar separated by situations, it is up to a messenger to ensure the safety of the kingdom. Can he succeed in his mission, especially with Karikalan's former girlfriend, Nandhini, plotting to bring down the entire Chola empire?

REVIEW: The casting is more or less spot on. Karthi is terrific as the playful Vandhiyathevan, and along with Jayaram, who plays the spy Alvarkadiyan, infuses humour into the largely serious proceedings. Aishwarya captures the spirit of Nandhini with her beguiling looks, while Vikram, Jayam Ravi and Trisha are effective as the royalty. The frames have grandeur, but unlike in the Baahubali films, here, it is more understated. Shooting largely on real locations, cinematographer Ravi Varman gives us spectacle in the visuals of grand fort walls, the spacious halls with multiple pillars and high ceilings, a solitary boat on a wide expanse of the ocean and innumerable bodies lined up on the beach. While AR Rahman's chopped-up songs are mainly used to further the narrative, his score helps in lending a rousing quality to the proceedings in the second half.

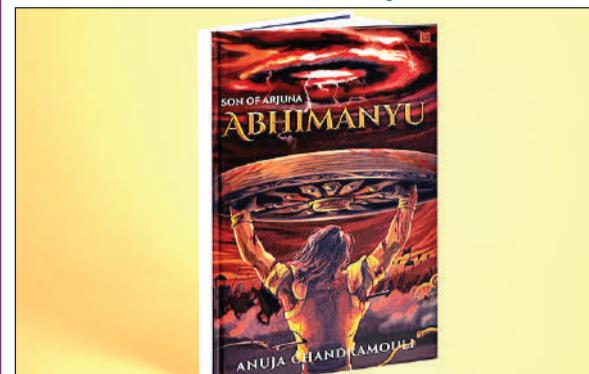
In-depth Analysis

Our overall critic's rating is not an average of the sub scores below.

Direction	2.5/5
Dialogues	2.5/5
Story	2.5/5
Music	2.5/5
Visual appeal	2.5/5

BOOK REVIEW

Abhimanyu



Title: Abhimanyu

Author: Anuja Chandramouli

Genre: Mytho-fiction

Publisher: One Point Six Technologies Pvt Ltd

Pages: 369

Price: 399 INR

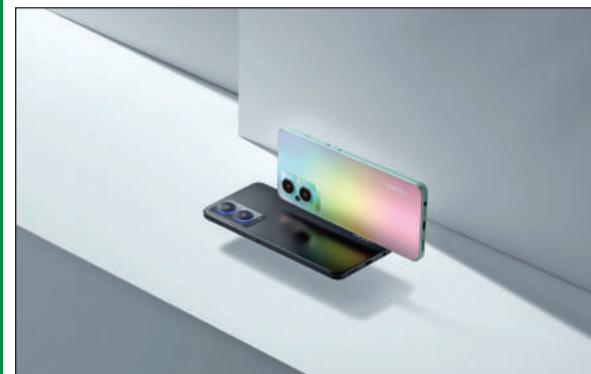
Review: Popular Indian mytho-fiction writer, Anuja Chandramouli's new novel 'Abhimanyu' released in August 2022. As the title suggests, this is the story of Arjuna's son Abhimanyu.

After writing about Arjuna- the Pandava warrior prince- in her novel 'Arjuna', Chandramouli revisits the 'Mahabharata' and tells the story of Abhimanyu-- the unfortunate prince who died young on the battle ground of Kurukshetra. While much is known about how Abhimanyu fought against the Kauravas and died young on the thirteenth day of the war, his life before this is lesser known. Throwing light on it and giving a glimpse of the man behind the 'tragic prince', Chandramouli retells Abhimanyu's story from the time of his birth to when he died fighting in the Chakravyu. In the process, the author highlights the little-known aspects of Abhimanyu's remarkable life and retells the epic 'Mahabharata' through Abhimanyu's point of view.

No matter how many times one revisits the 'Mahabharata', it never fails to amaze readers as they discover a new perspective of it each time. And reading Chandramouli's account of Abhimanyu's story is one such experience. The author's moving narrative and easy writing style makes it a fascinating read. Fans of Chandramouli's previous novels or those who like reading mytho-fictions would like to add 'Abhimanyu' to their reading list.

GADGET REVIEW

Oppo F21s Pro 5G



Expected Price

Rs 26,999

Display

6.43-inch

Resolution

(1080x2400)

Processor

Qualcomm Snapdragon 695

Front Camera

16MP

Rear Camera

64MP + 2MP + 2MP

Rear autofocus

Yes

Rear flash

Yes

RAM

8GB

Storage

128GB

Battery Capacity

4500mAh

OS

Android 12

GPS

Yes

Bluetooth

Yes, v 5.10

USB Type-C

Yes

Headphones

3.5mm

Face unlock

Yes

Fingerprint Sensor

Yes

Compass

Yes

Proximity sensor

Yes

Colours

Dawnlight Gold, Starlight Black

Pros

- * Great design.
- * Good battery life.
- * Good camera performance

Cons

- * Low light shots need improvement.
- * Lacks stereo speakers in daylight.

VEHICLE REVIEW

TVS iQube Electric



Starting Price

Rs. 1.60 - 1.61 Lakh*

Range

100 km/charge

Charging Time

2 Hour 50 Min - 80%

Top Speed

78 kmph

Motor Type

BLDC

Battery Type

Lithium Ion

Battery Capacity

3.04 kwh

Brakes Front

Disc

Brakes Rear

Drum

Kerb Weight

117.2 Kg

Starting

Push Button Start

Wheels Type

Alloy

Tyre Type

Tubeless

Transmission Type

Automatic

Ground Clearance

157 mm

Tail Light

LED

USB charging port

Yes

Additional Features

Number Plate Lamp, Parking Assist

Live Location Status, Crash & Fall Alert

BMS-Controlled Protection System

Pros

- * Powerful hub motor.
- * Features Q-park.
- * Well-balanced suspension setup.

Cons

- * Annoying startup tune.
- * The raised floorboard.

Health and Lifestyle

A six-step guide to getting your interior design right



Daunted by reorganising your space and don't know where to begin? Here's a step-by-step guide from Shah Akshat, Founder and Entrepreneur of a design company, to help you get started on designing your own living or workspace. While hiring a good interior designer will help, knowing the basics of aesthetic design can give you a head start!

Less is always more

As cities get populated and space becomes a prized possession, practicality should be your new mantra. Space has to be used optimally and not merely to a decorative extent – hence prime use of a property's carpet area and ideal positioning of furniture is paramount. Good space planning in fact is key to make an area look its best.

Let the sunshine flow

A significant part of creating a good interior design is the optimum use of natural light, along with ventilation. More natural light fills the space with positive energy and also makes the space look bigger. Not just that, your power bills will also go down substantially.

Shape & Color

Colours can enhance the illusion of space and intimacy, depending on what you choose to splash on the walls. White and other pastel shades, such as blush pink, can make a space appear larger than it is – more so if the space is bathed in natural light. Conversely, if there's very little or no natural light, consider using dark pastel shades to give a sense of intimacy and cosiness. For a soothing and safe touch, go for pastel



shades as they are easy to merge in any design setting.

Multifunctional territory

The concept and culture of work from home during the pandemic has given birth to multifunctional rooms as bedrooms, living rooms and even dining rooms that double up as workspaces in the last two years. Multiple uses of rooms is now the new norm as apartments and houses have limited scope for expansion too.

Tech is the future

A smart home for a smart you! Even though technology has reached new realms of advancement, its introduction to private homes came pretty late. A smart home will involve operations of all your appliances and gadgets, such as televisions, music systems, lights, curtains, etc., with a simple voice command. This is the rage in 2022; the world is rapidly moving towards intelligent living and technical help assistants.

Texture & Tone

Just as colours make a space feel warm or cool, texture lends tone and weight to the space. In interior design, texture implies the surface quality of a material used. To give an example, rough textures set off a feeling of warmth as they reflect less light, giving the object a rustic and weighty feel whereas smooth and shiny textures lend themselves to a modern look as they reflect more light, making the living space feel more contemporary. Quite simply, without texture, a space will fall flat. It's the perfect way to add depth, dimension, and decadence to a room.

ASTROLOGY

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS 09TH – 15TH OCTOBER 2022

ARIES



MAR 21 - APR 19

This week, your star is shining brightly. The week begins with Venus in Libra, which represents your life path. There is also a full moon in your own sign of Aries. You could be in love with someone who isn't beneficial for your life. To stay in relationship, you must either adjust or ask them to make some changes. The sun in Libra trines Saturn in Aquarius.

LIBRA



SEP 23 - OCT 22

This week, it's all about choices. The week begins with Venus in Libra making a quincunx to the North Node in Taurus. Libra, you might be playing the game of comparison today. You could be thinking that if you were more successful, you'd be more confident. You might tell yourself that you'd take more action if you didn't feel so nervous.

TAURUS



APR 20 - MAY 20

This week, your energy ebbs and flows just like the tides. The week begins with Venus in Libra and your house of working routines making a quincunx to the North Node in your own sign of Taurus. You could sprint through your to-do list and be ready to take on more. Or you might be quite excited about a new project and lose all track of time. Today, you could be in the flow.