



Aqson Level 1

Sreejib

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"Slowly, she sauntered towards Toya, stopped a few feet away, looked into Toya's eyes, and roared. It was an ear-splitting, feet-numbing, rib-shaking roar that promised death. This was the end of her, Toya knew.

This was how she would die. In this unknown museum at the hands of this Olympian lioness, and, she would never be found again."

When it became impossible to choose between God and Satan, angels decided to play games. Games that would help them pick the guardian angel of this world. Every warrior angel got divided into two teams, Team God and Team Lucifer.

Strict rules were implemented, an unusual map was designed and a council was set up to administer these games. Satan has commenced one such game called Aqson and set the Indian Prime Minister's position as the goal of this game.

Now, a completely unknown species will collide with humans to play a game where losing is not figurative. Angels will stoop to enter the grunge of Indian politics.

A grey eyed lioness will stop at nothing. And, a group of young boys and girls will be forced to rise above their identity to play and win Level 1 of Aqson.

Pick a side, because the game has begun. "

Aqson Level 1 Details

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Author : Sreejib

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From Reader Review Aqson Level 1 for online ebook

Lana *Lifeinwordsandlyricscom* says

The book was generously provided to me by the author's brother in exchange for an honest opinion.

This would make a great movie! I'd even buy a ticket to the movies to see it. The tug plays between God and Lucifer always fascinated me and the game they're playing in this book is really something else.

So the concept of it is similar to the online games where people are divided in two teams, with team leaders, team colors, missions, rewards and weapons. Many games could be played simultaneously and the ultimate goal is to become the guardian of Nature's creations. The goal for this particular game, Aqson, is for either Team God or team Lucifer to place their player in a chair of the Prime Minister of India and they have 30 years to accomplish that.

It was very interesting to see what kind of political climate rules Indian people as I am not at all familiar with that region's political structure. Student politics play a massive part in it according to this book and the influences it has on the country as a whole shows a colorful picture.

As for the main characters, I liked them and I didn't. It's like with any group of friends, sometimes you love them but sometimes you want to scream at them in frustration and then it's back to normal. That's how I felt about all of them. Except Sky, she was annoying all the time. I wouldn't mind if each next book was switching POVs because this one was mainly from Toya's perspective and I'd like to know other guys a little better.

The one thing that made me cranky was the overuse of abbreviations. There were too many. I hate when people do that and you have to break your head to figure out what they were talking about. Granted, the author always used the explanation for abbreviations when they were introduced, but still.

I am actually excited to see where the series will go further, it makes me happy that something I was asked to review turned out to actually be good. So, Sreejiib, if you're reading this, I'm game for the next book ;)

Over and out

Readers Cosmos says

The story is made more interesting with the political flavoring of some of the lead characters. The book during some phases therefore gives the reader a high like that by Ashwin Sanghi's best book so far "Chanakya's Chant." The writer doesn't stop here and further fuses with it the troubles of youth and the nation as the backdrop, which becomes a great concoction to keep the reader hooked. While retaining her strong hold on the hint of humor that comes flawlessly in her writing she also discusses on the issues prevalent, despite the story being fictional. A lot of her effort goes into character building for this book is just the level one but it serves its purpose, for they remain etched in your memory, a critical component of any series. In summation though the genre is fantasy fiction, the characters are more real and that aids the reader in relating to them instantaneously. The parallel however unlike Sanghi's book is not with past and present of characters and politics but the layers in which the game and the lives of its players effect the outcome. The

fate of players in one realm decide the fate of a nation, for the challenge being "who becomes the prime minister?" has been and will always be of utmost interest in the context of Indian politics.

In summation the writer has chosen a very daring concoction of fantasy base amalgamated with reality and served with a strong political flavor. For any debut writer this is a feat unattainable. The editing though could be better at places but this is superseded by the writers easy flow of language and an effortless addition of humor like icing on top of an already delicious cake. All in all a book series to look forward to from our own nation.

for detailed review refer to
my link text

Uma ~Books.Bags.Burgers. says

(I received a free print copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.)

BLURB

Pandora's Box got stolen from heaven...

She whispered, "How did you get me back?"

"I stole you from heaven," he replied with a faint smile.

Her answering smile was dazzling.

The oldest game of this world was played for acquisition. It still is.

Lucifer has commenced a game called Aqson, raised the most enigmatic weapon of Nature against Team God and, he has set the Indian Prime Minister's position as the goal of this game.

Now, a completely unknown species will collide with humans to play a game where losing is not figuratively losing. Angels will rise, politics will surge, identities will perish and familiarities will elude when God raises a counter weapon to try and win Level I of Aqson.

CHARACTERS

Beautifully portrayed well rounded characters! Yuvrani is intelligent, confident and has a presence that is hard to ignore. Like her or hate her but you just cannot ignore her. Toya is my favourite, probably because I can relate well with her. Yuvrani is already there, she's ready and waiting. Toya is just starting out and that makes her relatable to us mortals!

I am completely in love with Goenka, Ollie, AJ and Appy. They are the group of friends any and every girl could ask for. I loved how their personalities mean so much more in the story; how their unique characters gives such a three dimensional look at the plot. Take my word for it, you'll love the characters. It also helps that they are freaking hilarious and can make you look at a serious situation with oodles of humor.

Sky is the absolutely perfect mix of comical, crazy and caring. I personally laughed like a loon at almost every dialogue of hers.

PLOT

It seems so that of late almost all the novels I've been reading have a unique plot-line. Aqson Level 1 is no exception. The plot is brilliant. The author has thought of literally everything. Greek mythology is pretty common with many fantasy novels but this book uses it differently.

There were parts where I wondered OK what does this have to do with the plot? By the end my question had been answered. I loved how everything came together at the end like a jigsaw puzzle. Every single scene in the story plays an important role in the overall plot. Every scene shows the reader something new and vital. But that doesn't mean all the questions are answered at the end! The end leaves you with new questions. It leaves you with wanting to read the next book ASAP.

I believe I looked like this way too many times when I was reading the book-

WRITING

The writing was so much fun. I spent a good amount of time laughing! The seriousness of the story is well mixed with humor. At certain points, Bengali words are used but everything is explained in English.

There were times when I felt there was a tad too much description going on but I think it was mostly because of my impatience of wanting to know what happens next!

The writing is clear and smooth. The story moves at a steady pace; neither skipping stuff nor over-detailing them.

WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THE BOOK

- The characters
- The plot
- The humorous take on stuff

WHAT I DIDN'T LIKE ABOUT THE BOOK

-NOTHING (I like everything about this book!)

CONCLUSION

Everyone pick up up the book and read it already! You're missed out on so much. Loved the book and waiting for the sequel!

Shaikha says

I'm extremely impressed by this! Wonderfully written, but it's not my cup of tea.

Meera Nair says

Aqson Level 1 is an action packed Indian fantasy fiction that has so many layers to it, it's a complete feast! God and Lucifer have started a new game, the goal of which is to make their weapon the Prime Minister of India. They launch their angels onto the battlefield to defeat one another and take control of all the weapons that Nature has endowed them with. Toya Mahapatra and her friends were only getting by with their college when an unforeseen incident pulls them into the student politics scene in Kolkata. They soon realize just how influential they have become on a national level. What they fail to realize is that governing humans is but a game to God & Lucifer; unfortunately for them, they're neck deep in the mess.

FINALLY! An Indian fantasy fiction that has been done right. When I heard about this book, I was extremely enthused at the idea of a fantasy plot being based in India. But this book just blew my expectations away. There's so much going for it:

- ~For gamers – The surface level plot being a video game with maps, rules, opponents, weapons etc.
- ~For fantasy lovers – Mythology, elemental magic, angels.
- ~For politically inclined – elections, youth politics, strategising.

All of the above are masterfully woven into the multiple plot points that constitute the book. There's so much more I could list, but I will leave it to you to discover. The author's writing style is very descriptive, focusing on minute details to give you the complete picture. I liked the fact that some of the speech occurs in Bengali (there's translation too! so don't worry about that.) and cultural motifs have been generously sprinkled throughout the novel. In addition to being of fantasy genre, it is also laced with a certain kind of thrill and humor that makes it all the more enjoyable. There were so many mesmerizing moments where I couldn't believe how intricate and genius the plot points were!! The world building is mind blowing. On the other hand, there were small instances that could have been more convincing. That's something I felt could have been improved.

Speaking about characters, I downright detested Ollie a.k.a Niyol. He's a sexist and wouldn't stop ordering Toya around. The only time I felt remotely proud of him was during a debate (you'll see what I'm talking about). I was also confused at times by Toya's personality; she'd have these random outbursts. Arpita and Goenka are the two characters I liked. Arpita is dauntless, open-minded and considerate. Nevertheless, the bond that Toya, Goenka, AJ, Ollie, Rahul and Arpita share is heartwarming to say the least. They are all super protective of each other and find a sense of belonging in their tight knit group, even when things aren't going right. I would have liked some more scenes with God and Lucifer, the little taste we get in the prologue is just not enough. Overall, I liked this book so so so much. I would recommend it to all of you fiction readers. Just give this one a try, you'll be left speechless.

Is there a next book? Someone please tell me there's a second book. I NEED IT ASAP.

What do you get out of it? A very unique outlook on mythology, astral travel and a refreshing glimpse of what youth could contribute to politics.

Thank you Sreejib for sending me a copy of your book in exchange for an honest review.

Archit Ojha says

The Truth is, THIS IS THE BEST FANTASY BOOK I HAVE ENCOUNTERED THIS YEAR.

Fantasy goes to the stratosphere!

There were many "I-didn't-see-that-coming" moments.

Being a true fan of Greek Mythology, I applaud the author's imagination for putting it up with India's current politics scenarios and making an engaging, delightful and thrilling ride.

India's Prime Minister's seat is the bait for Team Lucifer and Team God that they have to gain in 30 years.

Now, how can a game be played for that long? My questions were the same and they were answered completely.

Concept is incredibly unique and refreshing, something you will not normally see. Each and every character befriends you. You see their journey, their insecurities, feel their power and why they need to win and only win!

I appreciated the fact that how amazingly some students from nowhere, made their name in Indian Student Politics.

The part when Yuvrani visits the mind of her fellow mates! Well, that was something I bet you would not have encountered before.

Sharp, inspiring and to the point language. The moment you read the first few paragraphs, the book starts captivating you, leaving you no options but to complete it, right then, right there.

Soon you face the dilemma of whose side to choose?

Would it be Yuvrani, who has already won your heart and mind since the book took off, being smart and aware of her powers, quality and that she can move mountains or will it be Toya, who is timid, talented yet refuses to accept her identity or not both of them?

Do you really have a choice of not taking sides? What are you to do then?

The ending leaves you with many questions unanswered, with an eagerness of waiting for its second part to publish, that shows the level of thought put up in writing this heartwarming book.

This is a book that Indian lit folks needed!

The best thing you'll like about Aqson Level I is the title of the chapters! (Read the book, Come back to this line and tell me you didn't smile!)

When Toya decides to write someday about her friends, about how things turned up for her, it got me emotional.

Blank Check 5 stars.

Pooja says

One Word : Spectacular!

Book of the month / October of 2016

A book that comes with a decided beauty in it! It feels so good to have read this book!

Yuvrani and Toya are the weapons in the game called Aqson which is being played between God and Lucifer.

One who becomes India's Prime Minister first, would win (hopefully!).

Both teams are equally strong, powerful and intelligent.

More important than WHO will win is, *WHOM* are you going to support?

Set in India, characters of Aqson are from Greek Mythology. Their dialog, narration, theme, perspective everything is world class.

I. AM. FASCINATED. WITH. THIS. BOOK.

Yuvrani indeed is my favorite. Toya's true character would take time to develop and that would be wonderful to see.

What Aqson does in the backyard of your mind is : ***Leave you undecided on which side to throw your weights behind!***

Out of many reasons I was enchanted by this book is that it broke old reading ideologies on many a levels.

I always read a book twice, first to appreciate its story and second for the forensic analysis of the writing.

-Nope. Not happening with this one. Aqson Level I held me captive since its first chapter, making me appreciate both writing and story at the same time.

Books end and you know you've lost a friend

-Not with Aqson! Coming to the end of it, you know how tightly you've held the characters' hands. This goes for each character in it.

I'm addicted to reading.

-No, For now I'm addicted to the development of story with its characters. All of them are demanding my loyalty, and Loyalty from me, they'll have!

Aqson is a fine example of the following quote :

This book is like someone who first kidnaps you, asks your curiosity in ransom, frees you and orders you to keep in touch to which you protest "I want to stay kidnapped!"

Undoubtedly, Aqson Level I has met all my expectation from fantasy books.

If I've to recommend you one fantasy book this year to spend your time and money on, then it will be Aqson Level I.

My husband never let me know what it's like to 'WAIT'. Wait for the ending. No, we always guessed it right away, such humongous amounts we have in our libraries.

I guess someone breaks the barriers. And it has to be Sreejib. The author has done it. Now I know what does it mean "To Wait" for the next part. Not fair at all!

Until the second part releases, every moment will be like a battle for me. I've chosen my weapons and team. Have you?

Lou says

Moments after stumbling across "Aqson Level I" on Goodreads and reading the synopsis I had an uncontrollable urge to find it and purchase a copy right away with the intention of delving into it immediately. It's quite a while since I had these feelings about a book and I then became concerned that due to my eagerness to start it that it would disappoint me - I felt that I had perhaps hyped it up in my mind and the outcome would not be favourable. Ultimately though, it lived up to my extra high expectations and I would even go so far as to say that it is one of my favourite and most engaging reads of the past few years. After searching for a copy to purchase I discovered that it was only available on the Indian version of Amazon and as a result I was kindly provided with a copy by the author.

For some reason a lot of readers fail to give chances to books from smaller indie publishers and self-published authors and stick to the big boys. One of the top reasons I hear repeatedly for this is that the majority of readers presume that the quality will differ massively. Let me tell you, there is nothing farther from the truth - I have found many excellent books this way. I urge more readers to give indie authors/publishers a try as I think many make the decision to just read certain books without trying out the indies at all. They are missing out on so much but the author also misses out because of this and it is usually not related to the quality.

The first big question that arises once the characters have started to develop is - who are you going to support in the game, which team are you? Team God or Team Lucifer? For me, this was a difficult decision as I love all the characters and their traits. The character development takes up a huge part of this first book and meant that long after finishing they were still at the forefront of my mind and in my heart. I adored the Team God members - Dinkey, AJ, Ollie, Goenka and Sky. We meet Sky towards the end of the book and so don't know as much about her as the rest. Dinkey is my favourite. She's an intelligent and forward-thinking individual who means more to her friends than she will ever know. The friendship group including Arpita and Rahul are a close-knit bunch, it's great to see that they are always there for one another. Then there's Yuvrani who is

part of Team God. She is tenacious and determined and most importantly, a strong woman. I did like Yuvrani as a character but the group of friends stole my heart early on and they weren't about to let it go!

The book is rather unique in that it is a mix of fantasy and politics. Due to the goal of game these two are intertwined - the goal being to win the seat of Prime Minister of India. I really enjoyed reading a book outside of Western culture and India has always intrigued me. Aqson Level I has made me want to read more by Indian authors and learn more about Indian culture as a whole. I learned a lot about Indian politics which I found extremely interesting and the fantasy aspects combined with the political situation worked perfectly for me. Another aspect that the author was successful with was the humour throughout the book which was universal and broke up some of the more tense scenarios. I laughed out loud a number of times which rarely happens as I am hard to please when it comes to comedy.

One minor issue that I feel inclined to flag up is the overuse of acronyms/initialisms. I had a few problems remembering what they all stood for, it would be easier for the reader to just put each down in full every time or better still, have an index of terms because with an eBook there wasn't a way for me to go back and find that acronym where it was first explained. An index would mean that a reader could check what something stood for if they had a lapse in memory during the book.

So, although it wasn't exactly what I thought it would be like from the synopsis, I loved it just as much, if not more, than I predicted I would. I read the first half in a speedy time but after that I decided to slow down as I realised I didn't want it to end. I know there is a second book planned and all I need to know now is when it's out!

I hope I have been able to do this book justice with my review, It is well worth your time. I recommend it especially to those who like their fantasy with a bit of substance.

I would like to thank Koel Sreejib for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

Supratim says

I would like to thank the author's brother for providing me with a copy in exchange for an honest review.

The story starts with a meeting in Athens in July 1998. The meeting is not any ordinary one – it is attended by God Almighty and Lucifer Satan along with members of the council. But be advised, in this story God and Lucifer are different from the beliefs in the “*human lore*”.

Team God and Team Lucifer are engaged in battle, in form of games, to become the guardian of Nature's creation. Anyway a game, is about to start between the two teams again. The goal of this game is the seat of the Prime Minister of India.

God and Lucifer have selected the angels and their “weapons” who are to be deployed.

Now we come to Delhi, India in 2018. We meet Yuvrani Rathore, the President of NDP, the ruling party of India and her bodyguard Vanraj. Both of them: extraordinary characters.

Then we come to the city of Kolkata and are introduced to four friends: Toya, Ollie, AJ and Goenka- four inseparable friends with very different personalities, who share an apartment and are studying in some of the top universities. A fist-fight with a student union leader escalates into a big trouble and the friends decide to form a student's political party, PEERS. They are joined by other friends and the party becomes popular enough to come to the notice of powerful political parties. Thus begins the game of politics – schemes, sabotage and whatnot. The friends make enemies – both human and supernatural. But there are angels to watch over them too.

This book is part fantasy and part political thriller. There are thinly veiled references to actual political parties and personalities. The author has also portrayed the social problems and prejudices prevalent India.

I appreciate the author's imagination, her efforts at creating well fleshed out characters. There are a few cool twists. I enjoyed the humour in the writing too.

The mention of Nonte Phonte and Tenida – two wonderful creations of Bengali children's literature, was a pleasant surprise. I wonder how many kids nowadays read these.

The cover art and general feel of the book is also nice. Not that it matters much but some publishers often neglect the cover art.

I enjoyed the story, but I found that PEERS rose to popularity a bit too easily. I would have preferred if the author elaborated more on the initial struggles of the party. Some parts or rather events in the book are also too much to digest.

If you want a light read involving elements of fantasy and thriller, then you can give this book a try.

Sriti Patra says

one of those stories that makes the reader feel as a character of the story itself.

I could read it again and have goosebumps all the same

thankyou @architojha

Nikki Kalani says

First of all, I would like to thank the author for giving me her book to read and write the review for it.

Let me start this review with some positive aspects of this novel. This book was such a different read for me because of its story line and secondly it was based in Bengal which is a part of India. I have never read a book based in India. So naturally this was new for me.

Also, the storyline of this book revolved around politics whether it be human politics or politics between devine beings (angels). All that stuff about student politics was literally intriguing. Again, something new for me read thoroughly and ponder upon while reading.

My feelings while reading this book:

At first when I started reading, I was literally shouting in my head, "What the hell is happening. Its so confusing." The story kept switching between humans and angels. I had difficulty identifying the characters that who was who. So I tried to read patiently because I have this curiosity to read ahead no matter how the story is, i just have to know what happens next.

Then suddenly the story took a drastic turn and I couldn't stop reading. Though in between a voice kept shouting in my head that this story contains so much politics and I don't like politics at all. Oh well, I got double minded as I was hating politics but was curious about it too.

I was a little bit shocked when Job's weapon Life was fully revealed though deep down i suspected the same outcome that was described in the book. I won't give any spoilers. You gotta read the book for uncovering the whole story.

At the end of this review, I just want to say that at some points I felt confused as to when which character was speaking. .

I actually enjoyed reading the book as the story progressed. Kept me so curious until the end.

This story was something new and I am waiting impatiently for the next part to publish.

Sidharth Vardhan says

If I believed in the principle of full disclosure, I would have told you that I reviewed this book for the author who is a friend but since I am not a man of principles you will have to figure that out by yourself. To be honest, I was afraid I will lose her friendship as I am not into fantasy novels (Harry Potter, Game of thrones excepted) and would have to rate this book low. Luckily, it became the third exception.

The summary may it look like an uneven circus with mentions of God, Satan (thanks!), angels, politics, students etc but here it is a very entertaining circus. Unlike some of other YA books that screw mythology and call it serious 'retelling'; this one makes no such claims and is just focused on entertaining. The book discusses socio-political issues of its time and place (India towards the end of 2018, yep not-so-distant future). I agree with it on those issues.

One problem with generic fiction is that all characters are supposed to be brilliantly hot, but at least in this case, the author is conscious of the problem and tries to justify it.

My biggest problem with YAish books popular in India these days (Chetan Bhaghat, Durjoy Dutta & co.) Is that their prose is liable to kill one by boredom. This one has no such issues. There is at least one joke in 80% of pages of the book. The characters though not literary-fiction complex are interesting (something else missing in books YA writers).

Anyways all this is technical and intellectual. What I really must tell you is that there is a guy in this book who wears a shirt with caption "68, you owe me one"

Got it?

Of course, you did. The biggest perverts of the world are all my friends.

Anyways, this guy wears this tee-shirt to meet country's prime-minister's daughter and heir-apparent. And, and, and wait for it.... She flirts with him.

If that doesn't get you to read the book, then you might go to heaven for all I care.

*

Some quotes:

"True love will always find its way to a hot weekend in Greece."

"Lucifer doesn't have any followers. He only has friends." (that is true, I don't believe in hierarchies)

"What?"—Sky looked at AJ in accusation—“You will believe Valmiki ji, whom you have never met, but you will not believe Hollywood, which is right in front of you? If Valmiki ji wrote that monkeys built a bridge of stones on an ocean then, yay, let us all agree that monkeys built a bridge of stones on an ocean. But if Hollywood says that monkeys will take over the world, let's laugh. Such double standards!"

"As long as I am me, I don't care who I am"

"I am smart enough to acknowledge that I am not the smartest."

"There is nothing special about being human, Dinkey. Humans are nothing but a measly overpopulated species. They think that the world belongs to them and them alone. They are a species that has no respect for fellow species. A species that has chosen to ignore the fact that they do not own the world, merely share it. A species that could be the very reason why we lose our home, our world, one day."

“Whoever invented marriage was such a romantic,” I said to myself.

“Whoever invented divorce was such a genius,”

"The best thing about power is that it comes with the choice to not exercise it."

Faizan says

Please, read the review on my Blog.

Mythology and a Game

This book is a mixture of Indian Mythology and a Game. A game played between Lucifer and God. With all rules and regulation that is control by the neutral members.

The bait is to win the post of Prime Minister of India in 30 years. The story is set up in 2018. The last stage of the first level of Aqson.

So, of course, there is a lot of politics in here as it is an important part of the story. One cannot remove

politics from India when writing a book. It is such a huge part of our society. Best is to add it and make it interesting. That is what Sreejib did.

Weapons

The God and Lucifer do not fight directly, they introduced their weapon. The weapon that is guided by their Angels called Job. The weapon fights the target and the winner gets everything.

I am not going to tell more about weapon because that will ruin the story. So one weapon is Yuvrani (the name which I found too boring at starting but it sounds okay after a time); the young leader of ruling party. I don't know how but she was only 20 something and she was thinking of becoming Prime Minister. Yes, there is superpower present but still.

Complete Review on my Blog

? Garima ? says

eBook provided generously by author's brother for review....

Aishwarya Achu says

First thing's first :

This definitely is one of the best book i read in 2016 .. yeay ..

THE PLOT:

The plot is basically set where Team Lucifer and Team God set a game called AQSON, where the goal of the game is set to be the Indian PM's position. Both team Lucifer and team God has raised weapons to win the game of AQSON. So winning AQSON is the theme of the book.

On the other end there's politics happening, where a bunch of students from universities join hands to form a student political party called 'PEERS' working in unison towards a project called 'ME'.

Meanwhile team Lucifer makes a counter move and the game AQSON officially begins.

I have kept the plot spoiler free, because the author has taken much effort to make this book a success and by any means I would not spoil that. Adding to that unlike other books people would prefer to read a spoiler free review for such a brilliant plot.

Due to some issues i cannot post the whole review here ... find the link below to the full review

Wordpress link

This is the link to my youtube review on Aqson

Youtube Link

In conclusion guys this is a must read, it is so unique and mind blowing

Kuddos to koel for the plot and characterisation, i adore her writing style .
