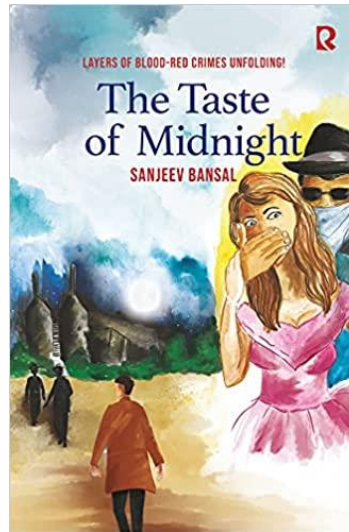


## Poonam\* : Review of 'The Taste of Midnight' by Sanjeev Bansal



### *The Taste of Midnight* by Sanjeev Bansal

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Sanjeev Bansal's murder thriller *The Taste of Midnight* has a hint of the paranormal. When you read the book, you'll find yourself chewing your nails. Following an incident with his friend Stella, twenty-eight-year-old Mike is the main character of the story as he struggles to deal with his sadness and guilt. With the help of his investigator friend Stephen, he starts to sort through the murky circumstances surrounding intriguing episodes. It is an engaging thriller with a developing kidnapping case that is written in an approachable language and progresses at a nice moderate pace. As the investigation progresses, several previously unknown facts become apparent. Bansal does a fantastic job of capturing readers' attention and keeping them turning the pages as he deftly switches the narrative back and forth to make the scene come to life. While Mike attempts to piece together the jigsaw puzzle where every piece is shrouded in mystery, Bansal brings us inside Mike's mind as he analyses clues, thoughts, and ideas. The twist in the ending was exciting and unexpected. The book is rife with interesting story twists, believable characters, and never-ending intrigue. Overall, Bansal maintains his attention on telling the story, which is quite commendable. The book is a compelling murder mystery with believable characters and a lot of heart.

The author uses his talent and skill to build a universe that is relevant to people's everyday lives while giving the readers the perspective of a third party. Despite being involved in the story's development, they continue to act as objective spectators. The title "The Taste of Midnight" immediately grabs the attention of the reader. The harsh realities of human life that are depicted in the book are anticipated by readers since the title's central idea—tasting midnight—prepares them for them. As these components make up a small portion of our life in the first place, readers will find the book relatable.

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These facts represent the hidden world, which is less discussed in the literature, at the same time.

The difficult situation and circumstances that Mike faces in "Taste of Midnight" depicts the lives of many as they can happen in anyone's life. He has human emotions ranging from anger and rage to desire and regret. These desires make him think about different dimensions and therefore he decided to go to the roots to find out the truth about Stella. In the midst of this, the author wraps the books around various events in which the readers participate and are equally engaged in finding out what and how it happened. This participation ensures that readers are attentive, interested and aware of events and the order in which they occur.

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