

A taste of Delhi chaat

Families at Home

Author: Reeti Gadekar

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Rating: 7/10

By **Amita Amin-Shinde**

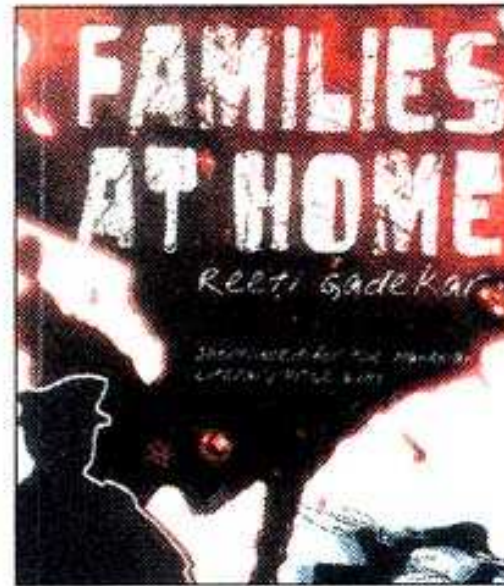
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DELHI — old and new, its localities, people and their attitude form one shade of the novel. The other, and the more prominent one, is the portrayal of protagonist Additional Commissioner of Police Nikhil Juneja. Sir to his subordinates, Nikhil to his senior and Nikki to his friends' wives, he is unabashed about his easy consciousness until he finds himself faced with a seemingly open-and-shut case of suicide of

Saudamani, the only daughter of the rich Talwar family.

But as it turns out, it's not that simple after all. The grieving Talwars are cooking chicken in their kitchen, a no-no in a house that's lost a dear one, notices unstable K Joseph who is newly transferred into Juneja's team. Joseph comes with a tag of being honest and a history of complaining against corruption and colleagues, even seniors, and there lies the reason for Juneja's displeasure.

Author Reeti Gadekar brings alive the characters by giving us glimpses of their life, little by little, with a touch of irony or black humour. As you turn the pages, you realise that Gadekar's characters have, in fact, a lot of character.



They are very real, with more flaws than goodness.

Juneja is born to a wealthy father. But he leaves the easy life to live a life full of stress as a policeman, drinks and smokes like any other person and talks with friends about sex and woman probably like any other man. Some remarks may even take you by surprise.

Gadekar also takes us through some random thoughts that we can all identify with. She delves into the psyche of Juneja and Joseph to reveal that they have their own demons to fight. And weaved around all this is the 'suicide' case, which Juneja attempts to solve without the use of forensic, instead based on suspicion... just the way, probably, most cases in our country get solved.

If you are looking for a thriller that is based on science, this is not it. Instead, this book is based on ordinary people with difficult lives and some extraordinary insights into some of the facets that surround those lives. The only spoiler: There are some serious typos — missing 'e' here, an extra 'w' there.