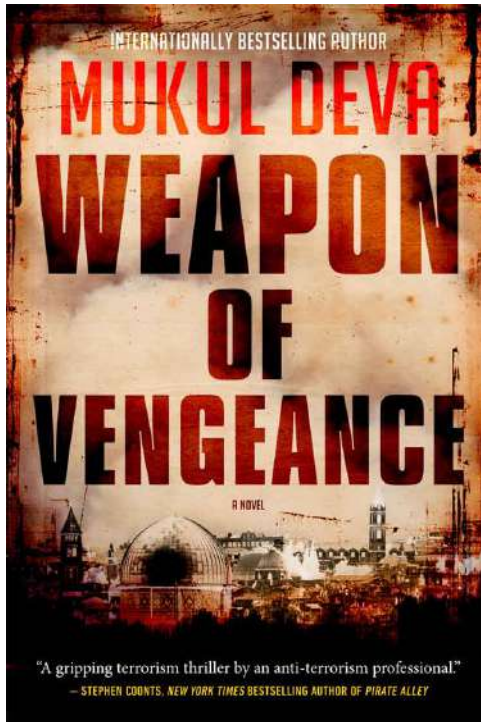


“Weapon of Vengeance” by Mukul Deva



Mukul Deva infuses his thriller “Weapon of Vengeance” with authenticity, gained from his experience as an Indian Army officer, an international counterterrorism agent, and a private security provider. He also fills the novel with emotional resonance that makes the characters memorable.

Ravinder Singh Gill, the head of the Indian Police Anti-Terrorism Task Force, already has his hands full because of the Commonwealth Games taking place in Delhi and the usual terrorist threats, some that have targeted him personally. Then the Indian Government springs a new challenge on him to be handled at the same

time—providing security for a new Middle East peace conference.

The conference was spurred by a horrific multi-pronged terrorist attack that had recently shaken both Israelis and Palestinians. Rumors have surfaced that the attack was masterminded by a woman, but the Western Intelligence Agencies are unaware that she is one of their own—MI6 agent Ruby Gill, Ravinder’s lost daughter. When Ruby was three, her Palestinian mother had abandoned Ravinder to focus on fighting against Israel. After her mother is killed in protests against the Israelis, Ruby uses the skills she’s learnt in preventing terrorism to raise the level of violence. Now, she’s on her way to Delhi to destroy the peace summit—and for a reunion with her father.

The reunion has a profound effect on Ruby, awakening feelings she thought she’d walled off. Ravinder is surprised but pleased when Ruby shows unannounced at his office, and takes her into the family he built after he lost Ruby’s mother. Slowly, though, his suspicions grow that the timing of Ruby’s arrival is not accidental.

Deva blends the family drama with the terrorist thriller seamlessly, giving the story a depth that’s unusual for the genre, and he handles the action scenes with the skill of Robert Ludlum. While “Weapon of Vengeance” is a slimmer volume than most thrillers, each of its 288 pages crackle with energy. After its original Indian publishing, now a wider audience can enjoy Deva’s superb thriller.

Reviewed by David Ingram for [Suspense Magazine](#)