Barun Chanda’s Murder in the Monastery: A Mini Review / Raj Ayyar

Yet it vanishes leaving a distraught abbot, tense monks running around, and two murders linked to the missing manuscript.

Chanda, unlike Dan Brown, manages a credible, minimalist diplomatic secularism—though the murderer is s hired goon of some Christian sect or other, Chanda does not point fingers at the Catholic church or Opus Dei, a la Brown in ‘The Da Vinci Code’.

I liked the erotic undercurrents in the novel overall—the steamy one-night stand between Miriam the fair-skinned Coorgi Catholic nun novice and Tenzing, the fully grown adolescent Buddhist monk novice, is deliberately understated and leaves the reader’s pornographic imagination to fill in the details.