

Author CV

RV Menon

Contact Information

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Professional Background

Current Position: Software Engineer

Education: [Degree and Institution]

Relevant Background for This Work

Regional Heritage: - Grew up between Kerala and Maharashtra, the two regions whose histories converge in *Horse of the Servant* - Deep familiarity with both Maratha and Malabar cultural contexts through lived experience

Family Connection to the Material: - Stories in this novel draw from memories shared by father, grandparents, uncles, aunts, mother-in-law, and wife - Family oral history woven together with documented historical research

Research Background: - Extensive research into 18th-century Travancore, including primary sources on Marthanda Varma's reign - Study of Dutch East India Company records, Portuguese colonial archives, and regional historiography - Consultation of Manu S. Pillai's historical works, A. Sreedhara Menon's surveys of Kerala history, and archival temple records

Writing Experience

Horse of the Servant (2024) - Debut novel - Historical fiction set in 18th-century South India - Approximately 120,000 words - First instalment of planned *Blood and Thrones* series

Skills Relevant to Writing

Analytical Rigour: - Professional training in systematic problem-solving translates to careful plot construction and historical accuracy

Technical Writing: - Experience producing clear, structured documentation supports accessible prose style

Research Methodology: - Comfortable synthesising large volumes of historical material into coherent narrative

Author Statement

I wrote *Horse of the Servant* because the stories of South India deserve the same literary attention that North Indian history has received. The Battle of Colachel, when an Indian kingdom captured a European military commander and turned him into their own general, is one of the most remarkable episodes in colonial-era history, yet it remains largely unknown outside Kerala.

This novel honours both the documented historical record and the family stories I grew up hearing, stories of pepper traders and temple warriors, of women who held land and men who served kings, of a coast where every bargain was backed by steel.

I bring to this work not academic distance but personal investment. These are my people's stories. I have tried to tell them with the craft they deserve.

References

Available upon request.