



Pirate Vishnu

Gigi Pandian

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A century-old treasure map of San Francisco's Barbary Coast. Sacred riches from India. Two murders, one hundred years apart. And a love triangle... Historian Jaya Jones has her work cut out for her.

1906. Shortly before the Great San Francisco Earthquake, Pirate Vishnu strikes the San Francisco Bay. An ancestor of Jaya's who came to the U.S. from India draws a treasure map...

Present Day. Over a century later, the cryptic treasure map remains undeciphered. From San Francisco to the southern tip of India, Jaya pieces together her ancestor's secrets, maneuvers a complicated love life she didn't count on, and puts herself in the path of a killer to restore a revered treasure.

Pirate Vishnu Details

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Author : Gigi Pandian

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From Reader Review Pirate Vishnu for online ebook

Tamara says

Review originally posted: Traveling With T

This book was sent to Traveling With T in exchange for an honest review.

Pirate Vishnu

Jaya Jones, treasure hunter, is back! A normal day at the office leads to an exciting treasure hunt. When Steven Healy comes by to Jaya Jones office asking for help about a map and her relation to Anand Paravar-Jaya is intrigued- especially when Steven accuses Jaya's great uncle Anand of stealing a treasure. All Jaya's life, she's heard about this great uncle, her namesake, and all the good he did. But, now... could it all be false?

Jaya agrees to help Steven find some letters, letters that she denied knowledge of knowing their location. Later that night, when Jaya finds out that Steven Healy is dead. Murdered. Who killed him? And does it have anything to do with the treasure map he left behind with Jaya?

As Jaya begins to hunt for clues, she finds out that someone wants this map- wants it desperately enough to mug her. With Sanjay, Jaya's best friend's help, she realizes that the map doesn't just reflect San Francisco- it also references India. A plane ride to India later, Jaya finds that trouble has followed her.

While in India, Jaya discovers she has allies and enemies- it's just knowing who is who that is the problem. A special tip leads her back to San Francisco- and Jaya is *thisclose* to solving the mystery. Will Jaya find out that a close friend betrayed her? And will Jaya find out that her great uncle is the good guy or the bad guy?

Traveling With T's Thoughts

This is my first Gigi Pandian book and I have to say that I really enjoyed Jaya Jones. She's bright, inquisitive, and interesting. Jaya is a breath of fresh air in the mystery world.

Told in current time and flashbacks to Anand's time- PIRATE VISHNU is a tale that will appeal to many. Armchair travelers will enjoy getting to learn about life in San Francisco and India, treasure hunters will get a thrill putting the pieces of the puzzle together, and fans of mystery will be pleased to see a new voice, a different voice that is strong and independent in the world.

Enjoyable. Put Gigi Pandian on your author to watch list!

*This book was sent to Traveling With T in exchange for a fair and honest review. All above thoughts and opinions are mine alone.

Althea Ann says

I received a review copy of this title from NetGalley. Thank you to NetGalley and Henery Press!

Are you a grad student wanting to unwind from hours devoted to serious academic research? If so, this light and entertaining mystery is tailor-made for you.

Jaya Jones is an associate professor of history, hoping to gain tenure at a San Francisco college. But she gets distracted from work on her latest paper when a stranger arrives, asking her for help researching a century-old treasure map. The document may have been drawn up by her great-granduncle Anand, a character whose revolutionary politics and emigration to America during the Gold Rush have become a family legend.

What historian could resist an offer like that? It's fascinating to find out more about family history, and possibly make a significant historical discovery along the way! But Jaya soon realizes she may have gotten in over her head, when a body is found by the police, and suspicion begins to fall on Jaya herself...

There are a few infodump-y parts where the writing feels a little inexperienced - but overall, the story moves along at a good pace, and I found the characters engaging and entertaining. Jaya's Indian-American heritage (which I believe the author shares) adds flavor to the story in an organic way. As a librarian and archivist myself, Tamarind the punk librarian was simply awesome, and I also loved the depiction of the archivist in India. (view spoiler)

This is the second in the Jaya Jones series, but it works perfectly well as a stand-alone.

Stephen Buehler says

I enjoyed *Pirate Vishnu* very much. It had the right amount of fun, suspense and intrigue with a very capable heroine, Jaya Jones. I'm a sucker if there's a magician in the story and Jaya's sidekick and possible love interest, though she doesn't seem to realize it, is of course a magician. Gigi's knowledge of magic and what it takes to be a magician was very realistic. I look forward to reading the rest of the series.

Eileen says

Another fun, twisty-turny mystery/adventure/treasure hunt with Jaya Jones!

Once again the characters are great, interesting, and unique. The treasure is unusual, and the search is everything you'd expect from a novel and as possible in the real world as any adventure story could be. There's a great balance of research and on-the-ground searching.

Poor Jaya, though! I see the beginning of a love triangle here, and I hope Gigi Pandian doesn't disappoint me with who Jaya ends up with. The first book promised Jaya ends up with Lane, and I hope the series fulfills that promise!

Jenna says

My thanks to Henery Press for proving me with a copy of *Pirate Vishnu* in exchange for an honest review.

As a book blogger, one of my favorite things is to receive an ARC. It's a privilege - a sneak peek at upcoming releases and the opportunity to tell other readers about fun, interesting, and exciting new releases - like Gigi Pandian's *Pirate Vishnu*.

The second book in the author's Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mystery series, *Pirate Vishnu* takes readers on a journey from India to San Francisco, between modern day and turn-of-the-century history. Retired attorney Steven Healy seeks out historian Jaya Jones with a treasure map and a story involving Jay's ancestor, Anand Paravar. Jaya's initially reluctant to believe the story Steven Healy present, especially since it paints Anand, a family hero, as a thief. Still, she agrees to look into the story and the map. But less than 24 hours later, Steven is dead and Jaya finds herself a suspect without any leads - and a growing list of questions.

Pandian's yarn is spun between Jaya and Anand, clues and plot lines stretching across two narrative voices. I admit I found the plot a little murky and obscured at times, but Pandian is a young author with loads of promise. I have no doubt her writing and her stories will shine up over time. The story is well-paced with wonderfully descriptive scenes in both San Francisco and southern India.

I was slightly in the dark with a few of the character relationships, because I had not had the opportunity to read *Artifact*, the first in this cozy series. That said, I was able to cotton on quickly and was rather intrigued by the triangle of Lane, Jaya, and Sanjay. I'm looking forward to catching up with *Artifact* and reading more books by Gigi Pandian in the near future!

Mark Baker says

Jaya Jones has yet to live down the fame of her first treasure hunt when a man walks into her office with a second treasure map. This one appears to have the location of a treasure in San Francisco, but it's the connection to Jaya's family that peaks her interest. The map was drawn by her great-granduncle. A dead body only complicates Jaya's quest. Can she stay alive long enough to learn what is going on?

I always enjoy finding a twist on the murder mystery theme, and this is a good one. The treasure hunt is as important as figuring out who the killer is, and between the two, the pages fly by. The twists get bigger the further into the book we get. I did think one stretched believability just a bit, but it was a minor deal. The characters are strong, and I'm curious where the complications in Jaya's love life will go.

Read my full review at [Carstairs Considers](#).

Carla Johnson-Hicks says

Jaya Jones, a college history professor has a reputation of making great discoveries and she is still trying to live it down. An older man, shows up at her office to ask for her help. He had a treasure map and wants her

help. He leaves the map with her to see what she can find out. It appears the treasure was hidden by an ancestor of Jaya's. The map is of San Francisco and is in Tamil, so Jaya needs to find some help solving the map. It is shortly after this meeting, that the man who owned the map, Steven Healy, is found dead and Jaya's messenger bag, containing the map, her laptop and phone, are stolen by a mugger. Can Jaya find the treasure? Can she stay alive long enough to learn what is going on? Will trip to India will help her solve the riddle?

I am enjoying the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt series. The murder is part of the mystery, but finding the treasure is just as much, if not more of the story. I love seeing how she goes about putting together the clues with the help of her friends, Sanjay, Nadia and Lane. The twists get bigger the further into the book we get. There are some points where you have to suspend reality, but overall, the happenings are believable. The characters are strong, even the secondary ones. I wonder what is going to happen between Jaya and Sanjay, it seems his feelings for her are more than just friends. I like the way the book was written with alternating chapters between the present and Jaya's search and the past, where Jaya's Great-Uncle Anand is telling his story. I also enjoyed learning some of the history surrounding the San Francisco Earthquake and some information about Indian independence. This was a fast paced story with a spunky and smart protagonist who can't resist a puzzle and treasure hunt. I am looking forward to reading the rest of this series.

Marti says

I LOVE these books by Gigi Pandian! This one is a lost treasure mystery with a murder thrown in for good measure. Jaya, her friend Sanjay, and her on-again, off-again boyfriend Lane are a wonderful triangle that keeps the reader guessing and the adventure going!

Kevin says

[In book 1 she kicked a guy with her high heeled shoe and punctured his leg, in this book she finds out she's related to a Barbary Pirate. Good mystery but I'd figured out the murderer Grace just by the elimination. (hide spoiler)]

Sharon says

Jaya Jones has a pirate ancestor, a treasure map turns up and there is more mystery and romance. Jaya is a historian, which stands her in good stead in solving these mysteries. Great read. More to come!

Waverly Fitzgerald says

I'm having so much fun with this series. I want to start reading the next book as soon as I finish the current one but I'm pacing myself. In this second book in the series, I could see her stretching herself as a writer, interpolating the ongoing contemporary mystery, which sends her engaging heroine, Jaya Jones, who is a history professor (I love it!) with an expertise in the British rule in India, after a mysterious treasure associated with her great-uncle who had to leave India because of his involvement in the Indian

Independence movement. There's a brief excursion to India though most of the book takes place in San Francisco. There's a suspicious death, a bit of romantic juggling, a treasure map!, a jealous academic colleague and a sexy, spunky librarian.

Lissa Notreallywolf says

Jaya's pleasant enough for a lead character, definately modeled on Indiana Jones, as her last name suggests. This adventure mystery is the second in the series, but my introduction started here. Raised by a white hippie father (20 years after the era) and a lost mother, Jaya wears black and eschews pot. She hangs out with a goth/punk librarian who reminds me of Abbie on Criminal Minds. Her best friend is a magician, the Hindi Houdini. Her love interest is a hangover from the last novel, and I found him less interesting than I might have, but then he's riding on his former position so to speak.

Jaya is approached by an attorney who wants her help investigating a map that leads to treasure in San Francisco, which turns out to be penned by a long lost uncle of hers. Unsurprisingly he turns out to be the Pirate Vishnu of the title. No real spoiler there, given the title.

What I want to say of the book is that it owes a debt to a real historical event, the original X marks the spot history of Treasure Island, the novel, not the place in the Bay. RLS, that would be Stevenson, lived South of Market long before it became the dot com haven. While he was there he made a map of the city which became the basis of Treasure Island. The map is lost to us because of a postal mishap, or a clerical oversight- I can't recall which, nor can I recall where I read this fascinating bit of trivia. Treasure Island is why we all think treasure maps have an x marking the spot.

The book wobbitts between historical passages from Uncle's journal or letters and the present day. I find jet travel boring compared to long sea journeys and thankfully the author has excluded air time travel. Sadly I have no sense of what India is like beyond a harrowing place for a motorcycle. Goa and Kerakala have fascinating histories just skimmed over. And if not the history there are the sights and smells, sounds that would have made this a better read.

I am giving this author a rest, because I need to read something with a better flow and fewer candy coated easter eggs. I appreciated Dorian the gargoyle much more than I did any of these characters.

Steve says

Jaya Jones, historian, is approached by a man who claims to have a treasure map drawn by a past relative of Jones', and he asks for her help in recovering the treasure conveniently marked with an X on the map. Jones' interest is strong anyway, but man's fate interferes with Jones' getting more information. The story goes back and forth from the turn of the 20th century to present, and the San Francisco area and India. Jones is joined once again by romantic interest Lane, best friend, magician Sanjay, and now by librarian friend Tamarind, all enjoyable secondary characters, while Jones' long-ago ancestor, Anand has his own interesting cohort. The story flows nicely, if sometimes frustratingly (by design, I think) when a chapter ends and the reader wants more, only to go to another time or location in the subsequent chapter. Read this for the characters and story more than for the mystery which resolves in a rather unforeseeable way. I will keep reading the series for its counterpoint to heavier simultaneous reading.

Jen Parenti says

Really fun book; adventures didn't stop also thoroughly enjoyed it. 4.5/5 Stars

Charlyn says

When a stranger approaches Jaya with a treasure map supposedly drawn by Jaya's great-uncertain Anand, she is confused when she is presented a story about him that is nothing like the image from her family's stories. And then the stranger is killed and Jaya's bag containing the borrowed map is stolen from her. Jaya feels compelled to solve both the murder and the identity and location of the treasure on the map. The story alternates between the current mystery and Anand's story in the past. Both stories are compelling and adventure-filled. A good read!
