

MOHAPATRA/SWAPNIL

# LAKSHMA

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## **II VIRGIN COMICS II**

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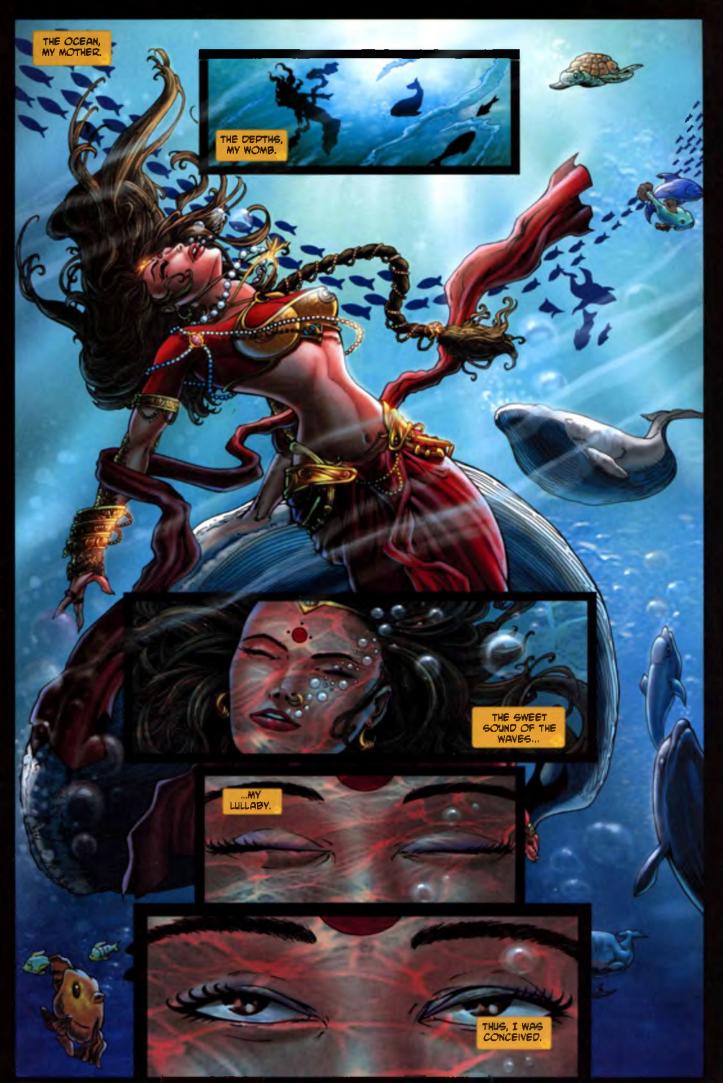
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# DEEPAKICHOPRA PRESENTS India authentic.

In the Hindu pantheon perhaps the most revered goddess is Lakshmi; daughter of the Ocean and Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. The story goes that gods and demons, working together, churned the primordial ocean, and that great marine heart bestowed upon them "gifts from her very bosom, each more grandiose and magnificent than the last. The" most beautiful-among them was Lakshmi, the betrothed bride of Vishnu.

It's easy to classify Lakshmi as just the goddess of "material" riches and Indian mythology is rife with famous *oncup(wo)manship* stories between Lakshmi representing wealth and Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. But if one pauses but to look and think, there is another dimension to her.

She represents achievement and endowment. Industry and perseverance are the twin offerings she adores the most. In Lakshmi, we find a felicitation of the long hard road that one walks before achieving one's goal. She is as much the goddess of the journey towards it as she is the keeper of the prize at the conclusion, the proverbial pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. She is the celebration of the human will to achieve great things and the inspiration to toil hard and never let adversities stand in one's way.











LAKSHMI, IN ALL THESE YEARS OF US PLAYING THIS GAME, HAVE YOU NOT LEARNED THE SIMPLEST OF TRUTHS YET?









### "INDIA'S ANSWER TO LORD OF THE RINGS"

A story thousands of years in the making... A re-imagining of one of the greatest tales ever... Retold in a post-apocalyptic future...





VERSING OMECTION FOR





STUPID WOMAN CAWING LIKE A RAVEN. ONCE MY FORTUNE SMILES TODAY, PERHAPS IT WILL BE TIME FOR A SECOND MARRIAGE.





THE ALLURE OF THE GAME IS THAT IT IS THEN LEFT TO THE SPIRIT OF THE SUBJECT. THE ELEMENT OF "FREE WILL" IS WHAT MAKES THIS GAME SO INTERESTING.





PERHAPS THE NEXT MOVE WILL FARE BETTER



ART GALLERY, TRATLERS, SKETCHBOOKS, VIRGIN COMICS STORE, AND MUCH MORE...

















"Encoded into the stories of the divine Pantheon of India are some of the most primal stories ever told. They chronicle our greatest aspirations, our darkest fears, and our collective experience as a species." —DEEPAK CHOPRA

## DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS india hentic.

DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS TOCTO

"TRUE MYTHIC WONDER... 5 OUT OF 5 STARS." -Comiccritique.com

"A THOUGHTFUL APPROACH TO SUBJECTS RARELY BROACHED IN COMICS." - Comixfan.com

-Compan.com

"STRANGE AND MAGICAL AND MOVING." —Mike Carey (AUTHOR OF X-Men, Voodoo Child)

"A BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED GRAPHIC NOVEL... A MUST READ AND A COLLECTOR'S ITEM."

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**VOLUME 2** 





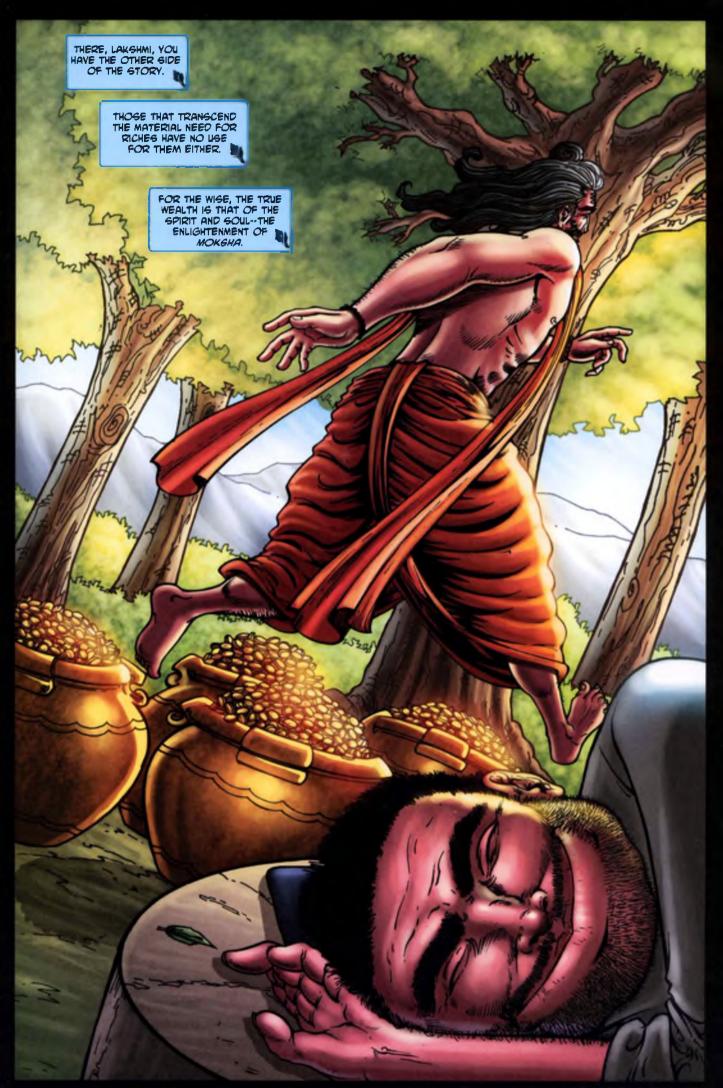






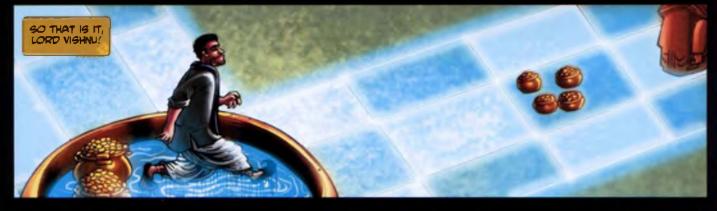


BUT ALAS! FILLED WITH WORTHLESS TRINKETS.















Shakti, an ancient Sanskrit word pronounced "shuk-TEE", has many meanings. Upon my latest Google search, I found over 3.6 million entries. Some say Shakti is the divine embodiment of power. Others claim Shakti is a bolt of electricity bestowed by the Gods to those seeking their benevolence.

To us, the comics that are part of the Shakti imprint showcase a generation of South Asian creators who are using their own imaginations and modern sensibilities to craft stories that feel fresh and original, yet intimately familiar. But Shakti does not merely retell classic tales. Our Shakti stories re-imagine the myths of old, in all their epic and fantastic glory, while boldly proclaiming their relevance in the world today.

In Ramayan 3392 A.D., we re-imagined India's greatest epic... the adventures of Prince Rama, his brother Lakshman and Seeta, the daughter of Mother Earth, as they battle their nemesis Ravan in a futuristic, post-apocalyptic world. Shekhar Kapur's Devi tells the story of an omnipotent goddess reincarnated into the body of an inhibited modern woman.

Shakti also draws from the spiritual wisdom of Deepak Chopra (who happens to be my dad) who, in *India Authentic*, explores the lives of Hindu Gods

and Goddesses as archetypal embodiments of our own instincts. In *Deepak Chopra's Buddha*, a comic series adapted from his *New York Times* bestselling novel, we follow the story of a young prince destined to become The Enlightened One. Shakti has even dusted off the pages of the *Panchatantra*, an ancient Indian book of animal fables, with *The Tall Tales*, where the *Panchatantra* and its characters are threatened by modern-day anime sociopaths and evil boy wizards.

Our mission with Shakti is simple: to give readers a taste of the rich storytelling that goes back thousands of years. We also hope that each book feels fresh, provocative, and unlike anything fans have previously experienced. We realize that we're asking a lot for folks to enter into an alien world, one with strange names and exotic settings. It's uncomfortable—at first. But trust me, it gets easier. Remember the first time you held a Japanese Manga in your hands?

These aren't your parents' comics. But then again, that's why we're making them.

Gotham Chopra Editor-In-Chief





India's answer to *The Lord of the Rings, Ramayan* (pronounced *ruh-MY-an*) follows the epic adventures of the mighty warrior, Prince Rama, who, along with his brother and the daughter of Mother Earth, set out on a perilous journey to end the treacherous reign of Ravan, a monstrous being attempting to wipe out what little is left of humanity in this post-apocalyptic retelling of one of the greatest tales every told.







Devi (day-VEE) follows the story of Tara Mehta, a young woman whose body was fused with the spirit of a divine warrior and became a living goddess more powerful than any other deity. As mankind's champion, Devi protects the earth and her own city of Sitapur from supernatural scourges and criminal elements alike.

## THE TALL TALES OF VISHNU SHARMA.

Some books have lives of their own. So it is with the Panchatantra, an ancient Indian book wherein fabled animals live in harmony with one another. But now assassins seek to destroy their world and corrupt the minds of story-lovers worldwide. To ensure their survival, three heroes—a lion, a bull, and a monkey—must convince a craven, video-gaming teen named Vishnu Sharma to accept his destiny as protector of the Panchatantra.

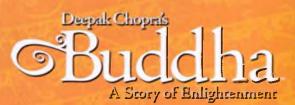




DEEPAK CHOPRA PRESENTS

## indian

There exists a world beyond our mortal comprehension that tells the story of life before men came to be. These are stories of the Gods and Goddesses who now reign over humanity and wield the forces of the universe, providing balance for all existence. These are the stories that have laid the foundations of a country a billion strong, that have taught and inspired countless generations.



Awaken. Seek truth. Stumble. Begin again. This is the simple yet profound message from the inspiring man who achieved Enlightenment and showed the world a way for peace, understanding, and serenity. Follow young prince Siddhartha as he defies tradition and achieves his destiny as the *Buddha*. No desires, fears, or duties could prevent what was always to be: the coming of the great Awakened One.







James Jensen's sole purpose in life was to seek vengeance on the British officer who murdered his family in 18th century India. But his life was not meant for just blood-thirsty revenge. He was destined to be a *Sadhu* (*sah-DOO*), a mystic warrior walking the path to spiritual salvation. But can James' quest for enlightenment overcome his desire for revenge?

## **EXPLORE THESE UPCOMING SHAKTI RELEASES**



#### **BLADE OF THE WARRIOR: KSHATRIYA**

He is a prince who lost his kingdom. He is a hero who struggles to be heroic. He will go on to define a class of warriors. He is *Kshatryia* (*shut-REE-yuh*). Before the great civilizations of the world had begun, when sword and sorcery still existed and Gods walked the earth in mortal disguise, he was born to oppose an inexorable tide of darkness. When faced with the evil forces of the demonic Shaitan (*shaye-tahn*) in the form of his own brother, this warrior will face the battle of his life.

## DEEPAK CHOPRA'S BEYOND

Acclaimed writer Ron Marz adapts Deepak Chopra's original science fiction story of an American businessman who is propelled across dimensions and into an adventure like no other when his wife goes mysteriously missing in India. His journey will lead him to trials both physical and metaphysical as he will stop at nothing—and go literally anywhere—to save her.





#### **PROJECT: KALKI**

The end of the world is upon us. War, famine, suffering. There's no stopping the havoc created by humans. But in a small lab in India, a geneticist has cloned the remains of what was once thought to be only a mythological figure, creating a "human" being with the power to save the world... or end it.

## **MUMBAI MACGUFFIN**

This one-shot graphic novel is a high-octane adventure through the never-before-seen underbelly of Mumbai, as an ace CIA operative finds himself out of his element and out of his depth when tasked with recovering a downed satellite deep within the biggest slum in Asia. Nothing can prepare him for the wild and dangerous characters he encounters, including a wheelchair-ridden gangster hooked on John Wayne westerns, a brilliant bar dancer, a trigger-happy cop and a religious cult that will do ANYTHING to protect its phallic totem. Seriously.





A missing woman. A desperate man. An adventure that takes them both BEYOND.

on sale may 2008.

PAK CHOPRAS



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