The Little Devil . . . !

Hi, Everyone! Throughout the writing process, I have been my own worst critic!

There I was, in the form of a little devil—just like the movies, at least the Bollywood ones!—perched upon my shoulder sniping and carping at everything I wrote, whispering odious objections into my ears: why this? Why not that . . . ? Credibility, credibility, credibility, it dinned into my head.

What I wouldn't have given to swipe that voice away . . . !

But even through the worst frustrations I was glad the voice was there, for it kept me on my mettle. It made sure I gave my all to the novel and left no stone unturned in ferreting out teeny-tiny bits of information.

When there was so much research I was doing that was directly connected with the subject of my novel—and my mind had been a blank slate on this subject, upon which I was writing fast and furiously—to be digging up obscure facts, that would most likely not make it into the novel was *very* difficult, to say the least.

Did I really want to read of the atrocious deeds of Brigadier Niell?

Did I want to understand the mechanics of the WWI? Understand the politics of Turkey around that time?

Did I want to learn of the seasons of flowering trees?

Did I want to learn how to break someone's neck, to know what happens to a beheaded body?

No, no, no, and no! But I did. Strictly speaking, I could have written the novel without going into all this, but my conscience would have bitten me every day. I am glad I let the 'devil' hound me into doing the right thing.

There is, however, one—well, two if you count not researching gay molestation—thing I did not research. And that is Spencer's *First Principles*! Though I mention them, since Savarkar knew them by heart, I am utterly clueless re that.

The little 'devil' started its buzz-z-z, buzz-z-z-z right away, but I put my foot down against researching Spencer's *FP*so hard, that it was knocked right of my shoulder. Thank goodness!

And my conscience seems to agree with me, for all is quiet on that front.

Anurupa