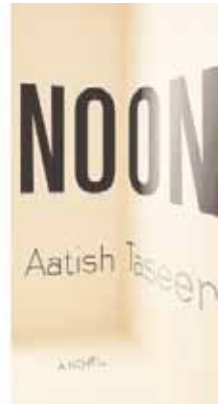
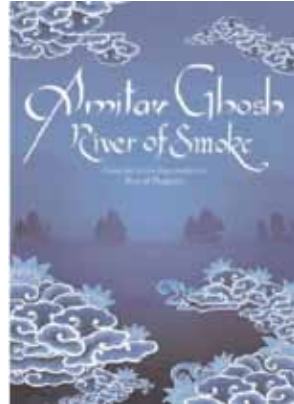
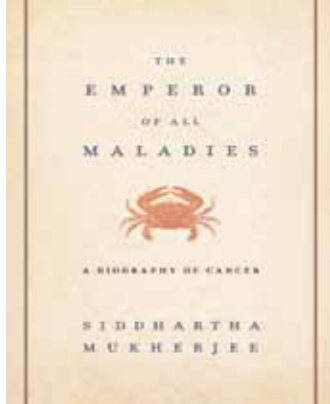


2011: A year for books



Pushpa Achanta

Pushpa Achanta finds out the response to English books that were published in 2011 and penned by writers from South Asia.

Amitav Ghosh's **River of Smoke** (Viking/Penguin, 528 pages) generated much interest in the literary world this year. Ghosh won the Blue Metropolis International Literary Grand Prix earlier this year at an annual literary festival of the same name being organized in Montreal, Canada since 1999. According to the festival website, this prize "is awarded annually to a writer of international stature and accomplishment as a celebration of a lifetime of literary achievement".

Some foreign newspapers opined that Ghosh was probably conferred the award as the focus of the 2011 edition of the festival was on India. Although the author's great reputation indicates that he deserves it.

Another book of 2011, set in India and Pakistan that got plenty of worldwide

attention is the semi-autobiographical novel **Noon** (Faber and Faber, 304 pages) by Aatish Taseer. It has won praise from readers and reviewers alike. Taseer's first fictional work **The Temple Goes** (Viking, 304 pages) was nominated for the Costa First Novel Award (formerly called the Whitbread Award) in 2010.

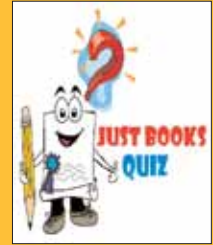
Approached for her opinion on which South Asian English books or authors were a hit in 2011, Annie Zaidi, a journalist, blogger, poet and author shared, "I have not read most of the hundreds of South Asian books written in English this year. But one of the books that I remember as a definite hit is **A Free Man** (Random House, 240 pages) by Aman Sethi, journalist and writer."

Incidentally, Zaidi and her friend Smriti Ravindra, a columnist, short story writer and teacher of creative writing from Nepal co-authored the book **The Bad Boy's Guide To The Good Indian Girl** or **The Good Indian Girl's Guide To Loving, Living And Having Fun** (Zubaan, 224 pages).

This book reportedly attracted young men to its launches in a few Indian cities earlier this year. Manu Joseph's **Serious Men** (John Murray, 310 pages) is worth mentioning here as it was the winner of the PEN Open Book Award in 2011.

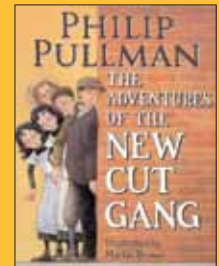
In the non-fiction category, the realistic

Pg 10 Quiz



Pg 11 Author Profile

Pg 12 Just Kids



and insightful book titled **The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer** (Scribner, 592 pages) by Siddhartha Mukherjee stands out. It brought its writer (an oncologist or cancer physician) into the limelight when he was conferred the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction this year.

A debut novel of this Rhodes Scholar, it also won the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award for 2011 and was one of those works that were nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award this year.

"A book that I read and liked is **The Book**

contd on pg 2...



From the Editor's Desk

Did you read our new magazine INK, a magazine for you, dear book lovers? If not, then look in your library's magazine section for it. We hope you will like our inaugural issue. We have a long way to go but with your support and encouragement, we are sure we will evolve INK into a true magazine about our book industry. Don't forget to send your feedback and suggestions to our editor.

The last two months of this year saw many interesting literary festivals and fairs being hosted across India. The Hay Festival in Thiruvananthapuram, Bookaroo Children Literature Festival in Delhi, the Bangalore Book Fair, the Just Write Workshop and the Strand Book Festival. And lest we forget, Year 2012 will be welcomed by the biggest literary festival of India- the Jaipur Literary festival!

Some exciting developments are happening at JustBooks, too. We have opened more than 40 branches, have spread to seven cities across India and now provide access to four Lakh books. You must have seen or read about JustBooks in different Medias. Many branches are conducting JustBooks Events that includes storytelling, essay writing, book reading. All this to be better connected with its members.

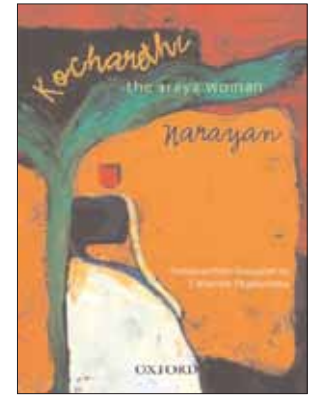
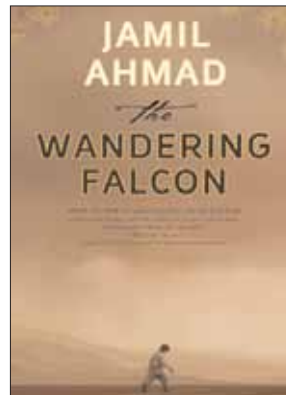
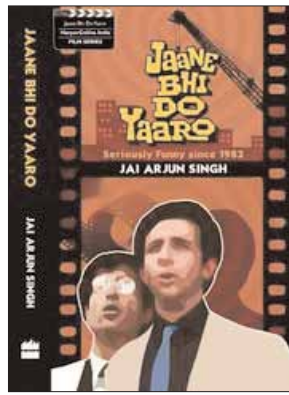
At JustBooks we are happy that we are on our way to realise our vision of - *Get every book a reader and get every reader his or her book*. And to achieve our vision we need active participation from all book lovers.

We call all our members to contribute regularly, and especially our young readers to send in their stories, poems, book reviews or any other interesting article for our Just Kids pages.

In this last edition of Year 2011 JustBooks Connect, let's find out from some literary figures what books of 2011 they liked or did not like. And also look into some unique titles.

Tell us what you think of this edition and write in your thoughts and contributions to editor@just-bookscl.com.

contd from pg 1...



of Memory (Penguin, 318 pages) by psychoanalyst and writer Sudhir Kakar.

The other books I read this year were all released much earlier than 2011", said columnist and novelist C K Meena, when asked to name South Asian English books or authors (published this year) that she enjoyed reading in 2011.

Annie Zaidi picked **Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro - Seriously Funny Since 1983** by Jaiarjun Singh (Harper Collins, 300 pages) among the non-fiction works that delighted her.

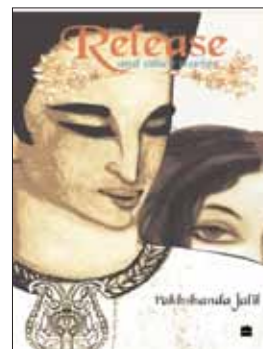
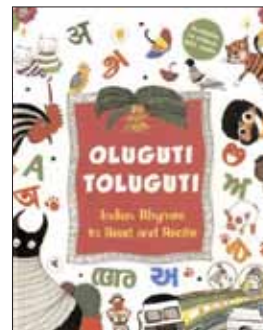
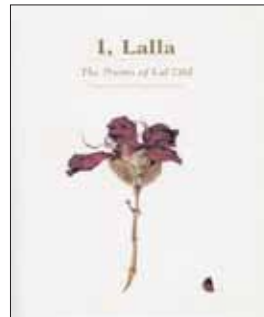
Misses and Controversies of 2011

On the subject of books of 2011 that were "misses" Annie Zaidi remarked, "How do you judge who missed what, and who knows what it was aiming for anyway?"

Rheaa Mukherjee, co-founder and editor of Urban Confusions, a journal of art and literature, added, "It's hard for me to choose books that were misses. I think that the relationship a reader has with a piece of text is substantiated and validated through a personal experience."

It is pertinent to state that despite the large number of English books being released in this country, many of them have done well either in terms of commerce or critical response or both. Small wonder as India is amongst the top ten nations in the world in publishing.

Mukherjee opined about a distasteful literary incident in 2011, "I thought it funny that V S Naipaul said that women's writing is different, partly because of their



sentimentality and narrow world view. I was also amused to see so many women writers up in arms about it.

I think I am far too confident as a writer, as are many other women writers in this, to even give his statements a credible thought.

I mention this controversy because I hope women writers in the future can roll their eyes and laugh at things like this instead of validating such opinions through anger."

Some unique books of 2011

Retired Pakistani civil servant Jamil Ahmad made a literary debut at the age of 78 with **The Wandering Falcon** (Penguin, 192 pages), which is set in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Oluguti Toluguti: Indian Rhymes to Read and Recite (Tulika) by Radhika Menon, Sandhya Rao has 54 Indian poems in 18 languages in the original tongue, English translations and English and Hindi transliterations.

Rakshanda Jalil's short fiction anthology **Release and Other Stories** (Harper Collins India) is probably the first one featuring Indian middle class muslim characters.

I, Lalla: The Poems of Lal Ded (Penguin, 328 pages) - verses of the eponymous 14th century Kashmiri woman mystic also known as Lalleshwari, rendered in English by Ranjit Hoskote.

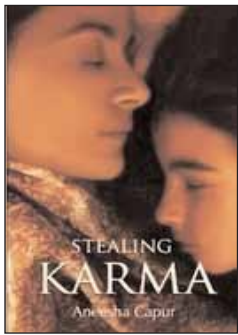
Narayan's Kocharethi, The Arayar Woman (Oxford University Press, 264 pages) translated by Catherine Thankamma is perhaps the first work by a tribal man from Kerala.

Let's see now what 2012 will bring! ■

Stealing Karma

Aneesha Capur
Harper Collins

Reshmi Chakraborty



Aneesha Capur's **Stealing Karma** is based in Nairobi where Mira Sharma lives a luxurious but discontented life with her husband and daughter. History fogs up the present as Mira keeps slipping into bouts of depression despite her determination to be a better wife and mother. When things go wrong, Mira has to survive for the sake of her daughter.

Together with their African housekeeper, mother and daughter form an unusual family as Mira tries to battle her demons and her daughter Shanti tries to get through to a mother lost in the stupor of memories.

This is a novel that piques curiosity if only for the unusual Karmic angle to the mother-daughter saga. It is moving and poignant despite the problems in its plot.

Capur is a gifted writer and creates some truly touching moments out of simple situations.

The book works on many levels and addresses several issues including familial relations and racial prejudice but despite its flaws, **Stealing Karma** is a novel that piques curiosity if only for the unusual Karmic angle to the mother-daughter saga.

Written beautifully, **Stealing Karma**, is assured and sharp for a debut novel. ■

Maverick: The Success Story Behind The World's Most Unusual Workplace

Ricardo Semler
Random House

Manjula Sundharam



Ricardo Semler narrates his change management story as a leader at one of Latin America's fastest growing companies. He describes how his unconventional leadership changed the environment in the company from autocratic to participative and made it the most preferred workplace in Brazil.

If employees are asked to blindly follow instructions without questioning, how can they be encouraged to think, innovate and act as human

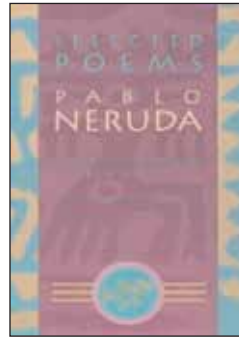
beings?

Following this thought Semler allowed his employees at the manufacturing plant to dress as they please, enter the workplace at a time they thought was reasonable for themselves and their teams, pick a task that excited them, and choose a salary that they thought they deserved. Fixed working hours, rigid organizational charts, and policy manuals strip away freedom and give a false feeling of discipline. By allowing employees to speak their minds and letting them determine their own way of achieving goals, Semler persuaded his employees to work as responsible adults and increased productivity at the work place. ■

Selected Poems

Pablo Neruda
Penguin Books

Pushpa Achanta



Writing substantive poetry does not come easily to all. Understanding what the poet is trying to convey may take more than one reading. More so, in the case of translated verses. But not so, when one is reading the legendary poet Pablo Neruda.

Pablo Neruda (the pen name of Neftali Reyes) started writing verses when he was around ten and his first collection was published when he was about sixteen years old under the nom de plume that he chose for himself.

One of the few poets who won the Nobel Prize for Literature, Neruda wrote many verses in Spanish that had depth amidst simplicity. The sea, women, love, death, ships, factory workers and cities and countries that he visited inspired him to pen lines that reflected his feelings about them. **Selected Poems** consists of some of Neruda's poetic expressions that were translated into English.

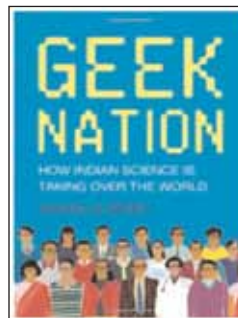
The presence of the Spanish and English versions on adjacent pages of this collection may be distracting to some readers irrespective of the languages they know.

However, anyone who enjoys poetry should definitely read this master. ■

Geek Nation

Angela Saini
Hodder & Stoughton

Dr. Rajagopalan



Will India regain its pre-renaissance position in global science and technology? Why did it not live it up to its promise since independence? Is it because of the stranglehold of its traditions and superstitions? Or is it because of penny pinching in funding R&D? Did the IT boom raise India's profile in the global markets while ironically diverting its top talent into mindless coding? What are some of the valiant and significant R&D happening in India?

The author defines 'Geekiness' as one's 'passion about an intellectual pursuit'. Indian civilization was once arguably way ahead of the western world in science and technology. European renaissance helped the western world make rapid scientific and technological progress. Colonialism fueled western capitalism with cheap raw materials, captive markets and military might. Was the decline in Indian science and technology a natural consequence? If so, how come India failed to regain its ('rightful?') place, even after six decades of independence? This book explores this failure of post-independence India, from the perspective of an U.K born Indian. ■

The abcd of Bengali detectives

Sleuthing Bengali Style

The All Bengali Crime Detectives

Suparna Chatterjee
Rupa and Co

Geetanjali Singh Chanda

This debut novel is an ethno-detective thriller, and as much a meditation on retirement and Bengaliness as it is a 'whodunit'. But often the tension of a thriller loosens out to wonderful snippets and foibles of the Bengalis ranging from ruminations on the adda culture, pet names like Poltu, Bhombol or Kaltu that can ruin the amorous advances of many a roadside Romeo, to delicious snippets of why the simple gulab jamun is called ledikeni in Bangla.

The four retirees "with receding hairlines and protruding bellies" are hardly detective material but then they also feel too young to opt out of life as such. They gather in the park, ostensibly to exercise, but mainly to participate in the particularly Bengali pastime of adda.

For the non-initiates, an adda is a gathering (mainly of men), who meet to chat. The topics range from the price of fish, to local gossip to politics to comparisons between the filmic genius of Satyajit Ray and Jean-Luc Godard, to Marxist philosophy. The latest to join the group of senior citizens is Akhil Bannerjee, a recently retired judge, who completes the ABCD series of - Akhil, Bibhuti, Chandan and Debdas.

One day, unexpectedly, they all receive an invitation to dinner from a rather aloof Mr. Agarwal who lives in the same neighbourhood. They spend a convivial evening together but the next day they are in for a shock when they discover that Mr. Agarwal's prize collector's item, a diamond, the size of a pigeon's egg, has gone missing. They had seen the exquisite jewel just that evening and are horrified at how it could have disappeared from under their collective noses. Immediately the first suspects are the servants and then the various others who could have had access to the jewel

- including the guests, Agarwal's secretary and an itinerant seller of collectibles who had come to show Agarwal his wares. The 'not ready for retirement' stalwarts - ABCD, who are also miffed at being forced to take a back seat in the local organization of the Puja pandal by a younger gang of the para or neighbourhood youth, take up the challenge of solving the crime.

The retired judge is definitely the 'brains' of the group and orchestrates the others. But each one plays their part in tracking down suspects and applying their sleuthing skills. One of the four is a

also worried about the marriage of his daughter and how he will pay for that.

One of the sub-plots is the search for a groom for this daughter Pia. And although this is the major preoccupation of the mother, the father aside from sleuthing, also gets involved in the interactions. Pia goes through the habitual tea and "seeing" of the girl but does not hesitate to speak her mind and swiftly dismisses each suitor with her outspokenness. Pia is possibly the only female character with guts in this novel. For the rest, all four wives are non-differentiable from each other and presented as stereotypical

Bengali wives whose lives revolve around the kitchen, procuring the right fish for the day, nagging their husbands and finding suitable matches for their daughters.

As the plot evolves, the chase for the criminal results in various red herrings and unexpected twists. Finally it is the retired judge who calls a meeting at Mr. Agarwal's house and unravels the various threads to reveal who actually stole the priceless diamond that may not have been so priceless after all.

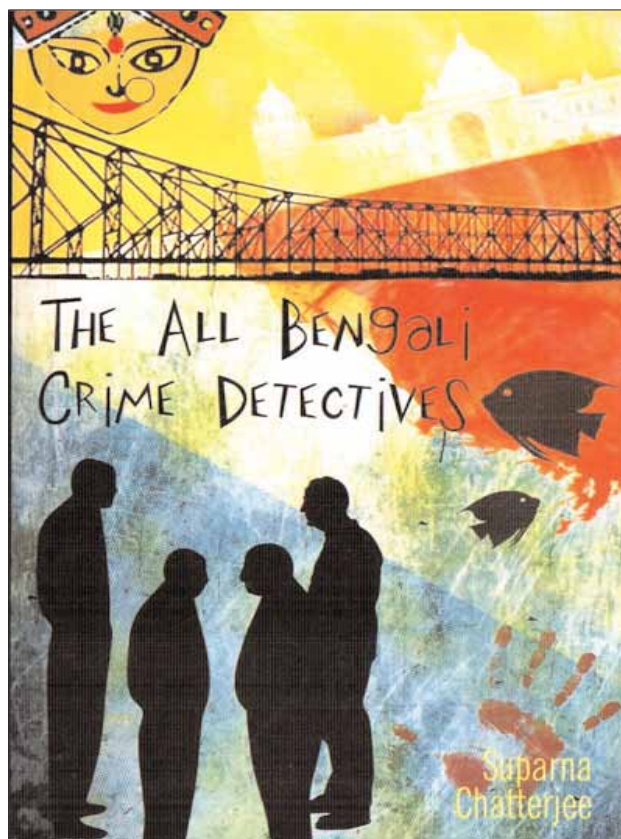
The author, Suparna Chatterjee was born and brought up in Calcutta but now lives in Bangalore. This probably accounts for the nostalgia that imbues this first novel. The loving descriptions of things Bengali are one of the rare charms of the book.

There is even a fascinating historical anecdote that attributes the change of Durga Puja from a spring festival to an autumnal one back to the battle of Plassey in 1757. (I cannot

potential suspect himself as not only was he the last to see the diamond but he is

account for the veracity of the story but why not?) There is also a hilarious description of the competition among various paras for the best Durga Puja pandals.

Chatterjee acknowledges her debt to "Enid Blyton, Agatha Christie and Satyajit Ray - three writers who planted in me a burning desire to become a sleuth" but her real talent is not so much in weaving a detective story, which is almost incidental here, but in recounting and transporting one into a fun and ethnographic account of Bengalis. This is just the book for a long plane journey. ■



The loving descriptions of things Bengali are one of the rare charms of the book. There is even a fascinating historical anecdote that attributes the change of Durga Puja from a spring festival to an autumnal one back to the battle of Plassey in 1757.

The Gandhi way

Of idealism and loving those we change

Bharathipura

UR Ananthamurthy
Translated from Kannada by
Susheela Punitha
Oxford University Press

Dr. Rajeshwari Ghose

Like Ananthamurthy's earlier novel *Samskara*, this novel too, was originally written in Kannada. We are fortunate to have English translations of at least these two of his major works.

The central character in this novel, Jagannath is a person with whom it is easy for a candid modern Indian reader, to identify. He feels like many of us, impotent with rage at the appalling treatment of the underdogs of society, in this case, specifically the pariahs.

Even more important, he sees himself as a non-person, somehow inauthentic, if he does nothing to change the social order which he confronts all around him in his mofussil temple town of Bharathipura. He can smell its stench and see its dark alleys, both in a literal and metaphoric sense. The revolutionary in him wants to get rid of the "age old superstitions" and substitute it with the "scientific temper", and thereby extricate the inhabitants of the town from the "womb of Manjunatha", the local all encompassing deity.

He works out a simple prioritization for his revolutionary agenda. If the central ideology of the town—its faith in a pure temple, unpolluted by the entry of untouchables can be shaken—and if the collective of "untouchables" can be made "touchable" a rational socio-economic order will inevitably follow.

The book was first published in 1973 and was written when temple entry was still a social issue, especially in South India. Though the specific issue may be dated, the social realities still persist much in the same mangled fashion.

Jagannath's complex but naïve faith is moving. He believes that his iconoclasm will somehow free the spirit of the town towards a new creative impulse. To him, the image of the deity Manjunatha, is a symbol of an ignorant, superstitious, apathetic society, with its unjust value system. By breaking the superstitions surrounding its "purity" and the entrenched fears which stop the untouchables from entering its divine precincts, he hopes to free the townspeople from the constrictions of the womb space.

Breaking iconic sanctity is an age old historical phenomenon—the images are

form of creation, but our hero does not see himself as an anarchist but one with a vision of a dynamic modern Bharathipura. He does not have a clear idea of what kind of a practical change this notion of modernity would shape itself into.

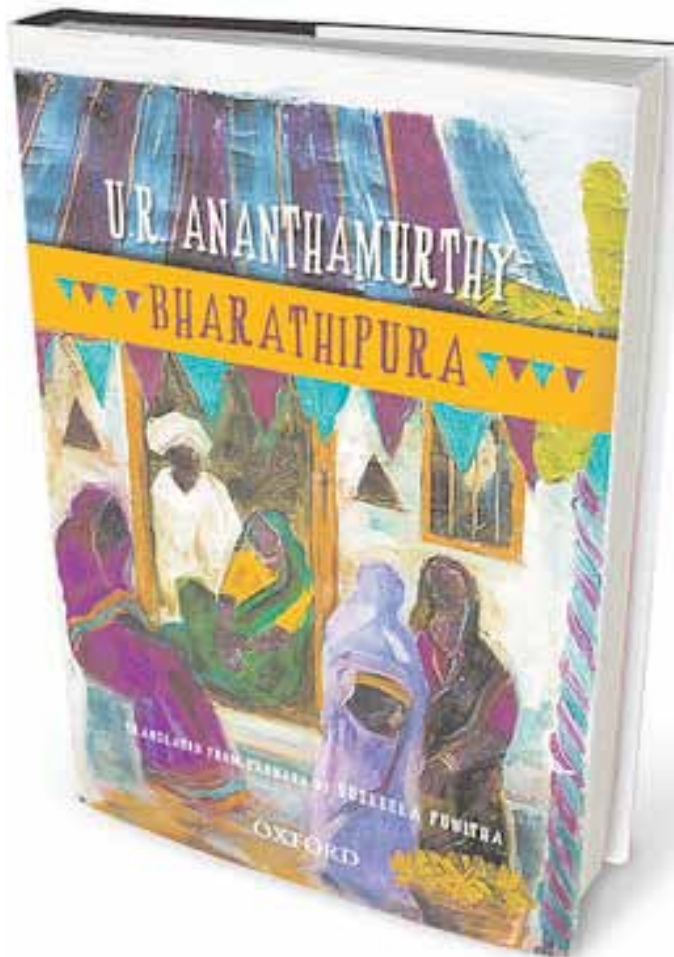
What he does have are a number of questions reeling in his head. Inactivity, to him is no option. He must act or he must die. The stance is dramatic. He is young; western educated and is full of anxiety of the existentialist, a trendy school of thought in his student days. His rather quaint friend Adiga, the

temple priest, warns him that it could be his ego that is playing up. Could it? Our hero has no sure answers. His friend Rayaru warns him that sustaining idealism in the real world is only for the very brave. His own Gandhian ideals have left him a pauper and at odds with his wife and family in a world that idolizes Gandhi but nourishes unbridled greed and corruption.

When Jagannath finally accomplishes what he sets out to do and makes the untouchables touch the sacred Saligrama, in his own domestic shrine, and breaks the taboo of the untouchable entering the temple, he feels he has finally acted. But where is the creative impulse that this act of destruction was supposed to unleash?

The untouchables are ideological and mental constructs for Jagannath; they are not real individuals whom he knows. Is that what leads to the rather outlandish ending of the tale? He observes that it is only those we can change

that we can love. Was he trying to change the pariahs into images of himself with their clean shirts and white dhotis? Was such a transformation possible or even desirable? The novel, to quote A.K.Ramanujan, in another context, ends but does not conclude. ■



either reinvested with a new garb of sacredness or are replaced by other icons. What exactly is to replace Manjunatha? Will the creative impulse automatically follow the destruction? The famous Russian anarchist and iconoclast Bakunin believed that destruction itself was a

In conversation

The art of making children read

Ram Mohan Susarla

One of the refrains heard often from parents these days is that their children do not have time to read or are not interested in anything beyond their course work and syllabus. This is true to a certain extent. The demands on the present youngsters are more and the time available to pursue interests other than their studies is less. And when one considers the range of options that children have, to utilize their spare time ranging from outdoor physical activity to video games and browsing the internet, to make them read is indeed a challenging task.

However, before taking them to task for their lack of interest in reading, it is worthwhile to introspect about whether as parents, we have made efforts to inculcate the reading habit in them. How many of us as parents have actually taken the trouble to introduce their wards to the joys and pleasures of reading?

These are some observations on the changing trends in our lifestyle that have occurred over the last couple of decades. When we were growing up, the only alternative to outdoor activity and reading was Doordarshan. Now, with the entire gamut of hundreds of channels and the internet along with gaming consoles vying for the children's attention, reading has taken a backseat.

An exception is the runaway success of the Harry Potter Phenomenon which has given some hope. It has re-introduced the generation of today to the pleasure of reading. I call it a phenomenon as nothing comes close to the impact that the Harry Potter series has had on young minds and hearts and the way in which they thronged the bookstores at dawn on the release day. It was indeed heart-warming for a Gen X booklover like me. Books like these could be a starting point in letting

your children discover the pleasures of reading. Making the books meant for children into movies is yet another good news.

for decades, are being made attractive and relevant to the times that we live in. Overall there is no shortage of good books.

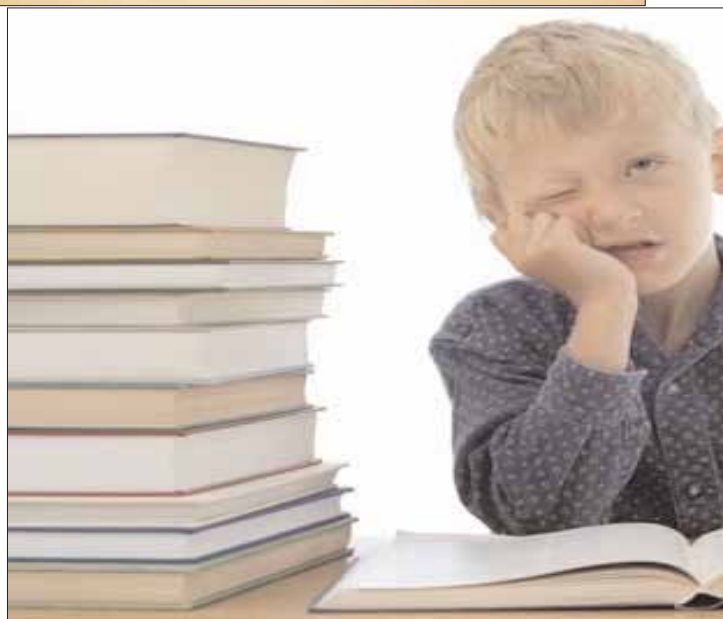
Now books are becoming available in the electronic format, so children can be encouraged to read the eBooks and utilize the time spent browsing in a productive manner. Instead of using the internet as a medium to just download music and movies, the added pleasure of making them read would be akin to getting a double Sundae for them. Reading is a wholesome entertainer and the sheer volumes of titles available in the market for children must surely be an incentive for the parents to take their kids on weekends to bookstores where they can get good bargains on children's books. Taking kids to books stores or library, asking

them to pick their own books, helps in exposing kids to the world of books and ignites their curiosity. Reading will follow from this curiosity.

Talking about making children read reminds me of the grandmother tales that we used listen as bedtime stories. It always helps if parents can set aside some time everyday to tell stories or read to their children and make them realize that there is a world beyond TV and the Internet. As the cliché goes, if you do not have the time, you must create time. Bedtime read-

ing for young children and discussing books with your teenagers and adolescents might be what is needed for your children to get hooked on to books. All in all, making reading a family affair will provide the necessary impetus for your kids to become full-fledged readers.

Catch them young and watch them grow. This must be the motto in all matters and with reading as well. Once you have the basics in place, rest assured everything would follow. A good place to start would be your local library and a good time to start is now. ■



Like the Tintin series – on which many of us grew up on – and the release of the movie by Steven Spielberg. Comics are any day a good enough reason for children to get out of bed and hence these developments must be welcomed.

Young minds love interestingly illustrated good stories. And fortunately publishers like Tulika, Tara Books, Young Zubaan, NBT, CBT and Scholastic India are coming out with such books for young readers. Old favourites like Amar Chitra Katha, Tinkle, Chandamama and Champak, which held children in sway

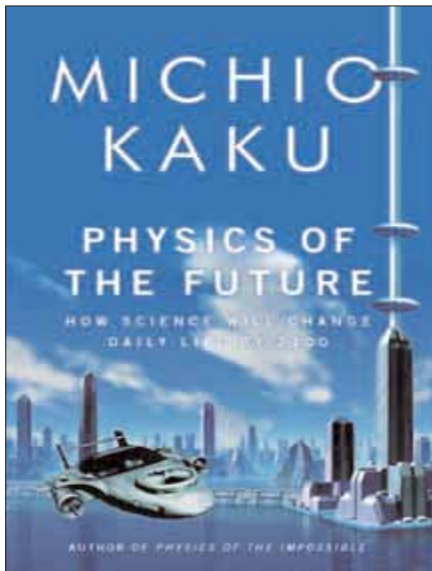
The Physics Formula

Is the Future Already Here?

Physics of the Future

Michio Kaku
Allen Pane

Dr. Rajagopalan



We have consistently underestimated the power of science to revolutionize society. We get enamored by the achievements of entrepreneurs, inventors and entertainers and ignore the importance of fundamental contributions of scientists. In reality, it is only when we learnt to harness a new force of nature - gravity, electromagnetism, the weak nuclear force or the strong nuclear force- human society underwent significant transformations. What are such fundamental breakthroughs in the pipeline? How will they impact our lives?

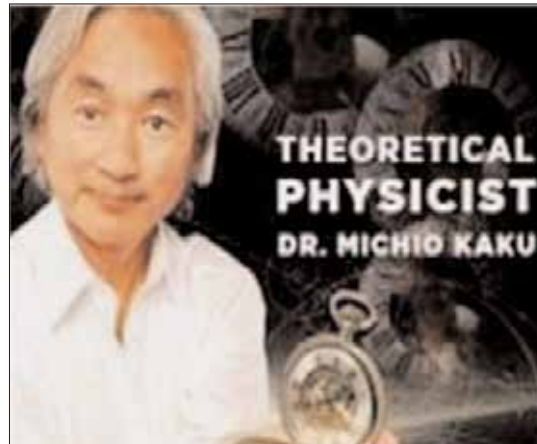
In contrast to the rapid advances in humanity's scientific and technological knowledge, Kaku claims that our wants, dreams, personalities and desires haven't changed much in the last 100,000 years. Like our cavemen ancestors, we still demand 'proof of the kill'. This 'caveman principle' will continue to tilt the balance in favour of high-tech over the panacea offered by high-tech.

Just to get an idea, let us look at some of the predictions for medicine. Biology will become information science. We can get

our own genome sequence on a CD for as little as \$100. Tissue engineering and growing of organs from our own cells for replacement in human body shop, cloning, gene therapy, genetic enhancements etc., will become common place.

There are similar predictions in other areas. In IT, quantum computing might be the in-thing. While robots performing routine tasks will be common place, humans will still man tasks requiring pattern recognition and common sense. Computer chips will become so embedded into gadgets that we will no longer be aware of them. Superconductors at room temperatures will enable transportation using magnetism.

While these predictions may or may not come true, Kaku points out that these are nevertheless based on current scientific work. One cannot help noticing the liberal dose of optimism of the author, espe-



cially on predicted developments in exploring space and space travel. The author counters this by pointing out how some of the common place technologies of today sounded like science fiction even as recently as 1900s.

The author zones in on the problem of adequate energy sources and their efficient use as the most crucial questions. He hopes that a combination of nuclear fusion and solar energy will prove adequate. Nanotechnology, superconductivity at normal temperatures and other such developments will vastly improve efficiency. There is in fact a possibility that humanity will say goodbye to the era of scarcity.

However, his effort at incorporating the implications of social, economic and political factors on technological developments and its deployment is at best spotty. For example, he does not consider the impact of expanding wants in project-

Kaku claims that our wants, dreams, personalities and desires haven't changed much in the last 100,000 years. Like our cavemen ancestors, we still demand 'proof of the kill'.

ing an end to the era of scarcity. Nor does he explore the 'problem of the plenty', though he rightly points out that the real bottleneck in the future will not be technological hardware but the availability of manual labour intensive software.

It would have been very instructive if the author had taken the further step of explicating the implications of the persistence or otherwise of the so-called caveman principle. For example, how is it that the author claims that we will

become a 'planetary civilization' but still will behave like cavemen? After all, a planetary civilization is supposed to be symbolized by the growing integration wrought by the internet, English language, globalized economy, universal culture, a common environment, sports, tourism and even global pandemics.

Another major blind spot of the book is the absence of any discussion on what would happen to our flora and fauna in the light of such dramatic projections on scientific developments and their impacts.

Then, the book would have been much more interesting, even if at the cost of leaving out predictions regarding the far future. As it is, such predictions of the far future sound more iffy and like flights of imagination.

But nature can throw many surprises. Just recently, scientists have been puzzled about some sub-atomic particles which apparently travel at speeds faster than light! They are frantically setting up experiments at enormous costs to verify this claim. If this claim holds, how can one distinguish the past, present and future? How will we define cause-effect relationships?

One interesting aspect of the book is the colorful characters working on the cutting edge of science. In contrast to popular notions, these scientists sound more like excited children, devoting entire careers chasing a dream which may never materialize in their life time. What drives them to do this? ■

Reader's Voice



Things that have changed since I joined JustBooks

A long year has passed by since I took a membership at JustBooks. The books here are really interesting and come in a huge variety. This has increased my appetite for reading more and more.

I have started exploring books written by new authors that I never knew before; this is giving me a great view about the world around me and has also improved my language. This obsession of reading books is pretty infectious.

Whenever I have guests staying over at home, I get them to come to JustBooks with me and it so happens that they always step out with a book which turns out to be a very enjoyable read.

All in all, JustBooks has added that extra bit of spice to my life by offering books that just pushes my imagination!

Ananth Kamath, Malleshwaram
Bangalore ■

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*Terms and condition apply. For members only

Reader's contribution

The down payment for happiness

Sulekha Kumar

Our Lady of Alice Bhatti

Mohammed Hanif
Jonathan Cape

In the colossal chaos that is Karachi what chances does the junior nurse Sister Alice Bhatti, a Catholic from the untouchable 'choohra' community have for protecting her body, her dignity and her dream.

Alice's experiences in life have made her bold and defiant, wise and cautious and yet 'givens' of the social set up are such that she is extremely vulnerable at the same time. *"Every step forward in life is preceded by a ritual humiliation. Every little happiness asks for a down payment."*

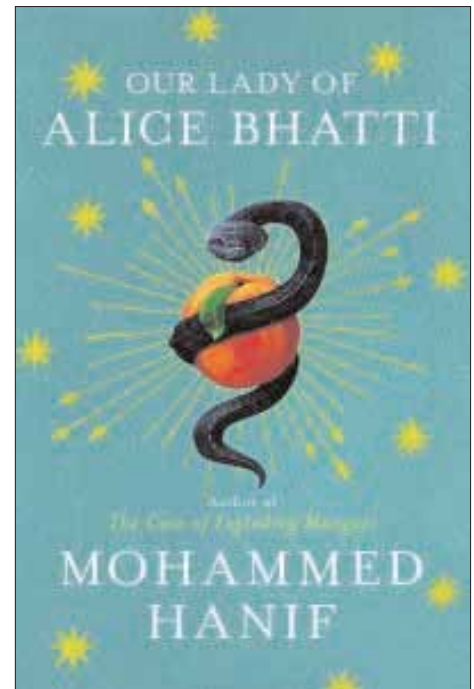
Will Alice rise above her circumstances, amid her past in Borstal jail, her home in the squalor of French Colony, the filth of Sacred Heart Hospital and her marriage to a police tout?

The bleak drama of Alice Bhatti's life is played out against the backdrop of certain motifs.

First, vibrant presence of mindless violence embodied in guns of various descriptions- Kalashnikovs, Mausers, toysize pistols all find uses in settling scores, declaring love and possibly, getting rid of boredom.

Second, lust and leering men abound, men who look upon women as 'loose change in a street deal' or 'slaves they bought in a clearance sale', men who have no qualms about intimidating women into sexual acts and then cutting them up.

Third, class hierarchy, caste prejudice, clan clout and cold crass calculation play their game to the finish with a brutality and brazenness. Add to that the ignorance, gullibility and impulsiveness



of the people, top it up with the police, underworld, and the tragic set of events is set into motion.

A sizzling satire in a crisp tight knit narrative; brings into focus the vices that grip the society in Karachi. Hanif has penned it in brilliantly evocative prose with wry humour and sparkling wit. The story crackles all the way through with sharp and cutting irony. The novel entertains and depresses too. It is a sordid tale with no character in chaotic Karachi offering any hint or hope of redemption.

Sulekha Kumar, a member of JustBooks RMV II Stage, is a freelance writer who has published short stories in Hindi and English. A gold medalist in English Literature and Russian from Bhopal University, she taught at MLB College before joining (and assisting) her husband in his diplomatic assignments. During their home postings, she held many editorial positions, of which she particularly enjoyed her stint at the Children's Book Trust. ■



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Tamil stories and their controversies

G Venkatesh

We all agree that writing is a creative process. Most of the story writers are able to visualize something beyond the ordinary and pen it in an eloquent form, and that results in a work of fiction. Some of which can cause controversies.

Amongst the Indian literature, Tamil literature has one of the richest legacies created by its writers. But many of these writers have also faced a lot of flak for writing the unthinkable that the conservative Tamil society found difficult to digest. While some writers struggled with legal wrangles and court cases over credits, delayed payments and copyright issues.

Writer K Jayalakshmi, it appears, was fighting a court case with producer-director K.S. Gopalakrishnan, for half of her life time. She had written a short story about an impoverished family where the daughter gets married to an affluent man.

Her brother goes to her house on an invitation for a birthday party for his nephew and is outraged at the treatment given to him. While he leaves his sister's place, his sister hurriedly thrusts a bag in his hand.

After returning home, the brother, incensed at his mother and wife for forcing him to attend the birthday party without a formal invitation, throws the bag. From the bag that was given by his sister, rupee notes and a letter hurl out. Allegedly, the director lifted this story and made it into a movie that enraged the writer because there were no credits given to her in the movie.

Needless to add, the payment came to her only after she filed a case in the court.

In one other Tamil movie, there is a silently suffering woman (Revathi) from a very poor and downtrodden family, who marries a municipality worker (Pandian). The torture of the poor woman begins right after marriage with the drunkard husband bringing in a streetwalker into the house.

Unable to bear the torture, the wife sets herself on fire and stealthily clutches onto her husband tightly and has her silent revenge. Writer Anuradha Ramanan alleged that this movie was based on a story written by her.

Maharishi's **Bhadrakali** was another novel that ended up in a controversy but of a different kind.

The 1975 movie, also titled **Bhadrakali** and based on the novel was about the travails of an impoverished Tamil Brahmin family where the married daughter ends up with mental sickness after she witnesses a horrific rape and murder.

Deserted by her husband after she ends up killing her own child in a demented state, the woman kills the villain in the end after donning the avatar of 'Bhadrakali'.

The actress playing the lead role unfortunately died in a plane crash even before the movie was released and sceptics

Tamil stories and controversies have always been Siamese twins. The Brahmin community burnt copies of the magazine that carried the controversial story 'Chirai' by Anuradha Ramanan. The story evidently was semi-autobiographical; like the heroine in the story, Anuradha was deserted by her husband, though the similarity ends there.



A still from the movie Bhadrakali

said that she had not followed proper religious norms during her portrayal of 'Bhadrakali' and so she paid the price for it.

Thus, Tamil stories and controversies have always been Siamese twins. The Brahmin community burnt copies of the

magazine that carried the controversial story 'Chirai' by Anuradha Ramanan. The story evidently was semi-autobiographical; like the heroine in the story, Anuradha was deserted by her husband, though the similarity ends there.

With dwindling writing talent, the controversies have also slowly died down. But it is a comforting fact that creativity in Tamil writing has been of the highest order.

G Venkatesh lives in HAL stage III and works for a private firm in Indira Nagar. He is a voracious reader and an amateur writer. Essentially a Mumbaikar, he has shifted to Bangalore more than a year ago. Music, Gardening and Reading are his other hobbies. ■



1. Cricket writer Rahul Bhattacharya bagged this award recently:

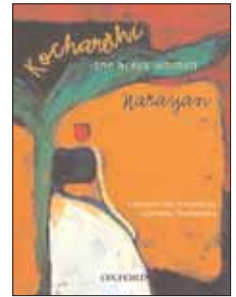
- Castrol Awards for Cricketing Excellence
- The Hindu Literary Prize
- Man Booker Prize

4. This is the first novel written by an Indian adivasi:

- Kocharethi
- Oluguti Toluguti
- Chemmeen

5. 'Controversially Yours' is penned by:

- Herschelle Herman Gibbs
- Shoaib Akhtar
- Vinod Kambli



2. Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize of 2011 was given to:

- The Wandering Falcon
- The Collaborator
- Chinaman

3. Which volume of the Ibis trilogy is 'River of Smoke'?

- First
- Last
- Second

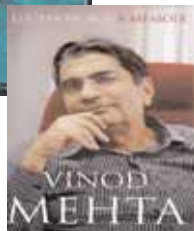


The Hindu Literary Prize, The Wandering Falcon, Second, Kocharethi, Shoaib Akhtar

JUSTBOOKS TOP 5

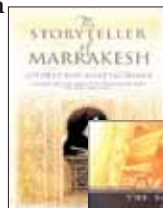
NEW ARRIVALS

1. 1Q84 by Haruki Murakami
2. The Litigators by John Grisham
3. The Affair by Lee child
4. Lucknow Boy: A Memoir by Vinod Mehta
5. A Shot at History by Abhinav Bindra



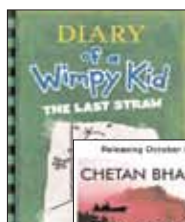
RECOMMENDED

1. Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
2. The Storyteller Of Marrakesh By Joydeep-Roy Bhattacharya
3. The Sari Shop by Rupa Bajwa
4. Chasing The Monsoon by Alexander Frater
5. Does He Know A Mother's Heart? by Arun Shourie



RENTALS

1. Revolution 2020 by Chetan Bhagat
2. The Secret Of The Nagas by Amish Tripathi
3. The Kane Chronicles (Book 2) by Rick Riordan
4. Diary of a Wimpy Kid (Book 3) by Jeff Kinney
5. Percy Jackson and the Olympians(Book 2) by Rick Riordan



Justbooks arrives in Mangalore

Our newest library - JustBooks Mangalore - opened yesterday to an ecstatic welcome by the reading community and citizens . It went on to create a record within the JustBook franchisee community for the most memberships on the opening day!

It was an electrifying, exciting, fun filled and deeply satisfying day. To us, the one picture that really epitomizes the arrival of JustBooks in the community of book lovers is this:



Seeing this picture, we are reminded of the quote from Katherine Patterson: "It is not enough to simply teach children to read; we have to give them something worth reading.

Something that will stretch their imaginations-something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own."

Cheers!

From JustBooks blog - <http://blog.justbookscl.com>

Author Profile

Iris Murdoch

Anindita Sengupta

There are novelists whom everyone agrees about and there are others who incite such dissenting views that a room might contain both ardent fans and desperate denouncers. Of the two categories, Jean Iris Murdoch belonged to the latter. A section have dismissed her as nothing better than a romance novelist, speedy and sensational.

But for her legions of fans, Murdoch is a novelist who exercised immense control over plot, character and situation, a writer with great psychological insight, stylistic beauty and wit, and a strong moral core.

It is certainly worth remembering that despite being considered one of the prominent writers in the ethical literature movement, she maintained a fine balance, an integrity within her novels, that prevented them from becoming didactic or preachy. Murdoch disliked the label of "philosophical novelist" and preferred to see herself in the tradition of the nineteenth-century masters—Sir Walter Scott, Jane Austen, Lev Tolstoy—whom she found "to a staggering degree better than the most praised of contemporary novelists."

For Murdoch, the task of the novel was concerned above all else with love, that is, our "indefinitely extended capacity to imagine the being of others." Her characters are often deeply flawed, even



unsympathetic and she does not spare us an unflinching view of the inner workings of their minds. Take Charles Arrowby from *The Sea, the Sea*, one of her most famous works. He starts off sounding eccentric, even amusing, but quickly tests patience with a host of inexplicably self-centred actions. Murdoch offers elaborate insight into how he arrives at his destructive decisions. Yet, there is a dark thread running through the book that leaves no doubt that these actions cannot be justified.

Some critics complain that the philosopher sometimes triumphs over the novelist, reducing characters to puppets thrown into situations to make a point. The kinder way of looking at this is that what powers one forward through the unsavoury actions of characters is the coiled spring of dramatic tension. Murdoch believed that it was important to "invent characters and convey something dramatic, which at the same time has deep spiritual significance" (*The Paris Review*).

This dramatic momentum was crucial in gliding over the strange, bizarre and uncanny happenings in the characters' lives. Despite dense language in many places and ruminations on a variety of human and metaphysical elements, Murdoch's novels are eminently readable. They're in her own words "jolly good yarns". Murdoch wanted people to enjoy reading her books and this is evident in the tight grip she maintains on plot and characters, both elements working seamlessly to propel the novel forward. Her novels are hugely enjoyable and often have the suspense and thrills one associates with crime fiction. She deftly balances the slower, more mundane details of a character's life—so necessary and revealing—with drastic events. There is a sense of the terrible. Dreams, intense visions and illusions play an important part in heightening this sense. Her plots are intricately patterned and there are symmetries within them. Reading Murdoch is that rare experience—enlightening as well as entertaining.

IN A NUTSHELL

Born On:
July 15, 1919.

Born In:
Dublin, Ireland.

Parents:
British of Irish origin; father worked in the civil service.

Education: Studied philosophy at Oxford and Cambridge.

Married To:
John Bayley, professor of English and novelist.

Selected Bibliography:

Under the Net (1954)

The Bell (1958)

A Severed Head (1961)

The Unicorn (1963)

The Italian Girl (1964)

The Red and the Green (1965)

The Time of the Angels (1966)

The Nice and the Good (1968)

Bruno's Dream (1969)

A Fairly Honourable Defeat (1970)

An Accidental Man (1971)

The Black Prince (1973), winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize

The Sacred and Profane Love Machine (1974), winner of the Whitbread Literary Award for Fiction

A Word Child (1975)

Henry and Cato (1976)

The Sea, the Sea (1978), winner of the Booker Prize

Nuns and Soldiers (1980)

The Philosopher's Pupil (1983)

The Good Apprentice (1985)

The Book and the Brotherhood (1987)

The Message to the Planet (1989)

The Green Knight (1993)

Jackson's Dilemma (1995)

Day Job:
Civil servant, lecturer at Oxford University.

Influences:
Simon Weil, Plato, Sartre, Wittgenstein, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, George Eliot, Marcel Proust, William Shakespeare.

Awards:
Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire; on the 2008 Times list of "The 50 greatest British writers since 1945". ■

Just Kids

Folk tales from Bhutan: Room in your Heart

Kunzang Choden
Pema Tshering (Illustrator)
Age group: 6 - 11 years
Pages: 36

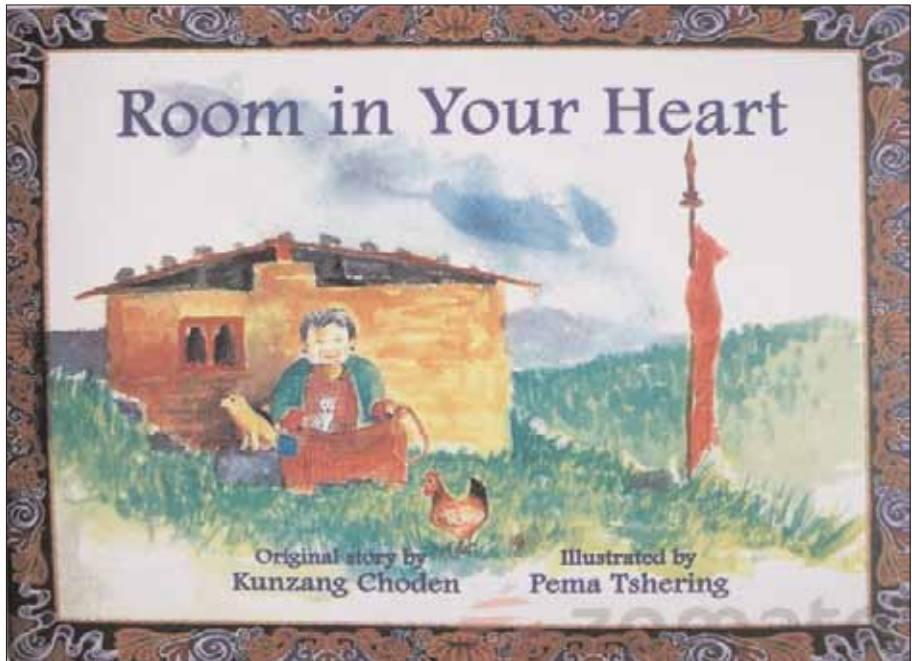
Jayanthi Harsha

One of the greatest and most terribly powerful things in the world is love. Love is the reason why humanity is in harmony and not in chaos today. Certain types of love, like mother's love for her children are the strongest. But, the purest type of love has no barriers, encompassing the whole of civilization itself.

Unfortunately, we all are too busy with our own personal survival, success and glory, that we forget that there are others around us, apart from our own family members to be loved as well. Understanding this fact fully will take us further on the path towards perfection, rather than things like immortality or great wealth.

"Neypo shong gna? Is there room for me?"

This book showcases one such examples of true love. An old woman lives with a dog, cock and a cat in a cottage by the hills. She lives simply, enjoying life without festivity or glamour. One day, when night has fallen, some travelers seek refuge in the tiny cottage. Without hesitation, the old woman accepts them all. As the night passes, more strangers come along and are



accepted cheerfully into the cottage by the old woman. She manages to feed them all and give them space and shelter for the night. Finally, when it is time to leave, the strangers begin to understand the true essence of the old woman's kindness to them.

The most important thing about the story, apart from the moral itself is its simplicity, which is just as simple as the old woman herself. The author does not need to invoke complicated happenings like magic or even natural elements like storms to head the story to its final conclusion. The pictures painted in water colors help to bring the characters to life, in the progress bringing the story closer to the reader. The words - *"Neypo shong gna?"* and the response the old woman gives every time become quite symbolic.

They represent hospitality in its purest form from which it later evolved to the forms we see everywhere round us. The writer carefully weaves the story towards the conclusion, which is neatly and beautifully conveyed, taking in the reader along with the visitors themselves.

The book, despite its few pages, manages to convey a lot of meaning to the reader. Young children understand not just the true meaning of welcoming strangers, but caring and respecting them as well. The children will also like the story for its simple language and its colorful descriptions. The paintings help to convey the various traits of the Bhutanese people in the form of the visitors to the old woman's cottage. ■

JustBooks Picks for Young Readers

Mall Mania by Stuart J. Murphy

Percy And The Rabbit by Nick Butterworth

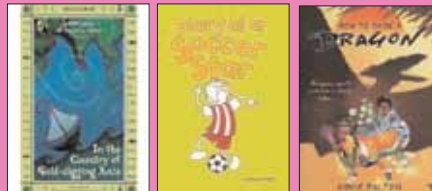
The Shining Stones by Shanti Pappu



In The Country Of Gold-digging Ants by Anu Kumar

Diary Of A Soccer Star by Shamini Flint

How To Save A Dragon by Annie Dalton



The Adventures Of The New Cut Gang by Philip Pullman

Trouble At The Taj by Sonja Chandrachud

Skunk Girl by Sheba Karim



Just Kids



My Parents

*You have always been there for us
You have taught us right from wrong
You have taught us Gods words
You have taught us his song*

*Everyday you teach us
Goodness, Compassionate and Charity
You believe in the people of the world
And, with kindness, what it could be*

*I would like to thank God
Because we have been truly blessed
There is no other way of putting it
As both of you are the best*

*You give me education
And don't let me bore
As you both are the only one
After you there is nothing more*

*Janishjit Singh Bedi, Class V, Vibgyor High
School, Mumbai*

Janishjit is an avid reader especially of BONES from Justbooks Hiranandani, Powai, Mumbai. He loves to play tennis and keyboard. During his free time he creates cartoon characters and games. He is a person who is always ready to help when someone needs him.

Riding the mystery wave

Alex Rider - Scorpia Rising

Anthony Horowitz
Age Group: 12-18 years,
Pages: 431
Publisher: Walker India

To enjoy this book fully, it is advisable to read the first eight books in the Alex Rider series. After undergoing a variety of victorious adventures, Alex Rider begins his life as a normal boy whose life revolves around school and homework.

The clashes with criminals and encounters with assassins who want to kill him are far from his mind. Alex starts believing that he will ultimately become a normal boy from a super spy, but that does not happen.

Very soon the criminal organisation "Scorpia" – to find out more about Scorpia read the fifth book – strikes a business deal with an extremely wealthy man from Greece named Yannis Ariston Xenopolos.

The deal is to bring back the exquisite Elgin marbles from London to Greece. Since the British government had refused to return the Elgin marbles back to its rightful owners-the Greeks, Ariston who loves his country and its heritage beyond limits decides to take it by force.

Ariston arranges for a secret meeting with Zeljan Kurst, who is the current head of Scorpia to hatch an immaculate plan to restore the heritage of the Greeks. Zeljan Kurst entrusts this responsibility of formulating the plan

on behalf of Scorpia to another member, Abdul Aziz al-Razim.

Since Alex Rider has had victorious clashes with Scorpia which led to the downfall of its prestige and deaths of very crucial members of Scorpia – read fifth and seventh book – Razim decides to use Alex Rider as a weapon against the British government. Scorpia kills one of its founding members, Levi Kroll and dumps his body in the river Thames in London.

A message is found in his coat pocket which leads MI6 to Cairo in Egypt. Once MI6 has taken the bait, it sends

Alex Rider undercover as a student to Cairo where something big is going to happen.

Once Alex Rider reaches Cairo, Scorpia executes the final phase of its plan. To make this more interesting Scorpia brings an old enemy of Alex Rider back into his life. In Cairo it all comes to an end as Scorpia is pulling the strings and MI6 is just

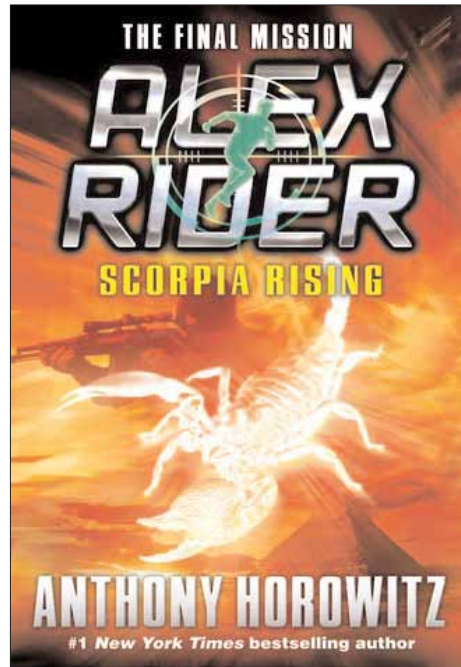
dancing to their tune.

The language in the book is very simple and transports the reader to the world of Alex Rider. It is definitely an irresistible book. To find out more read the book.

*Rahul Rajpal, Class VIII, St. Joseph's
Central School, Mysore*

Rahul is a member of JustBooks KD Road, Mysore. He is a voracious reader and loves mimicry. He also likes to swim and play badminton.

He wants to become an actor when he grows up. ■



Venturing out

The Masterminds

Sapana Rawat

JustBooks Jayanagar is run by three enterprising people Kamala Seshadri, Shyamsundar Seshadri and Natraj Thangavelu. Let's find out what got them into the JustBooks' family.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Shyam: We are a family of three settled in Bangalore. Kamala, my wife, is currently employed with Strata and I am pursuing my management consulting practice after more than two decades of corporate experience in the U.S and India. Both Kamala and I have a background in engineering and management education. Our daughter Divya has just enrolled in a medical degree program.

Natraj: I live in Chennai with my family. My wife Dr. Sasikala is a doctor and currently practices Assisted Reproduction. We have two school going kids, Siddharth and Maanasa. I am a qualified engineer and an alumnus of IIM-A. I am involved in a couple of initiatives currently. Along with my partner Shyam, in Bangalore I started 'Masterminds' a partnership firm with the objective of offering consulting, training in Education and Learning space and part of that initiative is the JustBooks Jayanagar franchise. I also assist SMB's in South India in formulating Go To Market strategies, expansion to new markets, creating new revenue streams and in building high performance teams. And with my wife, I have recently floated a firm called "Crea Conceptions" which is an Assisted Reproduction Lab that focuses on embryology as a speciality.

What were you doing before joining JustBooks as an employee?

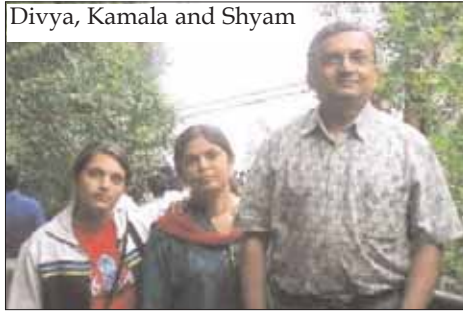
Kamala: I have worked as a Systems Analyst in Pune and performed the roles of a Project Manager, Team Leader and Test Engineer for a software development company and an Industrial Products company in the U.S. Then I took a six year break from my professional work primarily to spend more time with my school going daughter. It was also necessary since we were moving around a bit after our return to India from the U.S and Shyam used to travel considerably.

Why and how did this franchise option happen?

Shyam: We were visiting the Franchise exhibition in Chennai where we had our first brush with JustBooks. Earlier too, we were weighing entrepreneurial options that would leverage our experience. Education, Training and Coaching were the expected areas of exploration in our entrepreneurial journey. Books were an

processes were in place by then and now I focus on ensuring that we deliver and execute to the satisfaction of our customers in a consistent manner. In addition to spending time personally in the library during weekends, I am always monitoring key activities in the branch and providing suggestions to the front office staff via telephone. With the support of my husband Shyam and dedicated front office staff members like Mahalakshmi, Rajesh and Raghu, I believe we are quite successful in providing a satisfying experience to our valued customers. My daughter Divya also chips in at times.

Divya, Kamala and Shyam



Mahalakshmi and Kamala



Natraj and Family

intrinsic part of our psyche and the moment we saw an option like JustBooks, we signed up. From the time we started, it was Kamala who took overall charge of the business and streamlined the operations.

Tell us about your experience on working fulltime and taking care of the franchise.

Kamala: I took up full-time employment with Strata, a year after starting JustBooks Jayanagar branch. Most of the

How has been the customer response to JustBooks as a concept & your library, in particular?

Natraj: Customers have generally been thrilled upon becoming aware of JustBooks in their neighbourhood and in experiencing the variety of reading and browsing options it has to offer. Many parents have said that it has resuscitated the reading habit amongst their children and that now there is a healthy and stimulating pastime for many families. Many of our members have stopped stocking books at home and Jayanagar being a prime location, customers find it very convenient to visit the library often. Our front office staff receives frequent appreciations for their helpful and caring service and many of our customers enjoy interacting with our anchor lady Mahalakshmi.

What do you think will be a great addition in terms of value to your existing members?

Shyam: Online renting and eBooks could be a huge value-add. Activities around education and learning for the 9-16 years age group will also help.

What is your advice to book lovers who would like to turn entrepreneurs through JustBooks?

Natraj: We have spoken to many people about JustBooks and counseled a few who have turned up at our premises. One of them recently became a JustBooks franchisee!

For a budding entrepreneur with great interest in books, JustBooks is a great opportunity to be a part of. And over a period of time this can be financially rewarding too. ■

JustBooks Events

Time for some Math

Sheloney

If you saunter into the 3rd Block Koramangla JustBooks center on a weekend morning, you'll see children huddled in a cozy corner, cheerfully immersed in a colorful computer screen, eagerly awaiting applause and chimes for their endeavors. Could you guess what they might be doing?

They are working on Maths. "Maths?" you might ask. They are working on Xyo Computerized Maths, a revolutionary product that gently and systematically trains the child for Math/Cyber Olympiad, the CBSE/ICSE curriculum, and IIT-JEE concepts.

Xyo recognizes that mathematical skill is to be developed step-by-step, with the child attaining competence in one topic before moving on to the next. In Xyo, the path from one-digit numbers to Std X Maths is all laid out in baby-steps. The technology enables the child to attempt a topic as many times as needed to master it. Xyokids have realised that the science of rocket building doesn't need to be



intimidating; all it needs is to be approached systematically.

The teacher uses the software to precisely identify each child's strengths and areas for improvement, selects questions for the child to work on, and is available to help with his or her math.

To ensure a gentle approach to a rigorous subject matter, Xyo makes each child work individually. Each kid is usually ahead of or at pace with his class in various topics. Recognizing that each child is

different, Xyo caters to the individual's requirement. Xyo also ensures that there is no comparison between children. This approach builds an intellectual confidence in children that they carry with them through their lives.

Sheloney is a veteran of the embedded systems industry with over 10 yrs experience in GUI design and embedded systems. She is married to Dr. Shankar Moni the founder and CEO of this venture. ■

Children's Day

Kamala Seshadri

For many of us Sundays are meant to be spent lazing around. But not so for the children of Jayanagar, Bangalore. A group of enthusiastic children, accompanied by their even more enthusiastic parents, gathered at JustBooks Jayanagar on a Sunday. The occasion? A storytelling session by the duo - Malini and Hetal. Little did the children know what was in store for them, but it wasn't too long before they got hooked.

The session was an hour long and had three different stories interwoven around a main theme, which was Children's Day. The main theme, one of the inti-



mate encounters of Chacha Nehru with a group of children, was brought alive by means of a 'part fact, part fiction' narration. Imagine Chacha Nehru narrating stories. The histrionics displayed by the duo gave life to the characters. While the children empathized with the poor baby

monkey who lost his mom in the forest, they joined the other naughty tail-less monkey in celebrating the joy over his newly acquired toy. How the children wished they had a Robot like Mini who could do everything for them!

The end of the session witnessed many parents coming up to the story tellers and giving them a warm hug, expressing their appreciation. The session had caught the fancy of the parents and children alike. A lot of them started enquiring if there were more sessions lined up. This is what we said. "Wait and watch! There is more in store!"

Kamala is the franchise owner of JustBooks Jayanagar. With a background in engineering and management, she now enjoys heading the HR department of Strata Retail. ■

Force of Reading

JustBooks Vidyanarayapura does it again with a book introduction to reading event at Air Force School, Jalahalli recently.

At the school assembly time, Mr. Vittal Hedge, JustBooks Vidyanarayapura owner, was given a platform to address

the 1300 students of the school following which an interactive session was held with the students. Questions posed revealed that 70% children mentioned about their love for reading and over 95% of the students raised their hands when asked, if they LOVE general reading including story books, fairy tales, comics, science fictions, wisdom series, history etc. ■



JustBooks Events

Reading is fun!

Reading books enhances a person's vocabulary making him more confident in his thought presentation. It also enhances his writing skills.

A person who writes well and speaks well is always admired. Schools play a vital role in exposing children to the world of books through a school library that caters to the needs of all age groups.

Creative writing is the culmination of thoughts acquired either through books or experience.

From time to time children need to be given exposures to build in themselves a level of confidence to write something beautiful on their own.

They can write on topics varying from simple to something very challenging depending on their age group.

JustBooks Vidyanarayana recently conducted an essay writing com-

petition at our school Deva Matha Central School, Vidyanarayana, Bangalore. 127 students from 5th to 10th standard participated in it.

Middle school students were asked to write on their "Favourite Comic Character" or "My Worst Nightmare" or "Favourite Dream" and High School students on "My Real World Hero" or "India In The Year 2020".

The school staff and teachers provided an excellent support in conducting the essay contest.

The students were given a pen and a notebook by JustBooks as a token of appreciation.

We are highly grateful to JustBooks for organizing and giving our students a strong platform to present their thoughts.

We are sure by working together we can definitely make a difference in the lives of our young students.



Kavitha teaches English at Deva Matha Central School, Vidyanarayana. Her aim is to make reading and writing an enjoyable activity for her students. ■



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