

The

A MONTHLY LITERARY E-MAGAZINE

Literary Mirror

A Venture of Literia Insight



Cover Story
Sabarna Roy

Art/Artist
Dr. Soumya Nalli

Featured
Prerna Awasthi

Poem
Gunjan Kapoor

About the book
Moby Dick

Story
Nisha Kumari

Interview
Lavanya Lakshminarayan

Bookshelf
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Literia
Insight

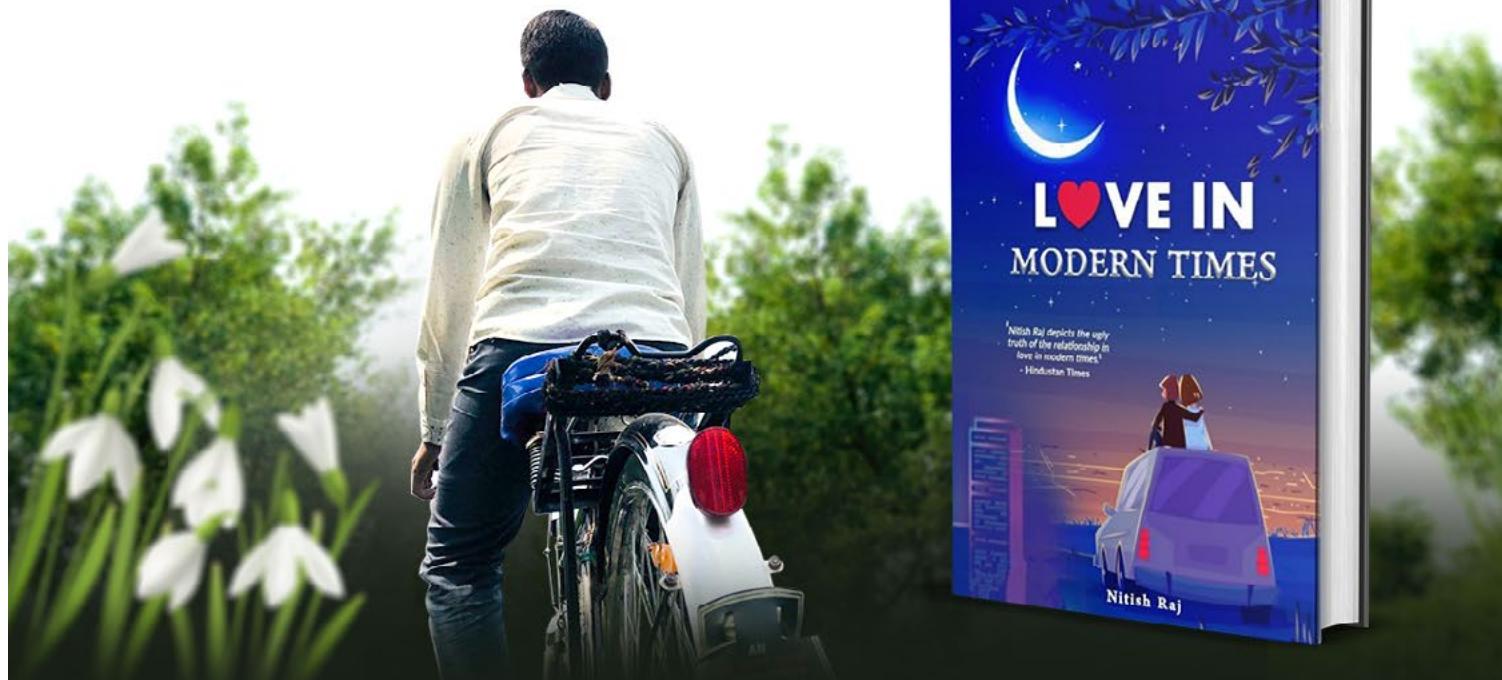


LITERIA INSIGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH VIEWFINDER PRODUCTION

P R E S E N T S

Zindagi

A SHORT FILM



WRITER & DIRECTOR VIKASH RAJ SAXENA **PRODUCER NITISH RAJ**
DOP & EDITOR SHUBHAM SAINI **IALOGUE DAYAL** **STARRING ANIL**
AMAN ALI **DESIGN RAM** **MUSIC & SOUND SHIVANG BISAWA DADHICH**
MUSIC & COMPOSER AMAN **SINGER LAKSH** **LYRICS VISHAL CHAUBEY**

Available on YouTube / Desi Unplugged



From the EDITOR'S DESK

The New Year brings a lot of resolutions and responsibilities attached with it. Indeed! With a ton of excitement hovering all around, we set a benchmark for us setting aside the prejudices and failures of the previous year. The New Year brings a sense of excitement and enthusiasm and what could be better than getting immersed in your literary craft. The craft which gives you a sense of solace along with a vision to make your life beautiful.

The Literary Mirror is blessed to present its January Edition with a resolution to provide the readers, a more interactive, innovative and qualitative edition in the upcoming editions which could serve the true purpose of the literature.

May the New Year Enrich your Literary Vision!

Nitish Raj
Editor-in-Chief
The Literary Mirror



The **Literary Mirror**

A Venture of Literia Insight

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FEATURED

About the Book

MOBY DICK OR, THE WHALE

Herman Melville

“Call me Ishmael”, from Moby-Dick, is one of the world literature's most famous opening lines. In this outstanding work, Ishmael, the narrator, recounts the epic story of the insane quest that he becomes a part of as he boards the whale ship Pequod.

It is the story of Captain Ahab, the vengeful whaler and his pursuit of Moby Dick, the elusive white whale, who on a previous voyage destroyed his boat and left Ahab a crippled and obsessive monomaniac. The insanity and the blind need for vengeance evokes fear and doubt in his crew members as Ahab threatens to lead the ship and all its members to an adventurous, yet increasingly, precarious culmination. Will Ahab recognize his own madness before the high seas of vengeance—where Moby Dick awaits their intertwined fate—engulfs everyone?

D.H. Lawrence called Moby-Dick “one of the strangest and most wonderful books in the world,” and “the greatest book of the sea ever written.” It stands alongside James Joyce's Ulysses and Laurence Sterne's Tristram Shandy as a novel that appears bizarre to the point of being unreadable but proves to be infinitely open to interpretation and discovery.

Book: Moby Dick or the Whale

Author: Herman Melville

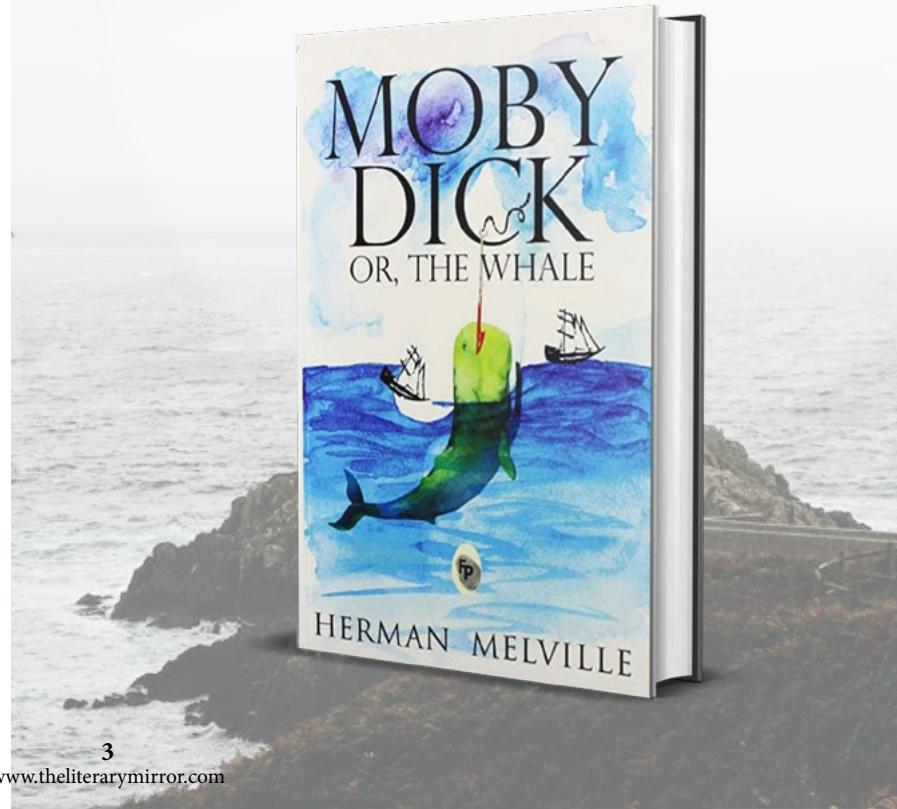
Publisher: Fingerprint Publishing

Pages: 664

Price: INR 167



Herman Melville
Author, India



I

INTERVIEW

Chit-Chat with Indian Author Rooprashi



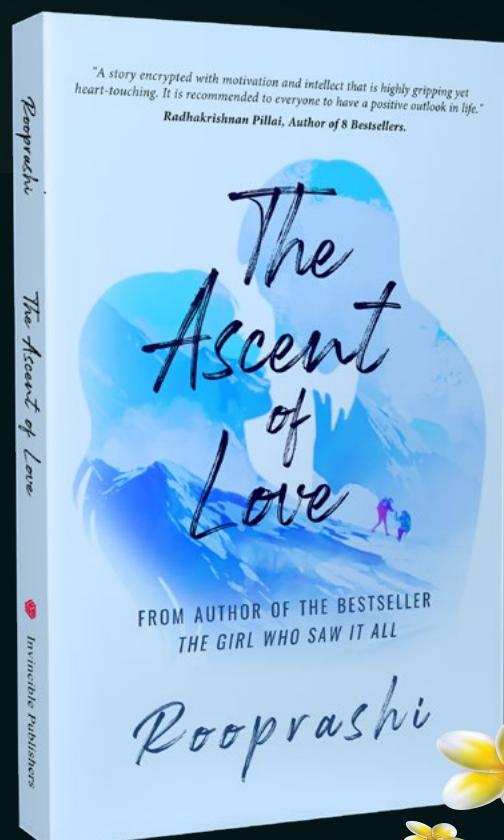
Rooprashi
Author, India

Management Executive, Author and Blogger, Rooprashi is an individual brimming with stories. The Author whose novels "The Girl Who Saw It All" and "The Ascent Of Love" have made waves across the country possesses both compassion and composure and a capacity for empathy that is clearly reflected in her writing. She writes with an aim to motivate her readers and infuse positivity in society.

"Who Saw It All" and "The Ascent Of Love" aim to contribute something positive in the lives of people who read it. I think when you touch hearts and impact lives, its only then your readers recommend your books to others. This is how the chain goes on. I think that led my books to the bestselling list and most importantly to have an everlasting impact on my readers. I would say the journey has been full of surprises to a person like me who never thought to be a writer and then never thought to be a bestselling one. But I am enjoying every aspect of this journey, hardwork, growth, ups and downs.

Q.1: How has your journey been from scribbling on papers to a Bestselling Author?

My journey never started with scribbling on papers. In fact, I had never thought to be a writer. I think life is all about surprises and mostly the surprises that we give to ourselves. This is the beauty of life that you do things which you yourself have never thought you can achieve. I am an avid reader and always used to get amazed at the thought as to how people can put their thoughts on paper so beautifully. The birth of my daughter was the turning point in my life and one day when she was sleeping, I looked at her innocent face and felt so filled with emotions that first time in my life I felt a strong urge to write my feelings on paper. I wrote a blog on "Motherhood" and shared it online on a few websites which received overwhelming response of more than 15K Likes and around 500 shares. This incident inspired me to write and I ended up writing books. I wrote to be a good author and offer quality reading to the readers. Both of my books "The Girl



Q.2: What are those attributes which are necessary for being a Bestselling Author?

I would just say write from your heart. Writing only connects with the readers when it directly comes from heart. I do not believe in doing writing as a job. When you do it as a job or task to complete, it loses its flavour. I would also say that one should not try to write like someone else. Be original. Second thing I think is very important is to have an audience base and book marketing. If you want your book to reach people, you need to start working on the book marketing from the very beginning. There are so many books in the market, people have a lot of choice. They need to know you as a writer before purchasing your book. So, I think if you are thinking to write a book, you should start blogging, or write articles whatever you feel like sharing with your audience. Create an audience base for yourself before launching your book. It helps you a lot after the book is published.

Q.3: How much writing has got affected in the pandemic era?

I think writing has been benefited due to this pandemic. Readers have got a break to read and writers got that pause to listen to their hearts and be in sync with themselves to write the thoughts as raw as they are, closest to their souls. I think our heart talks to us and most of time we try to ignore its voice as we are so much involved in outside world that we ignore what is going on inside us. The things we are destined to do, the things which we can never do if we remain involved in what people have to say or what they expect from us. I think the pandemic has given that space and time to the writers as well as readers.

Q.4: What aspects of your book; the readers are finding appealing?

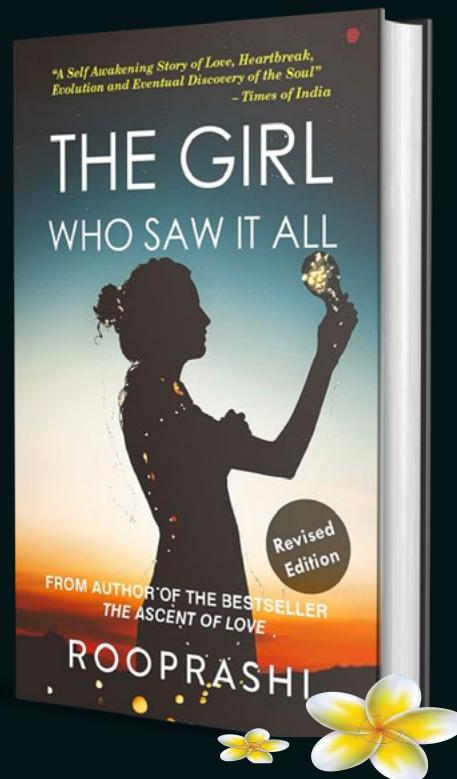
Both of my books "The Girl Who Saw It All" and "The Ascent Of Love" are very different but they both have one thing in common. They have connected with the readers and have positively impacted their personalities and lives. Talking about them separately "The Girl Who Saw It All" is story of a girl Aarohi and her journey. When we believe in ourselves, do we really get what we look for? Does everything come eventually? What happens when your emotions become your strength? It talks about the journey that will introduce you to yourself, bring you closer to life and help you introspect many things in life that we come across everyday.

"The Ascent Of Love" is love story of two mountaineers, Tara and Vedant. It will take the readers into their beautiful adventurous world of mountaineering. They will take a peek into the courageous life of these mountaineers who do not believe in the word "impossible". Their love for nature and mountains is the driving force for their passion for mountaineering that is motivational in itself. It will be an adventurous trip to Kashmir that will help readers face life because the one who can face mountain can face anything in life.

Q.5: What would be your suggestion to the young authors?

Many new writers ask me about getting published and I always advise them to improve the script before trying to get published. I would also suggest good editing as it has great

impact on book quality and sales. We have so many books in the market but the good books are still rare. We find books getting published and later on receiving poor reviews and response from the people. This is mostly due to lack of hard work and grooming the book required before publishing. If the purpose is only to get a book published then getting published is very easy through self-publishing these days but if you want your book to be read and liked by the people, you need to do that kind of effort too and work hard on your script. Read it as a reader not as a writer before getting published. And last but not the least always be a reader. Keep reading.



I NTERVIEW

Technology is helpful but we need to be mindful while using the technology says Award-Winning Authoress;

Lavanya Lakshminarayan



Lavanya Lakshminarayan
Author, India

In an exclusive interview with Nitish Raj; Editor-in Chief, The Literary Mirror; Award-Winning Authoress Lavanya Lakshminarayan talks about the various aspects of technology and speculative fiction along with the rise of dystopian genre in Indian literature.

Lavanya Lakshminarayan is a speculative fiction writer and game designer from Bangalore, India. She has received an honourable mention from the A.C. Bose Grant for South Asian Speculative Literature 2019, awarded by the Speculative Literature Foundation, USA. She is one of the winners of the Nature of Cities Prize for Urban Flash Fiction 2018, and was shortlisted for the Toto Award for Writing in English 2019. Her fiction has appeared in the anthologies *A Flash of Silver-Green* and *Third Eye*, and has also been featured in the Indian Quarterly and other publications.

As a game designer, Lavanya has built worlds and designed narratives for highly successful game titles, including Zynga Inc.'s FarmVille, FarmVille 2 and Mafia Wars. Her work on these games has been experienced by millions of players around the world. When she isn't writing, she enjoys a strong cup of coffee, travelling the world and spending time with her dogs.

Q.1: How are you feeling after finding your book in the elite list of Top 100 Notable Books from India 2020 by The Bombay Review?

Ans. I am extremely honored. I do not write the book with the intent of seeking such things but I am truly humbled. To see those ideas getting recognition makes me glad. To keep the company of so many wonderful writers like Samit Basu, Arvind Adiga and Annie Zaidi is simply amazing.

Q.2: Is there any particular reason behind the less popularity of dystopian genre in our country?

Ans. I can't let my finger on any specific reason. I feel like India has a very deep running literary tradition. Historically there have been works in the speculative fiction writers in regional languages but recently we are finding such works in English language like Samit Basu, Manjula Padmanabhan, Anil Menon. But it is still an emerging market in India. But in India still there have been readers reading Franz Kafka, George Orwell but still its an untapped market.

Q.3: As Analog/Virtual has the premise of Bangalore; how much these IT cities have molded the thought-process of common people?

Ans. Bangalore used to be a sleepy small town until the IT Boom happened. The people engage with each other is quite different as compared to other metropolitan cities. There have been a bunch of start ups and ecosystem. It has a very vibrant culture. You can't go to a coffee shop without encountering five



different startups discussing. Because people are so geared up for working long hours, people are hugely reliant on technology. It is easy to disconnect from reality and we are unaware of lot of problems on the street. The biggest shift has come in the form of how much we are disconnected from the real world and how much we are unaware in terms of the mindset, if we belong to that privilege bubble.

Q.4: You had been awarded with prestigious honors even before releasing your debut work. What role it has played in the visibility of your debut work?

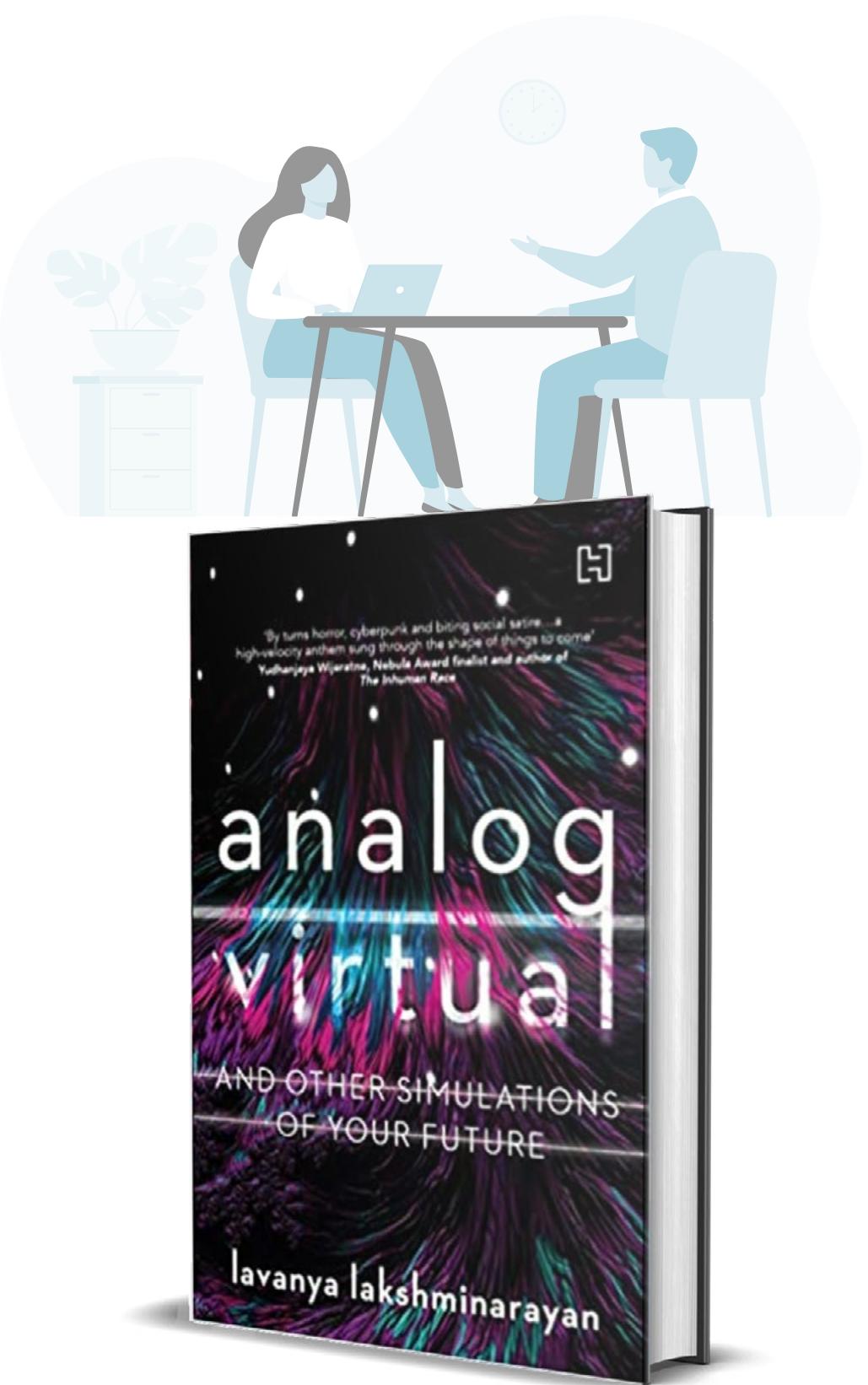
Ans. I think, it has helped me definitely to build credibility within the writing community. I am honored to receive the recognition. Honestly speaking, I just submit my work and hope for the best. I think it plays a role in establishing your seriousness as a writer. It helps to demonstrate your work has a wide market and appeal.

Q.5: What would be the biggest takeaway for the readers who are reading speculative fiction for the first time from Analog/Virtual?

Ans. I would say that you can look technology through a different lens, to appreciate its importance in helping lives. I would hope that it would help us while looking in a mirror in understanding the relationship of people and technology; which we are using right now. Indeed! the technology is helpful but we need to be mindful while using the technology.

Q.6: What would be your suggestion to newbie authors?

Ans. I would say that the most valuable thing as a writer is persistence. If you love your work, you must keep improving your craft and hone your skills. Taking rejection and feedback is not easy but as you are continuously on the right path; success will find you.



FICTION*Poem*

Waiting For Mrs Claus...

Since the fun should start with self

New clothes for herself and the elves

She would bring relief to the super-busy moms

Who deserve to enjoy their life with aplomb

Let each and every girl be strong and safe

Gift of self-defence to make them brave

Oh dear... kids need not to be disappointed

Mrs Santa would surely delight them once appointed

As her gift to the little ones should be special

Self-reliance would be ideal to expand their potential

I wish one gift every human should receive

Build their character, so they do not deceive

Waiting for Mrs Claus...!!!

-by Gunjan Kapoor, India

About the poetess

An avid traveler and explorer, Gunjan Kapoor is an MBA and a Certified Associate from the Indian Institute of Bankers. Considering a student of her two sons, she resides in Hyderabad along with her husband. A happy soul and a believer in gift called life, she volunteers to teach underprivileged children and contributes her writing on several digital platforms. The poem is taken from her debut book; Strings- A Collection of Poem and Micro Fiction.



Father's dream becomes daughter's dreams



Nisha Kumari was born in Jamshedpur on December 23, 1994. She has done basic education in Jamshedpur and after completing her graduation from Jamshedpur Women's College she took admission in M.Sc (chemistry) in Banasthali Vidyapith. Her dream is always to see herself as a scientist so she went for pursuing a Ph.D. (chemistry) at Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi. After one year of her Ph.D. journey lockdown come in between due to coronavirus so she got more time and she utilizes this time to write down all the memories and dreams in a short story. She also holds an interest in creative works and won many prizes in school and colleges.

A story of a girl who lives with her family in a small town. There were four members in her family, her father who worked in a private company as a position of manager in the company, her mother is a housewife, and his

small little brother (Vihaan) who study in a school, and Saanjh is a daughter who studies in a college doing graduation.

Saanjh is a smart girl who always had a dream to achieve something good in life and had a name, fame and success. She is doing graduation in chemistry. Her father Mr. Vikram Singh who was working in a private company was also a graduate with chemistry and is very happy to see that her daughter is also taken the same subject. A time came when Saanjh completed her graduate degree and need to decide for further higher studies. Saanjh's mother wants her to complete her studies fast and do the job but she wants to study further. Her relatives suggested her to do the B.Ed. (teaching course) and become a school teacher, a very simple and easy way to earn money fast. Saanjh was in a dilemma to decide which path she should follow. Everyone has given her, his or her suggestion but one member in her family and that is her father who hasn't told her anything about her further studies till now but simply watching her anxious.

One day when Saanjh was tired and simply watching TV to divert her mind her father came to her, switch off the TV and sat on the sofa with her. Saanjh moved her head and kept in her father's shoulder and very politely she said papa please suggest something you only not said anything to me rest all suggested to me their ideas. Please

papa say something. Her father said Saanjh let me tell you what happened with me yesterday in the company when I was sitting in my chamber. That day was an audit day, five members came to visit our company and the responsibility was given to me to handle everything and answer their questions. Everything was moving accurately. Then I took them to my department they were looking at every

instrument, working part, cleanliness, safety whether taking safety precautions or not, and also discipline. I was busy with them showing our department than suddenly my boss Mr. Hari Prasad came to join us. After sometime I asked them to come to my chamber and let's talk with a cup of tea. They all agree with me and sat in my chamber, then I asked the peon to offer a tea or coffee to everybody. Till then we had a small conversation in which I come to know that they all were Doctorate from good institute at that time I felt very nervous because I was afraid what type of questions they will be asked. Many things were going on in my mind at that time then suddenly peon came with coffee and offered to everyone, after taking one sip of coffee they started asking me the questions related to our



work. I used to answer every questions but the disappointing part for me was I not able to explain them properly, my boss had to interrupt in between to satisfy them with my answer and this happened with me was only because of lack of confidence, attitude, agitation, and most important not highly educated. Confidence can only be developed with education. Your behaviour, thoughts of others for you also changes just because of education. My nervousness was because every time in my mind it's coming that they all are Ph.D. highly educated and I have to answer in front of them, whether I can answer or not. I started doubting myself. So I understood the importance of education that if I were a doctorate then these things would never happened with me. So now I don't want you to face such type of situations. I want you to achieve high position in the society and you can only do by study higher. Saanjh took this very seriously and told her father that papa I will do the Ph.D. Now your dream is my dream and will fulfill your dream.

From the next day, Saanjh started searching colleges for doing M.Sc. Finally, she got the admission in Banasthali Vidyapith, Jaipur. Very far from her home town. She went to college for a degree. She did well and after completing two years of course she got the M.sc degree. Soon without wasting her time Saanjh started giving entrance for the Ph.D. degree. And finally, Saanjh cleared the entrance of Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi for a Ph.D. in the chemistry department. That day was the happiest day for the full family, her father's eyes were full of tears and she was the only girl in her whole family who got enrolled for Ph.D. that was the proud moment for them.

The journey of her Ph.D. begins when

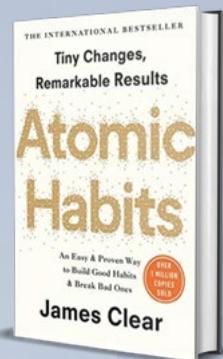
she went to the hostel and the very next day she joins the college. The doctoral committee meeting was held in the department in which her supervisor was decided. Her supervisor was a lady and she became very frank with her. She explains everything about her research work, presentation, and criteria for Ph.D. which she needs to complete before thesis submission. Excursion of her Ph.D. was not easy for her but Saanjh was smart, intelligent, and ready to bits every obstacle coming in her research work. Saanjh just made day and night equal to complete her thesis work, published many papers, attended conferences. Lastly, Saanjh dedicated her thesis to her parents, and the convocation day comes where she awarded a Ph.D. degree. After receiving the award she took the blessing of her mother and father. Her father blessed her by saying words that "my dreams come true", my daughter. That day was the best day of her life which she never forgets. Finally, she established herself as a scientist in the CSIR lab.

Note: The story has been published as it is in order to promote the young talents of the country



BOOKSHELF

books of the month



Book: Atomic Habits

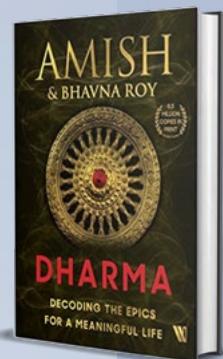
Author: James Clear

Publisher: Random House Business Books

Price: INR 534

Pages: 288

Language: English



Book: Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life

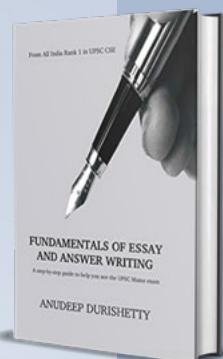
Author: Amish Tripathi, Bhavna Roy

Publisher: Westland

Price: INR 398

Pages: 224

Language: English



Book: Fundamentals of Essay and Answer Writing

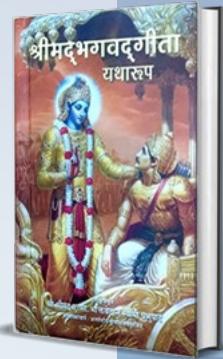
Author: Anudeep Durishetty

Publisher: Black Hawk Books

Price: INR 404

Pages: 307

Language: English



Book: Bhagavad Gita: Yatharoop

Author: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

Publisher: Bhaktivedanta Book Trust

Price: INR 189

Pages: 644

Language: English

COVER STORY

Sparkling Excerpts from Sabarna Roy's Six Literary Masterpieces

We reproduce below some of the sparkling excerpts from Sabarna Roy's six literary books for our readers to enjoy.



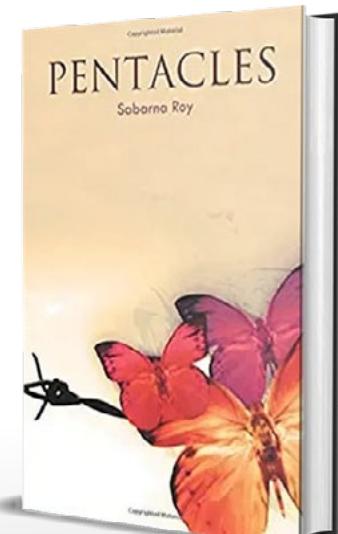
Sabarna Roy was born in Calcutta on December 15, 1967. Apart from being an author Sabarna Roy is a trained Civil Engineer who passed out with a First Class Honours Civil Engineering Degree from Jadavpur University and holds the position of Senior Vice President with Electrosteel Group. He took to creative writing in the year 2007. Thereafter, between 2010 and 2020 he has published six literary books: Pentacles, Frosted Glass, Abyss, Winter Poems, Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 – 2018 Time Frozen in Myriad Thoughts and Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020. The six books were published by Leadstart Publishing.

Pentacles

"Human characters are amplified by their reactions to trauma. People who internalize trauma are celebrated and become heroes. People who succumb to trauma are shunned and become victims. In the process, people who create trauma are forgotten and pardoned by default. That is a natural machination of time. It happens in case of warmongering communities and nation states that unleash unfortunate and unjust wars on millions of people by the sheer might of their political and military power. If we have to understand the science of trauma, it is more important to see closely how a trauma is created rather than how it is received. True love, whether for a person, a landscape, an idea or a piece of land, is believed to generate insanity.

I use the adjective 'true' here to underline the significance of selfish gratification obtained from love, which is what almost all of us look for. Insanity, frankly, is the only symptom of true love, and this is no longer in the realm of debate. Because it is so, when love is faked as in case of shadow of love, we see consequences of faked insanity. Whether real or fake, to be able to demonstrate love, it is required upon the lover to demonstrate his or her insanity. This is in essence the hotbed of trauma. Faked insanity arising out of faked love (or shadow of love) can create more trauma than real insanity arising out of true love. This is because real insanity contains layers of dilemma of ethics embedded inside its cavernous labyrinth. Think for a moment - of the man who plans to kill his wife to unite with his lover or a right wing (for that matter a left wing) fundamentalist who resorts to violent coercive tactics in the pursuit of creating a just 'equal-opportunity' society or a nation invading another sovereign nation in the name of installing a democratic form of government because it believes it can deliver a fairer and just form of governance to the citizenry by doing so. These are all traumatic situations arising out of real or fake insanity and are direct consequences of love or shadow of love of various kinds.

These were the thoughts that had occupied my mind in the late hours of that night very close to dawn. I do not think they are coherent, logical and applicable to understanding of all human nature. But they have been written here for the purpose of record and reference, if required at a later date."



Frosted Glass

"After her classes were over, Leila rushed to Amit and Sekhar's studio which was on the fifteenth floor of an apartment building. They had taken the flat and the terrace on rent and converted it into a studio. The pungent smell of turpentine oil, linseed oil, colours, fresh canvasses, wood and soil was all-pervasive. Canvases that had not been completed and sculptures in wood and stone were scattered in all the rooms. The master bed was crumpled and untidy with stains of semen, blood, wine and sweat. A strange smell hung in the air.

As Leila entered the flat, she found Amit and Sekhar working in the main section of the studio that overlooked a multitude of newly constructed buildings. They were jointly working on a cinemascope canvas that was divided into two adjacent frames. The left frame depicted a skyscraper in flames (in long shot). The other frame captured a modern bedroom in one of the flats within the skyscraper (in mid-long shot): the threatening glint of flames, a hint of smoke and soot in the background and two naked men (modelled on both the painters) and one naked woman (modelled on Leila) caught midway in a ferocious sexual scene on a large mediaeval bed. Their supple bodies, muscular curves and the descending rivulets of sweat were distinctly visible and the contours merged to form a frozen scene of intense energy. The men's eyes were locked on the woman's face, but her eyes were closed as though she was cut off from gravity and time.

Leila announced her arrival jovially and went into the master bedroom where she undressed and began to smoke. As the rings of smoke wafted towards the ceiling, she found Amit standing by her side looking at her with burning eyes. Amit brought a bottle of shaving foam and dabbed some on Leila's pubic hair. Sekhar approached the scene with a shining razor in his hand and deftly shaved off a cloud of bushy hair to expose cream-coloured skin and the blooming petals of a rose locked between Leila's legs. Amit softly applied a golden coloured silky lotion on the skin. Leila anxiously anticipated a rush of cream flowing from within her belly. As the duo started licking her hungrily and pierced her, an ocean moved inside Leila. She fell unconscious.

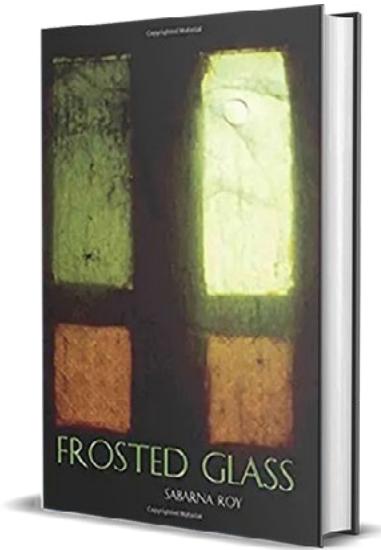
In the invading darkness she saw two brief films:

- Rahul and Gargi were making love passionately on a giant wheel. All the other seats (barring the one where she sat, diametrically opposite to them) were empty and swung freely in the air as the massive wheel went round and round. Her eyes were locked on to their movements and as the wheel went faster, she lost her balance and fell into the truss of steel bleeding profusely while the lovers remained oblivious of their surroundings.

- Sana dropped to her knees from a toilet seat in pain, shocked at the blood oozing between her legs. She screeched soundlessly and from the movement of her lips, Leila realised Sana was calling her.

As the images faded, she opened her eyes to find Amit and Sekhar naked, both having pierced her crevices and when she realised that the motions were causing no further sensation

of pain or pleasure, she started crying. Silver drops of tears flowed from her deep black eyes, like mountain streams abandon the heights of glacial peaks in desolation and solitude."



Abyss

"Renuka: Your relationship with Oindrila was on the decline – I was told – is it true?

Mriganka: Our relationship was complex. It would be difficult to reply to your question in a straight-cut manner.

Renuka: I'm repeating my question if you've not heard it properly – was your relationship with Oindrila on the decline?

Mriganka: I said – it would be difficult to reply to your question in a straight-cut manner!

Renuka: You've a vested interest in hiding your declining relationship with Oindrila.

Mriganka: In a certain manner we had grown apart. But I think we still had a lot of love and regard for each other.

Renuka: Was the passion missing in the last six-seven months?

Mriganka: You can say that.

Renuka: Why? You were in love with some other woman?

Mriganka: Not at all. Oindrila was busy in her own work. I was busy writing my last novel.

Renuka: You never stood by Oindrila in her fight against her mother? When you talk about your last novel, you mean the one which is going to be published by Oindrila's mother?

Mriganka: I really don't understand what you mean when you say whether I ever stood by Oindrila.

Renuka: Like, giving moral and emotional support to her.

Mriganka: I did all that up to a point. But she wanted to do it all alone. Sometimes I believe that was the reason why we grew apart.

Renuka: I suspect you're a dangerous liar, Mriganka.

Mriganka: Please talk to me politely, Renukadебi!

Renuka: People like you don't understand the language of

politeness. [Pause] By the way did you sleep with Oindrila in the last six-seven months?

Mriganka: It's a very private query. I may decide not to answer such invasive questions.

Renuka: You may, the choice is yours. But it'll have grave consequences on you. If you answer and you lie it'll have graver consequences.

Mriganka: I think I last slept with Oindrila three-four months back.

Renuka: Never after that?

Mriganka: Never after that!

Renuka: Why do you think Oindrila launched her battle against her mother all alone?

Mriganka: I think it had to do with her truest feelings for her mother.

Renuka: What do you mean by that?

Mriganka: I think she loved her mother most intensely at one level. And, at another level she hated her equally.

Renuka: You supported Oindrila's causes?

Mriganka: Yes I still do. You've to read my body of work to believe it.

Renuka: Then why are you getting your book published by her mother?

Mriganka: She's not a demon. Even Oindrila felt good about it. How can a writer reach a wider audience without commercial support?

Renuka: I believe by writing better.

Mriganka: You're being very naïve!

Renuka: You don't think it's a conflict of ethics?

Mriganka: No.

Renuka: Why is it that Debasree agreed to open up a publishing business all of a sudden? This was never her core area of business.

Mriganka: Why don't you put this question to the person concerned?

Renuka: I will. Please tell me what you think.

Mriganka: I don't think anything. But she won't put her money on anything loss-making.

Renuka: Is she very greedy?

Mriganka: She is.

Renuka: Are you very greedy?

Mriganka: All of us are. But I've my limits.

Renuka: What kind of a relationship do you have with Debasree?

Mriganka: We stay at a respectful distance of each other. Yes, after she decided to venture into publishing and proposed that she'll publish my work, I became more frank with her.

Renuka: Frank as in?

Mriganka: Like we talk about many issues. Earlier we didn't talk much. She didn't find me a suitable boy for her daughter.

Renuka: So you stuck to your job of impressing your would-be mother-in-law. Why?

Mriganka: Her mother's approval of me was central to Oindrila. I didn't want to displease her.

Renuka: But later on she was irked by your closeness to her.

Mriganka: Because of the unique position she was in. At the same time she wished to achieve contrary objectives.

Renuka: Do you love her still? Would you've married her had she not died?

Mriganka: Of course I love her still. I'll never be able to marry anybody other than Oindrila.

Renuka: I don't think so. I don't find that sense of loss on your face.

Mriganka: I'm not sentimental.

Renuka: I'm not talking of being sentimental. I'm referring to a realization of loss that comes with somebody's death who you love most dearly.

Mriganka: You're being uselessly judgmental! I'm not here to prove my love for Oindrila or my sorrow at her death. Can I go now?

Renuka: No. Tell me something. Did you go to Oindrila's house sometime around early afternoon the day she died?

Mriganka: Yes.

Renuka: Why?

Mriganka: Oindrila wanted to hear a few chapters of my new novel.

Renuka: Did you read out your novel to her?

Mriganka: I did the first two chapters. It was yet to be finished at that point in time.

Renuka: Who all were there in the house then?

Mriganka: Nobody other than the two of us and the servants.

Renuka: How long were you there?

Mriganka: Maybe for two hours.

Renuka: And, the whole time you spent reading out your novel?

Mriganka: Yes, mostly.

Renuka: Was Oindrila drinking listening to your novel?

Mriganka: Yes she was.

Renuka: You never objected to her alcoholism?

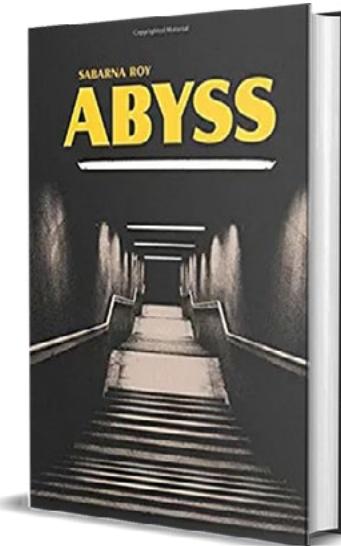
Mriganka: I did. I was in deep anguish. Her mother and I made many efforts to counsel her. She won't listen.

Renuka: Do you think Oindrila was murdered?

Mriganka: Yes.

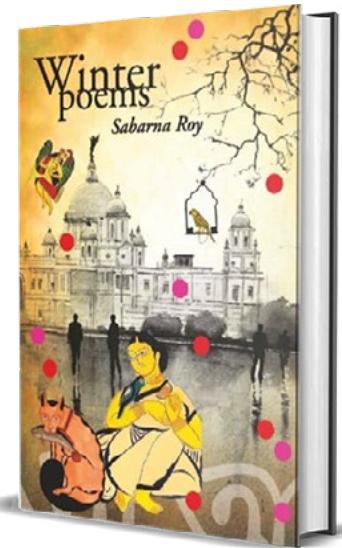
Renuka: Who murdered her?

Mriganka: Debibabu of course. I saw him spiking her drink."



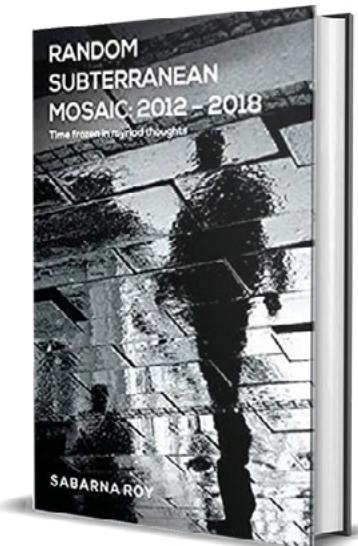
Winter Poems

"In the woods the leaves are falling
 In the woods the leaves are falling
 In the woods the leaves are falling
 From the books the words are falling
 From the books the words are falling
 From the books the words are falling
 From their sockets the eyeballs are falling
 From their sockets the eyeballs are falling
 From their sockets the eyeballs are falling
 The storm that is swelling by the hour is blinding."



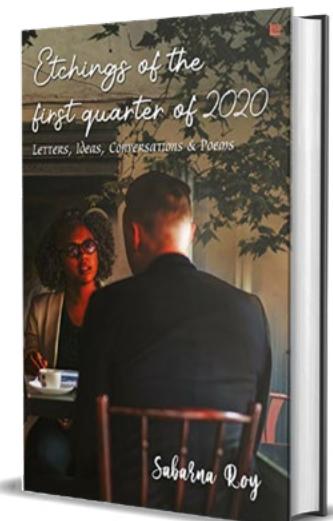
Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 – 2018

"I have always said marriage is the worst man-made institution. It kills passion gradually and chews up compassion with more time. Family life leads one to relentless boredom but grants one with unending comforts, which leaves one with obesity and multifarious diseases. My understanding is: men are polygamous and women are polyandrous. So why should anyone unnecessarily get caught up with the complex, yet fake, question of fidelity. Children take away one's freedom to live the way one wants to live one's life. They are obfuscations and not facilitators. I do not believe in the collective. I believe in the individual. But the individual to flower needs a surrounding liberal community where you are not required to pretend, and not necessarily a family (which is a hotbed of all kinds of pretensions). In understanding life, I would not select the historical method but the literary method because it stresses on the story of the individual rather than the collective."



Etchings of the First Quarter of 2020

"Leaves of fig and leaves of maple floating in air like tarot cards
 Rustle of an unknown breeze flowing through the leaves, a strange music
 Herds of deer running in slow motion
 Aroma of tender life radiating
 Green snakes and shining foxes are waking up
 Aboriginal couples rising up from their shaking slumber – they had a feast of food and love
 The scent is everywhere
 The fire is coming
 The fire is coming
 Ashes, ashes and ashes everywhere"



FEATURED



Meet Environmentalist and Social Influencer

PRERNA AVASTHI

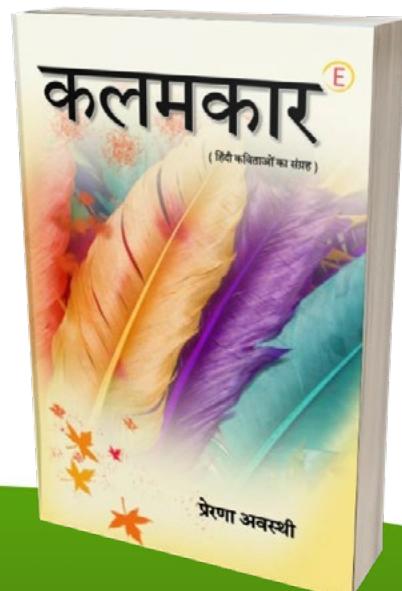


Prerna Avasthi

social Influencer, India

Prerna Avasthi is Delhi based environmentalist and social Influencer. She's among the country's most influential women and has been nominated for the Rex Karamveer chakra Award 2019.

She's been writing poetry of impact and working on issues like menstrual hygiene, mental health, sustainable development. She's recently launched her Debut book, Kalamkaar. "KALAMKAAR" is a collection of Hindi Poetries available worldwide. She received the national leadership award 2019, Youth India Award, Rising digital lady Award and Green Influencer 2020. Her constant effort is to make country a better place.



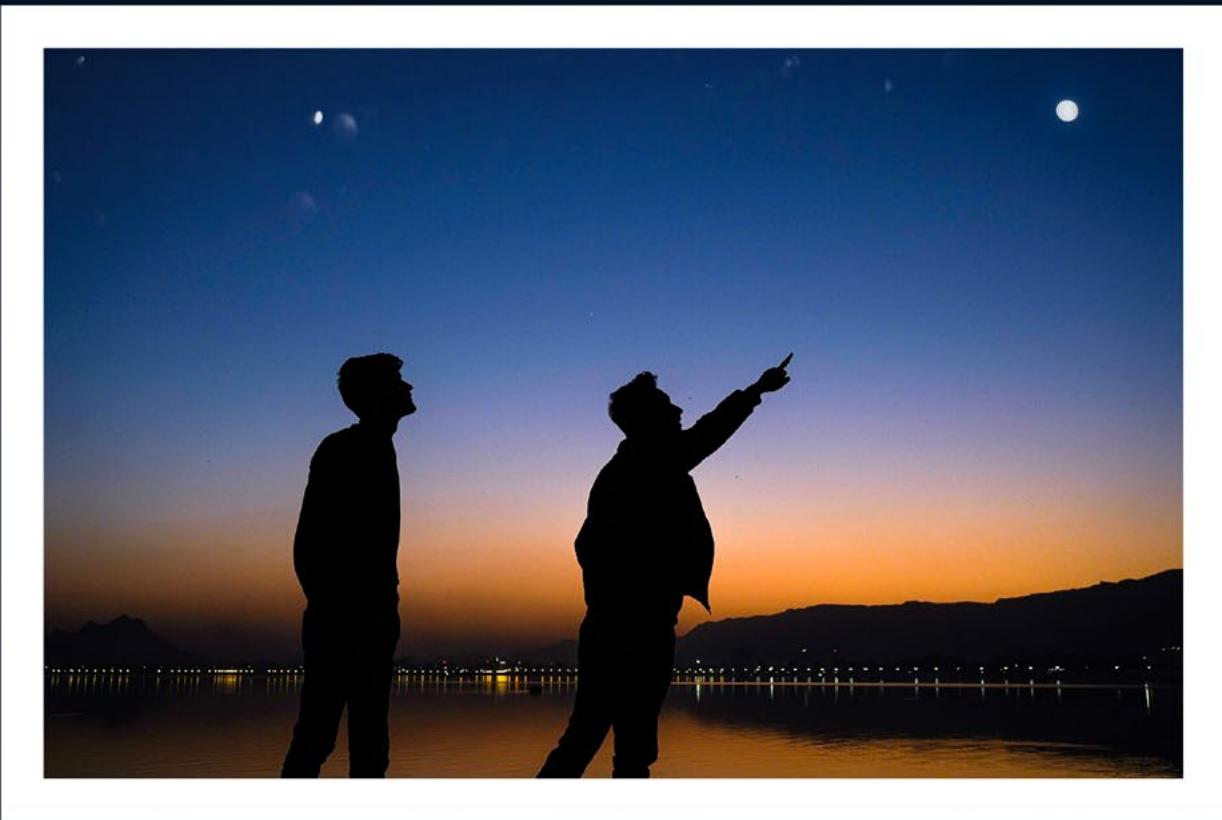
ART/ARTIST



Blissful Art by **Dr. Soumya Nalli**

A multifaceted girl blessed with a penchant for art, Dr. Soumya Nalli is a medical professional from the Visakhapatnam aptly known as the City of Destiny. The passion of art blossomed in Ms. Soumya at a tender age of eight which she nurtured to create portraits, abstracts, bright colorful patterns and landscapes. Vouching the legendary Akiane Karmarik as her role model and artistic inspiration, Ms. Soumya has created art with sensible simplicity along with soft and subtle colors with a tinge of peerless artistry. Apart from her artistic passion; Ms. Soumya has been author of a novel titled, My Incredible Book in 2014. A firm believer in the service of humanity, she dreams of building an old age home to help the world to be a better place.



A RT/A RTIST

**Photography by
Shubham Saini,
Ajmer (Rajasthan)**

Great conjunction

The two largest planets in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn, will nearly overlap to form a “double planet,” an event that hasn’t been easily visible since the Middle Ages—almost 800 years ago.

While the two planets will appear to be close but in reality the two gas giants will actually remain a vast distance of approximately 450 million miles apart.

Source:- Google

Saturn
Jupiter

EVENT

Sincine 2020

Announces Officially Selected Entries



SINCINE
Film Festival
आओ छु लें आसमाँ

OFFICIAL SELECTION - 2020

Sincine Film Festival 2020 has got more than 200 official entries across the globe in its first season. In which, feature films and short films and other formats in multiple languages of films have been Official Selection. According to data out of 60 feature films 20 has been selected for Official Selection.

Like feature film Sincine has got 140 short films from the world in which 60 short films are going to be officially selected. This festival has got 20 documentaries also in which 10 will be official selection. An official announcement is done today by the Sincine Team.

During this pandemic time entries from every corner of the world in this number is remarkable for Sincine Film Festival. Although, this is the very first year of festival and such responses has really created a positive impact in Entertainment Sector. And there is no confusion that this festival will create a milestone by its systemic arrangements.

The love and curiosity has been shown by the makers and technicians across the globe in respect of entries and its promotion is really made us very much excited to do our best effort and make this festival successful.

Sincine wishes all the best to all selected entries and appeal to all rest of Directors and makers that please don't lose your hope and keep doing the best of yours. We will have 2nd year too and we will be very happy to get your entries too.

Sincine again congratulates to all official entries which are Official Selection.

The
Literary Mirror
A Venture of Literia Insight

Presents

The Lit Fest 2020

A Festival of Words

WINNER LIST

The LIT Fest 2020

We feel proud to announce Winners for The LIT Fest 2020



Meha Sharma

Nominated Category:
Best Short-Story Collection of the year 2020



Shirsh Srivastava

Nominated Category:
Best Author of the year 2020



Shefali Arora

Nominated Category:
Best Fiction Book of the year 2020



Dr. Sugandha Rawat

Nominated Category:
Best Non-Fiction Book of the year 2020



Dr. Harmeet Kaur Bhalla

Nominated Category:
Best Poetry Book of the year 2020



Shivani Sarat

Nominated Category:
Best Poet of the year 2020
Best Story of the year 2020



Anandajit Goswami

Nominated Category:
Best Novel of the year 2020



Aakanksha Jain

Nominated Category:
Best Blogger of the year 2020



Jyoti Jha

Nominated Category:
Best Reviewer of the year 2020



Dr. Nalli Ramya

Nominated Category:
Best Literary Critic of the year 2020
Best Columnist of the year 2020



Sunayana Khandelwal

Nominated Category:
Best Romance Book of the year 2020



Manoj Kumar Sharma

Nominated Category:
Best Thriller Book of the year 2020



Hemant Kumar Aasiwal

Nominated Category:
Best Poem of the year 2020



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Sabarna Roy

Indian Best-selling Author