

THE

WE'VE GOT THE BEST LITERARY MAGAZINE FOR YOU

LITERATURE TIMES

COVID-19 IN CATCH-22

VOL 1

08

AUTHORS
YOU MUSTKNOW ABOUT

INAUGURAL
EDITION

PSYCHO-LOGY
(WHAT'S THE LOGIC?)

IN DEPTH
ANALYSIS OF BOOKS
WHAT TO READ?

PANDEMIC, WRITING
AND LEARNING!

+

LITERARY ARTICLES
INSPIRING STORIES
& MUCH MORE...

COVER STORY
DR AMITAVA GHOSH

editor's note



Akhila Saroha

The Literature Times

When we began with The Literature Times earlier this year, we never thought about the milestones our venture would reach in such a short time. It overwhelms us to see that our thought which popped up amidst other discussions, would take us to such great heights. Likewise, the idea of a magazine solely dedicated to this amazed us even more, and we couldn't help but try it out. We wanted to give the figures in contemporary literary writing a platform not just for recognition but to create history and a revolution in the world of literature.

Hence, our focus became not just endorsing authors but also on the frequent discussion topics in the literary circles. These include book reviews, stories of the lives and struggles of authors, articles addressing the frequently asked and popular questions among authors, and also decided to have an interesting article on psychology. We also decided to make an effort by addressing the infamous pandemic in the hope of relieving our readers from the stress it has induced in one of our topics. Our team dived into all the resources we had and came up with the best information we could find. Of course, we would have loved to include more topics that may be resonating in the minds of our loyal readers, but since this magazine is just a product of our idea, these are merely baby steps.

Happy Reading!

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WELCOME

Cool to see you in this issue.

We invite you to join us in our journey to reach the next milestone and see what marvel our new venture has in store for us. Our effort intends to reach out to maximum readers who want to see the movements and developments in the literary world and aspire to write someday too. So, with the hope of giving you a joyous experience in reading, let's begin without delays.

We hope you enjoy this one.

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Cover Story

Dr. Amitava Ghosh



The world must know his immense knowledge in the field of Employment and Labour Laws and Reforms the country requires for industrial growth.

Dr Amitava is Practising Employment Lawyer for 02 decades and a consistent writer on this domain and aware what is getting practised and followed in different industry and sectors across the country. He is Co-Founder and Principal Partner of a Consulting Company and Board of Director in a Tech Company based out of Bangalore. He wakes up every morning and contemplate to self, “how far can he push company for growth”.

His zeal to learn continuously and take up challenges fearlessly, offer innovative solutions to complex problems and single-minded determination to grow the company and self are the reasons for his success.

Dr Amitava always been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. He has not limited himself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve.

Publications, Authorship, Professional Learning Amitava has been working with dedication throughout his life. Write-Shoot-Publish-Crochet-Sauté it, do whatever. “BUT MAKE IT”

The corporate world is always appreciative of his knowledge and approach towards a problem and quick troubleshooting.

His first book was a co-authored book on labour law that was acclaimed by the corporate and the academic world. Currently, Amitava has authored 71 Publications and 03 books and is in the process of penning 02 more books. He is an author of critically acclaimed and thought-provoking books on Employee Management.

His second book on GIG Economy made him the first Indian writer to delve into the realm of the emerging trend of the GIG workforce – the future of India. His 02 book got the best book award from Amazon. Earned an MBA from Bangalore University while being in employment and ranked 2nd in the University competing with very young and bright minds!

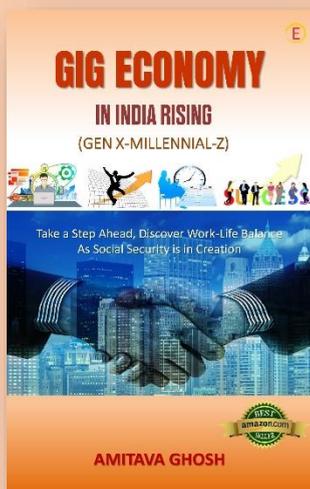
He is also a PhD research scholar and a learner at heart. He is a Double Graduate and Double Postgraduate and honored with a PhD (HC) in the field of HR. He is a visiting faculty of universities and institution.

Dr Amitava believes women possess a different DNA. It is disheartening to notice in this present age that corporates and society are not recognizing the untapped talent of women and give them an opening to flourish.

His thoughts are not run of the mill. He has been able to put himself up as an inspiration because of his hard work, willpower, and positive attitude.

He creates his own life story and is gearing up for a bigger adventure! He is an outlier, seamlessly navigating both the corporate and academic worlds, living, and crafting his own tale with his own actions, thoughts, and willpower. All the dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.

Dr Amitava beautifully quotes *“Be a Meteor Design to be Burn so that the Earth be Lighten. Be the Light of Hope. See Only the Objective – the Obstacles Must Give You Way!”* `



GIG Economy in India Rising



The Realm Of Indias Employment Law And The Indian Constitution

Author Story: Ms. Swati Saksena Jha

She is Co-founder and Managing Partner of an Employment Law Consulting Company Based and Whole-Time Director & Co-Founder of a Technology Company.

A New Beginning...!! She Believed She Could, So She Did it. People don't care about anyone story until they have Achieved Accomplishment. When the first book trailer was aired, Swati received numerous calls from people wanting to know how she achieved it, as most people are unaware of her inner Strengths and Capability. As a working mother it was really tough to Pen Down a Book especially during the Pandemic with No Help Around.

She is an Author of a Business Strategic Book which is in circulation worldwide and is penning 02 more books which will be released shortly as she is always on Go.

She is silently working towards it. She had always hope, responsibility Got Tagged. She Passed Through the Toughest Times Alone and Wanted to Quit Many times because of Fear and Situation She was Passing through. She believes and practising that if you begin to think of yourself as a Woman First, Trust and Respect will follow, as well as the ability to make Life-Altering decisions.

She quotes,

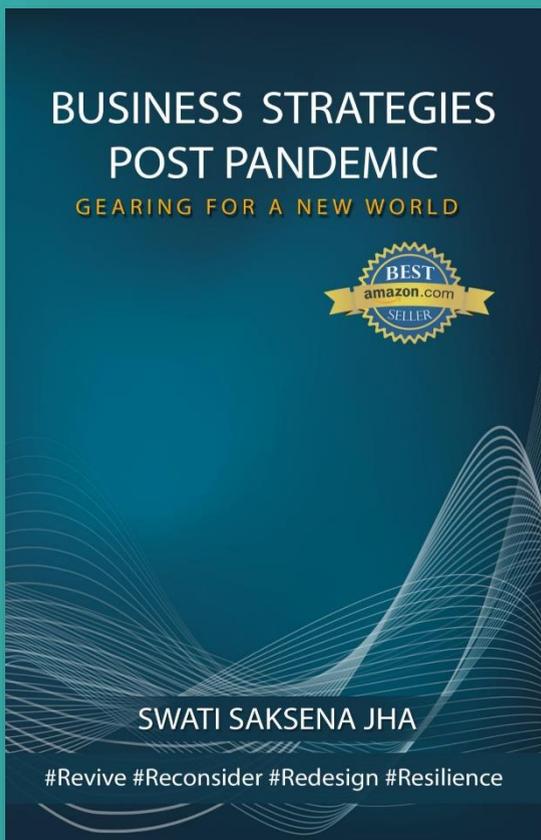
We cannot get more time in life, so we need to give more Life to the Limited Time we have.

Swati is the Karnataka State President for Marketing Council, Women's Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. WICCI is supported by the massive global and influential women's networks viz. G100, Women Economic Forum and SHEconomy. It drives major changes in governmental policies, laws, incentives and entrepreneurial ecosystems, with a view to encourage and empower women in business and industry across all sectors and fields.



She is full of humility. It's a saying that - Sometime someone unexpected comes to Your Life out of nowhere, makes your heart race and changes you forever. She found Her Mentor and Guiding Force Few Years Ago and Then There is No Looking Back.

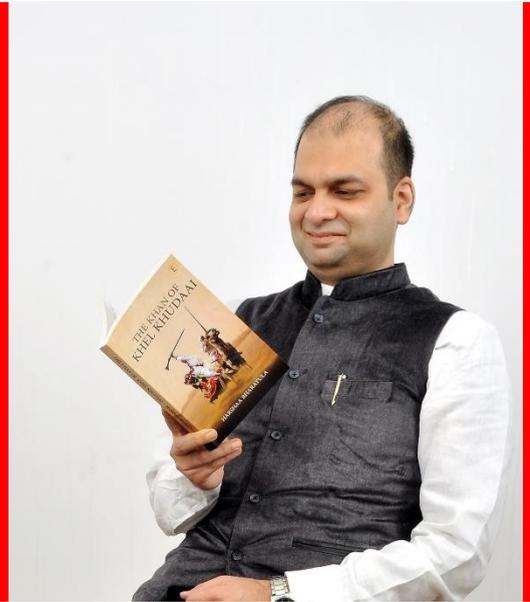
The Literature Times Interviewed her and She was in her Smiles for giving Her this opportunity to be part of the Inaugural Edition Space with Humbleness.



First Ever Book on – Business Strategies Post Pandemic, Across the Globe. The World Will Never Be The Same Again and This Book Talks About Journey Of Sales which will have a new dimensions and so as Marketing philosophy with the Blue Print of Marketing newly framed. Consumer behaviour is changing in this crisis. Unpredicted and abrupt demands from consumers and clients in all sectors and industry which Businesses has to look with New Optics. Reinvention and Diversity has come out as opportunities for competitive reinvention and differentiation during crisis. Companies needs to accelerate digital transformation. Account-Based Marketing (ABM) is an innovative and results-driven sales strategies highly effective for most companies.

E-commerce has proved itself Essential after the Outbreak of this Global Pandemic. Growing inclination of Women Leaders is observed as Employees Needs Empathy rather Than Sympathy. CSR Funding has seen surge during the Pandemic and the Trend will continue. Data related to customers, market, general public are important to accomplish this holistic digital transformation for enterprise business. Business model resilience will take on a new firmness in the post pandemic world of work which will be called as the great sustainable reset.

INTERVIEW WITH AUTHOR HARSHAA BHARATULA



What led to the idea of writing “The Khan of Khel Khudai”?

“The Khan of Khel Khudai” is my first complete work of fiction. My intent has always been to portray individual actions in the grand scale of things.

How would you categorize “The Khan of Khel Khudai” as its appeal seems to be to a broad audience?

This can be broadly classified as action/military/ thriller. This book also touches upon Afghan culture and geo-politics.

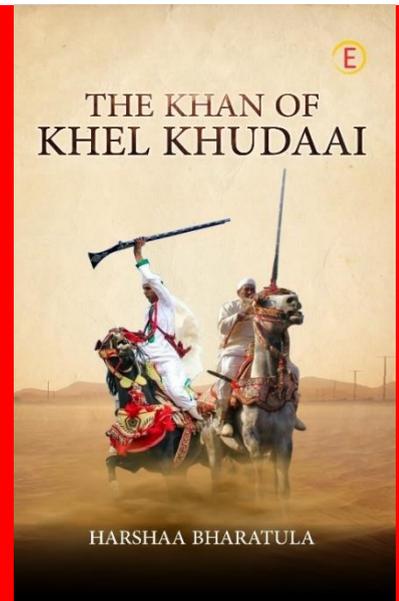
How easy or difficult was it for you to write on a subject that held relevance for all and also remain objective about them in “The Khan of Khel Khudai”?

This novel “The Khan of Khel Khudai” flowed organically as I put pen to paper. Being an avid history buff with interest in culture really helped me put things in context.

What is the story behind the title of your work, “The Khan of Khel Khudai”?

The term “Khel Khudai” was used by me to indicate not just the “Khel of Khudai” which is a fictional place in my book, but also a play of words to indicate greater forces at play which changes the expected outcomes of the characters actions.

A literary work of writing becomes strongly relatable when it is born from experiences that touch the heart and lives of the many who live through it or even those who know about. Life and fate play games that can be understood by less, but the effects can be felt by all. “The Khan of Khel Khudai” by Harshaa Bharatula is one such book where life and its unpredictability find an accurate mention and also explore the reasons and happenings in the lives of the characters, simultaneously keeping the political flavor in the backdrop.



Set in the lands of Afghanistan and the action swinging between the United Kingdom and Afghan homes as the book progresses, “The Khan of Khel Khudai” has the air of Afghan environment and a close portrayal of life, as it happens there. In light of this, the book becomes both exciting and has the necessary touches of reality which a reader of the foreign or native land would find gripping and fascinating. As the author begins unraveling the plot of the novel, there a sequential development of the lives of the two characters where fate pulls the strings of their lives, and both take an individual course of action. At the same time, the Afghan lands and the political instability and the ripple effects of it find a direct or indirect mention at different stages. While the book remains open to a psychological study of the central characters, it also opens up for examination from a political and sociological standpoint. At the same time, as the action shifts to London time and again, the book shows how events operate on a foreign land far away from home.

Readers of the future would find this book useful in studying the life and fate of the common man of Afghanistan and the situations he faced when there was political turmoil and a situation which was no less than unrest. It would not only give them an idea about the present-day circumstances but would also help them in reaching the roots and understand as to how it would all have conspired. Therefore, recommending this book to not just Indian readers but also the readers of foreign lands would help in opening the eyes of many towards the unspoken truth and hearing the other side of the story.



Author Jayanthi Sankar

With a bang, Jayanthi Sankar the author of ‘**Misplaced Heads**’ began sharing with Literature Times, “Unlike writing non-fiction or personal essays, writing fiction can expand the scope endlessly for creativity because I live hundreds of lives through writing and thousands of lives through reading. That is where my storytelling brings in a better scope to create a memorable reading experience. With equal participation, my reader perceives the world with the same awareness I have created it, with all unpredictables. Lack of that awareness might perhaps prevent any reader from even entering the world.”

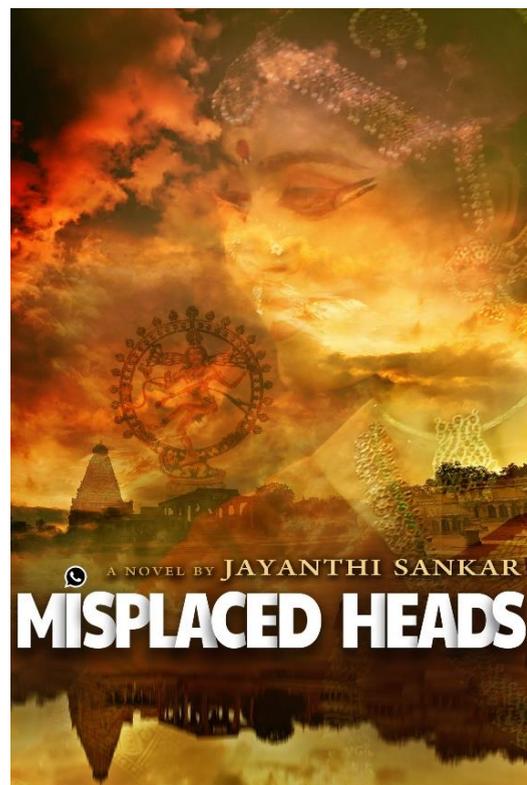
THE EVER-EXPANDING SCOPE OF FICTION

‘Misplaced Heads’ was on the Eyelands Book Awards 2020 final list of historical fiction in Greece. It made its mark as an outstanding postmodern historical fiction.

Jayanthi Sankar has been published in zines including the indianruminations, museindia, The Wagon, inOpinion, and her short stories have been included in various anthologies. A few of her poems have been published recently in anthologies and ezines. With the manuscript of her third book, the second novel undergoing the publishing process, the title, and the book cover reveal planned for next month, Jayanthi Sankar has already resumed her initial work for the next socio-psychological fiction. Her upcoming novel is historical fiction, Singapore-centric. She is also planning to experiment with magical realism in the future.

Grew up in various states of India, she lives in Singapore since 1990. Creatively active since then, she has been a freelance editor and translator for more than a decade and a half, with three years of experience in journalism.

Jayanthi Sankar continued to say, “I’ve always loved the feel of avoiding any common artificial hooks to pull my readers in or to hold them with a grip of some predictable formulae or some flowery language. Even if I have to throw away some of my ideas to restructure them later on, I like to go towards the unconventional ways of storytelling, for I strive towards originality and freshness in my fiction.” She believes staunchly that a novel should never be ‘I give, you consume.’



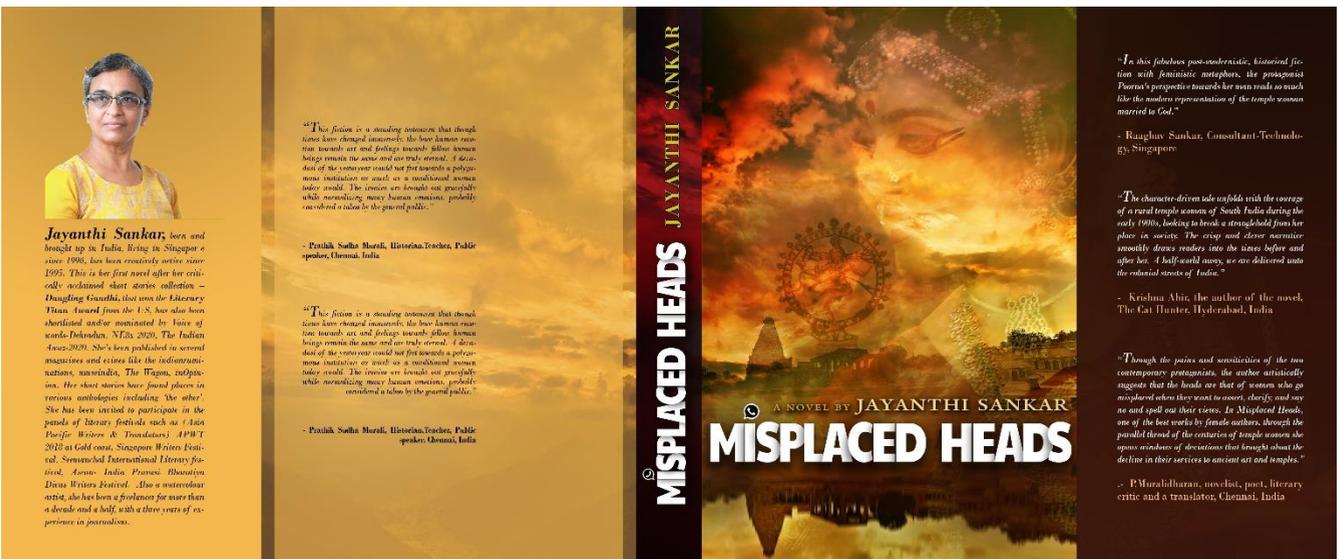
Her critically acclaimed short stories collection – **Dangling Gandhi**, was the winner out of the seven finalists in the fiction category: short story in 2020 International Book Award American book fest. Literary Titan award is another international award it was bestowed with apart from several nominations. She has been in the panels of literary festivals including (Asia Pacific Writers & Translators) APWT 2018 at Gold Coast, Singapore Writers Festival, Seemanchal International Literary Festival, and ASEAN- India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Writers Festival.

When Jayanthi Sankar is not reading, writing, or editing, you can find her exploring nature reserves or playing with her brushes. She is a self-taught hobby artist. Although she’s tried some acrylics and yet to try oils, she’s derived immense joy from her forte of abstract themes with watercolour. A lover of nature, huge aged trees, she is also compiling her Memoir. She attributes all her growth and progress to her reading that the National Library Board of Singapore generously feeds.

“I live more in my own fictional world than the real world,” she concluded with a laugh, “I am more lively there.”

Book Review

After her work in the short story collection, “Dangling Gandhi,” Jayanthi Sankar reveals her artistic side as a novelist in “Misplaced Heads” where her work is more about uniqueness and detail and much different in terms of theme and subject in comparison to her debut work. Placing “Misplaced Heads” literally in the heart of India, Sankar brings out the soul of one culture that has found rare mention in history of historical books otherwise. The culture of Devdasis and their life is coupled with the present-day life and contemporary scenario which makes it rich in terms of content and characters both.



“Misplaced Heads”

“Misplaced Heads” as a title may sound paradoxical for once but on decoding the metaphorical meaning, the readers can understand how artistically the author shares her comment on human civilization as a whole and at the same time reinforces the universality of human nature in any time the book is placed or whenever the action takes place. In the action spread over more than 450 pages of the book, the author explores life, characters, time, cultures, and everything that can influence these. This is coupled with the themes of exploring human nature, men women relationships and their delicacy, roles of men and women defined in the light of social constructs and their role performance in those frames.

Art and its essence are the main theme that pervade the atmosphere of the novel and even if it does not find a direct mention, the air of the novel still finds this theme being featured. The readers may also trace several minor themes that the author packs the book with.



While there would be many texts that show India's richness in terms of culture, resources, "Misplaced Heads" takes a look at all this from the perspective of social life and the positions of men and women and at times, presenting all of it through their eyes. In this manner, the book is exceptional, beyond basic and certain enough to strike the chord with readers who can decipher even all that is unsaid. All the characters get equal weight, space to develop and limelight to show their sides of the story and also let the readers be the judges. Altogether, the novel is a package of different emotions which feature the happy times and the times which would make the readers a bit dejected. This is how the author infuses life both in her characters and also in her work.

At the same time, the research work done by the author before giving words to her plot is commendable and admirable. Sankar has literally gone into the depths of India's glorious past and written her work from a perspective which had been unexplored so far. She introduces the readers to a different light, and they start thinking on the lines she builds. This makes "Misplaced Heads" interesting, exciting, thought-provoking, and insightful. Therefore, all readers whether they are young or mature would enjoy this book since it covers so many perspectives and also has the impressions of different emotions.



COVID-19 IN CATCH-22

"It was the best of times and it was the worst of times..."
- Charles Dickens

Indeed words of providence, an incredible sense of prophecy. Nature had the best of times while humanity had the worst of time.

Billions of People Millions of Stories

The poignant stories of how **urban Indian migrant labour** was made to walk hundreds of miles so that he can be safe in his little home in the rural India.

The **stories of old couples** who had no maid to come and help them any more, until some Good Samaritans knocked their doors and gave them food to eat.

Every crisis has an end and this shall also pass. We are perhaps at the cusp of seeing a wonderful world emerging out of this colossal crisis with new vigor and renewed vitality.

Man Caged and Nature Reclaimed

Once upon a time man was a part of nature. The problem appeared when man crossed its lane of need and entered into the den of greed. Man chained them. Man caged them.

Lockdown, home alone man is chained and caged. We didn't lend our ear to hear the voice of nature. Man exists because nature exists, not the other way round. *In 30 years a Civet Cat was spotted walking the zebra crossing.* We had crossed the line. It's been long that nature was waiting on the wings and waiting for its chance to reclaim its lost space.

Freedom of Life and Fear of Death

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free..." - Rabindranath Tagore

The essence of life is so much in the sense we make of our freedom. There was this tussle between our mind and body, to fight or take a flight. Covid-19 put us in real Catch-22 situation.

Covid-19 was a classic dilemma between lives and livelihood. The lockdown was taking away our freedom but saving our life.

Home Work is the Boss Office Work for a Toss

First time as man lifted the broom to sweep the room it shifted his fundamental frame of thinking. The cleaning of utensils that musically appeared so rhythmical disappeared. Home became the epicenter of the emotional outburst. It was the toss time in the family to decide who does what as home work had regained its lost imperial empire and had gained its position of the boss.

Timer for Setting a New Normal

The enemy was invisible and the fight was becoming invincible. It was the battle between the pace of virus and the human race. The fight is still on and we are together... The old normal is dead and we have to learn to live with this new reality. We are going to operate in a completely new space of time.

Is this the beginning of a new reality?

"When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills." – Chinese saying



NIHAR PRADHAN

Author Story

Piyali Mitra

Digging into words and translating them into verses and lines is what Piyali loves doing most when she is not doing research. A Doctoral researcher in Philosophy and Bioethics and an alumni of Woolf Institute, University of Cambridge, UK, poetry writing recharges her mind and engages her imagination.



A Bestselling Author

She has been bestowed with the Best Poetry Author 2021 LitVoice Awards for her published work “Of the heart and soul- a mellifluous whisper”

She has also been Amazon bestseller in the genre of poetry

Highly Celebrated

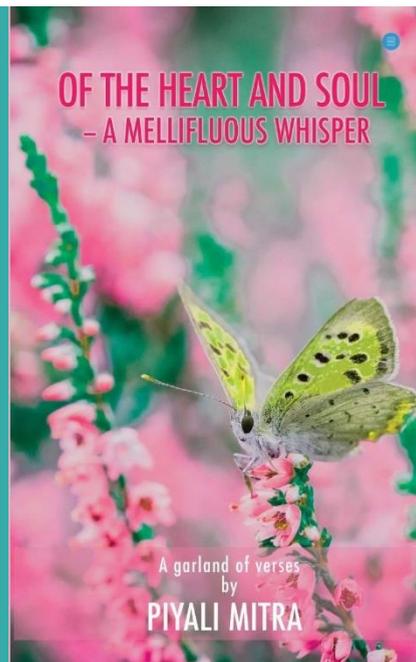
Featured in literary journals and magazines as LitGleam in India, The House of Ethics at Luxembourg, Europe. Contributor in the academic journals known worldwide and published by Springer Nature.

Writing Journey

Things that intrinsically motivate me catch my attention more than the extrinsically motivated variables. I always try to see possibilities beyond existing constraints. This particular book ‘Of the heart and soul-a mellifluous whisper’ finds inspiration in my childhood days spent among the greeneries and natural beauties that left a deep impact inside me. I thoroughly enjoyed writing and compiling the book of poem.

Of the heart and soul- a mellifluous whisper

This anthology abounds in the feeling of love – Love, has always been the source of inspiration for the countless poems and thoughtful scribbling made by lovers and admirers, but few poems are written analyzing the concept and how to feel to be in love. This book speaks of how love can be the source of inspiration at the same time the source of abjection. Rejection and dejection can push one to corner while love can uplift and transcend a mind from one realm to another.



What's Special in the Book?

Love appears as the cornerstone of happiness which involves various positive physical, psychological and mental engagement and behavioural features. The soul is the core essence, our “CEO self” that shape our life and our heart is the desire centre of our feelings and emotions. Each of the poems have a subtle message to convey that whispers the language of love, concern and care. And, this forms one of the important theme of the poems, the other being nature. This emotion may have various partners, the poems have Mother, Divine thoughts, Nature as partners of love.

Nature, as a concept, was seen as a deep state of harmony between itself and its inhabitants. The book has tried to capture the colors, aroma and essences of water, land, mountains, seasons and even leaves. Every object of Nature has their own language. This book has made an attempt to communicate that subtle language through verses.

Any Clue on Upcoming Book?

I do plan to come up with another book of mine, I am working on it. This time I am thinking of coming up with a romantic and human tale involving historical characters. This would be my debut novel.

Book Review

Of the heart and soul- a mellifluous whisper

Poetry alone is the format of literary writing that gives the probability of being a little deceptive and keeping some surprises in store for the readers. However, what makes poetry reading even more exciting is the fact that those surprises can spring at any time. In the true sense of the word, “Of The Heart and Soul- A mellifluous Whisper: A Garland of Verses” by Piyali Mitra is more than merely a garland of verses as the subtitle signifies. When the readers begin with the collection, they realize that the collection features more than what the title states in the first few poems.

On looking at the cover of “Of The Heart and Soul,” the readers for once feel the Wordsworthian air flowing through the dimension of nature which the cover showcases. However, when they open it and begin to read through the preface, they get to know a lot more things that went into the writing of this poetry collection. The rest of the work is done by the poetry written. While the poems appear to be rooted in nature, their parallel interpretations with humanity and the world at large can be drawn instantly. They also appeal to the social and psychological aspects, which expands their applicability and relevance altogether.

The style of writing Mitra takes in “Of The Heart and Soul” is both unique and evolved through her creativity. She abstains from keeping poems of fixed lengths and focuses on conveying the thought with clarity and precision of thought. This poetry collection may find instant popularity among poetry lovers, but the ones who have not read much poetry and want to begin reading can also begin with Mitra’s book. While they would find abstract subjects being handled with an effortless style, they would also find that the language the author uses is friendly to the understanding of the readers.

Other poems like “A Fallen Leaf,” “Welcome October,” “The Divine Grace- Sarasvati” are likely to transport the readers to a different realm and give them an exceptional reading experience. Therefore, all readers are recommended to try reading “Of The Heart and Soul” and hear the mellifluous whisper that flows through Piyali Mitra's writing in her poetry, which she calls a garland of verses.

Author Story

Sounak Chatterjee

Soumyasree Bose
PHOTOGRAPHY

Sounak is a Bengali, born and brought up in the City of Joy. His love for stories has been since his childhood days. After completing his bachelors in computer from Institute of Engineering & Management, now an employee of one of India's IT giants.

An avid reader and has the aspiration of becoming a fulltime storyteller cum traveler. He also shares immense interest in traveling and believes he belongs to the mountains.

He also writes for YourQuote and Tripoto Community.

Sounak never thought about becoming a writer someday. He had the hobby of reading from a very young age as his mom bought him a new book every month. With time that hobby changed into a habit.

WRITING JOURNEY

At the age of 18, he thought about writing his own book after getting inspired by Ravinder Singh's I Too Had A Love Story and Like It Happened Yesterday. As these books narrated incidents from the author's life on childhood and first love, he started writing his own from the memories that had just gone by.

It took him three years to complete The Story That Made Me and after several rejections from the renowned publishers of India, his novel got published by Ajitabha Bose's own publishing venture Ajitabha Publishers.

In between his journey from a scribbler to an author, he also wrote short stories for several platforms like Sweek, NotionPress, Pratilipi and travelogues for TripotoCommunity. He is also a regular scribbler at YourQuote.

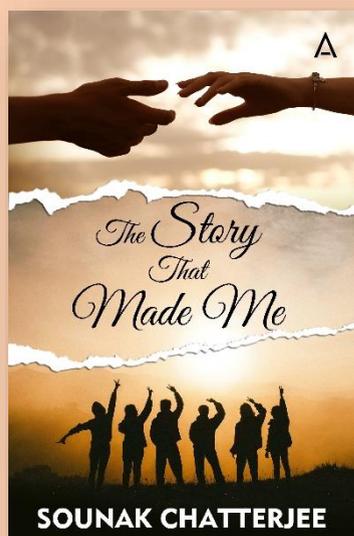
Future Plans on Writing?

He is currently writing the sequel of *The Story That Made Me* and also working on his travelogues which will be soon published on his travel blog page.

The Story That Made Me: Book Review

Documenting life on the pages of a book can be quite a challenge, but when the authors put their heart into it, they reach the readers' hearts in no time. "The Story That Made Me" by Sounak Chatterjee is one such book where the author writes from his heart and reaches the readers' hearts in no time. Keeping a plot based on actual incidents, he creates a world that is free of the artificialities of the present-day world and makes the readers nostalgic in no time. The presence of such pure and raw emotions and their faithful portrayal helps the readers connect with the book instantly.

Chatterjee, in his work, bears the reflections and impressions of the early days of the protagonist Varud and the events that happen in his life, which make him into the person he became at present. Following this, he builds the story and characters portrayed more or less through his eyes, giving the readers the seat of the observer who can see the channel the protagonist's life takes. In the light of this, the narrative is set mainly in the streets and homes of Kolkata, where the characters meet and interact and have a time they would remember for the rest of their lives. The readers also get to see the reflections of the culture of the place, and native readers would be able to relate to it in no time.



Overall, "The Story That Made Me" is a heartfelt account by the author where he captures the little moments of life and keeps the readers engaged with his storytelling technique. In the midst of this, he paints the impressions of emotions, friendship, family ties, the different states of mind from a young boy to a teenager and henceforth an adult, and life being shaped subsequently. The readers enjoy the childhood incidents Varud shares here and there, and at times, he also shares important life lessons which the readers observe and understand in no time. In this manner, the book also appears to be a mature account by a person who has lived and learned the lessons as he grew up.

“The Story That Made Me” would be easily relatable for many due to the presence of young characters and the incidents that occur in their lives. Grown-up or younger readers all would find these incidents amusing and invoking nostalgia at the same time. Altogether, it can be said that this book can be read by all readers both due to the nature of the content and the length, which has been kept keeping everyone’s comfort in mind. The author keeps the language easy for the readers to understand, and by giving the narrative control to Varud, he lets the story unfold on its own, which makes it both interesting and exciting for the readers. All readers should try reading Chatterjee’s work, where he pours his heart, describes the story that went into the making of the protagonist, and also hopes to connect with the readers.

RAPID FIRE

Favorite Books?

Like It Happened Yesterday, From Russia With Love, The Kite Runner

Favorite Authors?

Ravinder Singh, Khaled Hosseini

Why Writing?

My daily dose of happiness

Any Upcoming Book?

In progress with the sequel of The Story That Made Me and a few short stories.

A Message to Your Readers?

Thanks for choosing my story when there are thousand bestsellers still waiting in your wish list.

Inspiration Behind Writing?

A lot of credit goes to my favourite author Ravinder Singh. I Too Had A Love Story and Like It Happened Yesterday are two novels which are based on his life. These books inspired me to dedicate a story to our childhood.

Passion, other than writing?

Travel, the other half of my support system.

Tips For Budding Authors?

I still believe I am also a budding writer. From my experience, there will be days when you won't be able to write a single sentence and sometimes you will complete ten pages in an hour. Have patience and enjoy the process.

Best Compliment Received Ever?

My stories are highly engaging and I portray emotions nicely.

Author Story

“Success is the mirror which reflects your dedication and diligence” - Pausali

This quotation by herself works aptly for her when we talk about Pausali Mukherjee, the author from ‘the city of joy’- Kolkata, West Bengal. She has been dedicatedly serving the society as an Educator for more than a decade. She has worked in a renowned ICSE Board Institution in Kolkata for long 8 years and presently working in a CBSE Board Institution in Rajasthan since 2018. She is a Postgraduate in English Literature. She has won The Best Teacher Award by InSc (Institute of Scholars). She has also received India Prime Top 100 Educators Award presented by Foxclues. Moreover she has also been awarded with India's Inspirational Women Award 2021 in the field of Education organised by Dreamcatchers. Alike the professional field, she has been also working diligently and dedicatedly in the field of her passion, which is writing. She is proficient in writing in three languages- Bengali, English and Hindi Writing is her passion since her student days.



PAUSALI MUKHERJEE

She participated in many national and international anthologies. She has also published two solo books “Flip to Fillip” and “Versofiction”. These books were internationally published and well accepted by the readers. These two books released almost back to back, and the award of Foxclues India's Top 100 Author 2021 came in Pausali's bag. She has also received the Best Author Award 2021 from Magic Book of Records. Her both books were featured in NE8x Online Literary Fest 2021 and she was awarded with Sahityakosh Samman Award 2021 and Tagore Commemorative Award 2021 by that NE8x for her achievements in the field of writing.

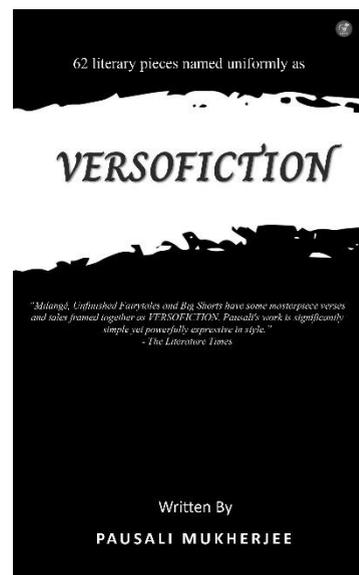
She has also received Women Victory Award presented by Star Awards for her Poetic and Literary skill. Recently she has won The Real Super Woman Award 2021 organized by FSIA for her noteworthy contributions in the field of literature.

She regularly write quotes in YourQuote.in.

Book review

VERSOFICTION

Verse as a form of expression fixates in the minds of the readers more closely than prose. Owing to its short and crispy nature and words being concentrated with power, the verse is easily retained in the minds of the readers. This effect resonates later even when they are not reading and makes the poetry reflective in nature. The same resonating effect is observed in Pausali Mukherjee's poetry collection, "Versofiction." As interesting as the title sounds, the volume is an interesting mix of verse and fiction that come together to create a different whole in the three parts of the book.



In the short book, which ranges to less than 100 pages, the poet talks about different subjects and shares her thoughts on issues ranging far and wide that relate to the readers one way or the other. While Mukherjee talks about different subjects in her poetry, this also shows her eye for detail and her way of observing things. The diverse poems she writes are a testimony of this fact. As the readers begin to see the book through the simple but attractive book cover, they get to know that the book is a "literary mashup." For many readers, this may strike as a new term, but once they start reading and go through the 3 volumes, they understand the mashup that the poet has created.

Although the poet does not focus on using a vocabulary which the ordinary reader may not be familiar with, the words she uses to take the meaning beyond the literary and open it to interpretation in multiple manners. While for once the readers may read the poems and works of fiction in the literal sense, at the same time, when they come back to the pieces for the second time, the manner in which they perceive things changes.

Overall, "Versofiction" may be a set of verses and fictional writings in general, but the range of issues it covers and the subjects it talks about open a whole new world for the readers in just a few pages in which the author concentrates her work. The 3 sections show 3 different worlds to the readers, and by the time they finish the book, their perspective towards things changes too.

Ratings: 4.7/5

Psycho-logy (What's The Logic?)

- Soudia Parveen



In today's date, many of us know what actually a "Counselor" does but there is an existence of beings who has a different and irrelevant notion on "psychology" and "counselor/psycho-therapist" Psychology involves "studying and understanding an individual's overt and covert behavioural activities. "Psychology" is not only dealing with "psychopaths" but "psyche (mind)" and "responses". Psychology is a vast field to study "within and around" an individual! Within this, there are a lot of day to day hassles which sometimes seek help from a professional (counsellor/therapist). No one is perfectly fine in their own lives. Instead, everyone is a victim of stress and mishappenings.

"Be Your Own Counselor"

Not everyone has the potentiality to accept what's burdening them because analysing one's thoughts and bringing change is sometimes difficult but not impossible. So in such cases we should avoid "Overthinking and being Overconfident "We should not overthink about the consequences and try hard to solve (with or without a professional) whereas we shouldn't be overconfident of what burdens us is not an abnormality. Yes it might not be an abnormality but seeking help is not an irrelevant idea. Keeping the things only within us leaving it untreated (with or without professional) might lead to serious issues such as Depression, anxiety, traumatic stress, phobias, hallucinations, delusions etc. which might further affect our health (such as :- diabetes, heart failure, stroke, cancer, etc) To put emphasis on, Cancer is not only caused through tobaccos or intoxicants but by major traumatic stress. Keeping all these in mind, one should learn to have a positive thinking and a basic knowledge to provide a "first aid" to their issues!

A fact to remember:

"Your heart is an apparatus,
 Through which you speak!
 If your heart showers negativities
 You tend to be a defeatist,
 And certainly project a gloom-ridden character on others!
 If people judge's you on account of your personality and behavior,
 Then remember!
 Somehow it is you, who made such a comfortable expression on others,
 That now they have started pointing out negativities in you!
 Similarly, people who makes verdict on you,
 Sometimes project their own behavior on you!
 Everything has a link, Everything is interrelated with each other!
 In order to balance things
 Try and avoid judging others,
 And make yourself flawless!
 Sort things out by yourself first,
 Then depend on others perspective!"

There's a most used proverb, "*Look before you leap*"

What does this mean? It means that you shouldn't act without first considering the possible consequences or dangers! In order to be safe and kind at the same time, you need to use your brain as well as your heart additionally! Try to exercise your actions, after thinking for a while and understanding the conflicts and then measure whether your behaviour is at odds with the interest of others! There's no harm in thinking, analysing, and executing. Be your own counsellor first and then make a verdict accordingly for others! What if he/she is going through the same phase? We cannot understand one unless we feel the depth of it! Let's spare ourselves with some time and explore without hesitation, and seek help from (Counsellors/psychotherapist) as per the needs and requirements. There is no harm in sharing thoughts with professional. They are here only to guide and help us recover. No one is a "psychopath", we all are a being with pro's and cons!

**"To Be Felt Worthy, Make Others Feel
Worth Their Existence "**



Therefore will conclude with the most vulnerable issue "Suicide" (Quitting life voluntarily). Let's join hands and motivate ourselves as well as our near and dear ones by reminding them that we are there behind and beside one. From today let's say this to everyone we meet - Life is precious!

Feeling low? Feel free to talk to me!

Suffering through depression?

Feel free to share your words with me!

Lacking a sense of Belongingness?

Feel free to tell me about it!

I promise to get you through it.
Feeling like to end up living?
Do not feel free to do it!
Life is only for once,
Which provides you with different stages! Accept it as a game, And cross the levels with uttermost courage and wait for the rewards patiently!
Remember love, You are your own story's hero! You are the protagonist! You can never fail! You just need to strive hard, You can do it, All the best!

- Soudia Parveen



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AUTHOR PRISHA DIXIT

Youngest writer in India to write an end to end English single fiction story with more than 75K words



Sometimes fiction stories take up a narrative style which may not be of the regular type for an average reader, yet the framework that the author undertakes makes the work both interesting and exciting for the readers. Due to the presence of such innovative style of writing, the book become both attractive and creates a new aura of glamor and richness. The book “Hybrids: Clash of the Elementals” written by the author Prisha Dixit follows this path of being an unconventional story in terms of construction yet it has the potential to keep the readers glued to the text as and when they begin with the book. While for once the readers may not really be able to match, the book, title, blurb and the cover, this openness to interpretation and unconventionality becomes the key factor that attracts the readers to the book and even if they may not be able to have a grip of it altogether, it does make sense later and they agree without any second thoughts.

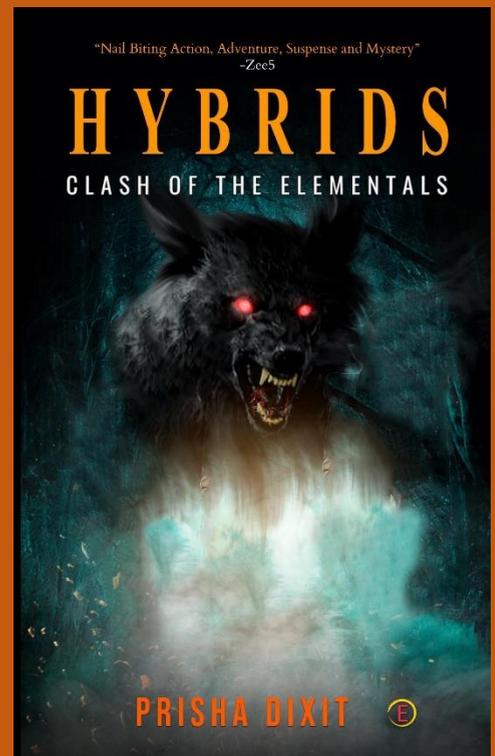
As the blurb reveals, the book is a Story About Twins Who Are Living in an Orphanage. Although the book may seem to begin in a conventional manner, the turns it takes later appear to be quite beyond the imagination of the readers altogether. Like life in an orphanage, the sisters are shown to be getting prepared for the challenges that are to follow and the hardships that children have to face in the absence of parental love and care. While it becomes a poignant account in writing, it also opens the eyes of the readers to life in an orphanage and the tough conditions children must face at such young ages. This may form the major framework of the content that is to follow, yet in the light of this, the author discusses many themes and sub-themes which show up as when situations require.

The author has given interesting titles to all chapters. She titles them in such a manner that for once appear to be giving out the spoilers yet at the same time they reveal just a little to keep the readers glued. At times, the story seems to be lagging and the readers may feel that it could have been written with a fast-paced writing style so that a reader would have felt the story happening in real. But the author uses this refinement of pace to trigger the interest of the readers and have them in her grip without letting them lose track of anything that can follow. This is sort of necessary too since “Hybrids: Clash of the Elementals” is not just about a mere showcase of emotional swings and turmoil the characters face.

Title: Hybrids: Clash of The Elementals

Author: Prisha Dixit

Publisher: Evincepub Publishing, 2021



This book is recommended for readers who may be looking for reading something unconventional which may be following the frame of the conventional and while the story may seem to revolve around mainly two characters, the readers can not miss all that it has to offer even through the two characters and the world the author builds up around them. Overall, the 29 chapters have a different series of spins when the readers approach the chapters. As they read every new chapter, it appears unique, different and gives a lasting impression on the minds of the readers. For once, the story may seem intricate and unique, but that's what becomes the beauty of the whole work and makes it a memorable reading altogether. Dixit constructs the narrative in her unique style and even though the book appears to an amalgamation of science fiction for once owing to its title, it is open to readings from sociological, economical, psychological, and also children's perspective. In addition, the rest of the work is done by the language that the author undertakes in writing the book. While for once "Hybrids: Clash of the Elementals" may seem to follow the chronological narrative of writing, the swift change of action and the unpredictable manner in which the author brings in the various elements that present new challenges for the characters also suggest the universality and nature of challenge as being free of bias to all that have to face it. Children or grown-ups, are at the edge in these terms and there is no probability of an if and but in any case. This also makes the book full of learning for teenagers and mature readers would also find a lot of content being explored from a fresh pair of eyes with a different perspective on things altogether.



PANDEMIC, WRITING AND LEARNING!

- Antara Shivhare

The covid-19 pandemic has changed the whole course of the world completely. Social distancing, lockdowns, restrictions, everything has declined human contact in a large number. People have now started giving more preference to online meets, spending time in self-growth, and learning new skills instead of meet-ups. The lockdown saw a rise in the number of writers and authors in a large number. People started writing their thoughts, their long-awaited stories, their personal experiences, and educational content. Many people discovered their love for writing and chose to improve and continue in the same field.

Writing is not an easy task. From framing the stories to editing them and setting the whole structure, it needs great knowledge, patience, and time. Minute mistakes in writing can lead to major issues in the story and the writing piece. Fortunately, there are now a plethora of courses available online to get into the field of writing and learn the important things. Here is the list of the platforms and the courses they provide for better writing :

1. **Mithaas Services:** The company has tons of options available for writing courses. It has content writing courses, novel writing courses, blogging courses, and lots more. They have live classes as well as recorded sessions, providing various options to the person.
2. **Udemy:** Udemy is one of the biggest online courses providers. It has different courses and educators in the fields of editing, proofreading, novel writing, content writing, copywriting, etc. The courses are prerecorded and are self-paced. The person can choose from several educators available for each field.
3. **Henry Harvin:** Henry Harvin is one of the most recognized online platforms for writing courses. The certificates are globally recognized. They have content writing and creative writing courses available. The class options are available in live and pre-recorded sessions.

Here's the list of writing courses platforms. You can check them out on the web at their respective websites. So, what are you waiting for? Grab your favorite course and become a better writer and publish your work soon!



Author Story

Devika Das

Devika Das is an award-winning author and actor. She pursues her passion for writing and theatre in Hyderabad. Her title 'The Mind Game' is a national bestseller and is now available at bookstores in London. She has recently published 'Meghna' a Hindi short story with Blue Rose Publishers. She has won the National Award for short films Waterman and The Silent Voice directed by Anshul Sinha. She has been invited as a Speaker for many national literary festivals, TED Circles and also judged several literary competitions organized by schools and colleges. Currently, she is working as a Content Strategist for an IT Company in Hyderabad.

Creative writing liberates her and is a medium that allows her to reveal her true SELF. Within few years into book publishing, her literary works have also received critical acclaim through several award nominations and book launch events in several cities of India.

AWARDS

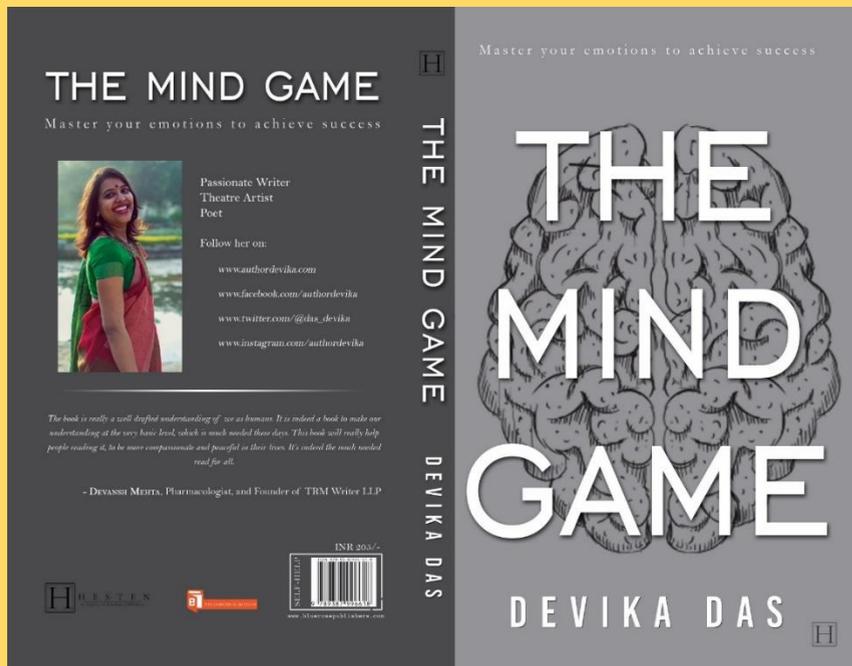
- Sahityakosh Samman 2021, NE8x
- Voice of India - NE8x Global Awards 2019
- Nominee – ARL Literary Awards
- Nomination (Best Author) – LiFT Awards 2019
- Best Poetry Book – Wordsbrew 2018
- Top 100 Inspiring Author – The Indian Awaz, 2018
- Nomination for Best Author 2017 – Salismania.com

PUBLICATIONS

- Published Books: Meghna, 7 Vows of Marriage, The Mind Game, Reminiscence,
- Anthology Contributions: Undo, String in the Garland, Amaravati Poetic Prism Contributor, Gyan Vitaranam, a youth magazine
- Contributor, Muse India, UGC certified online portal
- Contributor – Jaipuria Institute of Management, Indore

The Mind Game by Devika Das

A well-thought and constructed masterpiece

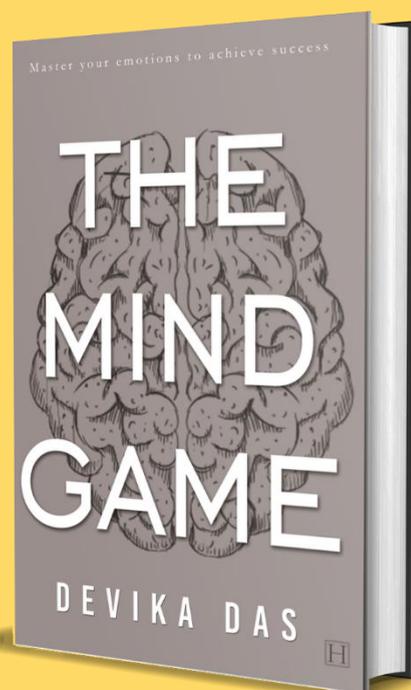


Something as complex as human emotions is a subject of study and observation not just for psychologists but also for any other person interested in understanding them. Due to the different ways of feeling them and expressing them, human beings differ from one another at their emotional levels and the way they perceive things. In her book “The Mind Game,” Devika Das addresses these complex issues and attempts to explore different aspects that surround the emotional growth and quotient of a person. The well thought and constructed book help the readers work on their personalities and comes as a guide to help them become a better version of their selves as they read through the book.

The author gives the book the title “The Mind Game” very concisely as it is the mind which comes into play when it is about handling and taking care of things the right way, and understanding emotions would also be done in the same manner. In light of this, she divides the book into 6 sections with separate chapters each and an introduction to each section. This division makes the book altogether concise and practical and helps the readers get better clarity over the ideas that may otherwise appear abstract. As she progresses per section, she begins from the basics of why and how things happen and then suggests how to deal with them and turn them in one’s favor.

“The Mind Game” is about dealing with emotional issues of all sorts, but it begins the right way which is to be familiar with them first. By getting familiar, a reader would be able to understand his/her reactions to a situation and understand how the emotions of a person operate. As the book progresses, the author shares valuable tips and tricks with the readers to ensure that they have a smooth and comfortable life and have fewer probabilities of experiencing emotional turmoil. In the midst of this, the effects that the readers have on their personalities impact an emotional front and nurture their public and private conduct. Hence, reading this book is all together is a good choice for the readers. This also gives an introduction to the insightfulness of the author and her in-depth understanding of human nature.

“The Mind Game” is a book that is open to recommendation to people of all age groups and backgrounds. The fact that the book is non-fictional in nature and studies the most abstract things that a person only feels and sometimes finds difficulty in expressing would make the book an instant attraction for many. At the same time, the readers would also be able to improve themselves by being familiar with their emotions and giving them proper channels instead of controlling them or trying to ignore or resist them. Ignoring, resisting, and controlling may seem solutions to many, but they are only short-term. The outburst is more prominent when they appear later. The difference in human personalities is because of this to a large extent. Hence, ignoring is certainly not the solution.



Das resorts to simple techniques of sharing her ideas in concise points instead of long theoretical paragraphs to make things easier for the readers. This may have led to the chapters being more as the content was divided, but this would ultimately help the readers. Keeping all this in mind, recommending this book to all would only mean doing justice to the author’s hard work, which she gave words effortlessly and concisely. The readers should go through “The Mind Game” and understand that they can win their emotions to their side and be more competent in handling the challenges life would throw at them through the mind game.

Hiraeth

Poem by
Saanvi Mitra

Settled dust on your vinyl records
speak of your evanescent touches;
The panacea to your boredom,
Fitted in a glaring digital screen,
While grooves of my circle discs lay proud and clean,
My ginger touch like the caress of a dandelion.

I am not among champagne glasses
and crumbling faces of porcelain people.
I catch my pale brown freckles
Breathing in vellichor.

If I can run fast enough
Would I catch up to my dreams?
Will I escape the cages and reach—
A place which makes my hiraeth disappear?
Sequin shimmers of cynical clones,
You scramble for a place on your petty thrones

Clogged up throat and moonshine eyes,
There is no place for my screams;
I return to the cocoon of my pillow fortress
With obscure words of high-end concrete.
You are a misfit for a dandelion like me.

Take me to the place where Icarus died
within musty old pages of his fall and rise.
Cryptic words and plastic daisies,
Your paved sidewalks are a misfit for my petrichor.
I talk to photographs in vintage frames,
You sneak glances at expensive curtains.
Your walls close in and suffocate me.
Your stare, society, is stifling.

My felicity lies beyond your skies,
Take me to where Icarus died.
I talk and you speak,
I scream and you still speak,
I purse my lips but you don't cease,
Your robotic moving lips are a misfit
for an emotion like me.

Years go by and I still wonder,
When will someone heed to the calling of my thunder?
I stay like an invisible shadow
careful enough to tip toe;
Apprehending the shattering of your delicate glass
With my bold anthem.

My sneakers stroll in the mud
While you take the marble steps
in your diaphanous stilettos.
Your Cinderella story
is a misfit for my cathartic prose.

I sit on the edge of my rooftop
thinking about how Icarus died.
My Icarus self is a misfit
for the wax wings you gave me.
I return to my vinyl record
Driving past the white picket suburbs.
I stare at the picture-perfect fences,
My soil is a misfit for your house of cards.

My screams unheard
Brine-filled eyes—unseen;
The pearly droplets wet your concrete road
I look down.

I am a misfit for this sorority.



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