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Short Story by Vipul Vashishth

From Page to Screen: What Happens
When Books Are Adapted into Movies?

ON VOLUME

ISSUE 3

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COVER STORY

Bestselling Author

**RAHUL SINGH
GAUTAM**



Editor's Note



Pooja Sahu

Editor-in-Chief

When we embarked on the journey of creating The Literature Times, little did we know the remarkable path it would pave for us. With each passing issue, we honed our skills, expanded our horizons, and absorbed knowledge that enriched our venture. The evolution of our magazine has been a transformative experience, reshaping our perception of media and bridging the realm of literature with the swiftly advancing domain of technology. As we proudly present the 2nd Issue of Volume 3 in the June 2024 Edition of The Literature Times, we stand on the threshold of new possibilities, ready to embrace a diverse array of fresh perspectives.

The magazine covers a wide range of themes, from technology to lifestyle to fashion to anything revolutionary or impactful in people's lives, and it even has book reviews and author interviews. Under the subject of current themes, it also features material that is timely and applicable to the contemporary situation. In addition, once readers get their hands on this issue, they will find a few unexpected inclusions.

We believe there is always more to add and learn, thus with each new edition, we push ourselves to new limits in order to better the following one. Consequently, we would appreciate it very much if our readers provided us with feedback at:

editorial@theliteraturetimes.com. We hope to hear from you soon. If you're reading this, I hope you enjoy it.

Enjoy your reading!

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.

CONTENTS

COVER STORY

Rahul Singh Gautam

FEATURED AUTHOR'S

- Navid Daffuwala
- Colleen Hoover
- Ameet Unnithan
- Ramya
- Radhika Malhotra
- David Nicholls
- Mayank Bengani

BOOK FEATURES

- Teen Chausar
- The Master of Your KPIs
- Verity
- It Ends With Us
- Teacher-First Management
- Swift Programming for Beginners
- Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror
- 4.24 – A Date & A Time
- That's Why Dogs Fly
- Waking the Mind

TLT SPECIAL ARTICLES

- The Rise of Multiverse Fiction
- New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 A Grand Celebration of Literature and Learning
- Amazon Books Announces You Are Here by David Nicholls as UK's Best Book of the Year 2024
- Short Story by Vipul Vashishth
- From Page to Screen: What Happens When Books Are Adapted into Movies?

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COVER
STORY

Rahul Singh Gautam

In the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary Hindi literature, Rahul Singh Gautam stands out as a beacon of poetic ingenuity and philosophical introspection. Hailing from District Sri Ganganagar, Gautam's literary journey is characterized by a deep engagement with themes of human conflict, spirituality, and the profound uncertainties of life. His latest work, *Teen Chausar*, exemplifies his distinctive approach to exploring the complexities of existence through rich metaphors and narrative finesse.



A Poetic Journey: From Seeds to Shadows

Rahul Singh Gautam's literary career began with his debut collection of poems, *Ankuran*, published in 2019. This inaugural work sowed the seeds of his poetic vision, offering readers a glimpse into his contemplative and spiritually inclined reflections on faith and life's myriad facets. Gautam's exploration of these themes continued with his second book, *Banarasi Paan*, which was released in 2021. This collection deepened his poetic exploration, showcasing his ability to weave everyday experiences into spiritual and philosophical narratives.

With *Teen Chausar*, Gautam further expands his literary repertoire, delving into the uncertainties and ongoing human conflict symbolized by the title, which translates to "Three Dice." This book presents a compelling examination of life's unpredictable nature through metaphoric and narrative layers, drawing parallels with the epic *Mahabharata* and the teachings of Gautam Buddha. The book is divided into two volumes, with the first reflecting the epic's grandeur and the second delving into the life and philosophy of Buddha. Additionally, the poetic section 'Ankuran' introduces a metaphorical reflection on human life through the imagery of seeds and trees, enriching the text with a deeper symbolic resonance.

A Master of Language and Imagery

Gautam's writing is characterized by its simplicity and accessibility, allowing readers from various backgrounds to engage with the text meaningfully. His use of metaphors and narrative contexts in *Teen Chausar* provides readers with a framework to understand and appreciate the complexities of life. The language is both original and evocative, designed to resonate with the readers and allow them to savor every line.

Interview with Author Rahul Singh Gautam

The Literature Times: Your latest work, *Teen Chausar*, explores life's uncertainties. What inspired you to focus on this theme, and how do you believe it resonates with contemporary readers?

Rahul Singh Gautam: In *Teen Chausar*, I aimed to explore life's uncertainties as they resonate deeply with contemporary readers facing complex challenges. The inspiration stemmed from the unpredictable nature of existence, akin to the game of Chausar, where fortune shifts unexpectedly. By intertwining themes from the Mahabharata and Buddha's teachings, I sought to reflect on human emotions and conflicts that remain timeless. This exploration invites readers to introspect on their own lives, fostering a connection with the universal quest for meaning amid chaos. Ultimately, I believe this theme resonates profoundly in today's fast-paced and often uncertain world.

The Literature Times: well as the teachings of Gautam Buddha. How do these influences shape your narrative style and thematic choices?

Rahul Singh Gautam: The influences of the Mahabharata and Gautam Buddha's teachings profoundly shape my narrative style and thematic choices in *Teen Chausar*. The Mahabharata provides a rich tapestry of human emotions and moral dilemmas, allowing me to explore contemporary conflicts through its timeless characters and stories. This intertextuality invites readers to reflect on their own struggles and relationships.

Buddha's teachings, particularly the concepts of suffering and the middle path, inspire the philosophical depth of my work. They encourage introspection and highlight the impermanence of life, resonating with readers navigating their own uncertainties. By weaving these influences into my writing, I aim to create a narrative that is both relatable and thought-provoking, fostering a deeper understanding of the human experience.



The Literature Times: In your book, you use the metaphor of seeds and trees to represent growth and potential. Can you elaborate on this imagery and its significance in your poetic reflections?

Rahul Singh Gautam: The metaphor of seeds and trees in *Teen Chausar* serves as a powerful symbol of growth, potential, and the cyclical nature of life. Seeds represent beginnings—small yet full of promise—and embody the idea that every individual carries within them the potential for transformation. Just as a seed requires nurturing, time, and the right conditions to grow into a strong tree, so too do people need support and experiences to flourish.

The Literature Times: How has your personal journey and background from District Sri Ganganagar influenced your writing and the themes you explore?

Rahul Singh Gautam: My personal journey from District Sri Ganganagar has profoundly influenced my writing and the themes I explore in "*Teen Chausar*." Growing up in a region known for its transformation from arid land to fertile fields due to human ingenuity instilled in me a deep appreciation for resilience and potential.

The cultural blend of Rajasthani and Punjabi influences enriches my narrative, allowing me to explore themes of identity and community. Additionally, the historical significance of the Ganga Canal symbolizes hope and renewal, which resonates throughout my work, reflecting the uncertainties of life and the quest for meaning.

The Literature Times: Your poetry is noted for its accessibility. What strategies do you use to maintain simplicity while still conveying profound ideas?

Rahul Singh Gautam: Maintaining accessibility in poetry while conveying profound ideas is a delicate balance that I strive to achieve through several key strategies:

1. **Clear Imagery-** I use vivid and relatable imagery that evokes emotions and paints clear pictures in the reader's mind. This helps to ground complex ideas in everyday experiences, making them more approachable.
2. **Concise Language-** I favor concise and straightforward language, avoiding overly complex vocabulary or convoluted syntax. This allows readers to engage with the content without feeling overwhelmed, ensuring that the core message shines through.
3. **Universal Themes-** By focusing on universal themes—such as love, loss, growth, and resilience—I connect with readers on a personal level. These themes resonate across cultures and experiences, making the poetry relatable and impactful.

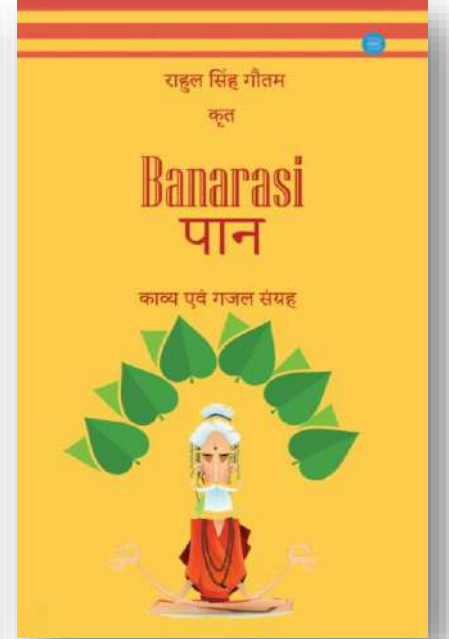
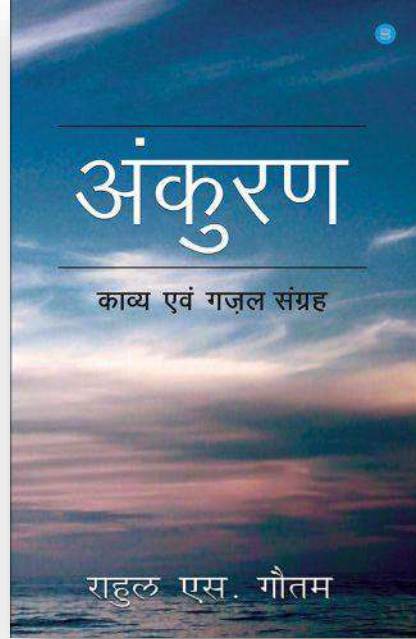
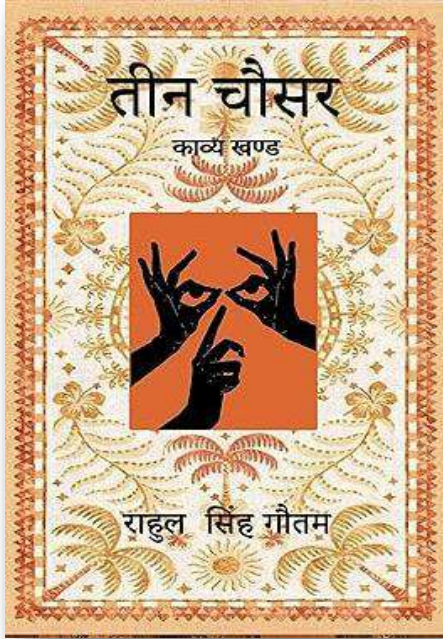
The Literature Times: What role do you think spirituality plays in your writing, and how do you hope it affects your readers' understanding of life and conflict?

Rahul Singh Gautam: Spirituality plays a central role in my writing, serving as both a thematic foundation and a guiding principle in exploring the complexities of life and conflict.

The Literature Times: What message or experience do you hope readers take away from *Teen Chausar*, and what impact do you want your poetry to have on their lives?

Rahul Singh Gautam: In *Teen Chausar*, I hope readers take away a deeper understanding of life's uncertainties and the complexities of human conflict. My goal is for them to reflect on their own experiences, recognizing that struggles can lead to growth and insight.

I want my poetry to foster empathy, encouraging readers to connect with diverse perspectives and emotions. By exploring themes of resilience and transformation, I aim to inspire personal reflection and a sense of shared humanity. Ultimately, I hope my work serves as a catalyst for introspection, helping readers navigate their own journeys with greater awareness and compassion.



Book Review: Teen Chausar by Rahul Singh Gautam

As the author of “Teen Chausar”, I am both humbled and excited to share this work with you, my dear readers. In this book, I have sought to weave together ancient wisdom and contemporary reflections, presenting a narrative that explores the depths of human nature, the intricacies of our inner worlds, and the timeless truths that govern life and death. “Teen Chausar” is not just a retelling of mythological stories; it is a meditation on the human condition, framed through the lens of the Mahabharata, the journey of a seed, and the teachings of the Buddha.

Part One: “Teen Chausar” – The Game of Dice and the Tragedy of Draupadi

The title “Teen Chausar” immediately connects the reader to one of the most defining moments in the Mahabharata—the game of dice (Chausar), where the fate of Draupadi is sealed in a tragic turn of events. The first part of this book is an exploration of that moment when Draupadi is humiliated in the court of Hastinapura, her ‘Cheer Haran’ (disrobing), and the psychological warfare that takes place in that charged atmosphere. It’s an event that has echoed through centuries as a symbol of power, pride, and the consequences of unchecked desires.

In this section, I aim to peel back the layers of human behavior, exploring the greed, manipulation, and emotions that drive the characters involved in the game. While the dice may seem like mere instruments of chance, they are in fact metaphors for the decisions we make, the gambles we take in life, and the forces that shape our destinies. Through characters like Draupadi, Duryodhana, Shakuni, and Yudhishtira, I wanted to show how the human mind reacts under pressure—how hope, despair, ambition, and pride can create a complex web of motivations, often leading to unforeseen consequences. The poetry of this section speaks to the inner turmoil of these characters, capturing their emotional journeys. Draupadi, in particular, emerges not just as a victim but as a symbol of resilience, a woman whose strength and dignity remain unbroken even in the face of unimaginable humiliation.

Part Two: 'Ankuran' – The Journey of a Seed: A Metaphor for Life

The second part of the book, titled 'Ankuran', is a departure from the epic grandeur of the Mahabharata, taking a more intimate, natural metaphor for life. "Ankuran' explores the journey of a seed, symbolizing the journey of every human being. Just as a seed is planted in the soil with the potential to grow, every individual begins life with inherent potential, but faces numerous challenges along the way.

In this section, I sought to draw parallels between the stages of a seed's growth and the human experience. A seed faces struggles—be it the harshness of the soil, the uncertainty of the weather, or the long wait for the sunlight. Similarly, we all face difficulties in life that test our patience, resilience, and will to grow. The seed must prepare itself to break through the earth, gather strength, and rise towards the light. It is a gradual, organic process of transformation, mirroring the evolution of a human being from innocence to wisdom, from ignorance to understanding.

Part Three: "Appo Deepo Bhava – Buddha's Wisdom on Life and Death"

The third and final part of "Teen Chausar", titled "Appo Deepo Bhava", is deeply inspired by the teachings of the Buddha. The title itself, which translates to "Be your own light," captures the essence of what I wish to convey in this section: that true wisdom comes from within. It is about understanding the impermanence of life, accepting the inevitability of death, and finding peace in the face of suffering.

One of the stories I share in this section is 'Kisa Gautami', a grieving mother who loses her child to a snake bite. In her despair, she seeks out Buddha, believing that he can restore life to her son. Buddha, understanding her pain, asks her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one has ever died. In her quest to find such a house, Kisa Gautami discovers a harsh reality: every household she visits has experienced loss.

Through this journey, she comes to realize that death is a universal truth, an inevitable part of life that no one can escape.

"Language and Style"

The language and style of "Teen Chausar" by Rahul Singh Gautam are as multifaceted and profound as the themes explored in the book. The author's narrative approach seamlessly blends poetic lyricism with reflective prose, creating a unique and immersive reading

experience. The language is evocative, rich with metaphor, and carefully chosen to evoke deep emotional resonance. This is particularly evident in the first part of the book, where Gautam's portrayal of Draupadi's *Cheer Haran* is both haunting and poignant. The prose flows with an almost lyrical quality, capturing the internal turmoil and emotional depth of the characters.

"Conclusion"

"Teen Chausar" by Rahul Singh Gautam is a remarkable fusion of mythology, philosophy, and human introspection. Through its three distinct yet interconnected parts—"Teen Chausar", 'Ankuran', and 'Appo Deepo Bhava'—the book takes readers on a profound journey that spans from the ancient world of the Mahabharata to the natural cycles of growth and the timeless wisdom of the Buddha. Gautam masterfully blends epic storytelling with deep philosophical exploration, offering insights into human nature, the complexities of life, and the inevitability of death.



Author

Pankaj Lochan

In “The Master of Your KPIs,” Pankaj Lochan presents a compelling blend of fictional storytelling and management education, making it a distinctive contribution to the world of business literature. By weaving personal insights with actionable strategies, Lochan successfully transforms what might traditionally be viewed as a dry topic—Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)—into a narrative-driven exploration of operational excellence. This book stands out not only for its unique format but also for its relevance to professionals at all levels, offering a roadmap to improve performance management in the manufacturing sector and beyond.

The book is divided into two parts, each catering to different aspects of professional growth. In Part One, Lochan reveals his personal journey, blending his real-world experiences with fictionalized accounts to drive home the importance of resilience, leadership, and teamwork.

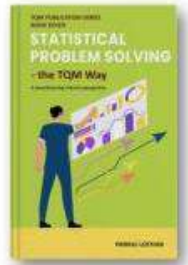
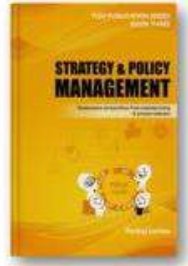
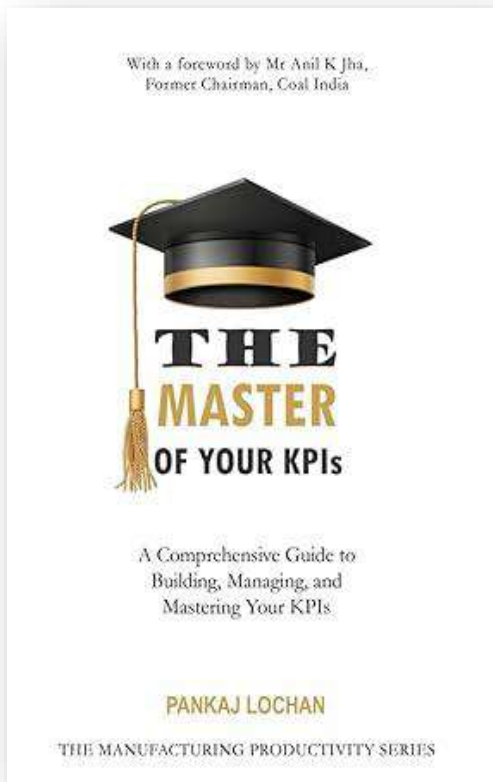
This section is perhaps the most unique feature of the book—fiction as a vehicle for management education. The narrative style makes the lessons more relatable, pulling readers into the characters’ challenges and triumphs. Through these stories, Lochan shows how foundational values like determination, grit, and collaboration can create substantial improvements in both personal and organizational performance.

Lochan’s approach in Part One allows readers to connect emotionally with the content, making abstract management principles feel more tangible and applicable. The fictionalized narratives of resilience are not just engaging but also serve as a metaphor for overcoming real-world business challenges. For example, one of the stories delves into the dynamics of a team working under pressure in a manufacturing setting, facing both external market pressures and internal friction. The lessons from these narratives are immediately transferable to real-life situations, helping readers understand the human side of KPI management. The personal insights shared by Lochan give the book a deeply introspective dimension. He doesn’t just preach principles of KPI management; he reflects on his own experiences, recounting the trials and errors that shaped his professional outlook. This candid sharing of personal evolution adds authenticity and depth to the book. Lochan acknowledges the complexities of managing KPIs in high-pressure environments like manufacturing, where decisions often have far-reaching implications.

Lochan’s journey demonstrates that effective KPI management is not just about numbers; it’s about mindset, leadership, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

Book Review

The Master of Your KPIs,



He encourages readers to develop their own core beliefs, shaped by experiences and resilience, to drive meaningful change in their organizations. Lochan's storytelling is thus more than an educational tool—it's an invitation to reflect on one's own leadership style and growth.

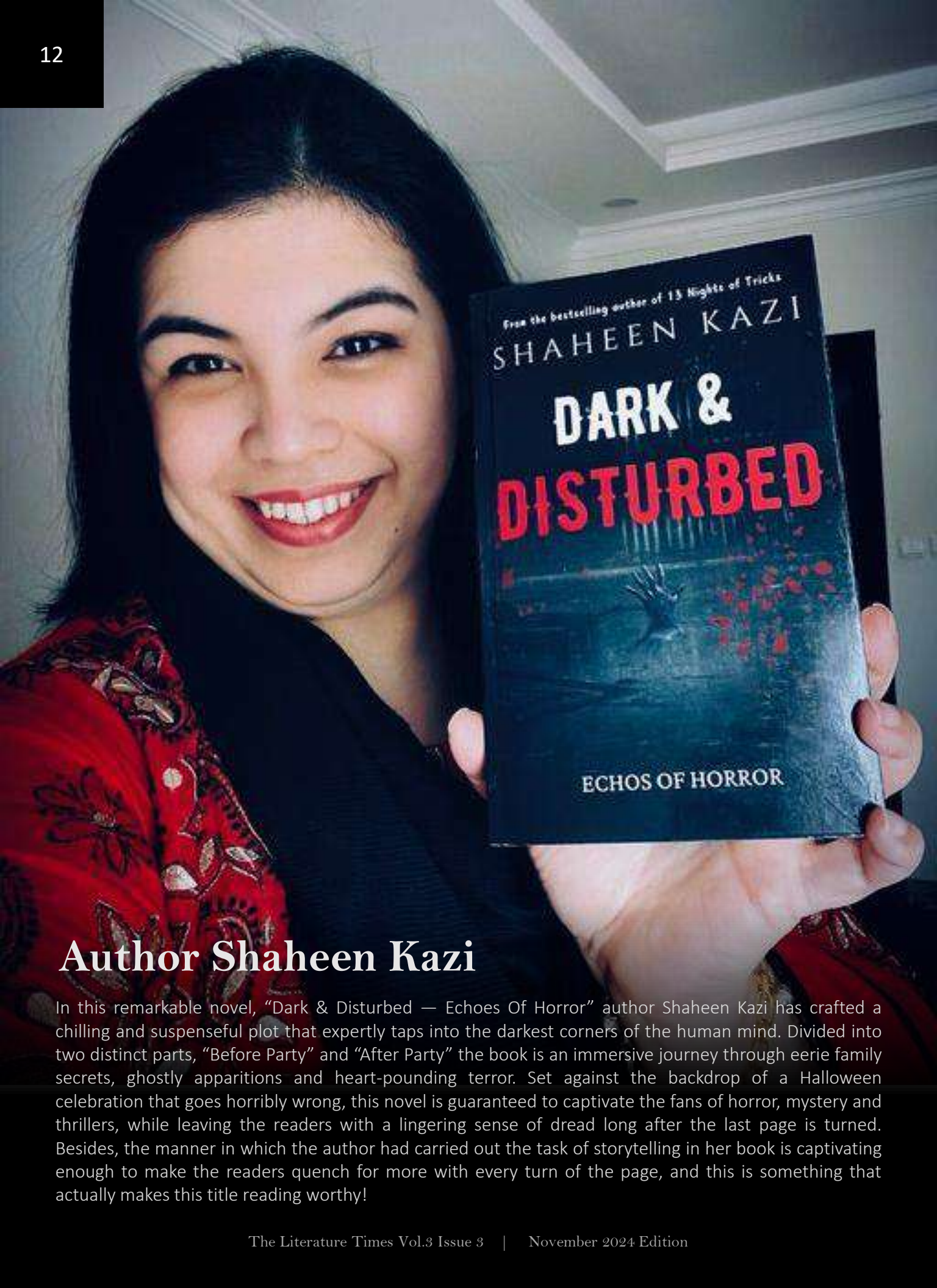
Part Two of the book shifts gears, offering a deep dive into practical strategies for managing and improving KPIs. While the first part focuses on the human elements behind performance, this section addresses the technical aspects in a structured and accessible way. Lochan outlines various methods for KPI Drill Down, measurement, benchmarking, and continuous improvement. He breaks down these concepts into digestible steps, making them approachable even for those new to the subject.

The section begins with the basics—how to select relevant KPIs, establish measurable goals, and ensure alignment with broader organizational objectives. Lochan emphasizes that KPIs are not static; they need to evolve with the business and reflect changing market dynamics. He provides actionable insights into how organizations can adjust their KPIs to remain agile and competitive.

<https://pankajlochan.com/>

One standout feature is the book's step-by-step approach to KPI Drill Down. Lochan simplifies this often complex process, helping readers understand how to break down large, overwhelming KPIs into manageable components. He also explains how to use benchmarking to compare performance against industry standards, providing a clear roadmap for organizations to gauge their progress.

Lochan further highlights the importance of continuous KPI improvement. Rather than viewing KPIs as a one-time exercise, he advocates for their ongoing refinement to drive operational excellence. The strategies he outlines are not just theoretical; they come from his years of experience in the field, making them highly practical and implementable. This section is a must-read for anyone involved in performance management, particularly in the manufacturing industry. The versatile toolkit offered in *The Master of Your KPIs* is applicable across various industries and organizations, making the book a valuable resource for a wide audience.



Author Shaheen Kazi

In this remarkable novel, “Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror” author Shaheen Kazi has crafted a chilling and suspenseful plot that expertly taps into the darkest corners of the human mind. Divided into two distinct parts, “Before Party” and “After Party” the book is an immersive journey through eerie family secrets, ghostly apparitions and heart-pounding terror. Set against the backdrop of a Halloween celebration that goes horribly wrong, this novel is guaranteed to captivate the fans of horror, mystery and thrillers, while leaving the readers with a lingering sense of dread long after the last page is turned. Besides, the manner in which the author had carried out the task of storytelling in her book is captivating enough to make the readers quench for more with every turn of the page, and this is something that actually makes this title reading worthy!

Book Review:

Dark & Disturbed Echoes Of Horror

by Author Shaheen Kazi

Author Shaheen Kazi is a versatile Indian writer renowned for her aptitude for writing multiple fictional books across various genres. Her compelling storytelling and creative flair have captivated the readers worldwide. Author Kazi's writing journey began in the year 2018; since then, she has consistently produced exceptional content. Her current projects are a testament to her unwavering passion for writing. To encounter the vivid imagination and heartfelt narratives of author Kazi, the readers can explore the various books published by her over the years. In addition, the fusion of diverse cultures, life experiences and narratives in author Kazi's writing enriches the literary world and her work has left an indelible impression on her readers.

Author Shaheen Kazi's books are recommend to anyone who seeks to have a rich and unforgettable reading experience. Her literary expertise and storytelling prowess are unparalleled and she promises to transport the readers to a new world. Well, this particular book, "Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror" is published by Evincepub Publishing and is released in the month of September 2024.

The story in this horror and suspenseful title, "Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror" centres around the Costa family, who gathered in the hauntingly atmospheric town of Pondicherry for a Halloween party. What begins as an innocent family get-together soon transforms into a nightmare, as heavy rain traps them indoors and dark family secrets start to unravel. As each family member takes their turns in sharing a tale during the stormy night, their stories begin to echo with the disturbing reality of their own hidden pasts. The unsettling tales, combined with an unexpected blackout, plunge the family into a psychological labyrinth where fear, guilt, and the supernatural intertwine.

In addition, the novel addresses the theme of guilt and the ways in which it can manifest as fear. Each member of the Costa family harbours some level of guilt, and their fears seem to stem from their inability to forgive themselves or confront their mistakes. As the night unfolds, this fear grows, eventually manifesting in terrifying and supernatural ways. Author Kazi's portrayal of this psychological torment adds a layer of depth to the horror, making it both a gripping mystery and a haunting exploration of human nature!

Coming to the Readers' Connect part, it becomes obligatory to mention that the book is written with an engaging tone, which indeed makes it a marvellous read. One of the standout aspects of this title, "Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror" is its masterful use of suspense. Author Kazi skilfully builds tension through the atmospheric descriptions such as the eerie silence of the Costa mansion's hallways, the creaking of unseen figures and the growing sense of paranoia within the family. The book takes its time in revealing its secrets, carefully stringing the readers along with subtle clues and unsettling moments that evoke a creeping sense of dread. The horror is not just in the supernatural elements but also in the psychological impact on the characters, as each family member confronts their own fears and past misdeeds.

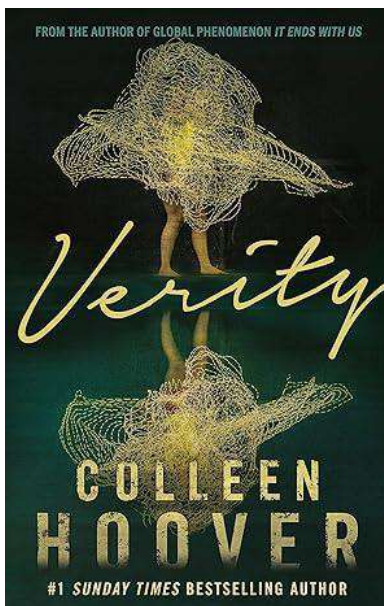
Now, upon reaching the final part of the review, i.e. the Book Verdict, we can conclude that a title like "Dark & Disturbed — Echoes Of Horror" is for sure a MUST READ one. The book deserves a chance by the readers as it is an outstanding addition to the horror genre, combining the eerie atmosphere of classic horror with the psychological complexity of a thriller. Author Shaheen Kazi has crafted a suspenseful and gripping tale that keeps readers on the edge of their seats from start to finish. The novel's exploration of fear, guilt and the supernatural makes it more than just a collection of scary stories..

Anne Hathaway to Star in Film Adaptation of Colleen Hoover's Thriller "Verity"

Anne Hathaway is set to headline the upcoming film adaptation of Colleen Hoover's best-selling novel *Verity*. Hathaway will portray the title character, Verity Crawford, a once-celebrated author who is left unable to complete her final thriller novel following a devastating car accident.



In an effort to finish the series, Verity's husband, Jeremy, hires a struggling writer, Lowen Ashleigh, with an offer of substantial financial compensation. However, as Lowen digs deeper into Verity's manuscripts, she uncovers disturbing secrets about Verity's past — forcing her to confront the possibility that Verity may be either a brilliant fiction writer or a dangerous psychopath. The roles of Jeremy and Lowen have yet to be cast.



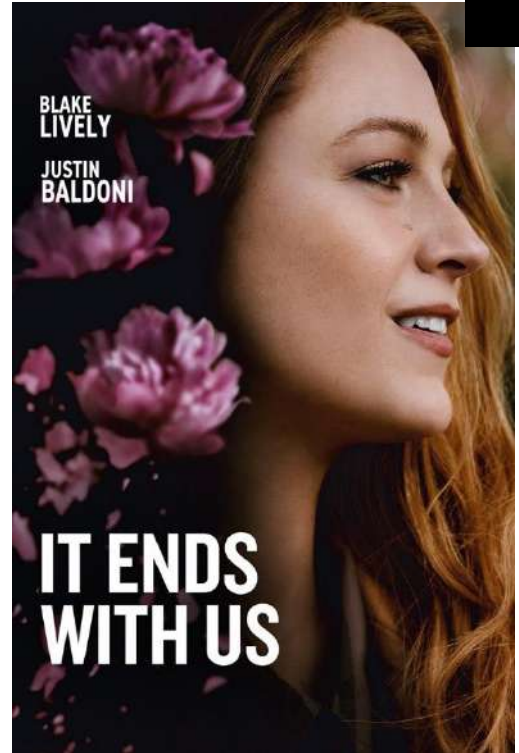
The *Verity* adaptation falls under Semi-Formal Productions' first-look deal with Amazon MGM and will be released theatrically.

Michael Showalter, who previously worked with Hathaway on the 2024 rom-com *The Idea of You*, will direct the film for Amazon MGM. The screenplay is written by Nick Antosca, following previous drafts by Hillary Seitz, Angela LaManna, and Will Honley & April Maguire. Showalter, Hathaway, and Hoover will produce the film under their respective banners, including Somewhere Pictures, Heartbones Entertainment, and Semi-Formal Productions. Additional producers include Antosca of Eat the Cat, Jordana Mollick of Semi-Formal, and Stacey Sher of Shiny Penny, with Lauren Levine of Heartbones serving as executive producer.

Originally self-published in 2018, *Verity* became an instant sensation, spending months on the New York Times best-seller list and surpassing 1 million copies sold in 2023 alone. The novel, described as a gothic, psychosexual thriller, draws comparisons to works like *Rebecca* and *Gone Girl*.

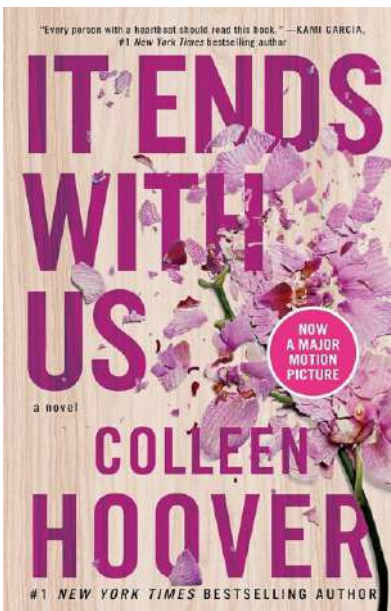
Exploring *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover: A Deep Dive into the Book and Its Movie Adaptation

It Ends With Us, a novel by Colleen Hoover, has captured the hearts of millions of readers with its emotional depth, raw honesty, and unforgettable characters. Since its release, the book has become a global bestseller and sparked conversations about love, relationships, and the cycles of abuse. Now, with the release of its film adaptation, the story has found a new home on the big screen, bringing to life the poignant tale of Lily Bloom, Ryle Kincaid, and Atlas Corrigan.



The Book: A Raw and Heart-Wrenching Love Story

First published in 2016, *It Ends With Us* marks a departure from Colleen Hoover's typical romantic fiction, delving into darker and more complex themes, including domestic violence, trauma, and self-worth. The novel centers on Lily Bloom, a young woman who has worked hard to escape her painful past and build a life for herself in Boston. While the story begins as a seemingly straightforward romance, it quickly evolves into a narrative that explores the complexities of love and the dangerous effects of unhealthy relationships.



In 2022, *It Ends With Us* was adapted into a film, starring Blake Lively as Lily Bloom and Justin Baldoni as Ryle Kincaid. The film is directed by Justin Baldoni, who also plays the role of Ryle, a neurosurgeon who becomes Lily's love interest. The movie, like the book, delves into the complexities of Lily's relationship with Ryle and her memories of her abusive father. *It Ends With Us* is a must-read (and now a must-see) for anyone seeking a story that not only delves into the intricacies of love and relationships but also speaks to the importance of self-worth, healing, and breaking free from the shadows of the past. It's a story that reminds us that, sometimes, the greatest act of love is choosing yourself.

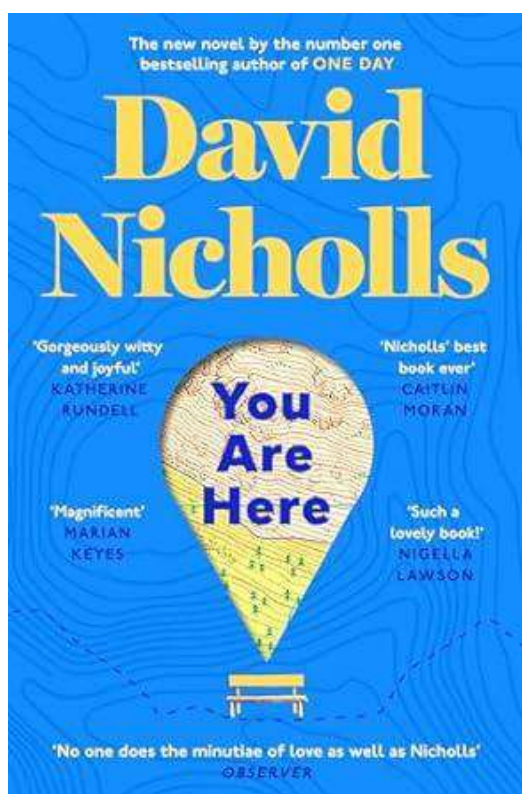


Amazon Books Announces *You Are Here* by David Nicholls as UK's Best Book of the Year 2024

Amazon Books has named *You Are Here* by David Nicholls as the **Best Book of the Year 2024** in the UK. The novel, published in April 2024, quickly became a bestseller and triumphed over a range of other outstanding titles. Other books shortlisted for the prestigious title included *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore, *Reckless* by Lauren Roberts, and non-fiction hits like *So Good* by Emily English.

You Are Here tells the heartwarming story of two divorced protagonists, Michael and Marnie, who cross paths while hiking on a long-distance walking trail. Bonded by their mutual friend, the two embark on a journey through the unpredictable British weather, navigating personal challenges and discovering new love and second chances along the way. The novel has struck a chord with readers, praised for its gentle exploration of relationships and the complexities of starting over.

David Nicholls expressed his excitement upon receiving the award: "What a thrill! I've read so many wonderful books in 2024, and for *You Are Here* to be chosen is a great delight. Huge thanks to all the readers who've followed Michael and Marnie's journey this year."



Jen Barrett, from Amazon Books UK, commented, "This novel won all of our hearts this year. You Are Here is a beautiful, gentle love story that explores relationships in a refreshingly authentic way. Nicholls is a master at creating characters that readers care deeply about, and his portrayal of slow-burn romance was universally adored by our team. It's just such a pleasure to read, and we recommend it to everyone."

This is the second time Amazon Books UK has announced a **Best Book of the Year** winner, and the shortlist is curated by the editorial team to reflect the books they loved most. The selection process considers several criteria, including customer reviews and Amazon Charts data, ensuring that reader feedback plays a key role in the decision-making process.

2024's shortlist showcased the diversity and excellence of the year's publishing landscape. Other notable books included *Reckless* by Lauren Roberts, which gained significant popularity on BookTok, and *There Are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak. In non-fiction, *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt was recognized, alongside YA title *The Reappearance of Rachel Price* by Holly Jackson.

In addition to the overall Best Book of the Year award, Amazon Books UK also highlighted the best in fiction, non-fiction, and young adult categories. The **Kindle Storyteller Award** for the best self-published book of the year was recently awarded to *Stateside* by JD Kirk. With *You Are Here* taking the top spot, 2024 proved to be a year of exceptional reading, and this award further cements David Nicholls' status as a beloved author.





Author Spotlight: Radhika Malhotra – Weaving Whimsy and Wonder into Every Story

In the vibrant tapestry of contemporary children's literature, Radhika Malhotra stands out as a beacon of creativity and heartfelt storytelling. Her latest work, "That's Why Dogs Fly," exemplifies her unique ability to blend whimsy with deep emotional resonance, creating tales that both enchant and touch the hearts of readers young and old.

A Journey Fueled by Imagination - Witty, inventive, quirky, and wonderfully whimsical, Radhika Malhotra is the imaginative force behind "That's Why Dogs Fly." Based in the bustling city of Mumbai, India, Radhika's global upbringing—spending her childhood in Dubai, Oman, and the United States—has richly informed her storytelling. This diverse cultural background allows her to weave multifaceted narratives that resonate across different audiences.



About "That's Why Dogs Fly"

"That's Why Dogs Fly" is a whimsical and heartwarming goodbye book that chronicles the adventures of a charming and witty girl and her fluffy white pup. Together, they embark on countless adventures, sharing moments of pure joy and unwavering friendship. The story gracefully navigates the bittersweet journey of farewell, leaving readers with hearts full of warmth and sweetness.

From Silver Screen to Storybook Magic - Before delving into the world of children's literature, Radhika carved a niche for herself as a talented film writer. Her impressive portfolio

includes numerous award-winning films, each a testament to her mastery of various storytelling techniques. Her work in cinema has honed her ability to create compelling narratives, a skill she seamlessly transitions into her written stories for children.

A Love for Books and the Spark of Inspiration - Radhika's passion for books ignited early in her life, fostering a steadfast dedication to keeping the flame of imagination alive. Her children's stories are a gateway to enchanting universes filled with dragons, pixies, elves, and fairies—creatures that ignite the imagination and encourage young minds to explore beyond the ordinary.

The inspiration for "That's Why Dogs Fly" came during a profoundly personal time—the passing of her beloved dog, Presley. Presley wasn't just a pet; he was a globe-trotting companion who inspired the magical elements of her latest book. This heartfelt tribute encapsulates Radhika's ability to blend personal experiences with fantastical storytelling, resulting in narratives that are both magical and deeply moving.

Key Highlights:

Enchanting Storyline: Captivates readers with its whimsical and magical narrative.

Emotional Resonance: Leaves a lasting impression, evoking feelings of warmth and nostalgia.

Themes of Friendship and Love: Anchors the story, providing depth and relatability.

Delightful Reading Experience: Engages readers, keeping them eager to discover what happens next.



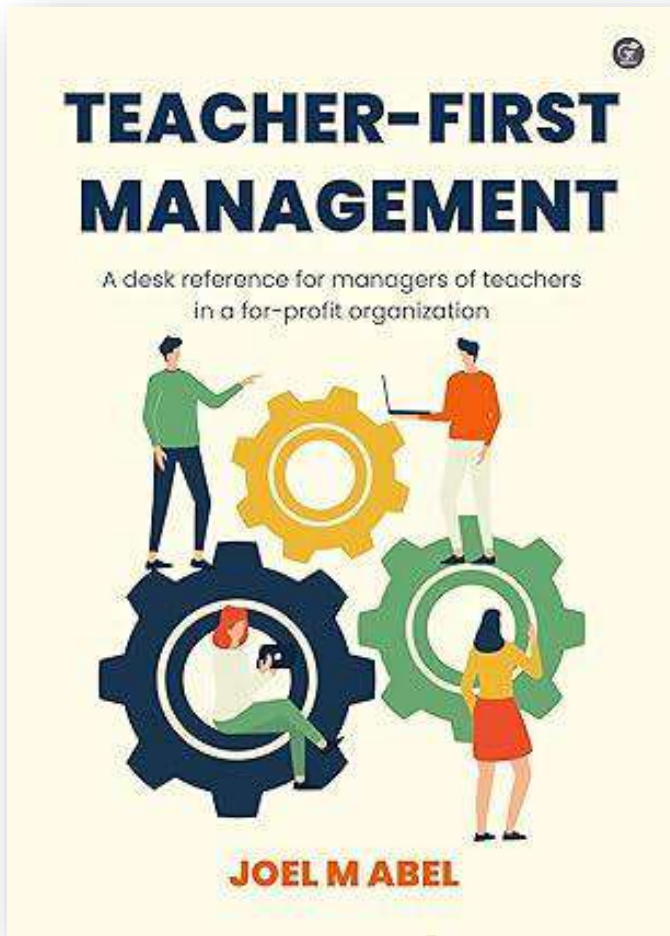
<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6182111/>



[radhikatmalhotra](https://www.instagram.com/radhikatmalhotra)

Book Review Teacher-First Management

by Joel M. Abel



“Teacher-First Management: A Desk Reference for Managers of Teachers in a For-Profit Organization” by Joel M. Abel offers an insightful exploration of the unique challenges faced by those managing educators within the for-profit education sector. With a career spanning over 17 years and experience across three continents, Abel draws on his extensive background to provide a pragmatic guide aimed at helping new managers transition successfully into their roles.

The book opens with a clear acknowledgment of the common misconception that effective teachers automatically make effective managers. Abel delves into the intricacies of management, emphasizing the distinct skill sets required for each role. This recognition sets the stage for a critical discussion about the demands placed on new managers—administrative tasks, human resources challenges, interdepartmental coordination, and the often daunting need for tough conversations. Abel’s depiction of these challenges is not just theoretical; he provides real-world examples that highlight the potential pitfalls of poorly managed educational environments, which can ultimately hinder the success of both teachers and students.

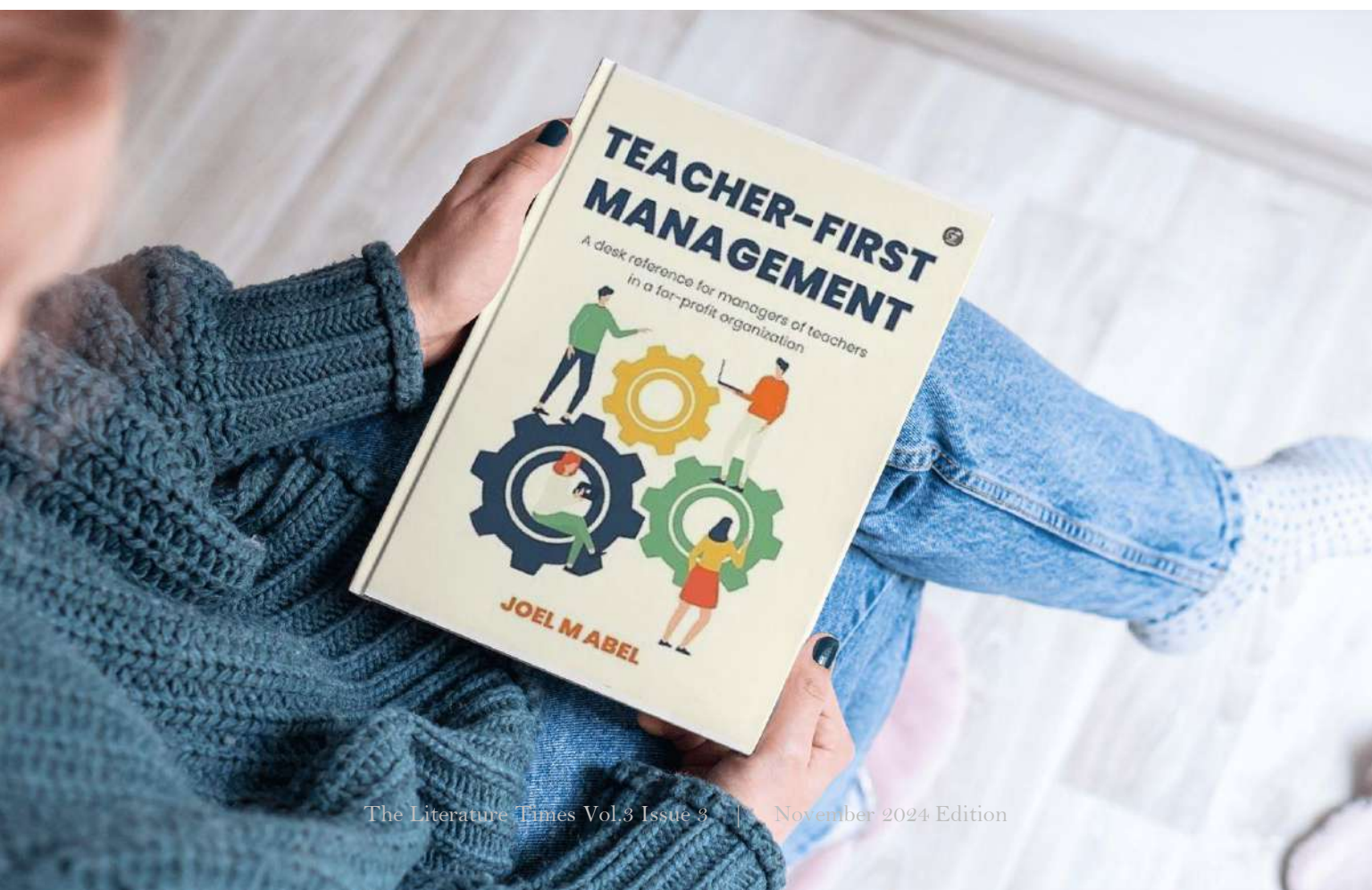
What distinguishes this work is its practical orientation. Abel doesn’t merely outline problems; he offers actionable strategies for building strong academic departments and fostering effective teams. Each chapter is filled with insights that are applicable to everyday management scenarios.

From establishing supportive cultures to prioritizing teacher needs, the book serves as reference, making it easy for busy managers to find relevant information. Abel's writing is clear and engaging, making complex concepts accessible, and his extensive use of anecdotes keeps the reader invested in the narrative. One of the standout features of "Teacher-First Management" is its emphasis on creating a teacher-centric organization. Abel argues convincingly that the success of for-profit educational companies hinges on the well-being and effectiveness of their educators. He provides frameworks for managers to better support their teams, thereby enhancing overall organizational health. This focus on collaboration and communication is crucial in fostering an environment where teachers can thrive, ultimately benefiting the students they serve.

The book also addresses the cultural nuances involved in managing educators from diverse backgrounds, reflecting Abel's international experience. He underscores the importance of cultural competence in leadership, a theme that resonates throughout the text. By acknowledging and addressing the varied experiences of teachers, managers can create more inclusive and effective environments.

While the book is primarily aimed at new managers, it also offers valuable insights for experienced leaders. The strategies outlined are not only relevant for those stepping into management roles but can also serve as a refresher for seasoned professionals looking to reassess their approaches. Abel's perspective is particularly timely, given the increasing emphasis on accountability and outcomes in the education sector.

In conclusion, "Teacher-First Management" is a vital resource for anyone involved in managing teachers within for-profit educational organizations. Joel M. Abel combines his wealth of experience with a genuine passion for education to create a guide that is both practical and inspiring. The book's focus on fostering supportive environments for teachers is a critical reminder that when educators succeed, so too do their students. This desk reference is not just a manual for management; it is a call to action for organizations to prioritize their most valuable asset: the teachers.





The Rise of Multiverse Fiction: Exploring Parallel Realities in Literature and Media

In recent years, the multiverse—a concept that suggests the existence of multiple, parallel universes, each with its own set of rules, realities, and histories—has emerged as a central theme in a wide array of fictional works. While the idea of parallel worlds and alternate realities has existed for centuries, its exploration in contemporary literature, film, and television has exploded, creating a captivating new wave of storytelling. The rise of multiverse fiction is not just a trend in science fiction and fantasy; it has permeated mainstream culture, reflecting both our fascination with the infinite possibilities of existence and our desire to explore identity, fate, and choice.

The concept of the multiverse has its roots in both science and philosophy. Ancient and medieval thinkers proposed models of multiple worlds, but the modern version of the multiverse began to take shape in the 20th century. In the realm of physics, the multiverse hypothesis emerged from theories in quantum mechanics and cosmology, notably in the works of physicists like Hugh Everett, who proposed the "many-worlds" interpretation of quantum mechanics in the 1950s. According to this theory, every decision or event in the universe spawns a new, parallel universe, leading to an infinite number of alternate realities.

In fiction, the multiverse began to gain traction in the early 20th century, with writers like H.G. Wells and Jorge Luis Borges introducing the idea of parallel worlds. In Borges' short stories, such as *The Garden of Forking Paths* (1941), the concept of branching realities where different outcomes exist simultaneously was explored. However, it wasn't until the late 20th and early 21st centuries that the multiverse concept began to explode in popularity, particularly with the rise of comic books, science fiction, and fantasy.



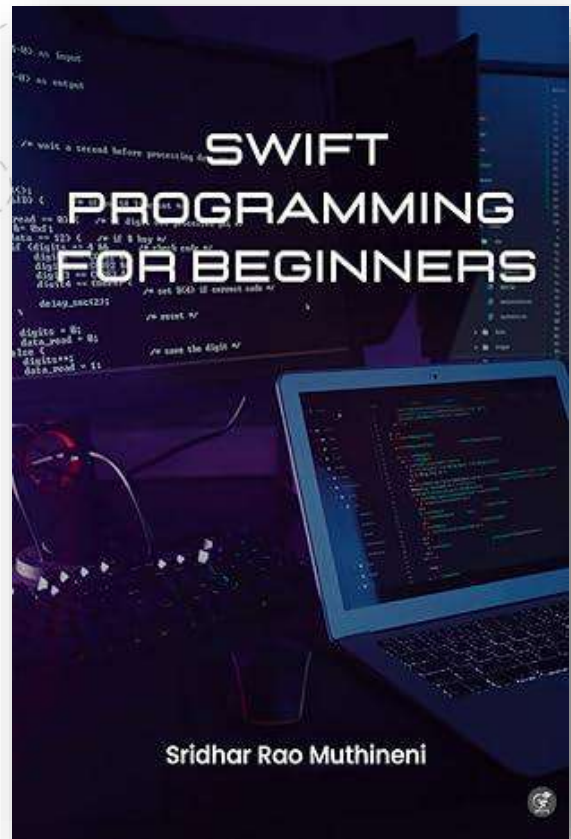
Multiverse Fiction in Comic Books

The multiverse concept has been central to comic book storytelling for decades, particularly in the DC and Marvel universes. In the 1960s, Marvel Comics began to introduce multiple dimensions and alternate realities as part of its storytelling framework, with stories like *The Fantastic Four* and *The Amazing Spider-Man* exploring alternate versions of their main characters. However, it was the DC Comics event *Crisis on Infinite Earths* (1985) that solidified the multiverse as a central narrative device in comic books. The storyline involved the destruction of multiple universes and the merging of timelines, offering readers an unprecedented exploration of parallel worlds and infinite versions of beloved heroes.

The Multiverse in Modern Literature

While the multiverse has long been a staple of science fiction and comic books, its influence has expanded into mainstream literature in recent years. Authors from diverse genres have embraced the idea of parallel universes to explore themes of choice, identity, and the consequences of alternative paths in life. Even in literary fiction, the multiverse has found a home. In *The Midnight Library* (2020) by Matt Haig, the protagonist Nora Seed finds herself in a library that allows her to explore the infinite number of lives she could have led. Each book in the library represents a different version of her life, and as she examines them, she confronts her regrets and the choices that led her to the present.





Book Review: cby Sridhar Rao Muthineni

Overview

Swift Programming for Beginners is a comprehensive resource for anyone looking to dive into the world of iOS app development using Swift, Apple's powerful and intuitive programming language. Authored by Sridhar Rao Muthineni, a seasoned mobile leader with over 18 years of industry experience, this book serves as a practical guide for beginners and aspiring developers.

Content and Structure

The book is meticulously structured to lead readers from foundational concepts to more complex topics seamlessly. It begins with the essential steps of setting up the development environment, ensuring that readers have the necessary tools before diving into the coding aspect. This foundational section is particularly beneficial for absolute beginners who may feel overwhelmed by the technical setup. As the chapters progress, Muthineni introduces core programming concepts such as variables, data types, and control flow. Each topic is accompanied by clear explanations, practical examples, and coding exercises that reinforce learning. The author employs a hands-on approach, encouraging readers to code along, which is critical for solidifying understanding in programming. One of the standout features of this book is its comprehensive treatment of user interface design. Muthineni effectively covers UIKit and SwiftUI, allowing readers to choose the framework that best fits their project needs. The book emphasizes the importance of creating intuitive and user-friendly interfaces, which is essential in today's competitive app market.

Networking and data management are also covered in detail. Muthineni explains how to handle APIs, manage data, and implement persistent storage, providing real-world examples that developers are likely to encounter. This practical focus helps demystify some of the more complex aspects of app development.

In addition to the fundamental topics, the author delves into advanced areas such as concurrency and security. These chapters provide insights into how to build responsive apps that can handle multiple tasks simultaneously and protect user data, which are critical considerations in modern app development.

Writing Style and Accessibility

Sridhar Muthineni's writing style is engaging and approachable. He explains technical jargon in layman's terms, making the content accessible even to those without prior programming experience. Each chapter builds logically on the previous one, and the inclusion of summaries and review questions at the end of each chapter reinforces key concepts. The book is peppered with practical coding challenges and projects, allowing readers to apply what they've learned. This interactive approach not only keeps the content engaging but also encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for any aspiring developer.

Author's Expertise

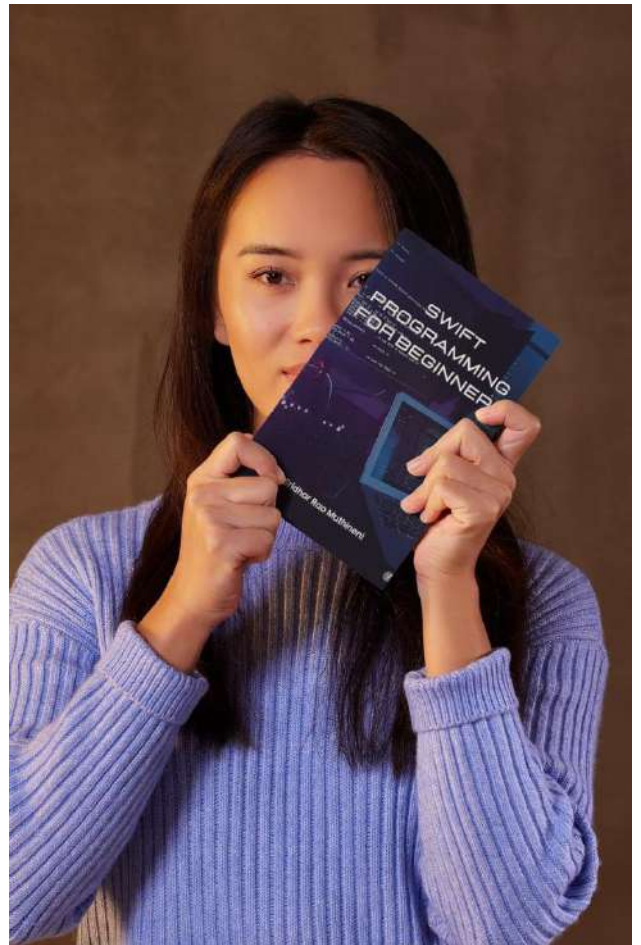
Sridhar Muthineni's extensive experience in mobile app development lends credibility to the book. His background in various sectors, including healthcare and enterprise, informs the practical examples and case studies throughout the text. Readers can trust that they are learning from someone who understands the complexities of real-world software development.

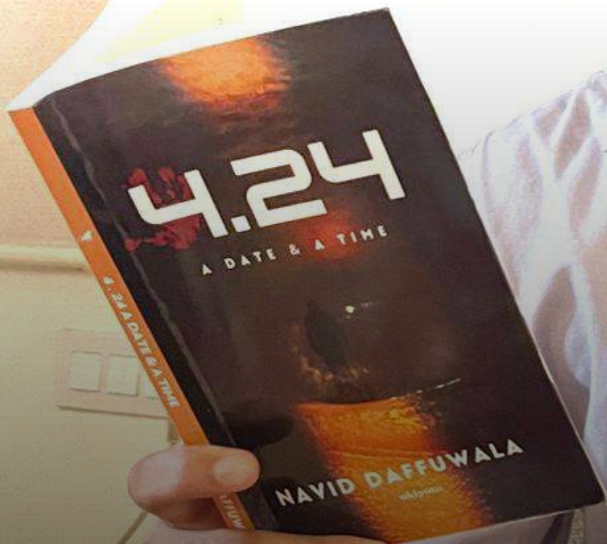
Muthineni also emphasizes best practices, such as clean coding techniques and agile methodologies, which are invaluable for beginners aiming to build a solid foundation for their coding career. His insights into collaboration and team dynamics can also help aspiring developers understand the importance of working effectively in a team environment.

Conclusion

Swift Programming for Beginners is an invaluable resource for anyone looking to embark on a journey into iOS app development. With its clear explanations, practical exercises, and comprehensive coverage of both fundamental and advanced topics, this book equips readers with the skills needed to create functional and engaging apps.

Sridhar Rao Muthineni's expertise shines through, making this guide not only informative but also inspiring. Whether you are a complete novice or someone with some coding experience looking to pivot to Swift, this book is a worthy addition to your learning toolkit. Overall, it is a well-rounded guide that balances theory and practice, setting the stage for a successful career in iOS development.



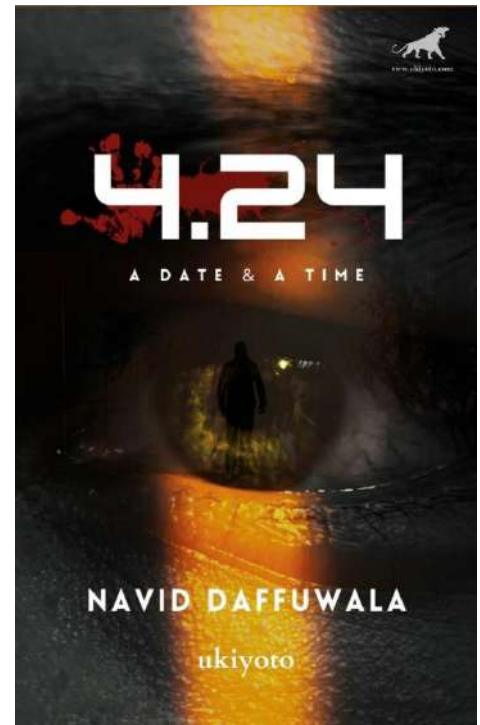


Featuring the Author
Author Navid Daffuwala

| BOOK REVIEW

4.24 – A Date & A Time by Navid Daffuwala is a captivating thriller that delves into the complexities of justice, vengeance, and morality in the urban sprawl of Delhi. From the very first page, the novel immerses readers in a dark and gripping narrative, painting a vivid picture of a city overwhelmed by corruption and violence. With its mix of suspense, mystery, and moral ambiguity, the story explores the fine line between right and wrong, and the often-blurred boundaries between justice and revenge.

The novel introduces Manoj Khare, a resolute and determined police officer who is faced with an escalating wave of violent crimes in Delhi. As the city grapples with rising drug trafficking, an alarming increase in sexual assault cases, and other criminal activities, Manoj's investigation takes a new turn with a series of murders targeting prominent businessmen. The peculiar aspect of these killings is that they are highly calculated, with no clear motive or suspects. As the bodies pile up, a shadowy figure begins to emerge — a vigilante who seems to be taking matters into his own hands, righting perceived wrongs against innocent girls.



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In parallel, we meet Anaya Kadri, a forensic doctor whose expertise becomes crucial in the investigation. Anaya's role in unraveling the mystery behind the murders adds an intellectual and methodical dimension to the narrative. Through her detailed post-mortem reports, disturbing revelations start to emerge, hinting at a deeper, more sinister pattern behind the killings. The fact that the victims are wealthy businessmen with no apparent ties to one another creates a chilling sense of uncertainty. As Anaya and Manoj begin to piece together the evidence, it becomes evident that the vigilante may be targeting individuals connected to the abuse or exploitation of women — but who is this mysterious figure, and what drives his brutal acts?

In **4.24 – A Date & A Time**, Daffuwala has crafted a powerful, immersive story that hooks readers from the start and never lets go. The novel's strength lies not just in its suspenseful plot but in its exploration of the moral complexities faced by its characters.



New Delhi नई दिल्ली
World Book Fair | विश्व पुस्तक मेला

1-9 February 2025 | Hall No. 2-6, Bharat Mandapam

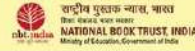
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Visit the World's Largest B2C Book Fair



Organiser



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New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 A Grand Celebration of Literature and Learning

The New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2025 is set to take place from **1st to 9th February 2025**, at the newly constructed **Halls 2-6 (Ground Floor)** of **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi. Organized by the **National Book Trust, India (NBT)** under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, this premier event promises to be a celebration of books, authors, publishers, and the literary community as a whole. The fair serves as a vibrant platform for authors, readers, publishers, editors, and literary enthusiasts to connect, interact, and immerse themselves in the world of literature. It's a festival of ideas, creativity, and inspiration, where attendees can celebrate their love for books and engage with the people who bring those books to life.

A Storied Tradition of Literary Excellence

The New Delhi World Book Fair, one of the most significant literary events in India, has a long tradition of bringing together diverse voices and stories. It is a melting pot for authors, publishers, educators, literary agents, and readers from all over the world. Every year, it draws large crowds eager to witness the latest releases, discover new writers, and celebrate the written word.

The 2025 edition of the NDWBF is expected to be an even grander affair, with an anticipated **footfall of over 15 lakh readers** from different walks of life. Whether you're an avid reader looking for your next favorite book, an author eager to interact with fans, or a publisher hoping to showcase your work to the world, this event provides a platform for all. The book fair also serves as an essential space for networking, idea-sharing, and business development in the literary world.



A Celebration of Books and Authors

At the heart of the New Delhi World Book Fair is the celebration of books and their creators. Authors from across the globe will gather at the fair to discuss their works, participate in book launches, and engage in live interactions with fans. Readers will have the opportunity to meet their favorite writers, ask questions about their books, and gain insights into their creative processes. For many, it is a chance to engage with the authors whose works have deeply impacted their lives.

An Extensive Range of Exhibits

The NDWBF 2025 will host hundreds of exhibitors, including well-known and emerging publishers, literary agents, and bookstores. The sprawling exhibition space at Bharat Mandapam's **Halls 2-6** will showcase the latest in fiction, non-fiction, academic books, children's literature, graphic novels, and more. Whether you are searching for classic literature or contemporary bestsellers, the fair will have something for everyone.

Attendees will have the opportunity to browse through a wide variety of books across different genres, and even purchase signed copies from their favorite authors. Book lovers will be able to explore unique titles and gain access to exclusive discounts, special offers, and pre-release copies of upcoming books.

International Participation

One of the standout features of the NDWBF is its international presence. The fair regularly hosts participants from across the globe, making it a truly global event. Publishers, writers, and literary professionals from countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, and more will attend the 2025 edition. This global interaction fosters cultural exchange, allowing visitors to explore literature from different regions and understand global perspectives.

The event is also an excellent platform for international publishers to make inroads into the Indian market, while Indian authors and publishers can engage with audiences from abroad. The fair will offer **international pavilions** where visitors can discover foreign books, meet international authors, and explore global literary trends.

Pomes by Ameet Unnithan

Ameet Unnithan, a 38-year-old finance professional and amateur poet, lives and works in Dubai, UAE. His writing journey began during his high school and college years in Kerala, India, after completing his early education in Dubai. Inspired by the serene landscapes of Kerala, Ameet's inquisitive nature fueled the creation of his initial writings.

His works explore a wide range of topics, delving into the complexities of the human experience across varying settings of life. Currently, Ameet is seeking avenues to share his poems while working towards publishing his first anthology soon.



Autumn passing

Whispers and memories
hued, scarlet and ginger
of passion, of agonies,
etched forever to linger
within the crispy confines
of autumn's omen,
those gliding shrines
yellow and crimson.

Wild withering woodland's woe,
recollections, once fondly held
as reluctant relinquish, now let go,
falling away, those souvenirs shrivelled,
below, into a labyrinth's consoling repress,
woven, of a thousand crumbles sprawl,
into the trailing tangerine tress
of a silently departing fall.

The Stone

I threw
a jagged stone,
into the heart of
a dreaming lake.
But neither the
stone cracked nor
the lake shattered.

One sank,
in realization
and the other,
rippled gracefully
in acceptance.
As the stone
found new depths
within the lake,
I walked back
silently.

Parch

Still holding on tight,
to her cracked clay pot
she stood lost
in some disturbing thought
swaying, as she felt
the sting of pulsing heat
rising from the scorched earth
beneath her naked feet.
She peered, once again
into that deep hollow shell
the darkness was cool
within that empty well.

INTERVIEW |

The Literature Times: How do the landscapes of Kerala and the urban environment of Dubai influence your poetry?

Ameet Unnithan: Both Dubai and Kerala represent contrasting cultural and lifestyle touchstones in my life. Dubai, with its urban landscape, is teeming with untold stories. The city is a melting pot of immigrants from all over the world, interacting with people from diverse cultural and geographical backgrounds has greatly expanded my perspective and deepened my understanding of life.

In contrast, Kerala serves as my comfort zone, where the natural beauty plays a crucial role in nurturing my creativity. I have always found it easier to put my thoughts into words when I am in Kerala, as its serene environment provides the perfect backdrop for reflection and writing.

The Literature Times: What sparked your interest in writing poetry during your school years?

Ameet Unnithan: During my high school years, I began exploring the works of Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling, Douglas Malloch, and other classical poets. I was captivated by how these literary figures skillfully embedded profound messages and philosophies into their writing, demonstrating the power of concise, carefully chosen words. This fascination led me to start keeping a diary to record and reflect on my own thoughts and subsequently into the writing poems.

The Literature Times: How does your career in finance impact your creative writing process?

Ameet Unnithan: The analytical nature of finance brings a sense of discipline to my creative process. Writing, much like my work in finance, requires patience, dedication, and constant revision. The idea of taking something rough and refining it to perfection is a process common to both realms.

Yet, there's definitely creative freedom in poetry that is the antithesis of finance's structured world. Writing allows me to break free from all constraints and embrace emotion and imagination, offering a release from the precision and logic of my professional life. This duality—of structure and freedom, of analysis and creativity—forms the basis of my writing process, enriching both my work as a finance professional and my poetry.

The Literature Times: Can you share a poem or theme that reflects a key moment of personal growth?

Ameet Unnithan: Way

*The faint trails
I find,
of mighty Tuskers,
who have walked
before me,
is the only solace
I keep,
on this arduous path
I endure.*

I had penned the above poem during a particularly difficult phase in my life, I have revisited this poem time and again, as it reminds me to take a broader look at the adversities we face in life and keep unconditional faith that the situation will change for the better. The poem highlights the universal nature of adversities and the timeless persistence of human spirit in having overcome them and succeeded.

The Literature Times: What role does nature play in your poetry?

Ameet Unnithan: Nature, is a powerful catalyst, helping to evoke the right mood or create an apt setting for a poem's essence or message to unfold. It is this aspect that often draws my poems to include natural elements.

"Parch" and "Autumn Passing" are examples where natural elements are interwoven with the idea and picturization. In 'Autumn Passing', parallels are drawn between the passing of memories and the falling of leaves in Autumn, whereas in 'Parch', the natural setting serves to set the mood and tone of the poem.

The Literature Times: What has been the most challenging part of preparing your first anthology for publication?

Ameet Unnithan: The most challenging part has been in selecting poems, as a poet, it becomes a test to filter poems that best reflect my style and message. There are poems that are emotionally charged and others that are inspired and hold a message, the overall tone and mood must be well balanced and not polarize the readers. The assortment must appeal to a diverse reader base.

The Literature Times: Do you write poetry for personal expression, or do you aim to address universal themes that resonate with others?

Ameet Unnithan: In my view, while a general theme may be identified, each poem is experienced and interpreted uniquely by every reader. My poems are also personal expressions of universal themes, yet I strive to craft them in a way that is layered, allowing readers the freedom to interpret them in their own way. I believe in an approach which invites individuals to draw their own conclusions and find their own connections, making each reading experience distinct and personal.

Living and working in the dynamic city of Dubai, UAE, Ameet has cultivated a life that balances the rigors of his corporate profession with his passion for writing. His journey as a poet began during his high school and college years in Kerala, India, where he completed his education after spending his early childhood in Dubai. This unique duality between the serene landscapes of Kerala and the fast-paced, multicultural vibrancy of Dubai has profoundly influenced his creative voice.

For Ameet, Dubai represents a treasure trove of stories, with its urban skyline serving as a backdrop to the lives of a diverse population. Interacting with people from myriad cultural, ethnic, and geographical backgrounds has enriched his worldview, providing an endless stream of inspiration. At the same time, Kerala, with its lush greenery, tranquil backwaters, and slower pace of life, remains his personal sanctuary—a place where introspection flourishes and creativity finds its purest form. The contrasting rhythms of these two places fuel his poetry, which oscillates between the bustle of modernity and the solace of nature.

Ameet's poetry explores the complexities of the human experience, delving into themes such as love, loss, identity, and self-discovery. His works are deeply personal yet universal, crafted with layers that encourage readers to interpret and connect with them in their own unique ways. He believes that poetry is a mirror, reflecting both the writer's and the reader's perspectives, and strives to create works that resonate with individuals on a deeply personal level. Currently, Ameet is channeling his creative energy toward the publication of his first anthology, a milestone that reflects years of dedication to the art form. Alongside this endeavor, he is actively seeking avenues to share his poems with a broader audience, hoping to leave a lasting impression in the literary world. For Ameet, poetry is not merely a form of self-expression but a bridge to connect with others, fostering a shared understanding of the universal threads that bind humanity.



Author Ramya

Prof. Ramya, Author and Tribal Researcher is presently doing Doctoral Research in Tribal literature. She is researching tribal life and culture in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and others . She extends her research area on hidden social issues in India. She focuses on empowering the education and sustainable livelihood on tribes in Tamil Nadu. She has done various research articles on tribes and her works have been featured in Outlook India, Indian Express, Pioneer, Mathrubhumi, Navjeevan, Ground Report and others. She has also written the books titled Voice of India and The Outlook. Her poems have been published in various reputed magazines like The Literary Mirror, Today Magazine and beyond.

Breast tax (Mulakkaram)

*As a Ezhava girl from Travancore
prohibited from covering breast*

*Forced to be bare chested
To worship the higher-class men*

*Free the nipple, equality movement of today
But suppression,
once that was freed*

*Breast is not just a flesh
The feeling, the feminine and the beyond*

*Tax imposed from the next day of puberty
Size, measured by the bare hands of man*

*The curve of my bare and perky breast filled his palm,
Arched into the touch.*

Breast, the trio of sex, science and spirituality

*Hide to be sought
Mystery to be found
Flesh to be felt*

*Patriarchy compels to uncover the breast of me
(Nangeli)*

*Based on, the sexualization of woman appeals
If it's nonconsensual.
Otherwise, it's sluttiness.....*

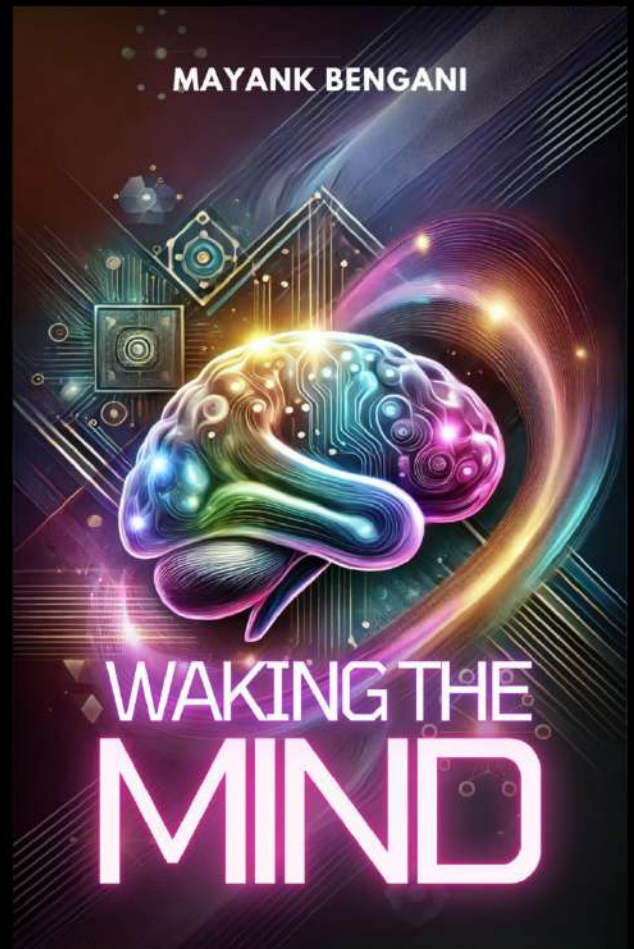
*Breast, not a thing to make you feel like a man
Women, more than just breast*

*To end up the tax
Nothing wrong to be like St.Agatha
With breastless*

| BOOK REVIEW |

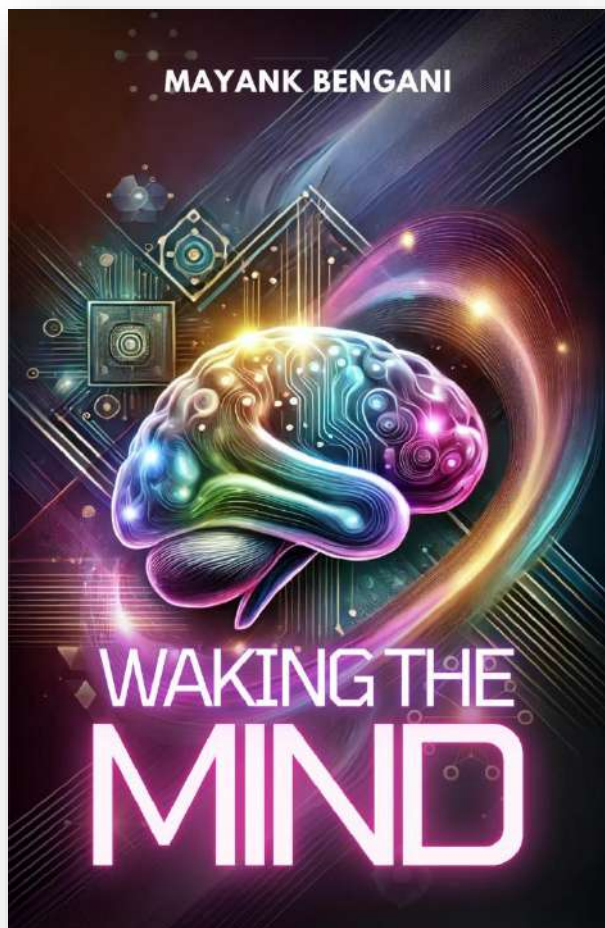
Waking the Mind by Mayank Bengani

Waking the Mind by Mayank Bengani offers a compelling exploration of artificial intelligence (AI) and its deep connection to the human mind. In a world where AI is rapidly becoming a central force in various industries, Bengani provides a thoughtful examination of how this technology mirrors, complements, and occasionally challenges human thought, creativity, and decision-making. The book takes readers on a journey through the fundamentals of AI, from its historical roots to its present-day impact, all while making complex concepts accessible and engaging for a wide audience. Bengani skillfully balances technical explanations with clear, easy-to-understand language, ensuring that both newcomers and those with a background in technology can grasp the essence of AI.



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One of the key strengths of *Waking the Mind* is its ability to connect AI to the broader context of human intelligence. Bengani goes beyond simply explaining the mechanics of neural networks and machine learning; he delves into the philosophical and societal implications of these technologies. By exploring how AI mimics human cognition, the book raises intriguing questions about the nature of intelligence, creativity, and even free will. The author does not shy away from addressing the potential challenges posed by AI, such as ethical dilemmas and the impact on human decision-making, while also highlighting the ways in which AI could be harnessed to solve global problems and drive innovation.

The book is not only an exploration of AI's capabilities but also a reflection on its transformative role in society. Bengani's writing is infused with a deep commitment to understanding how technology intersects with human welfare. His focus on the future of AI is particularly engaging, as he discusses the potential for a harmonious coexistence between humans and intelligent systems. This forward-looking perspective encourages readers to think critically about how we will navigate the increasingly complex relationship between humans and machines in the years to come.

Throughout *Waking the Mind*, Bengani keeps the content visually engaging with captivating visuals and diagrams that break down complex concepts. These visuals help to bridge the gap between theory and practice, providing readers with a more comprehensive understanding of how AI works. Moreover, his ability to make the subject matter accessible without oversimplifying it is a testament to his skill as both a writer and an educator.

In summary, *Waking the Mind* is a highly engaging and insightful book that offers a thorough introduction to the world of artificial intelligence. Mayank Bengani succeeds in making a complex subject both understandable and thought-provoking, while also reflecting on the broader implications of AI for society. Whether you're a tech enthusiast or simply curious about the future of technology, this book provides a valuable perspective on the evolving relationship between humans and machines.



"Be alive," the voice whispered by Author

Vipul Vashishth

Author's bio - Vipul Vashishth is a passionate author known for exploring themes of self-discovery, human emotions, and inner transformation. His poetic works, including *Waiting*, *Silence*, and *If Truth Be Told*, beautifully capture the depth of human experience. Vipul has also penned several captivating stories, such as *Are We Human Beings?*, *A Letter to Winter*, and *The Abandoned Building*. Through his writing, he seeks to inspire introspection and connect with readers on a profound level.

"Be alive," the voice whispered

"Where are my pants? I can't seem to find them!" my father bellowed from his room, his tone sharp and impatient. When he can't find his things, he becomes hells on wheels, turning the entire house into a battlefield.

Another voice emanated from the kitchen: "Some milk spilled in the fridge, and I am not the house assistant of this place, Pay me if you want!" my sister said furiously. Her voice was sharper than the clang of utensils she seemed to be attacking. Mornings made her as cranky as a bear with a sore head.

"Darn it! No water in the tank! Turn on the motor," my brother yelled while defecating in the lavatory.

The house is infallibly obstreperous in the morning. Everyone is yelling at each other for being disorganized. This is how mornings in my house always begin: a symphony of chaos.

Here I was, sitting in a cozy room, detached, paying undivided attention to my breathing as it went in and out. Cutting off all the noise and preventing inconsequential thoughts from inhabiting my mind, I kept breathing in and out. I sat cross-legged, trying to tether my wandering brain. My mind, however, seemed more obstinate. It kept wandering to other places.

As my meditation teacher said: "Your mind will wander. Bring it back," my meditation teacher's voice echoed in my memory. I did as instructed. I received a slight mental repose, but the relief was ephemeral. It disappeared in a puff of smoke just as my sister entered the room with a mop holder.

"How long will I have to bear this?" my sister said, tears in her eyes. The whisper returned, louder now "Be alive." I ignored it.

A pall of gloom descended in the room. Her eyes expressed sorrow and anger. Dunking the mop in a soapy bucket of water, she continued, "Papa can't face people because his daughter hasn't got married yet. People beyond 30 are considered long in the tooth. Beyond Thirty and unmarried—that's the death sentence in the society."

I kept doing my pranayama, focusing on my breath, but at the same time, I communicated with her through nodding to convey the fact that I was listening to her—which I wasn't.

The voice insisted, "Be alive." "Shut the fuck up!" I shouted

My words cut her to the quick. She stood up and stormed out of the room in a huff. The voice lingered, looking at me and said, "Be alive."

"Eff off," I snapped. The voice vanished.

The voice had been my constant companion, following me ever since I began meditating, yet it remained invisible to others. It never ceased to follow me. Whether I was at work, eating my favorite meal at home, or making plans with my pals about how we'd spend our Sunday, it was always there. My friends often found me lost in thought during our inconsequential talk, and whenever I was with my family or my friends, the voice would invariably say one thing: "Be alive."

I was running late for work. I hurriedly got ready and left. At the bus stop, I waited for the bus. When the bus finally arrived, not only I but also the voice boarded it.

On the bus, I overheard a couple of passengers sharing their woes, bearing their hearts to one another. Students were talking about their exams in a regional language. I couldn't understand them, though one of them sounded a bit disconsolate to me.

To my astonishment, the others were laughing despite their terrible performance in the exams. The

voice leaned towards my ear and whispered, “Be alive.”

“Bugger off!” I shouted.

The passenger sitting next to me jumped, startled. “What’s wrong with you, man?” he said, visibly irritated. His cigarette had fallen from his hand in shock. He had unkempt hair and looked as if he hadn’t eaten in ages. He stood up, opting to stand rather than sit next to me.

Everyone on the bus turned to look at me, their gaze filled with a mix of confusion and concern. One of the passengers was staring at me as if I were mentally deranged. Embarrassed, I hastily put in my earphones to listen to some music—after all, music is supposed to help us unwind.

I played Ain’t It Funny by Jennifer Lopez. The music went:

*(“It seemed to be the perfect thing for you and me It’s so
ironic you’re what I had pictured you to be But there are
facts in our lives
We can never change”)*

Suddenly, it began to rain. I looked outside to soothe my mind. I saw trees sprinting past, children playing outside with vim and vigor. The drops of rain on my window, the cool breeze, and the exquisite sight failed to quiet the turmoil within me. My mind was buzzing with countless things, clamoring for release.

John Keats beautifully wrote in one of his poems that nature offers eternal happiness, but this time, nature and music failed miserably in my case. My mind clung stubbornly to its own labyrinth of worries. Even music couldn’t transport me to another world. I chose to remain locked in that world, unwilling-or unable-to let go.

On Saturday afternoon, the weather turned pleasant, bringing relief from the heat waves. While returning home from work, I happened to see some laborers sitting together, laughing their hearts out, sharing meals, a mother feeding her child with her hand and cuddling him. There was no despair in their eyes. Despite being deprived of basic amenities, they didn’t let deprivation rob them of their tiny moments of happiness. They embraced the small joys of life with an ease.

As I reflected on them, the sky darkened, heavy with clouds. Rain fell again, drenching the earth .Something in that moment pierced through me. It wasn’t just rain-it was a realization, a shift deep within.

I didn’t rush for cover. Instead, I tilted my face to the sky, an expression of rapture on my face, allowing the rain to kiss my Skin. Each drop was a balm for my troubled heart. Tears mingled with the rain as they coursed down my cheeks, and a profound truth unfolded.

It dawned on me that I had confined meditation to a room where I would sit cross-legged and focus on my breathing, but it was much more than that. I realized one doesn’t have to abandon materialistic things or retreat to the Himalayas to embrace life. Allowing yourself to fully immerse in the moment is also a form of meditation. To live-truly live –is the purest meditation of all.

Once again, I heard the voice: “Be alive in every moment.”

This time, I didn’t snap. I didn’t flinch. I didn’t resist. I smiled, smiled and smiled.

From Page to Screen: What Happens When Books Are Adapted into Movies?

Adapting a book into a movie is a complex topic that involves condensing intricate narratives and translating the depth of written prose into a visual medium. Filmmakers face the challenge of selecting which elements of the story to retain, modify, or omit, ensuring the essence of the book is preserved within the constraints of film. A prime example is Peter Jackson's adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings*, where certain characters and plotlines were excluded to streamline the story while maintaining its epic spirit. This topic highlights the delicate balance of staying true to the source material and creating a cinematic experience that stands on its own.

Important topic in adaptations is the tension between faithfulness and artistic freedom. While some fans demand complete fidelity to the original, filmmakers often take creative liberties to suit the medium. Alfonso Cuarón's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* introduced a darker tone that enriched the magical world, while Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* reinterpreted Stephen King's novel in ways that sparked both acclaim and controversy. These examples show how directors use their vision to enhance or redefine stories for the screen.

Adaptations is managing audience expectations. Fans of the book often come with preconceived ideas, hoping to see every detail faithfully recreated on screen. However, the cinematic medium demands creative adjustments to ensure pacing and visual engagement. While some changes, like those in Alfonso Cuarón's *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, enhance the story's depth, others, such as those in *The Shining*, can provoke mixed reactions. These decisions reflect the filmmaker's challenge to respect the source material while crafting a compelling film.

In conclusion, book-to-film adaptations are an evolving art form that bridges literature and cinema. Though challenges and controversies are inevitable, successful adaptations manage to honor the original material while offering a fresh perspective. By expanding a story's reach and engaging new audiences, adaptations remain a powerful way to reimagine beloved narratives for a wider cultural impact.



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