

The

A MONTHLY LITERARY E-MAGAZINE

Literary Mirror

A Venture of LITERIA Insight

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LOVE IN MODERN TIMES

Nitish Raj

The highly-awaited; Love In Modern Times by Nitish Raj is one such short story collection of twenty stories where every story portray breaks the stereotype associated with this emotion, which people claim to be on all time high. The various stories tackling the May-December Relationship, Multiple Relationship, momentary love for amant in a totally different set of perspective makes it an interesting read.

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From the **EDITOR'S DESK**

Ever since the global pandemic had hit; we had witnessed a paradigm shift in the literature also. Indeed! It has affected millions of lives all over the world and had left a never-ending scar on our thought-process but do we really need to divert our attention to the negativity surrounding it? It has become almost a common sight amongst the authors to find either stories, poems and novels either focused or inspired from COVID. Is our literary legacy so much volatile that a global pandemic has shifted the attentions of creative genius from creating meaningful content to writing just about a global pandemic? Undoubtedly; our literary legacy is far more rich and vivid than to wither away from such petty storms. The Literary Mirror presents its February Edition with an oath to bring quality works in this turbulent time.

Nitish Raj
Editor-in-Chief
The Literary Mirror

The
Literary Mirror
A Venture of LITERIA INSIGHT

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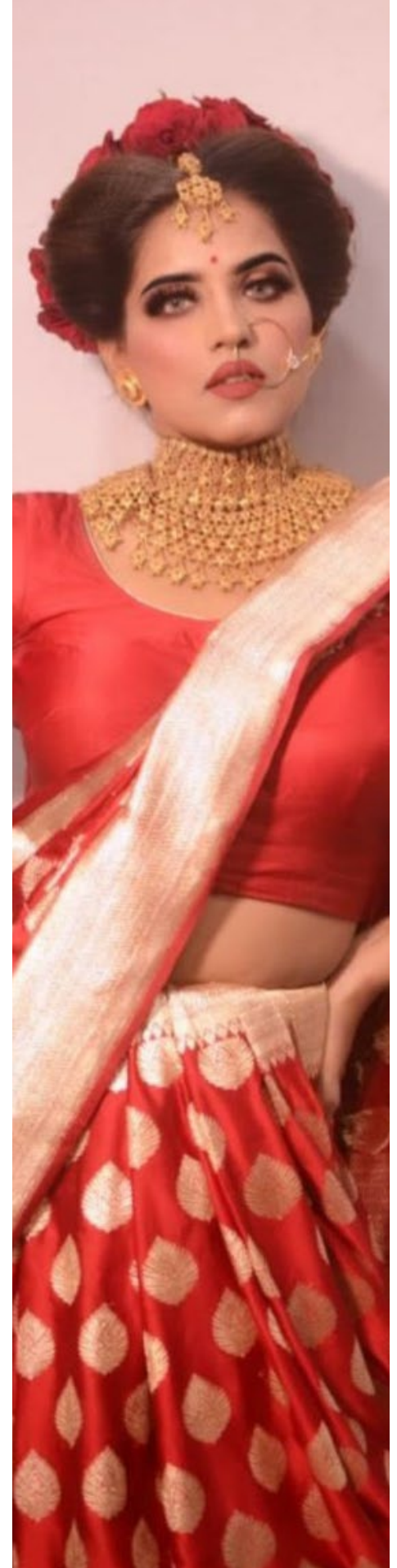
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FEATURED



Meet the Indian Model

Priyanka Tiwari

Credit: School Life

Priyanka was a good student at school who wouldn't shy away from studying hard and delivering timely assignments and projects. While the concepts of Mathematics gave her nightmares, the subject of English came as a respite. Her holistic approach towards studies impressed everyone and she was rated highly by the teaching staff. Moreover, from the very beginning, Tiwari believed in being a good human being. Her favourite teacher was Indira Ma'am, also the principal of the school, who guided the young girl in the right direction and reciprocated the love as a mother.

It was during these unfavourable times that she realised her potential in modelling and started taking baby steps in the

same direction. The beginning was tough as her parents were apprehensive of the decision and it took a lot for Priyanka to convince them. After years of struggle, filled with ups and downs, she found her way and started utilising the opportunities that came along. Today, she has a lot of experience in her belt but remains down to earth. The achiever believes that one should remain patient and never try to fit into someone else's shoes. Further, she thinks that if one does the right things and work hard god would help in her cause. People must not ever stop doing good for others because what one does is what one gets in return, she thinks

FICTION

Poem

IN THE SEASON OF PILGRIMAGE

My heart is missing your great house
 On your hounrable holy land
 From here I smill the scent
 Of musk in its dust and sand
 Oh Allah call me to come
 Give me a chance to cry to hymn
 Descend me in your sacred place
 To gain the forgiveness and purify
 My heart to shine my face
 My heart will run before may legs chase
 Oh Allah I need your tenderness
 Your mercy,your protection and forgiveness
 I'm alone without you
 I have lost ,who save me who??
 Without your mercy
 What can I do??
 I was dreaming,but now I know, I know.
 I miss you ya Muhammad
 Peace be upon you
 Peace be upon you
 Ya Habib Allah
 Ya Nabi Allah
 May Allah grant me your intercession
 After my following your path, your mession
 There is no God but Allah
 And Muhammad is the messenger of Allah
 Labik ya Allah
 Labik ya Allah
 Assuplication of my heart
 As a child during the moment of birth,
 Crying, scared from the start,
 From this point,from this part,
 The earth was created
 And my sins must not be repeated,
 I will do the best
 Cause my life is my serious test,
 We run sometimes to stop,
 We go down thinking we are on the top,
 Who collects us from dust like the lop,
 Who guilds our souls to rise us to the top,
 The question is here,
 The answer still there,
 In the holy land of bakkah,
 The answer should be near,
 The answer will be near.

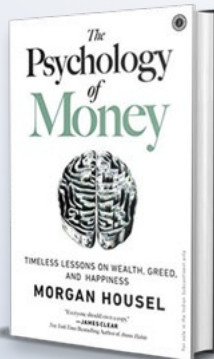
- Written by
Rasha Al-Hussaini, Poetess, Egypt

About the Poetess

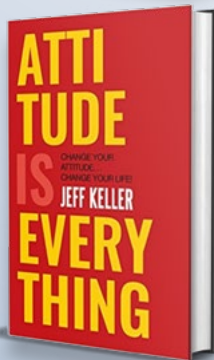


Rasha Al-Hussaini, an Arts graduate by qualification has been a faculty at Al-Azhar University of Cairo. Her artistic quotient has been quite evident in the various forms of art which includes a novel, poetry collection and a poetic drama.

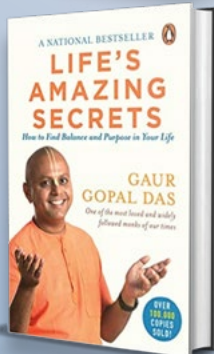
books of the month



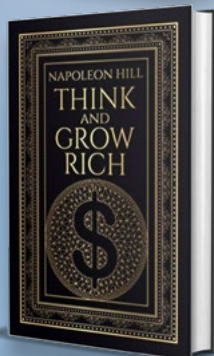
Book: The Psychology of Money
Author: Morgan Housel
Publisher: Jaico Publishing House
Price: INR 292
Pages: 252 pages
Language: English



Book: Attitude Is Everything: Change Your Attitude ...
 Change Your Life!
Author: Keller Jeff
Publisher: Collins; 1st edition (15 May 2015)
Price: INR 158
Pages: 144 pages
Language: English



Book: Life's Amazing Secrets: How to Find Balance
 and Purpose in Your Life
Author: Gaur Gopal Das
Publisher: Penguin Ananda (8 October 2018)
Price: INR 186
Pages: 232 pages
Language: English



Book: Think and Grow Rich (DELUXE HARDBOUND
 EDITION)
Author: Napoleon Hill
Publisher: Fingerprint! Publishing (1 December 2019)
Price: INR 499
Pages: 336 pages
Language: English



AKANKSHA AGARWAL: A Homemaker with Multiple Honors



Akanksha Agarwal, Author

Gone are the days when females were just entitled to manage their house! The most she used to be graced with being a homemaker

and their other attributes would either be suppressed or put aside on the brink of negligence. But all thanks to the globalization; we come across such homemakers, who not only fulfill their responsibilities of being a responsible homemaker but also wear multiple hats and The Literary Mirror feels honored to present Akanksha Agarwal who is a woman of multiple attributes. Born and brought up in the beautiful state of Uttar Pradesh, Mrs. Agarwal has worked with various media houses which includes some prominent names like AAJ TAK and Voice of India. Even though she does not consider her a professional poetess, she is widely popular all across the globe. Her poetries have not just got featured in various prominent media house of the country which includes The Pioneer, Deccan Chronicle, IANS apart from

being featured internationally in News Gram; USA.

Apart from her critically-acclaimed debut poetry collection; *The Secret In My Blood* which she has published with Blue Rose Publishers; Mrs. Agarwal has been part of various anthologies published by the popular publishing houses of the country. Her Voice Overs have got featured internationally in Echoes and Edges; United Kingdom Radio 103.5 FM and Singapore. Apart from being an avid poetess; she has a penchant for colors and considers pen and colors as the driving element of her soul. Her vibrant and soulful paintings have got featured at various reputed platforms like Indian Artists Club and City Artists. Her works had received awards and accolades at various prestigious platforms which includes the prestigious National Poetry Competition apart from being recognized as Top 4 Indian Female Poets Must Read by IANS. Mrs. Agarwal has been extensively interviewed by various reputed platforms.

But as it has been said that a man is judged by his tough times. At the time when the whole world was reeling under the global pandemic; Mrs. Agarwal got severely hit by the COVID which left her upper and lower limbs numb. Frequent shifting between home and the hospital was the new normal for her. At times the after effect of heavy medications had taken a heavy toll on her emotional and psychological aspects apart from making her almost immobile. Even though she is now recovering; she considers her husband and her family member an integral part of her life more than ever as they treated her with utmost care and compassion when nothing was going good for her. She considers the little moment of happiness is more than enough to make your day better. She is penning down her these experiences and other pieces of work in a book titled; *The Burning Syndrome* which she is going to release very soon.



Historic Gabba Win and The Harmony, Music of Twitterati

ANANDAJIT GOSWAMI

Author, India

The day of January 19, 2021 is just not getting passed into my unconscious and subconscious thinking. Well, how can it go! This is because this 19th January of 2021 has created an unending, as well as brazen memories and flashes. I have scratched out some of them onto the scrap-house of my Facebook Account Profile Page in the following order -

"1991 - November 29, Gabba, Flash-backs - A 10 wicket victory for Australia (Javagal Srinath's Debut, Paul Reiffel's Debut)

Overall series achievement for India - 4 - 0 loss to Australia, nasty subjects of sledging from the Aussie crowd, 114 by Sachin at Perth, 400 wickets of Kapil Reflection on own life - A 11 year old ardent sports follower who started training at Milan Samiti of Deshapriya Park and follow up trainings at Vivekananda Park had a major break up with cricket and decided to just not imagine about cricket as a career for a lad from not financially well to do background

2003 - Gabba, The revival time for the dream and follow up time along with rejoining back to cricket.

Personal Reflections - Even a not well to do lad of India can do it under the new leadership

2021 - Gabba, History is rewritten with no cultural supremacy and complete levelling by the game.

Personal Reflections - The 11 year old boy from any background working hard by getting up at 4.30 am everyday at the age of 11 doesnot need to leave cricket but can just look at siraj, saini, natrajan, shardul, washington sundar,

rahane, rohit and the list is unending as the history of the page has just started. "

The above scratchy notes to myself were immediately also countered by some other scratches in the Twitter world which threw open certain facts - *"A quote by Kunal Kamra - Congratulations Byjus on Winning Border Gavaskar Trophy". The quote was followed by the glorified statistics of the Twitter world highlighting - 2.6k comments, 3.4k retweets, 49.9K likes.*

I ponder in the yonder of my lost childhood in the leftover grasses of Vivekananda Park, Deshapriya Park where I could see the day at the age of 11 when I went for the last time for a cricket training session in Kolkata following India's massive defeat at Gabba in 1991.

My images are gradually stopped in a time machine by the mind, space and solemnity scavenging statistics of - 2.6K comments, 3.4K retweets, 49.9 K likes. I thought, 2021, January 19 was all about a brave (B), bold (B), bruised (B) Indian team fighting out cultural supremacies levelled by sports. A leveler where the same dressing room of a national cricket team is shared by an auto driver's son in deep agony, pain and loss matching up with the abdominal sprain and pain of another ace pace bowler who hugged the minority boy from the lowest strata of the society at the end of the match singing together in Marathi, Urdu and Hindi. It was all about bashing and thrashing the gender stereotyping of toxicity through the tears of the same minority boy of the auto driver son who could cry publicly

when the national anthem was played before the Test Match started.

I thought this Gabba is a hope for every 11 year old lad who wont have to leave cricket when they will look onto the stories of Washy, Shardul, Rohit, Shiraj who fought the childhood adversities of their social positions and made it to the final stage making the country proud. I thought this victory was all about a cinema and a script and a magical fairytail which can easily be a fiction any time. At the same time, this victory was also about the fact that there is always a truth too within fiction which is far more magically real than the fiction itself. For two days after the victory I was lost in the ocean of this magic realism of this victory which only told me before the celebration of 23rd and 26th January that nothing better than this victory can happen. It showed us the promise of castelessness, equity, new gender norms and every little word that we have written in policy documents, papers, books, preached verbosely in class lectures; and yes, the 19th January result of Gavaskar - Border trophy had all of it. But then the effervescence of this lostness suddenly got halted by the twitter statistics.

I saw that at the same time while I was lost in my own effervescence of the 19th January victory of India at Gabba, the Twitteratti was also lost in its own effervescence of 49.9K likes of a post by a standup comedian on the same magic realism of the victory. The question which made me come out of my ecstasy was then - "Who are the

COLUMN

people in Twitter liking the statistical seducement, seduction in a dark, comical, commodifying, conflictual labelling of the Gavaskar - Border trophy win?"

The more pertinent question was to think - "Most of these likes are coming from an Indian and then why are they liking it?"

Does that mean, the fellow country men prioritized the business subjugation of a country's team and certain norm wins over the cinema created by the victory itself on 19th January, 2021.

The more unnerving question is - "Why the same people from the same land are prioritizing the Twitter quote over the celebration of an auto-driver's son, a poor lad's win from Chennai, a bruised body jaded against the red canon balls from Australian seamers."

Does that mean, it is actually a clash between the dreams of the son of the autodriver, poor lad from Chennai, Mumbai with the 49.9 likes in Twitter and Byjus as a brand is just insinuating this clash between the 49.9 likes and the dreams of the minority boy to a new extent? Does it mean that my ecstasy is actually a naivety?

Because the same cinema for which I was lost for few days also meant a clash between the 49.9 representative likes of an Indian society and the tears of a human being bashing gender stereotyping, cliched irrelevant, old cast and class narratives of the same country. Will it mean that tomorrow again when say another time - Deepa Karmakar wins another Olympic Gold Medal for us supported by Go Sports Foundation, the twitteratti wont celebrate her tears after the win but will celebrate more a similar post on the sponsorship with a stand up comedy pun to it.

Will it mean that, when tomorrow, a cricket coach will try to mentor a young lad about bravery, courage, parenting, motherhood of protecting a team interest by narrating how - "Cheteshwar Pujara during the

Melbourne and Gabba Test of 2021 was taking the ball on the body as the unusual pitch cracks were immaculately used by Pat Cummins to snick the gloves and the body and to avoid the risk of getting out and exposing the tail, thereby highlighting parenthood, courage, bravery, responsibility, duty, team before an individual ", the young lad will rather not listen to the coach but will open his or her smart phone and retweet a stand up comedy post on the same act. The same Gabba, which brought me a scrapbook of memories and ecstasy before 23rd January celebration of valour and courage also trembled, unnerved me with some uninvited tremors of sneers, mound of darkness of a societal, dream, magic realism fragmentation with the inoculation drive of a deep politics of global investments, buying and selling at the backdrop of deep data and technological penetration into our lives. I don't know whether some day if next time when we stop actually having tears with a medal win of Deepa Karmakar will turn out to be the biggest stand up comedians ourselves at the cost of a new virus whose vaccine is still not there. Fortunately, the Covid-19 Vaccine has arrived and I will strongly hope for the other vaccine to arrive soon before it is too late for the human society as a whole.

Note: The views of the author are personal and The Literary Mirror do not hold responsible for any aspects arising out of it.



Uttarakhand Folk Dance

Credit : Google

The old time beliefs and traditions of the ethnic tribes and people are deeply steeped into their dance forms and they represent their culture through this form. The art of dancing here owes its motivation to the enchanting mythological young dancing women who have made the snowy mountains their homes and are depicted in the form of Paries.

But who are these paries? Some people

say that these dancing girls are the souls of the young single girls who had died without any cremation procedures; they were also believed to be the daughters of the evil king Ravan who had handed them over to Shivji as hand maidens. Another tradition regards them as a part of the legend and traditions of Krishna and depicting them as Gopis or 'celestial dancers' with Krishna Ji.

Uttarakhand's Traditional Art Aipan Art



Aipan art is an established-ritualistic folk art originating from the state of Uttarakhand. The art is done mainly during special occasions, household ceremonies and rituals. Practitioners believe that it invokes a divine power which brings about good fortune and deters evil. The

art is special as it is done on empty walls, which are brick-red in color, called Geru.[2] The actual art is done with a white paste made of rice flour. The art is frequent to floors and walls of Puja rooms and entrances of homes. It is also practiced mostly by women. The art form has great social, cultural and religious importance.



Dhaani : An evergreen bliss

If we say children are the most precious gift of life then surely there is no exaggeration..Yes they are! The little feet running here and there.. full of non stop energy.. Whatever mess they create..They are always cute enough to win each one of hearts..To bring instant smile on face ! Yes, Dhaani is also one of those cute ones..a twenty two month old baby..as her name suggests she is evergreen vibrant and full of life..Like every other child when she smiles it feels like little flowers are blooming everywhere around..

Her presence is enough to make the air a little light..full of positive vibes. No matter she has been fighting with an incurable brain disease right since her birth..No matter the heavy dose of medicines has become the part and partial of her life..She seems to overcome them happily..Like spreading the message life is too short to mourn over petty issues..Look at the brighter side..The greener one..!



Uttarakhand Musicians

The folk music of Uttarakhand refers to the traditional and contemporary songs of Kumaon and Garhwal regions in the foothills of Himalayas. This music has its root in the lap of nature and the hilly terrain of the region.



Music is a huge part of the cultural and traditional ethos of Uttarakhand. They have songs to celebrate every month, occasion, auspicious time etc. there are varying degrees of differences between the folk music of Garhwal to that of Kumaon. The traditional richness of Uttarakhand is depicted clearly through its songs and music which the people sing to celebrate special occasions. The folk songs here can be categorised into different sections like – marriage, ceremonies, melancholy etc. These songs are accompanied with the traditional musical instruments like Dhol, Thali, Dholki, Turri, Damoun, Harmonium etc. if you ever get to listen to the music you will definitely feel the closeness of music to nature due to its tones and melody that is produced.

Folk Songs and Music of Uttarakhand source Here are a few folk songs from the hilly paradise state of Uttarakhand:

Bajuband

Sung by the village women while performing their daily chores on the fields or at home this is a collection of folk songs expressing various different emotions like love, sorrow, happiness etc. these colourful and enchanting songs are so poetic that they have been

compared with the words written by the great poet William Wordsworth. The songs are generally very sweet sounding, romantic as well as mesmerizing. The songs can also be sung during various festivals and other auspicious times which only makes the

Chhopati

This is one of the most popular forms of song and music in Uttarakhand which is sung during celebrations, festivals, fairs, weddings etc. played with the help of Dhol, Dholki, Turri, Mandan and others, this song is performed between a man and a woman in a question answer form which is an extremely entertaining thing to watch. It comes under the category of being a 'love song' and is mostly sung by the people belonging to the regions of Rawain – Jaunpur in the district of Tehri Garhwal. This song is generally accompanied with a dance performance which is a very lively and fun activity to even witness.

Jagar

Finding its roots in the Sanskrit word 'Jaga' meaning to wake, these songs are practised by both Garhwali and Kumaoni groups of people in a ritual form for the spirits of their ancestors.

By chanting these songs it is said that all the local deities and gods are awakened from their dormant state. This Jagar performance is also done to seek penance or justice from the gods. The government of India has also recognised the importance of folk songs and music by awarding the only woman Jagar singer, Basanti Devi Bisht, Padma Shri award.

Basanti

Basanti songs are primarily composed and sang to welcome the season change from winter to spring. Their songs sound extremely cheerful, happy and clearly represent the blooming of the flowers that occurs throughout the hills. This song is one of the most special songs here which is sung with great zeal throughout the entire hill folk. just as the hill sides get dotted with colourful high altitude flowers and plants, people individually or in groups burst out singing their favourite Basanti song.

Mangal Geet / Gaali Mangal Geet

Mangal Geet or the auspicious songs are composed with an aim of being sung at weddings or during sacred ceremonies. While the song is being sung simultaneously the purohit keeps on chanting holy Sanskrit Shlokas. Gaali Mangal Geet is sang in the form of a poem while singing these songs people also include some tease language in between and since it is an age old tradition this is not considered as an offence or bad language. These are also the songs that add an element of joy making weddings a memorable event. This mostly takes place in a Garhwali wedding and is also an essential part during this auspicious event.



Uttarakhand

LITERATURE

Languages which are spoken at Kumaoni region belong to Aryan Family; however dialects of the Tibeto (Burmese family) are also used in some cases. Less influence of Kols, Kinnar-Kirats, Munds, Dard-Khasas can also be seen in these dialects. Hindi, that is the mother language of India is spoken by almost every Kumaonis excluding Biyans and Chaudans, Shaukas of Darma and the Banrajis of Askot and Chalthi. There are 13 dialects in Kumaon is described by G.A.Grierson; they are: Johari, Danpuriya, Majh Kumaiya, Askoti, Soryali, Sirali, Chaugarkhyali, Gangola, Kumaiya, Khasparjia, Pachhai, Phaldakoti, and Rauchaubhaisi. All these mentioned dialects of Garhwali and Kumaoni are

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jointly known as Central Pahari Group of Languages. Khaskura (Nepali) is spoken in the east of Kumaon region, Western Pahari (Himachali) in the west, Tibeto - Burmese family in the north and western Hindi in the south.

Kumaon contains extremely wealthy tradition of folk literature, which deals with heroes, local/national myths, heroines, several aspects of nature and deeds of bravery. Anonymous poets wrote these songs which related to the deeds of Gods-Goddesses, creation of earth, local heroes/dynasties and several characters belong to Mahabharat and Ramayan. Some of those songs are also associated with exceptional love

story of Rajula and Malushahi, the heroism of Sangram Singh Karki, the daring deeds of the twenty two Bafaul brothers and the unreal terrains across the Himalaya. These songs are sung by experts by considering the local history and bharaui. You can experience these songs on agricultural activities and diverse cultural and social festivals



THE BROKEN PENDANT

Dr Nalli Ramya

When young mark starts reading a grubby old diary dated past 2014, that was found in his attic. He finds writing by a person named Daniel , an 18 year old archeology student. Dairy reveals a series of events and bizarre dreams that Daniel was haunted by. Knowing that he was followed by a stranger , Daniel decides to take help of his friends Joseph and Jenny especially when he was handed a broken pendant by a stranger and later finds

his choas was related to the Pendant he was given .

The Broken Pendant is a smashing tale about how Daniel battles the difficult conundrums during his bewildering journey to find answers. The story was set in Teotihuacan pyramids, Mexico and Houston, USA. It is a complete fictional tale revolving around friendship, love and humour.

Available on   

