

The

A MONTHLY LITERARY E-MAGAZINE

Literary Mirror

A Venture of LITERIA Insight

**The LIT Digital
Awards 2021
Season 2**

Winner
Deepti Sharma

Cover Story

Jyoti Jha

Interview

Ishan Kamdar

Story

Harshika Pareek

Column

Jyoti jha

Featured

Sonal Goel

Art/Artist

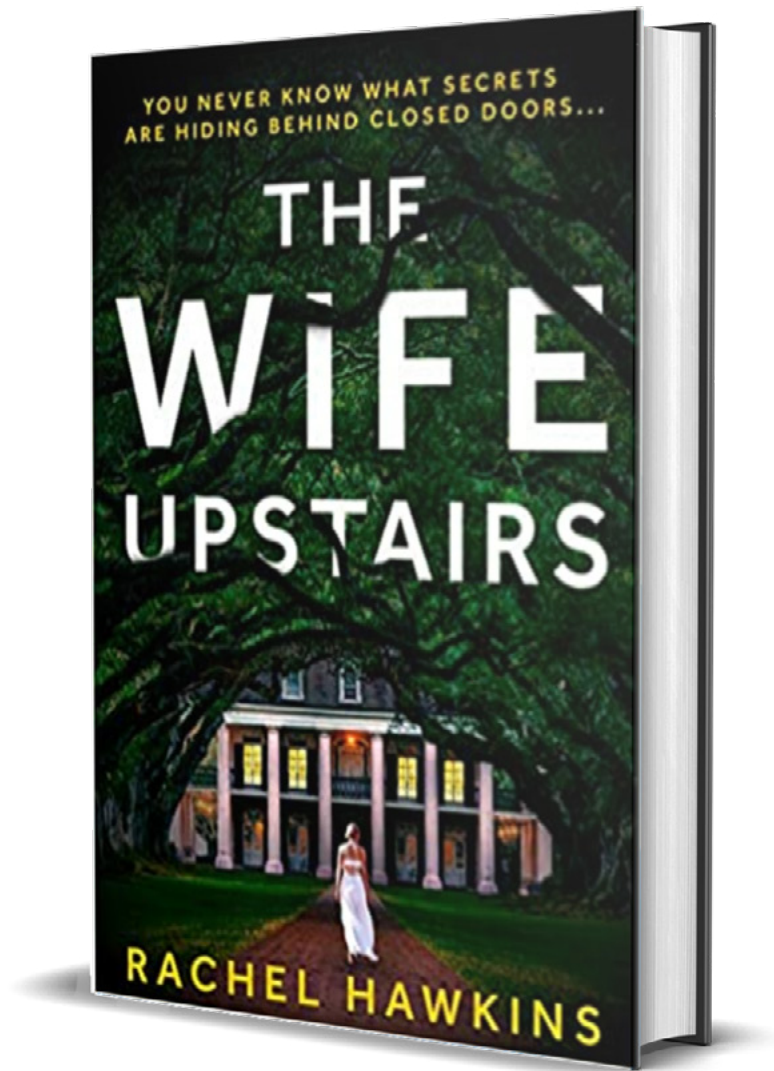
Jammu and Kashmir

Featured

Pachyderm Tales

Bookshelf

BOOKS OF THE MONTH



THE WIFE UPSTAIRS

Rachel Hawkins

The Wife Upstairs is a reimagining of Jane Eyre as a modern-day Southern Gothic mystery novel set in Alabama. In Hawkins's retelling, Jane is a struggling and cynical former foster kid who meets the handsome and wealthy Eddie Rochester. But Jane's fairy-tale romance is complicated by details of Eddie's former wife, who disappeared only months ago.

In this creative spin on a classic gothic novel, Jane will need to uncover the truth about what's been going on in the Thornfield Estates neighborhood.

Available on   



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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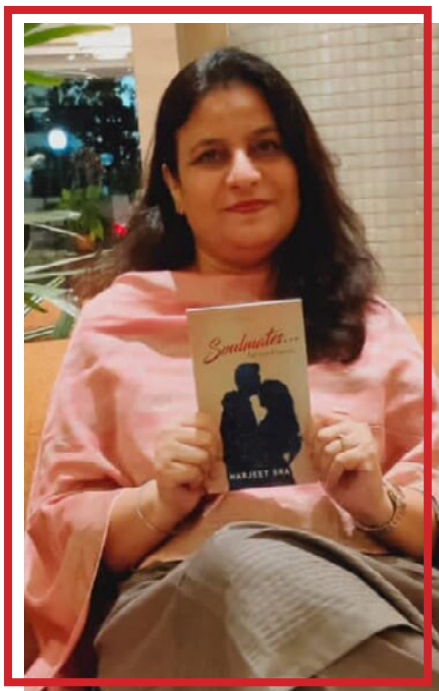
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Meet the Indian Author

DR. HARJEET SRA



Dr. Harjeet Sra, an academician from Chandigarh has come out with her debut novel **'Soulmates...love is forever'** published by Petals Publishers and Distributors, Ludhiana, during the lockdown. *Soulmates...love is forever* an enthralling and poignant tale of love, friendship, and sacrifice. It trails the soul stirring and passionate journey of Ruhi, the main protagonist who lives in a small and picturesque hill town along with her two childhood friends. The book unfolds Ruhi's struggles and dilemmas unravelling the mystery of her true soulmate along with intertwined pertinent issues threatening the pristine beauty of her hill town. Do soulmates Exist? How do you

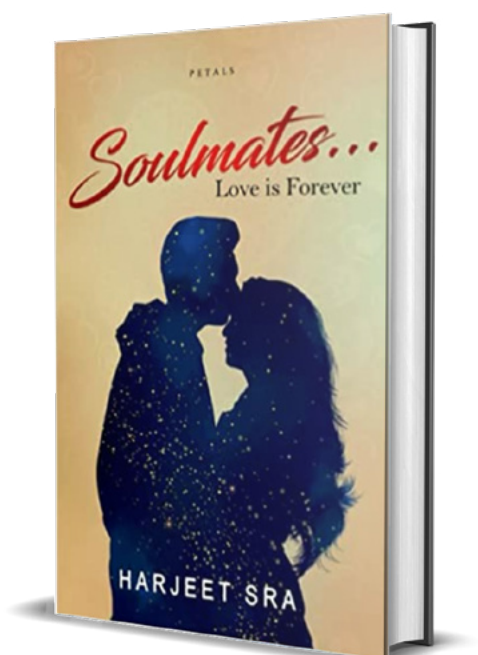
recognise a soulmate? Are soulmates always the lovers and end up together? It's really difficult to figure out the real answers. The author has deeply reflected on such fascinating questions and tried to give her insight into it.

The engrossing love story with a strong environmental issue at the backdrop has hit the right chords with the readers. The hill towns have been experiencing tremendous pressure due to rapid growth of population, increased construction activities, bursting hotel industry and high tourist influx from last few decades. This has strongly impacted environmentally fragile hill towns and its ecology. The book dwells deep into such issues and embarks us on the intriguing journey of how Ruhi battles against the people trying to convert the Hilltown into concrete jungle with strong support of her friends.

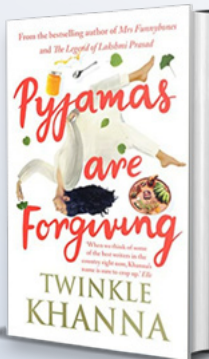
The book is receiving rave reviews from the young readers and is among the hot new releases on Amazon best sellers. One of the readers on Instagram wrote, "I absolutely loved the book and finished it in just two days. The poetry at beginning of every chapter is the USP of the book. Another wrote, "It's a never-ending saga of love, a must read for all romance fiction lovers."

An Alumnus of DAV college, Jalandhar, Dr. Harjeet Sra did her Ph.D from Panjab University, Chandigarh. She is presently working as associate professor in college. She has published many research papers in reputed journals and books. She has been awarded

'Research Excellence Award' for her Ph.D work by Institute of Scholars, Bengaluru. 'Best Teaching Award' for her contribution to Education and society. She is an avid reader and have a strong passion for writing poetry and prose. She has published her short stories and poems in the Anthologies, 'Perspectives of Hope', 'Fragrance of life', 'Lockdown Blues' and 'Tales of 2020' and Poetry and You, Edition III. Apart from writing, she loves travelling, exploring new places and meeting new people. Her dedication is what sets her apart from anybody else She is a well-rounded individual who lives with passion, dedication, and grace. You can reach her at authorharjeetsra@gmail.com



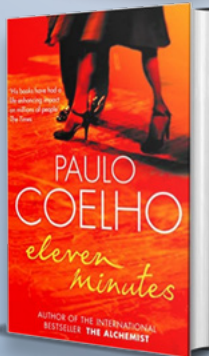
books of the month



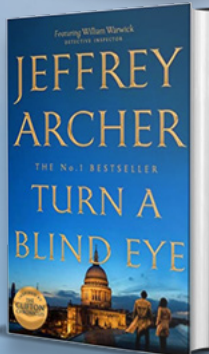
Book: Pyjamas are Forgiving
Author: Twinkle Khanna
Publisher: Juggernaut; 2011th edition (7 September 2018)
Price: INR 224
Pages: 256 pages
Language: English



Book: A Touch of Eternity
Author: Durjoy Datta
Publisher: Penguin (18 January 2021)
Price: INR 147
Pages: 256 pages
Language: English



Book: Eleven Minutes
Author: Paulo Coelho
Publisher: Harper; Latest edition (20 March 2006)
Price: INR 197
Pages: 304 pages
Language: English



Book: Turn a Blind Eye
Author: Jeffrey Archer
Publisher: Pan (1 April 2021); Pan Macmillan UK
Price: INR 306
Pages: 352 pages
Language: English

Adolescent *Love and Suicide*

Jyoti Jha



Increased interest in romantic relationships is one of the defining features of adolescence and it plays an important role in their emotional wellbeing. When in love, a teenage heart is cheerful, and their mind is floating in the air constantly. There is music in every beat and dance in every step. Whether there is a coffee date at a mall, a movie show at the cinema, or a friend's party, the young love is in full blossom with a possibility of beginning as a brief relationship, progressing into an intimate affair, and transforming into an intense and committed relationship. And then suddenly one day, everything comes crashing down! Instantaneously the singing heart has converted to a consistent foul mood, irritability,

sulky attitude, and a catatonic zombie behaviour. Till the time you figure out that your teenager's beautiful love story has run its end credits, it is too late.

Suicides among teenagers have continued to be a serious concern and it is the second leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults. While a majority of suicide cases are associated with significant mental health issues, family history of suicides, exposure to violence, feelings of despair, self-doubt, stress, acute loss, etc. the one that is significantly concerning are the variables related to adolescent romance. Why does a young love that is supposed to be soaking in the euphoria of love and brimming in the vibrance of life, lead to the dark path of suicide attempts or completions?

Adolescence is a transition phase when the body and mind undergo multiple significant changes, and that is reflected in the form of attitudes, behaviour, sensitivity, and perception of the adolescent. It is but natural at this stage to desire the attention of not only friends but also feel attracted to a particular someone. While the brain is still developing and the behaviour is impulsive, spontaneous, unable to foresee the consequences of their acts, the young heart is in full swing of hormones and jubilation. While romantic relationships are common at this stage, they are mostly shorter in duration, and relationship break-ups are quite common. Whether a

breakup is due to rejection, refusal, disregard, or Passover, the breakup of a romantic relationship is the most traumatic experience in youth and a lead cause for psychological distress and suicidal attempts among youngsters.

Even for parents who find themselves dawdling between a sense of despair, dismissive attitude, and wondering why their teen is holed up in the house refusing to participate in regular activities, they are usually stuck over how to deal with their teenager's heartbreak. It is also commonly assumed that young people's adjustment over time while dealing with the grief of heartbreak and pain associated with it, diminishes itself with the passing phase. What we need to realize is that breakups can have severe negative outcomes for the adolescent.

Apart from heartbreaks, another concerning factor leading to teenage suicide is being in an abusive relationship. Domestic violence, harmful relationships that are unhealthy and abusive, can cause long-term consequences that could lead to suicidal tendencies. So, what needs to be done to reduce this alarming rate of suicidal tendencies among adolescents who find it difficult to deal with the heartbreak in a romantic relationship?

While it is yet to be deciphered what types of relationship issues strongly contribute to mental health issues and suicide risk, seeking help from



COLUMN

counselling is helpful, be it by a family or friend where the teenager feels comfortable communicating, or professional help. A young heart's feeling of 'being in love', convictions of 'true love', the experience of confusion and hurt need to be acknowledged and carefully examined. Look out for those alarming signs when youngsters continuously use sentences like "I wish I was dead", "I won't be a problem for anyone anymore", etc. It is still difficult to bring people to talk about suicide, however, a clear communication and sensitive approach is highly required

in such cases. Parents and guardians need to be not only vigilant, but also open to discussing openly about their children's wellbeing, mental state, feelings, and depression.

Teenagers, on the other hand, need to understand that they don't have to jump into the ship of love just because their peers are into relationships. Approach someone only when your heart and mind are driven towards the person naturally, find out about the person as much as you can. Talk to a trusted adult about it. Even young

love is beautiful, but it should not be rushed, it shouldn't be dealt with the impulsive approach. Enjoy the lovely phase of being in a relationship, and even if there is a separation, don't sulk forever...there is life beyond a heart-break. Be happy, be strong and rejoice in life for so many reasons that life has to offer!



About the Columnist

An HR-turned-Author, Jyoti Jha is an MBA by qualification and has been associated with corporates like Infosys and Whirlpool in the past. Having lived in the USA and UK for more than a decade, she embarked upon the journey of exploring the field of literature. A Literary Critic, Columnist, and an esteemed winner of 'The Times of India Write India Season 3', she has authored the books, 'The Realms of Human Emotions' and 'Around The World Through My Lens'. A proud panellist and Guest Speaker in Talk Shows at prestigious institutions like IIM Lucknow, IIT Delhi, IIT Jammu, and Christ College, she has been featured in various esteemed media houses.

Winners Announced by The Literary Mirror for The LIT Digital Awards 2021

The countdown for the much-awaited The LIT Digital Awards 2021 by The Literary Mirror, a Literary Magazine of Global Standards, culminated with the grand celebration and announcement of its proud winners. Bringing the festive spirit of the Literature and Literary Wizards to the comfort of our homes and hearts, The LIT Digital Awards Season 2 saw an overwhelming response over the past few months as the festival marked its finale on the 27th July 2021.



Darshan Desale
First Runner-Up



Deepti Sharma
Winner



Mehak Budhrani
Second Runner-Up



Deepti Sharma's book *'Litany of Woes'* bagged the winning title of The LIT Digital Awards 2021. A Mathematician and an Author, Deepti Sharma's book 'Litany of Woes' is a crime thriller and mystery novel that narrates the story of 'Nida', a rebellious author who survives a broken marriage and hopes to live a dream. In her quest to find comfort and love in all forms, she struggles through heart-wrenching experiences and betrayals.

Darshan Desale's *'Manu'* was awarded First Runner-Up. 'Manu' presents the story of an ordinary young boy who is fond of exploring and learning the ancient scriptures, and through them, finding the true meaning of life. He encounters a character from Mahabharata and ventures into an ancient lost city, which is depicted in this mythology and sci-fi novel.

A book that explores the subjects of love and lust amongst the youth of today in the Indian context, *'Six Inches Are Enough On Heels...Not In Bed'* by **Mehak Budhrani** is a practicing Advocate and a part-time relationship counsellor.

The event received nominations from across genres by both, new and established authors. The nominated books were evaluated and adjudged by an honourable panel of jury members consisting of renowned personalities like Anuradha Bhattacharyya, an IIT Alumni and a winner of Chandigarh Sahitya Akademy Award; Ankit Jhamb, a seasoned Corporate Professional and Associate Director for Capability and Development Team; Shirsh Srivastava, an advocate at the honourable Supreme Court of India and winner of Asian Literature Award 2020; and the honourable Chief Guest, Sabarna Roy, a critically acclaimed bestselling author, and a Senior Vice President. The nominated literary works were examined and assessed through a selection procedure of Longlist and Shortlist and culminating by announcing the list of winners.

The winner bagged prize money of INR 50, 000, the 1st runner-up received prize money of INR 30,000 and the 2nd runner-up received prize money of INR 20, 000 simultaneously.

The media partners of the event were Bangalore Insider, The CEO Magazine, SchoolLife, Dispatch, Rapid Leaks. Along with publishing partners like Bigfoot Publishers, Knowledge Partner like CleverFox Publishing, and Literia Insight as its PR Partner, the event celebrated literature and honoured the literary artisans.

Editor-in-Chief & Chief Organizer, Mr. Nitish Raj, and Senior Editor & Chief Organizer, Mr. Vikash Saxena, shared their excitement at the splendid accomplishment. They gladly announced the winners and congratulated all the participants, winners, jury members, and media partners who made the event an enjoyable journey and memorable experience. The Literary Mirror congratulated all the winners and participants and expressed their continued efforts in celebrating literature and providing such platforms that acknowledge and

honour literary wizards, literary works, industry veterans, and the spirit of literature.



Story

A DISH BEST SERVED COLD



CRASH! A crackle of lightning hit the Mayfair Police Precinct, London City. On hearing the crackle, Commissioner John Smith, sitting in his office, remembered his dark childhood. The rain reminded him of his parents' funeral- the worst day of his life- the day where he vowed never to be helpless again. A knock on his door brought him back to the present. "Come in," he replied, whilst clearing his cluttered desk. A short, plump, and red-faced policeman came in. "It's rainin' Cats'n dogs 'ere Commissioner," he said, sounding exhausted. "Well, there's nothing we can do about the weather, can we?" John replies. "Anyways, how's the Ms. X case?" the policeman asked, wiping his sweaty brow.

Ms. X was an anonymous citizen who had been vandalizing property all over London for the past two months, using spray paint to show certain mysterious words consisting of a set of alphanumeric characters, her recent one being 'L36I0N', on the famous brachiosaurus skeleton in the Natural History Museum. No one saw this being enter, but the security cameras were mysteriously shut down for a brief 5 min-

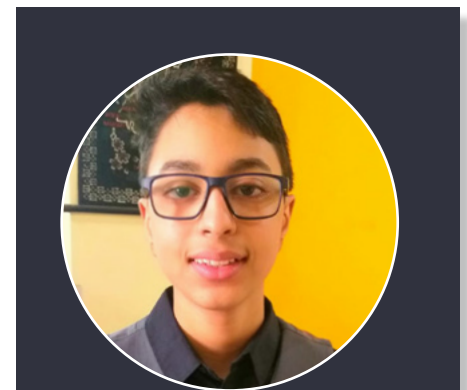


utes- from 11:50 pm to 11:55 pm. The security guards did not see anything. The ones that did, only saw a noir hood for a split second before being knocked out. No one knew who was this person, but soon, policemen found a name called 'Ms. X' in one of the being's graffiti. Due to this, this individual was now famously called 'Ms. X'. John had been assigned a case to capture this 'Ms. X' a few weeks ago, but he had no luck so far.

"No luck, every time I get her, she always slips out of my hands" John replied. "How do you know it is a 'she'? I mean it could be misdirection and the person could be a 'he'?" the policeman questioned. "Just a feeling," John told him. Anyway, it's quarter past seven, time for me to go home. Good day," John said. Holding his hat in one hand and wallet in the other, John leaves. "Good day," replied the policeman, moving away from the door to let John leave. On reaching the entrance of the precinct. A policewoman also bade John goodbye to which he politely replied, "Goodbye, Officer Clare Hopkins."

Walking towards his apartment, John remembered how his parents died- a humungous fire, smoke everywhere, an explosion had occurred on Christmas Eve, 1992, John was twelve years old at that time. An MI6 agent with the name of Daniel Williams had been chasing a criminal throughout the streets of London, leading to an epic climax of this chase in an explosion in

Hyde Park- where he and his parents were spending time with each other. He finally arrested the criminal. Although it was the criminal who



Pratyush
Author

Pratyush is a proud student at Wisdom World School. A sincere student of class IX, he took fascination to books, sports, and music at a very early stage and which inculcated in his daily routine. Excelling in Piano grade exams (Trinity College London) and a Red Belt in Karate (Chi Combat System UK), he has been awarded ASA Swimming Stage 5 (UK) and RoboCHAMP Pro Engineer in Robotics. Having received several Head Teacher Awards while schooling in the UK, he has been a consistent performer in his current school in India where he was awarded for his academic excellence in the Annual Prize day. He likes spending hours slumped over a variety of books and which got him to pen down his thoughts in the form of stories as his creative outlet. Imbibing the joys of primary years, he likes playing football and cricket in his pass time.

FICTION



had started the explosion, John still never forgave Daniel for not saving his parents in time. Enraged, he promised himself to always help people in need- but not as an agent, but as a friendly neighbourhood policeman.

He reached his apartment. As he was about to reach the door handle, he sensed something was behind him. He turned his head. Who was it? His enemy- Ms. X. She punched him in the head. John fell, his head throbbing, his heart beating faster than it ever did. He never saw it coming. Struggling, he picked himself up. He was backed against his door; he turned towards his gun- but where was it? Ms. X held his gun in front of him, threatening to shoot it. He held his hands up, his fingers spread open, his face white as paper. He was scared for his life. He was ashamed, he was helpless, standing at gunpoint, being the opposite of the reason why he became a policeman. He was going to die the same way his parents did, but instead of an explosion, a gunshot, on the doorstep of his house.

Holding the gun towards John, Ms. X took out a can of spray paint and painted something on the floor. It was not a drawing, instead, it was a sentence. John was too scared to read it. Having finished her Graffiti, she crept back

into the shadows. John was lucky to be alive but was still alert. He heard a loud punching noise followed by Ms. X falling in front of him. John was horrified, he checked the body for a pulse, luckily the so-called 'Ms. X' was only knocked out. "Sorry to disturb you, sir," A voice came from the shadows. "If it is your house to the left then sorry for the mess, MI6 will clean it up," A man arose from the shadows. He was wearing a leather black jacket, blue jeans, and had jet-black hair. He helped John up. On further inspecting the man, John realized who he was- Daniel Williams!

"I see you are a policeman, were you assigned the task of finding this criminal, if you were then we are in the same boat, uh police officer ... John Smith?" Daniel said, noticing John's badge and police uniform. On seeing Daniel, John was boiling with anger but decided not to react. He kept his rage inside him. Hope the boat hasn't exploded yet. "Yes, I was and since you have finished my so-called 'task' for me, I must go back to chasing shoplifters, I had her by the way," John replied angrily. "No need to react so angrily," Daniel replied. John, ignoring Daniel, inspected the graffiti. He saw an unusual message. "TH3 L3610N, 34 AURUM ST'. Aurum means Gold in Latin, she is talking about Gold street! But

what is there on Gold street? A shem-ozzle of thoughts had been occurring in John's head, wondering about Gold street. While John was engrossed in his thoughts, Daniel arrested Ms. X and took off her hoodie. John recognized her.

"Clare?" John gasped. She glared at John. She seemed to be thinking something. After a brief pause, she replied, "Hello John. I may be a criminal but this is bigger than you think. 34 Gold Street, 34 Gold Street," She repeated this address until she was carried to the back of the police car. "What a crazy woman!" Daniel scoffed. "Maybe she is on to something," John said. "Wanna team up?" Requested Daniel. John shrugged. The last thing he wanted was to team up with the man who brought him his misery. He had no choice. He agreed.

John and Daniel finally reached 34 Gold Street. It was an old abandoned warehouse." It must be Clare's base of operations," John said. Investigating the warehouse, Daniel found a huge bulletin board. Many newspapers were attached to it. These newspapers were connected using red tape. The newspapers showed the recent tragedies happening all over London, including the accidental fire in Oxford Street the week before. All the tapes were linked to a paper with a peculiar word written on it- THE LEGION. On his left, Daniel noticed a dusty book. He picked it up and inspected it. "How Cute!" He exclaimed, "A diary!".

This caught John's attention. He came over to where Daniel was standing. Daniel opened the book and both of them read it. The book contained a vague description of Clare's theory that all the crimes happening in



FICTION

London were a result of the manipulation of an underground organization known as The Legion. Clare traced all the recent events such as the fire on Oxford Street, the bomb blast in Trafalgar Square, all these recent events to this so-called 'Legion'.



"Do you think this so-called 'Legion' exists?" Daniel asked. "Well, I am a policeman so I'm not allowed to believe in coincidences, what about you?" John replies. "Well then—Police officer John looks like we've got a case on our hands".

Holding the book in his hands, John took one last look at the bulletin board. He glanced at the desk next to it and saw a minute, sleek black USB. John came over to the desk and picked it up. "What have you got there chief?" Daniel asked. "Just something that will help us later on," John replied. Daniel and John rendezvoused back to John's house. "What a nice comfy house John! Of course, my house is bigger, one of the benefits of MI6, but still, comfy" Daniel scoffed, relaxing on John's sofa. Ignoring Daniel's cockiness, John plugged the USB into his computer. "I think you need to see this," John tells Daniel. Daniel headed over to John's computer desk. What they saw shocked them.

"My name is Clare Hopkins; this is day 34, Saturday, 28th October. I have found some new evidence of the Legion. My sources have told me these people are about to execute their plan next week, on November 5th. I do not

know what their plan is but I am damn sure it will create headlines in the newspapers; it might even destroy England as we know it! I need to convey this to the people, but how? No one seems to believe me. If they find out about me, they will kill me. The police won't help. I just need to do this anonymously. This is bigger than me and any of us. I believe their base of operations to be in the unfinished mall on 14th Avenue. If anyone sees this message, it means you are in danger, but you are also our only hope. You know too much. They WILL come after you. TRUST NO-ONE. End Message."

Both John and Daniel stood there. Frozen. Daniel gasped. "Well, I knew something was up, but this, this is deadly serious". John replied, "I agree but we must do something,". "Let's call MI6 HQ, they ought to do something." "No Daniel, we can't trust anyone- not with this sensitive information. The Legion will come after us, but we do not want collateral damage,". Daniel nodded. John held up his phone and contacted London Jail. He asked for Clare. After a few minutes, fear enveloped John's face. On seeing John's expression, Daniel felt uneasy, "What happened?". "Clare Hopkins is dead,".

"Wha- How?" Daniel was confused. "She was murdered on the way to the prison, police officers report seeing a sniper on one of the roofs of the buildings." "now we go to MI6!" Daniel was terrified. In all his years, he had never seen such a thing. All his cases were straightforward; this was new and more mysterious. A brief moment passed. "Don't! We might be able to stop this before it gets worse. We need to go to 14th Avenue and stop this once and for all."

The duo hopped into a taxi and traveled to the destination. Every minute, they checked their surroundings to see if they were being followed. It felt like a horrible game of cat and mouse. They reach 14th avenue." Keep the change," John said whilst tipping the driver. Daniel investigated the building from the outside. His face reflected a determined expression. John turned towards the gigantic mansion in front

of him. It looked abandoned, a few cobwebs here and there, and a colossal sea of dust. "Should we enter quietly or go in guns blazing?" Daniel asked. John took out his gun. Daniel sees the action and replies. "Guns blazing it is,". With a unanimous kick, they knock down the front door.

"Let's split up, we can cover more ground, you see anything suspicious, you radio me alright?". Daniel nodded. They walked around. Daniel walked around the corridors and checked the different rooms, each one of them sinister in its way. One of them was an armory, containing the heaviest weaponry you could imagine. Another, a laboratory, with different chemicals and explosives. Daniel walked towards a desk containing some blueprints. "They are going to blow up MI6's base of operations!".

Daniel gulped. He heard something. He took out his gun and aimed it towards a door. His hands trembling with fear. He turned around and gasped. He woke up, his hands tied. He was surrounded by a group of masked people, with a control panel and a myriad of computers in a corner. He tried to identify who they were, but failed. One of the individuals walked up towards him and said in a deep voice. "I see you have found us. What a shame,". He took out a gun and pointed it at Daniel. "Where is John? What did you do to him?!", he screamed. "Oh! the other person?". BOOM. Just as the individual tried to answer his question, he was cut off by the sound of a gunshot. Daniel looked towards his chest. He was bleeding. He closed his eyes and fell over. A person was behind him holding a gun. "Well, what were you waiting for?", the individual asked him. The perpetrator replied, "Revenge". "Now let's get on with the rest of the mission!". Saying this, the murderer walked towards the control panels. Daniel opened his eyes for the last time. "John?".



Litany of Woes:

- The Testimony of a Daydreamer's Journey from Writing Diary to an Award-Winning Author

As a teenager, did you ever feel infuriated at men who tortured women and angry at the world we lived in? I am sure you were if you were a girl. It must have been incomprehensible for you that how could we still live with the idea of women and daughters being treated like this? And often you have had felt if your anger was even justified? If so, then why wasn't everyone else angry too? A lot must have gone on in your head and the frequent reality checks by life didn't help either. And the only thing you could decipher was, living in the twenty first century wasn't much different from the age of Adam. Everything might have changed though, everything but sexual assaults! We have found ourselves wandering around the same line of questions over and over again and not being able to comprehend- but how come we, the humans are still not able to do anything about it?

'Litany of Woes'; Winner of The LIT

Digital Awards 2021 Season 2 is Deepti Sharma's outrage against the hypocrisy of our society, a yelp against the masked preachers and a battle against the unquestioned helplessness assigned to women.

Every teenager believes they will lead a life different than their parents, if not better.

Just beginning to come on their own, busy writing the new rules for their new selves and fresh lives, teenagers might feel overwhelmed having this much on their plate as they are 'growing up'. It's in such moments of trying to process and strike a balance between their newfound indifference and rage, the easiest prey to fall to this pompous war is the family. Parents are replaced by new life heroes; siblings by personal space; life goals by lofty dreams. Somewhere along these lines, you find the protagonist, Nida Afroz, no different than others her age. The story opens at a boarding school in

Shimla where Nida studies and has her life circle knit around her friends and boyfriend. Her life is an adolescent's puzzled mind holding deep rooted pains about her broken family, her absolute inability to acknowledge change, her heart zeroing in on finding the one true love of her life, and turning indifferent to the rest of the world when she thinks she has found it.

Litany of Woes is an emotional roller-coaster, with a stark depiction of how women are still treated in our society and how their consent is yet a far-fetched dream. After all, we all have met at least one woman in our life who continues to be in an unhappy marriage, because she is too scared to step out in the world without her man, her protector beside her. This pressure, this force, these unwanted ties that hold a woman back in this era showcase a heartbreaking sad reality which gets covered under optimistic terms like feminism, equality, and freedom.

COVER STORY

Litany of woes means a long prayer let out of pain and despair, looking for the last and least bit of hope. The two pillars of human life. This book at its core speaks about how human of us humans to be making mistakes and how those mistakes don't always define who we become, what we become. We can always choose to rise against the wrong even if that refers to our personal demons. Peripherally, It also puts light on the importance of the other half of the society, The Men, who haven't had the privilege of suffering and growing as much as the women have. It's high time we don't just talk but converse about, write and rewrite the rules of the rights. Litany of Woes is just a starting force in this vision, but a significant and unstoppable one!

Deepti Sharma is a fiery assortment of languages, colors, cultures and all things eccentric. Having donned many hats, Litany of Woes is her debut novel. She is a full time Math trainer for GRE, GMAT & SAT. She aspires to create raw, crafty and authentic content through her books and the Indian film & television industry. Ms. Sharma hails from Jaipur, Rajasthan, where she lives with her family, her parents and two younger siblings. Talking about her experience of being the esteemed Winner of the coveted award, Ms. Sharma says,

"It's truly a dream come true for me. Getting such high honour for your debut work is always a riveting experience and she is extremely thankful to The Literary Mirror and especially Mr. Nitish Raj, Editor-in-Chief and Mr. Vikash Saxena, Sr. Editor for their immense contribution in promoting the young talents."

It's the literature-oriented upbringing that Ms. Sharma regards instrumental in her journey letting the books instrument her existence which has witnessed her journey through subjectivity to objectivity.



Goa Parties

The first parties were those held at Bamboo Forest at South Anjuna beach., Disco Valley at Vagator beach and Arambol beach (c. 1991–1993) and attempts initially were made to turn them into commercial events, which met with much resistance and the need to pay the local Goan police baksheesh. Events were generally staged around a bar, even though these were often only a temporary fixture in the forest or beach. [citation needed] The parties taking place around the new year tend to be the most chaotic with busloads of people coming in from all places such as Mumbai, Delhi, Gujarat, Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Chennai. Travelers and sadhus from all over India passed by to join in.



ART/ARTIST



GOA

Goa is a state in western India with coastlines stretching along the Arabian Sea. Its long history as a Portuguese colony prior to 1961 is evident in its preserved 17th-century churches and the area's tropical spice plantations. Goa is also known for its beaches, ranging from popular streets at Baga and Palolem to those in the back fishing villages such as Agonda.



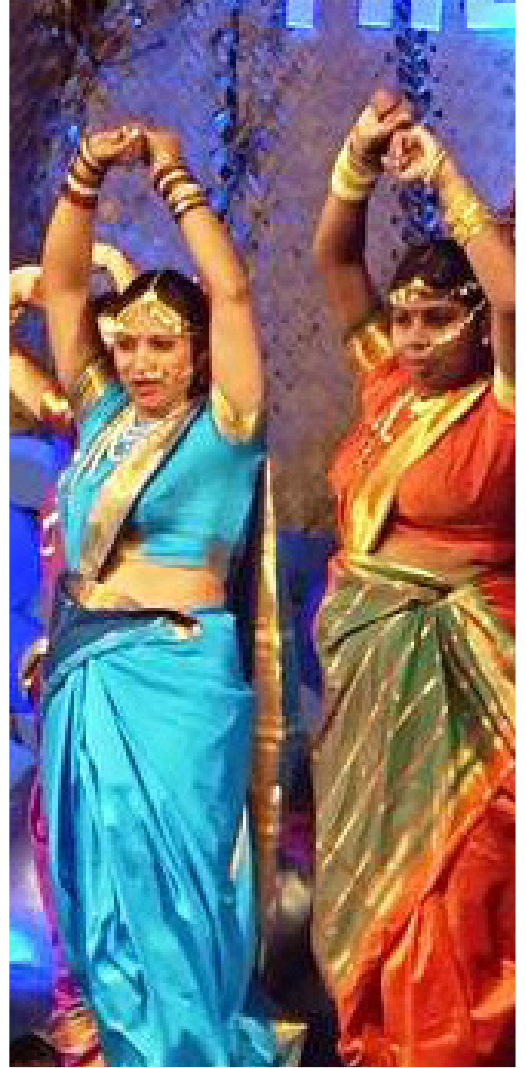
Goa Food

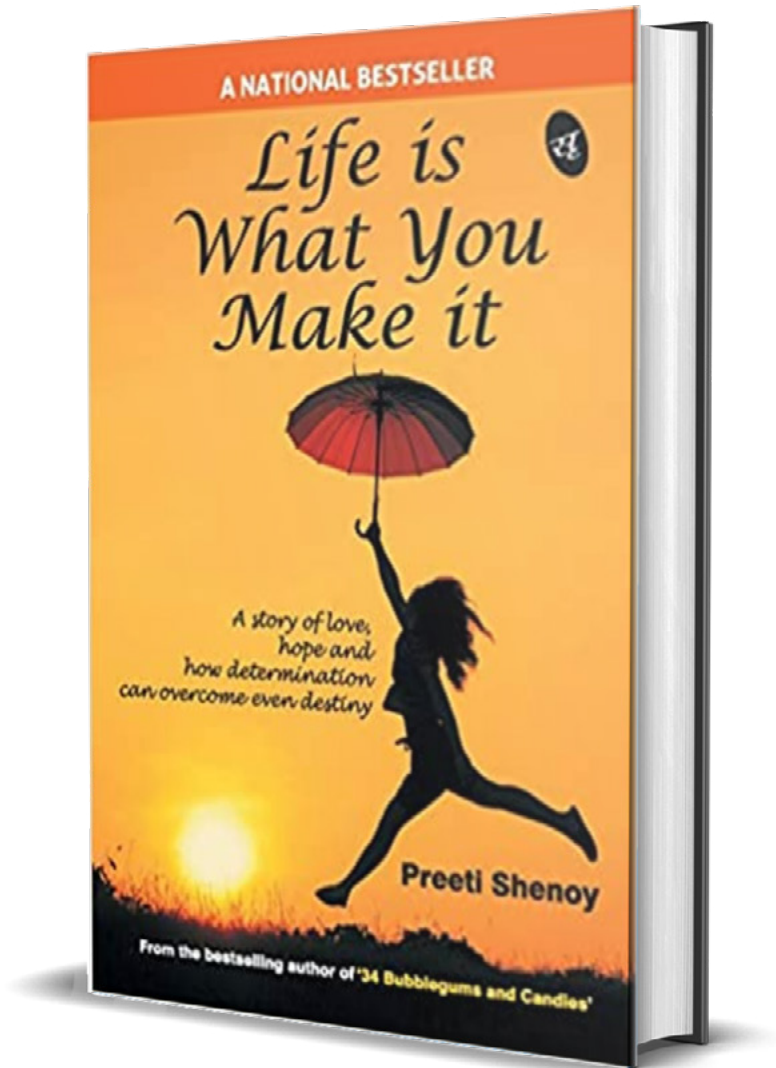
Seafood, coconut milk, rice, and local spices are main ingredients of Goan cuisine. Being a state with a tropical climate, the spices and flavours are intense. Use of kokum is another distinct feature. Goan food is considered incomplete without fish, Rice and fish-curry is the staple of most Goans.



Dhalo

Dhalo is a popular ritual folk dance form Goa, India. The dance is performed by women and serves as a prayer of protection for their households. The songs to which the dance is performed are usually sung in Konkani language or Marathi.





LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT

Preeti Shenoy

Life Is What You Make It is based on a love story that has been set in India in the 90s. It has been described by the readers as a book portraying how love, hope and determination can together win over even the destiny. It is a gripping tale of few significant years of the protagonist's life.

The novel revolves around a woman in her

20s, Ankita, who has a past haunting her like a nightmare. As she grows up from adolescence to a woman in her mid-20s, she wades through different situations, engages in affairs with a couple of guys and is set-back by her parents' refusal to accept her situation. As a result of non-stop upheavals in her life, Ankita develops bipolar disorder at one point in time.

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