

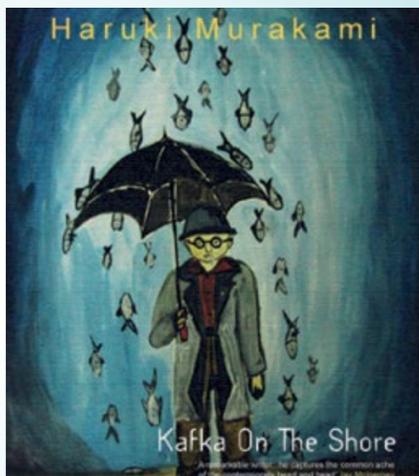
Turn The Page



Book reviews shouldn't require excuses except for the obvious sentiment "here's another great book I found, read it!". Featuring bookworms and their sentient opinions about their best friends, Weekender brings you book reviews for you to pick up the best ones off the shelf and tuck in for a cozy weekend in another world.

This week, Mari Kareem reviews *Kafka On The Shore* by Haruki Murakami.

Haruki Murakami's works have been some of the best choices I have made with regard to choosing what to read, for his work is written in a style that makes it accessible to casual readers as well as critics. The content in each and every one of his work is very unique and yet there is a common undercurrent cutting through all of them. *Kafka on the shore* talks about two oddly different characters and journeys with a faint connection that comes up much later. The first story is about a young boy, Kafka Tamura, who ran away from his home to a small island. The second story is about an old man who encountered a UFO incident which gives him the ability to talk to cats. Which such old ball stories you may wonder what makes the book so special; I would put it down to the term I coined called mystical realism.



Murakami without a doubt is a master of the craft and nowhere is it more evident than in this book. With his vivid descriptions of the happening of the characters, you are transported into the world he has created. Another compelling reason to read this book is the characters themselves; Murakami doesn't create any stereotypes here and jots down each character right down to their flaws and imperfections. The author doesn't turn them into perfect people by the end; through this there is a feeling of maturity and wisdom that has crept into you and your worldview would have changed. Murakami collates the spiritual, the mystical and the reality, a result which will pretty much leave you wide-eyed and in wonder.



Will to SURVIVE

Coping Beyond Cancer

With roughly one in eight women developing breast cancer in their lifetime, the odds are good that nearly everyone is affected by this disease in some way. Whether it's a personal diagnosis or that of a loved one, finding answers to your questions or finding support can make all the difference. Here are a few blogs that'll give you the village that it takes to fight through.

My Cancer Chic

Anna is a young breast cancer survivor. When she was diagnosed at just 27, she struggled to find other young women going through the same experience. Her blog became a place to share not just her cancer story, but her passion for all things style and beauty. Now, three years into remission, she continues to inspire young women through wellness, positivity, style, and self-love.

Let Life Happen

Two-time breast cancer and domestic abuse survivor Barbara Jacoby is on a patient advocacy mission, and her Let Life Happen website is a wonderful place to find inspiration through news and personal stories. Browse a great mix of breast cancer information, advocacy guidance, and tips for taking control of your patient experience, plus Barbara's own experiences from diagnosis to remission.

Journeying Beyond Breast Cancer

Finding support for follow-up care after cancer treatment can be challenging. For Marie Ennis-O'Connor, it wasn't until her final day of treatment

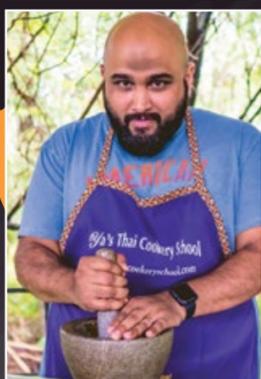
that her breast cancer diagnosis and its aftermath really hit. That's when she felt cut adrift. To help make sense of the experience of cancer, she began her blog. It was a place to discuss the post-treatment limbo she was experiencing, and today, it serves as a great resource for women who find themselves in the same spot.

Rethink Breast Cancer

A resource specifically for young women with breast cancer, this organization understands the multiple age-specific issues at hand. From fertility, diagnosis during pregnancy, childcare, careers, and financial security, Rethink Breast Cancer understands the complexities of cancer at this stage in life. They work to connect young women navigating the same experience and offer age-appropriate support and resources.

Nancy's Point

Nancy Stordahl's life has been irrevocably altered by breast cancer. In 2008, her mother died from this disease. Two years later, Nancy was diagnosed. On her blog, she writes candidly about her experiences, including loss and advocacy, and she refuses to sugarcoat her words.



Shayne Haridas

Weekender, in collaboration with local food bloggers, will bring you reliable reviews of eateries around Bahrain. Shayne Haridas is a food blogger/photographer based in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia with a passion for food. He reviews local eateries from all over Saudi Arabia and on occasion, travels abroad to experience local cuisines. Not to shy away from an experience, it is said there is nothing he won't eat.

EAT WITH WEEKENDER

Fatto Restaurant, Seef

Wondering where to eat from can be confusing when you can't make up your mind. Walking around Seef, we decided to try out @fattobahrain. I had been craving for some Pasta / Risotto for a while now and Fatto's menu pulled me right in. I ordered the Risotto Gamberi Pomodorini, Lemonsoda Della Passione and for dessert, a Crumble di Fragole. My friend ordered the Rose Risotto Di Manzo and a Mojito to compliment the meal. These guys know their food and the Seafood Risotto was sublime. The shrimps were fresh and I loved how they didn't overcook the rice which tends to happen often. The cherry tomatoes were both a lil' sweet and a lil' sour which balanced the meal perfectly. Great refreshing Soda and the best part of the meal was the amazing Crumble Dessert. Always make sure to mix it well before you dig in, or you'll end up with the sour /sweet berries in the bottom of the bowl. Great customer service team who were exceptional and a great place to take the family out!



Streaming services have ushered in a whole new kind of reach and visibility for creativity in the field of 'filmmaking'. Whether they are short films, feature films, mini-series or full-blown web series, we are presently spoilt for choice. Weekender will review one production every week, so you can add or take it off your to-do list for the weekend!



This week, Nebal Shaffi reviews the Amazon show 'Carnival Row'.

Rating: 3.5/5

Amazon is pushing resolutely into the world of sci-fi and fantasy (in large part because Jeff Bezos is a genre fan), and its latest attempt to capture an audience with an epic story, *Carnival Row*, mixes deep mythological elements with a creatively bleak, timeless setting (recalling the Victorian era) and contemporary issues of race, class, immigration and sexual identity. It's all ambitiously mashed together.

No doubt *Carnival Row* will be compared lazily and inaccurately to *Game of Thrones*, which of course it can't live up to. But that's the pigeonholed world we live in.

Orlando Bloom plays Rycroft Philostrate, a detective in *The Burgue*, which resembles a Victorian metropolis with a steampunk feel mixed into the dark, muddy streets, where people are openly carving up pigs (and each other). Much of this is held together and given some sense of connective tissue to the world that director Thor Freudenthal brings to life in the first two episodes, helping set the template for the look to come. (Part of the appeal clearly lies in thinking, "OK, what is this world about and when/where is it set?") The *Burgue* once supported the fae, a collection of fairies in their native country of Tirnanoc, who were being overrun by The Pact, a nebulous group of nation-states that are dangerously powerful. The Pact captures Tirnanoc when *The Burgue* pulls out, creating a refugee crisis.

While most of the storytelling is relatively strong throughout, having seen all eight of the one-hour episodes, I found it ends up a little rushed and erratic in the final two, particularly the finale. That said, it's not easy to build a big web of genre mythology without a clear case of intellectual property rules, but it looks like Beacham and Echevarria are on the same page regarding the larger story (meaning it moves beyond the mysterious serial killer plot to reveal something a lot more intriguing). Amazon has already ordered another season, and there's certainly enough

world-building and enough creativity to merit a longer look for those who give it a chance.

The fine supporting cast includes Jared Harris (*Chernobyl*) and Indra Varma (*Game of Thrones*) as a powerful politician and his scheming wife; David Gyasi (*Interstellar*) as a rich outcast; Simon McBurney (*The Loudest Voice*) as a theater actor and key piece to a larger murder mystery; and Karla Crome (*The Victim, Misfits*) as a fae prostitute and best friend to Vignette. All give strong performances, as do Andrew Gower and Tamzin Merchant as brother-and-sister aristocrats with sinking fortunes.

Ultimately, Bloom and Delevingne must carry the bulk of the first season, and they end up being the primary reasons to keep going when things flag. Part of their success is being believable and playing well off all the characters they encounter, lending some ballast to a spinning story.

