

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 the Palace of Illusions by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni.

“Is the desire for vengeance stronger than the longing to be loved? What evil magic does it possess to draw the human heart so powerfully to it?”

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's Palace of Illusion is the story of the Hindu epic Mahabharata from the perspective of Panchali- the woman who was married to the five Pandava brothers. The story of the epic Mahabharata has always fascinated me- the war, the warriors and their virtues. As a woman, I have always been intrigued about how a lot of female characters who despite being strong have never been appreciated.

We live in a world where there is a constant difference for equal rights between men and women. The author has described Panchali as quite relatable. Right from the beginning of her birth from the sacrificial fire where she was named Draupadi by her father (meaning: daughter of the king Drupad), and she renamed herself to Panchali (meaning: from the kingdom of Panchala) as she didn't want her name to be associated with the male in her life, she showed us that she had a voice so strong and fierce that she changed the course of history despite being in a patriarchal society. From the beginning of her childhood, she had considered her birth to be a mistake but eventually she realizes her importance when she meets the Vyasa. She is not depicted as a victim rather than a raw human being who had her heart broken with guilt which then turned to vengeance because of the humiliation she has faced.

All the characters in this book are described in the greatest honesty, emotions and they come to life in the reader's mind. Specifically Karna- who is narrated in a hauntingly beautiful way from his birth

till death, Krishna- whose friendship has always been there when she needed the most and her beloved brother Dhrishtadyumna who never left her hand throughout since their birth from the sacrificial fire. Divakaruni also adds other imaginative twists of her own: Which man does Panchali really love? This book shows the power of a woman, the beauty of friendships and how vengeance has been viewed as a rather strong emotion. This book will surely not be everyone's cup of tea but it surely is mine.



CELEBRATE THE PINK MONTH

As the month arrives with a reminder for individuals to preventively get themselves checked and to continue raising funds for research and cure of this illness, a portion of the total sales from all Pink-themed events at Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, will be donated to the local charity organization, Think Pink Bahrain.

Commenting on the occasion, Jeremy Canivet, Director of Sales and Marketing said, "We are delighted to continue our support to a local charity partner Think Pink Bahrain for the fifth consecutive year. Aligning with our corporate social responsibility Community Footprints program, these annual events not only showcase solidarity across the Kingdom but most importantly our guests can enjoy unique experiences while supporting a global cause." Following the annual Pink Island Party on October 17, the month continues with a variety of events for guests to join in including, the Pink Brunch at La Med in partnership with Asia Jewellers on October 18, a special pink menu in Primavera by Chef Delfino Sanfilippo Chiarello as well as Plums by Chef Mohamed Abdou and pink-colored desserts by Executive Pastry Chef Jonathan



Challenger at the Ritz Gourmet Lounge and Lobby Lounge. The Ritz-Carlton Spa also treats guests to an ESPA pink hair mask enhancement and many more choices as part of their 90-minute treatment throughout the month.

Pink Island Party Featuring Headliner DJ Ersan Erguner

Thursday, October 17, 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., Private Island.



The annual Pink Island Party is back! Dance the night away and make your footprints count as you groove for charity, in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness month. The most awaited party of the season will feature the latest tunes by their guest DJ Ersan Erguner and a sumptuous open buffet and beverage station. Price: BHD 25 for members and hotel guests, BHD 35 for non-members. Ticket includes open buffet and beverages from 8 pm - 11 pm Dress code: Pink, Smart Casual

Weekender brings you automobile reviews from hardcore fans to all lovers of everything on wheels!

WEEKENDER PATROL

BMW 5 Series: A Mini 7 Series

PRO
Fair styling, cabin space, handling, powerful engine choices, fuel economy

CONS
High price, heavy, controls lack feedback

Rating: 4.5/5

The seventh-generation BMW 5-series arrived in 2017. The 530i has a turbocharged 2.0-liter 6-cylinder, mated to an 8-speed automatic with paddle-shifters. A 540i model gets a turbocharged 3.0-liter 6-cylinder. Some of the wide range of sophisticated driving and comfort features offered in the new BMW 5-Series include Dynamic Drive Control with four modes, namely comfort, normal, sport and sport+, as well as Comfort Start, Head-Up Display, Multi-Channel Audio System, Rear Seat Entertainment, Four-Zone Automatic Air Conditioning, and BMW iDrive control. BMW ConnectedDrive also offers a unique range of driver-assist technology functions for enhanced comfort and safety. The regular 5-Series can also be had with an M package that adds sports suspension and a body kit. The BMW 5-Series comes with a Parking Assistant, an optional feature that facilitates the process of parking, as well as Active Cruise Control, Surround View and Rear View Camera, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Change Warning and BMW Night Vision with pedestrian recognition.

The all-new 5 Series starts from BHD 25,000 to BHD 38,000.



TV Guide

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 Shafi reviews the third season of the Netflix show 'Money Heist'.

Rating: 4/5

MONEY HEIST SEASON THREE
Season 3 of Money Heist was released on Netflix on July 19th, 2019.

First of all, the writing in the season 3 has to be praised for being consistent with the character arcs. Nothing looks to have been developed out of character from Rio being caught to everyone deciding to help their fellow member. Like the Oceans series, this one also works due to characters and themes than just the heist drama. The action also seems to have been heightened up and we can see the change in the budget as well. The concentration on pushing the limits of the individuals is well written with believable logic this season. We can see that the gang has taken a bigger job not completely prepared this time.

With each complication, we see that the drama and suspense increase better. But Tokyo seems like that character, who will be a more flawed hero for audiences than even the Professor. The end of the season leaves big suspense for the next one and we believe that the team has laid out the story for both. Actors seem to have been cast perfectly for each role and their performances this season are much better too. The Professor character is more likable than previous seasons but Palermo is not as good as Berlin. Using the later in flashbacks worked well but maybe a better character could have replaced him. Still the actor who plays Palermo is really great.

On the whole, with the change in platform, the writers have also dared to become edgier and the series has just become the best one in heist based modern dramas after the Oceans series.

