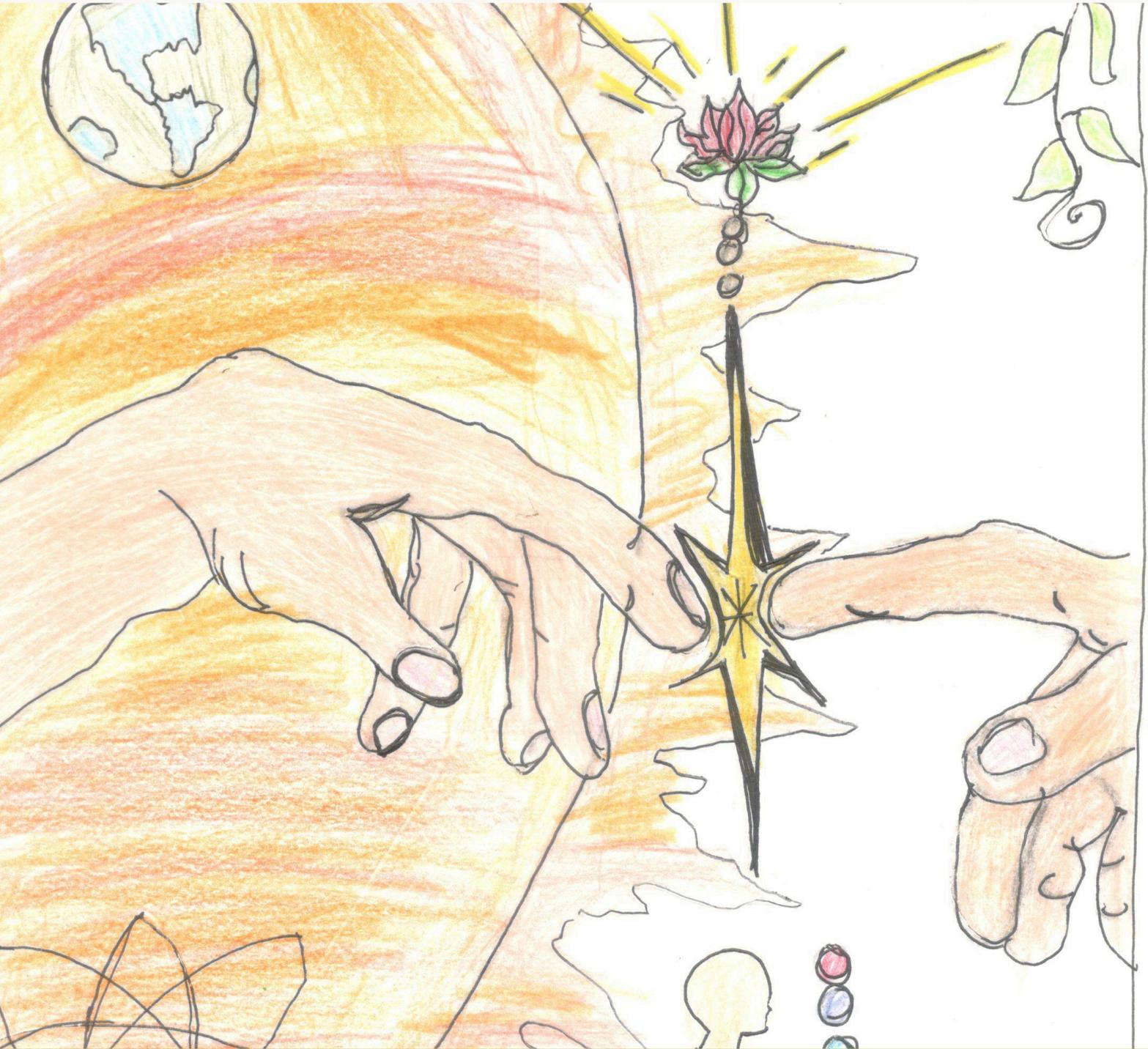


Kaleidoscope

Dec '25 - Jan '26

Issue #68

The various hues of Deepanam



"Inside: NaNoWriMo Novels • Monologue Presentations • Our Favorite Books of 2025"

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Fope's opinion

What Christmas gift would you like to receive that can surprise and give a special meaning to your life?

If I could choose a Christmas gift that would truly surprise me and give a special meaning to my life, I would wish for a pocket watch that allows me to pause time. Not to escape from my responsibilities or to change the past, but to slow everything down when life feels overwhelming. I think the idea of controlling time is powerful because time is something we are constantly chasing, yet never able to stop.

In today's world, everything moves incredibly fast. We are always rushing from one obligation to another, focused on what comes next instead of what is happening right now. Because of this, we often forget to truly experience our lives. Moments that should feel important, like spending time with loved ones, enjoying a quiet conversation, or simply being alone with our thoughts, these moments often pass by unnoticed. A pocket watch that could pause time would remind me that these moments deserve attention and care.

With this watch, I could stay longer in meaningful situations without feeling pressured by time. I could appreciate the people I love more deeply, listen to them without distraction, and create memories without constantly worrying about deadlines or the future. It would also give me the opportunity to reflect, to understand my emotions, and to breathe when life feels too intense. These pauses would help me reconnect with myself and better understand what truly matters to me.

More than anything, this pocket watch would symbolise the importance of presence. It would remind me that life is not only about moving forward or achieving goals, but about valuing the present moment. By allowing me to pause time, this gift would teach me to live more mindfully and to appreciate the beauty of moments that are usually overlooked. In that way, it would have a special meaning, not because of its magical power, but because of the perspective it would give me on life.

-Leoni

If I could receive one gift, I would choose a Time Turner (yes, like in Harry Potter), but different. I would choose this because sometimes I really want to go back to the moment and cherish it, knowing it won't last forever. But unlike in Harry Potter, I would want it to take me back as I was in that moment, meaning I wouldn't have to be careful not run into myself. I would just go back and know that I went back to the past, and I could just relive the moment. And I would stay there until the future, till exactly where I choose to go back in time. I would also use this opportunity to maybe look back and see if I could notice something that I didn't before. Because a lot of times I think of the things that happened before and realize I may have interrupted someone, or did something without noticing, and everybody else did. I always wish I could go back and fix whatever happened, whether it's "small" or "big", it would still bother me.

-Aditi

Fope's opinion

What if I had unlimited energy for one day?

If I had unlimited energy for one day, I would help all the trees grow more healthier and faster, so that makes us give more shade and more rain, and we will also get good and fresh oxygen, pour water to trees contentiously, we also get fresh fruits and vegetables, and also we need to harvest the fruit and vegetables on time, we basically need tree almost for for everything, for cooking we use the wood log to make fire and cook, and build furniture.

I won't let people cut trees, because in all places, people are cutting trees for no reason; they don't even know how much value one tree is.

I will also take care of the plants. If there is any worm that eats the plants, I will cut that part and remove the worms from the plants. If I don't remove and cut it, it will spoil the whole plant.

- Moksha

If I had unlimited energy for one day, I would hike all the trails in Yosemite National Park. I grew up camping in Yosemite's valleys during the summer, and I remember looking up at the mountains surrounding me, amazed by the waterfalls and the trails that wind up the steep cliffs.

At night, it becomes pitch black, and the stars shine so brightly that it feels like you could reach out and touch them. If you look closely at the mountain faces, you can even see tiny lights from rock climbers scaling the cliffs.

I also became a Junior Ranger by participating in Yosemite's Junior Ranger program. We hiked, learned about the park, and completed different tasks that helped us understand nature and how to protect it.

One of the most challenging hikes is Clouds Rest trail, it is about 3,000 meters above sea level and roughly 1,500 meters above the Yosemite Valley floor. At the top of this trail you get a 360 degree view of Yosemite Valley.

Hiking one of the longest trails in the park takes the average person an entire day, but with unlimited energy, I could experience every trail Yosemite has to offer. With approximately 1,287 kilometres of trails winding through the park, Yosemite offer more paths than most people could explore in a lifetime—unless they had unlimited energy.

-Romaya

If I had unlimited energy, I would like to build a technological machine, this machine gives you special super powers. My super power would be to fly as fast as an air plane. I would love to know what it's like to touch a cloud, or even try to lie on a cloud and observe the stars of the galaxy.

I could also go to school flying, imagine how great it would be not to have to wake up so early, or even not to worry about catching the bus.

Another reason being a superhero for a day would be incredible for is, I would help so many people and animals, it would help myself as well, feeling great that i was helping others beings, like finding houses for homeless, people and animals, they would be so happy and joyful, I would feel like Superman, like I can do and can get everything.

It's so strange to think that things aren't easy for us normal humans, and when I think about this question, "if you had unlimited energy," I can only imagine that it would be like I was in an action and adventure movie, but thinking about it, there are so many things to choose in life, and among all these options I feel that you can only choose one, and if you make the wrong choice because you're anxious for example, your whole day can become the worst day of all, in my thoughts for Superheros its easier to choose and to change everything.

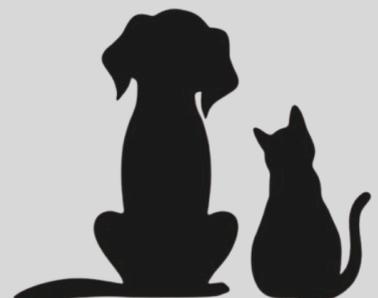
People dream of having unlimited money, others just want to fulfill a simple dream, perhaps a childhood dream. Honestly, I would love to experience what it feels like to have a dream come true, to feel a sensation that seems impossible to feel, like the flying super power, feeling, the fresh air on your face, the blue sky, fluffy white clouds. It's a feeling I have no idea what it would be like, but just thinking about it makes me feel more than fulfilled, as I'm not a Superhero yet.

-Durga

If I had infinite energy for 1 day I would use it to heal all the animals. I would save the animals before getting hit by vehicles. I would save animals from eating poisoned food. I would clean up all the plastic that is in nature, water, lakes, oceans, rivers, seas, ground and trees.

I would learn new things, fix things that are damaged or I can teach and help people to fix objects. I would build my own house. I would heal all the people. I would stop all wars. I would stop people from cutting trees. I would like to learn to play the piano. I would climb tall and huge mountains. I would clean parasites in the world. I would help scientists to build free energy devices, bio-fuels, and free Wi-Fi for all. I would make everything free for everyone.

-Mila



If I had unlimited energy for one day, I wouldn't waste a single second I would use it to change the future of humanity.

First I would invent and deploy an infinite and long lasting energy storage system, something that surpassed batteries and generators, a system capable of storing enough energy to power a few continents and that can last for centuries.

Next I would create an isolated space, a small world where trees grew without being disturbed, where air would clean, space not only for humans but also for animals and birds. Within this world I would build eco friendly structures that represent humanity at its best. Architecture that blends nature and technology. Eco friendly skyscrapers, living houses and beautiful views.

Power: Everything will be powered by solar power, hydraulic power and wind energy.

Buildings would have solar panels on walls and roofs. Hydraulic dams and waterfalls would run in a loop. Strategically placed windmills and turbines would generate wind energy.

Food and water: Large farming plots would grow a variety of vegetables. Water would run in an infinite loop, would be taken from rivers and sent to a place where water would be purified.

Weather and sunlight: I would create a mini portable replica of the sun, something powerful as the sun. Then I would build a machine that can predict and change the weather. For this world to come true a lot of effort, money and energy will be needed

NanoWrimo

-Uday

Nexus

" The morning light filters gently through my eyelids. I open my eyes and get up slowly. I feel all my muscles tense as I stretch. I think about last night and the day ahead, then I walk to the window. Outside, the landscape is beautiful : the colourful canals of the Iris are illuminated by the sun. The walls of the surrounding buildings are tinted green, blue and gold. Further, on the roof of the pupil, the lighted bell rings, waking the inhabitants of the Iris.

From the book:

Downstairs, I hear my parents quietly getting ready; on my bed, Bubble stretches and, as every morning, seems annoyed at being woken up.

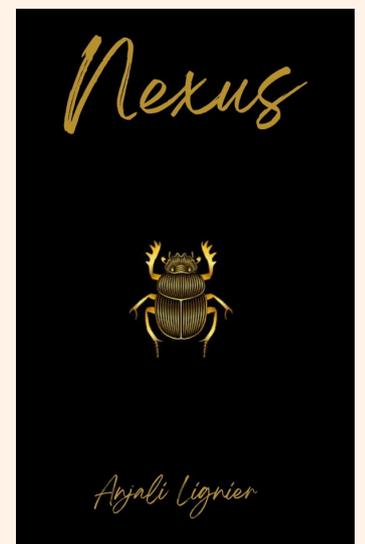
" Kim! Are you ready?!" My mother calls from the kitchen.

And, as every morning I lie:

" Yes mom, I'm coming!"

And I go downstairs, as always, 15 minutes late.

This is how every day of my life on the Iris begins."



Condemned

From the book:

“I duck, slide back, punch, my knuckles slam into something that feels like striking a bag of sticks wrapped in leather. It hisses, jaws snapping inches from my throat.

Behind me, Mira screams Luther’s name like she’s ripping the vowels out of her lungs. She’s fighting him. Actually fighting him. Her kicks landing sharp, and her knives slicing Luthers and every skin walker that dares step too close to her. I

It's like watching a dancer dance to music the way Mira's knife and body move so gracefully and dangerously to the sounds of howl, growl and snarl the sound of flesh being sliced to ribbons. I blink out of my day dream as he finally gets a hold on her wrist, twisting it with a crack that makes bile claw up my throat and my heart almost stops.”

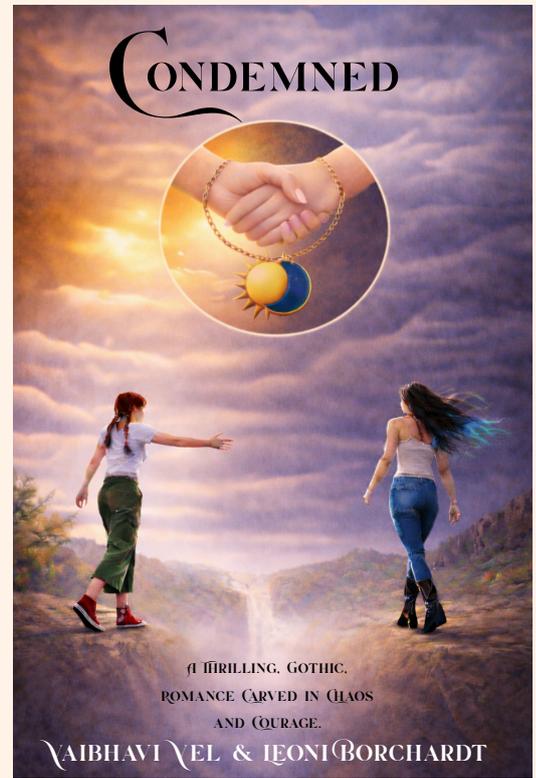
Our experience:

Our experience was great, fun and we learned and surprised ourselves constantly during the whole experience. We feel like we have learnt a lot from this experience, like working together, doing it in one month which needed dedication and discipline especially on days we don't want to pick up the computer, but we helped each other through this journey and were each others cheer leaders, we are very proud of our book, it might not be perfect and there is always something to improve but we tried our best, and we only had a little bit more than two months, so you have to give us that. We are really happy about it, and we hope our readers like and enjoy it as much as we loved writing the book.

This book was especially fun to write because the characters' personalities are inspired by us, and some events that happened in this book are things that we went through together. We were also really excited when we convinced our teachers to write it together, because even before NaNoWriMo we thought and had an idea and plot of a whole book, and we were like “Wait, this would be good in a book.”

Just writing together was so much fun, and we would definitely do it again (maybe even without NaNoWriMo) . We are especially thankful to Aurèvan, our English teacher, who helped us a lot with general planning of the book. Character building (which she helped us do through a fun exercise), and chapter break down so that we knew exactly what happened in that specific chapter so that when it was time to write the book we were not left hanging or discouraged, all we had to do was elaborate on that chapter. She also helped us with the experience itself and made it a lot more fun.

We have learnt a lot through this experience , and are getting better at writing together, planning, and teamwork, and we are really thankful for getting to experience this. We think it's a wonderful thing to do with your friends because it really helps deepen the friendship and you just have a whole different understanding and view of this person.



‘we hope our readers like and enjoy it as much as we loved writing the book. ‘

Light Bound

From the book:

Leo didn't trust his voice, so he only gave a small nod and kept moving. Ron didn't follow. He just watched Leo hurry away.

By the time Leo reached the restroom, the pain had spread across both sides of his back. He closed the door behind him and checked to make sure the room was empty. It was.

He pulled off his t-shirt and turned toward the mirror. Something was pushing through his skin—two shapes forming slowly, like they had been waiting for years. He didn't feel fear yet, only confusion. He reached back and touched them.

Wings.

Plain white, the kind he thought he had lost long ago. Not glowing, not shining, not dramatic—just wings, real and solid.

Leo stared at them in silence. A faint heat pulsed beneath each feather, steady but bearable. He spread them slightly, testing how they moved. They reacted instantly, as if they remembered what to do even though he didn't.

He didn't know what this meant.

He didn't know why it was happening now.

He didn't know if it was a warning or a reminder.

But he did know one thing:

The quiet life he built was starting to crack.

He slipped his t-shirt back on, moving slowly so the wings wouldn't tear through the fabric. He needed time to think and time to hide. Most of all, he needed answers.

He took a breath and faced the mirror one more time.

His past was no longer in the past. Something was returning—whether he wanted it or not.

And deep inside him, he felt the first familiar pull of what he once was.

An angel. And an angel who still had unfinished business.

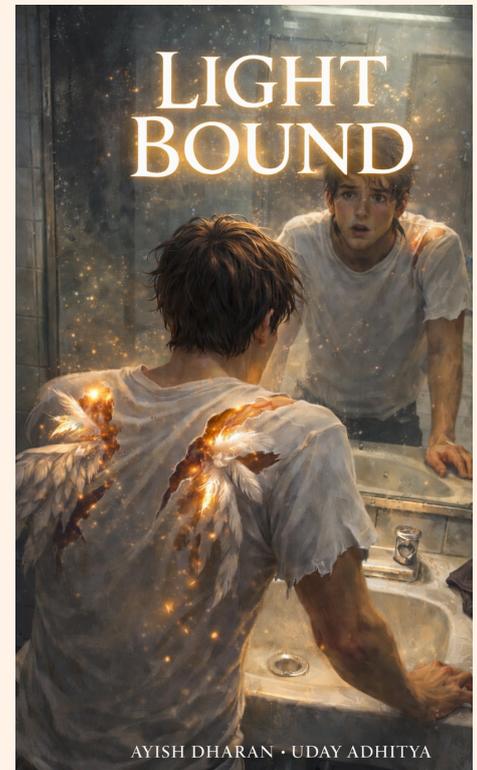
Experience

The start of this book was really tense for me. I had no idea how I was going to begin it, or how it would end. Honestly, I had no idea what I was doing for a long time. It stayed like that through the first several chapters, and writing felt forced—chapters were barely a page long.

Somewhere around chapter 12, something just clicked. I finally understood what I was trying to do. After that, it was smooth sailing. I had a small idea, expanded it, and then typed it out without overthinking. It all came together naturally.

The beginning, though, was tough. Really tough. But once it worked, it worked—and I don't even remember how the rest came so easily.

In Uday's words, "It would have been an amazing experience, but working with Ayish made it horrible."



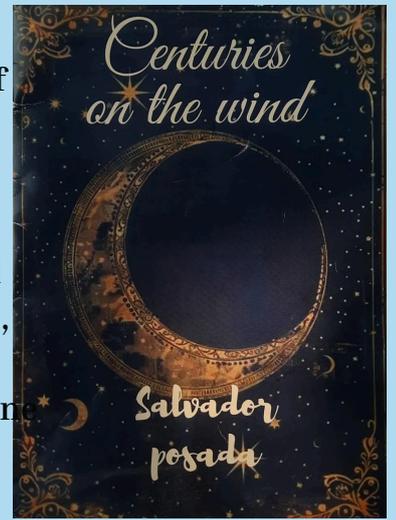
Centuries On The Wind

~Salvador

My NaNoWriMo experience felt amazingly barbaric because I got out of my comfort zone, and I have managed to finish something that I didn't think I could. Thank you so much Aurévan and Mahavir.

Summary:

In 17th-century, in South America, a beautiful enslaved woman named Madeline falls into a forbidden, genuine love with her wealthy master, Stefan. When their romance is discovered, Stefan's prestigious family accuses her of witchcraft to preserve their reputation. Though Madeline actually possesses magical powers, her love for Stefan was real, not a spell.



While facing execution at the stake in Cartagena, she remembers a pact made with a powerful wizard named Valdemar. To escape her death, she must return a mysterious stone to a woman called Cyrene to fulfill the mission and travel back to the past and runaway with Stefan.

Star gazing at Gaia field

On 19 December, the Grace Group had a sleepover at school after the Christmas dinner. After dinner, we dropped our bags in the ATB Hall, and Bhakti told us we were going for a walk to Gaia Field. On the way, she told us we had a surprise - and it turned out to be stargazing through a telescope! Since there were quite a few of us, we took turns looking through the telescope. While we were waiting for the others to finish, Samath, Marceau, and I looked up at the stars. We tried to figure out different constellations and star clusters, and we spotted Orion high up in the sky. At first, I thought Betelgeuse was the middle star in Orion's Belt, but later I found out that it is actually the star marking Orion the hunter's left shoulder. The star is in the Red giant phase and could become a supernova!

Through the telescope, we looked at Saturn first, towards the southwest in the sky. We could see Saturn and its circular ring, which is made mostly of ice and rock. We could also see its three largest moons: Titan, Rhea, and Iapetus. Titan is Saturn's largest moon and the second-largest in the solar system, and it is special because it has a thick atmosphere and lakes of liquid methane. Rhea is the second-largest moon and looks like a heavily cratered "dirty snowball" made of ice and rock. Iapetus is known as the "yin and yang" moon because one side is bright and the other is dark, and it even has a huge mountain range around its middle. These features were not visible through the telescope when we observed.

We also saw Neptune, very close to Saturn, but it only appeared as a small dot with a slightly blue colour. Apparently, there is a conjunction of Saturn and Neptune which will peak on February 20th 2026. From the Earth's perspective, this conjunction happens in a 36-year cycle. The last one was in 1989-1990.

When we observed that night, Saturn and Neptune were close together in the same field of view of the telescope. Next, we observed Jupiter and three of its moons. The fourth moon of Jupiter was only faintly visible. Jupiter appeared brown, orange, and light blue in colour, and we observed it in the north-eastern sky. Jupiter and its moons could be seen in a rough line. These moons are called the Galilean moons - Io is the closest to Jupiter and is the most volcanically active body in the Solar System, with hundreds of volcanoes. Europa is slightly smaller than Earth's Moon and is covered in ice, which may hide a large ocean of liquid water underneath. Ganymede is the largest moon in the Solar System, even bigger than the planet Mercury, and it is the only moon known to have its own magnetic field. Callisto is the farthest Galilean moon from

Jupiter is the most heavily cratered object in the Solar System, made mostly of ice and rock. It was really fun and interesting to look at the planets through the telescope and also to look at the night sky with my friends.

Uday, Grace Group

How energy is produced

A common energy source, Solar Energy.

In just an hour and a half, the sun beams enough energy onto Earth to power the whole world for a year—talk about overachieving! Solar tech catches this sunshine in two main ways: photovoltaic (PV) panels, which you probably see on rooftops, and concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) systems, which use mirrors to focus sunlight like a giant magnifying glass.

PV panels soak up sunlight and turn it into electricity by making tiny electrical charges dance inside special cells. CSP plants, usually huge, use mirrors to heat things up and create steam that drives turbines for power, or store the heat for later. So whether it's rooftop panels or big mirror farms, solar energy is basically turning sunlight into power with some clever science and a dash of sunshine magic!

Let's go, Hydro-Power!

Hydro-power is like nature's never-ending water show that turns flowing rivers into electricity. By building dams or diverting water, we use the river's natural flow and height drops (called the "head") to spin turbines—kind of like giant water-powered fans. These turbines then spin generators that create electricity to power our homes and businesses.

The secret sauce? Water's kinetic energy—the faster and more it flows downhill, the more juice it can produce. The water races through pipes called penstocks, hits the turbine blades, and voilà—clean, renewable power from good old H₂O, all without using up the water itself. It's a win-win: the water keeps flowing, and the lights keep shining!

But what about Fossil Fuels?

Fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas—powering about 80% of the world's energy—are basically Earth's way of recycling ancient plant and tiny sea creature leftovers. Millions of years ago, plants in swamps and microscopic ocean critters died and got buried in places with little oxygen, so they didn't rot away completely. Over ages and ages, these organic piles got cooked and squished by heat and pressure underground.

Coal comes from swamp plants turned into peat and then coal, mostly from the Carboniferous period (think 300 million years ago). Oil and gas come from ocean goo—marine microorganisms from the Mesozoic era (the age of dinosaurs). So, are fossil fuels fueling your car or heating your home? Just ancient nature's leftovers, slow-cooked by Earth's geology into energy-packed goodies!

Last but no least, Nuclear Energy!

Think of a nuclear reactor as a super-hot kettle. It heats up water so fiercely that the steam it produces can spin a giant windmill-like machine called a turbine. This turbine is attached to a clever motor that works backwards—when it spins, it creates electricity instead of using it.

Inside the reactor, fuel rods get really hot from nuclear reactions, heating up water in a big, tough pot. Sometimes the water boils right there (boiling water reactor), and sometimes it stays liquid under huge pressure and passes its heat to another water system that makes the steam (pressurised water reactor).

The steam spins the turbine, the turbine spins the generator, and voilà—electricity flows out! After the steam does its job, it cools down into water, goes back into the reactor, and the cycle starts all over again. It's basically a high-tech, steam-powered merry-go-round that keeps your lights on!

Internships

My Internship at Marc's Café

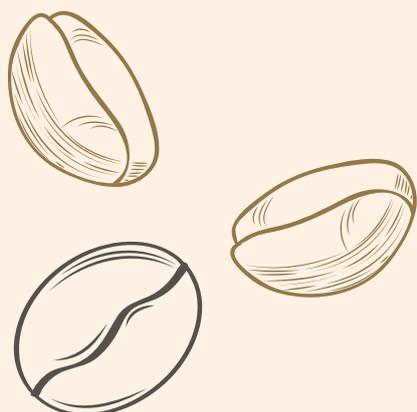
I did my internship at Marc's Cafe from 9:00 to 12:00 each day. I started my day by filling up the jars of coffee beans. After that, I would spend most of my time in the barista spot, where I worked with Amritha, who helped me so much in the whole experience. She made it so interesting and taught me like a teacher of my own.

Amritha taught me everything - the history of coffee, how they manufacture it, where the coffee comes from, and most importantly, how to make the coffee itself. I still don't know how to draw the shapes on the coffee, but at least she explained how to make them. It took time, but in the end I learnt the whole process. Slowly, I not only gained the trust to make coffee for the staff and myself, but also to make it for the customers.

Other than making coffee, I also spent some time being a waiter, which brought so many funny and embarrassing moments. One of which is that I spilt watermelon juice on a lady, thankfully, she didn't realise. The waitering wasn't really difficult; the trays were just pretty hard to carry because of the weight difference on both sides. It was just really stressful cause I usually forget the name of the coffee or the food that I served which is pretty embarrassing.

The perks were great - I got to enjoy delicious coffee throughout the day, fresh juices, chocolates and other treats. Breakfast was a highlight with three idlis with sambar, coconut chutney and tomato chutney, which added a lot of happiness to my internship.

I want to say thank you - first to the school and to Mahavir for making this whole experience happen. Second to Marc's Cafe, it's been such an amazing internship, and I had a really great time. It's just so amazing how they taught me so much while the restaurant was still open, and all the orders they got, and the way they treated me was just so amazing, and I really appreciate their kindness.



My Internship at Kallialay Surf School

I did my internship at Kallialay Surf School at Serenity Beach. Kallialay started in 2009 and was one of the first surf schools on India's southeast coast. It was founded by Juan and Samai who grew up surfing at Serenity beach.

My mentor Mimi was amazing - she taught me everything from day one, including how to surf. The team at Kallialay is really cool. Samai has been surfing since the '90s and is the head coach of India's national surf team. Perceval won the juniors national competition and teaches intermediate lessons. There's also Rizzi who's known for his jokes, and others like Safia,

Max, TJ and Mukta who keeps everything organized.

My day started at 7:15 or 9:15 depending on the tides. We'd sweep around the school, take out the boards, and wait for students. In the water, we'd do body surfing, then belly riding, and finally the pop up technique. After class we'd wash the boards and clean the rash vests.

I learned so much - my surfing got better, I learned how to scan the ocean for rip tides and sand banks, how to teach students, make coffee how everyone likes it, wax and repair boards. Most importantly, I learned that surfers are really cool people to hang out with.

What I Learned

- My surfing got better
- How to scan the ocean for riptides and sand banks
- to teach students
- How to make coffee how everyone likes it
- How to wax boards
- How to repair the boards
- The Surfers are really cool people



My Internships

PTDC

Matrimandir

Hello, my name is Ennio and I did my first internship at PTDC grocery store.

My experience was okay, not the best but not that bad.

The best part was working with my friend Kyrill. We would label products and fill up packets while talking about personal stuff to pass the time. We always had each other's backs. To be honest it would have been so boring without him. The work got really frustrating sometimes, but we managed through. Sadly Kyrill had to leave, so I worked those last three weeks alone.

For snack I bought a white chocolate protein bar and a mint cooler. Not bad at all. There were some limitations - apparently you cannot drink a mint cooler while doing your work. The benefits were fun though - during snack break I could roam around, go into Free Store or Nandini.

The experience was so nice, everyone was so heartwarming. I worked inside the petals, and it is one of the calmest places in the entire Matrimandir. It was so peaceful I could actually meditate. I had a choice between working in the gardens or the petals, and after trying both, the petals were the spot for me.

I guided people inside the petals and out when they wanted to end their meditation. I worked in 5 petals - Sincerity, Progress, Receptivity, Generosity, and Humility. The one I worked in most was Receptivity. Once it was even full with 6 people. A guy who worked there told me he hadn't seen a petal so full in so long.

The snack was the best and healthiest - bread with pesto, natural lemon juice, chai, and nice crunchy vadais, so much better than Solar's. Huge thanks to Kartik, who brought the snacks every week.

My shift was from 9 to 11 AM, and after my shift, I could roam around in the gardens or go back to school. Would I take this job in the future? I would most definitely, without a second thought, say yes. I live nearby, and it's an easy 5 minutes to get there. Would I recommend this to people I know? Of course, it's such an amazing place where it feels peaceful for once.

~ Ennio

Up-Cycled

My experience in up-cycled was one of the most nicest and calmest experience, like in the sense that your feeling overwhelmed with relaxation in your mind. Beautiful surroundings, with clothes that colours made with plants and a beautiful outside to look out from.

Wonderful place. Recommend it? I don't know, that's in your thoughts

~ Kent



Internship At P T D C

We did our internship at Pour Tous Distribution Centre (PTDC) in Auroville, which has been operating since 2006 as a step towards Mother's vision of Auroville's economy.

Our tasks included stock checking, restocking shelves, packaging, and labelling. We packed seeds, masala powders and spices. First, we would check what materials were less on the shelf, then we'd go to the storeroom, take the materials, and fill up the shelf until it was full.

We had a time challenge task to pack 30kg of jaggery in 1 hour, and we managed to do it with someone's help. In food preparation, I helped to peel garlic, mushrooms and carrots. Our experience was actually good because I learned new things. We have to communicate with new people and pack properly. When I started packing for the first time, it was too hot, so it was melting, and then I learned.

We learned how to be patient because when I first went to PTDC, I thought that I would do so many things, but you need to know that you should not have expectations.



My Internship at Matrimandir

When I was in Matrimandir, I felt so many emotions at the same time. I did gardening, and I felt so happy. At snack time, I saw many birds, peacocks, and crows trying to eat small pieces of bread. When I went inside the chamber, it was so beautiful and calm. You feel so light and free. After 10 minutes, when you leave, you feel like you can fly because you feel so light, like a feather.

In the gardens, I was removing the bulbs and dead flowers. When I went to the B garden, I was gardening with the butterflies. When I looked around, there were many butterflies, so colourful and unique. All the people are very nice to you. Every time they are smiling and happy. My experience is so unreal and real at the same time. This place is heaven.

My Day at Matrimandir:

I wake up at 8:20 am. Every Friday, I ride my cycle to Matrimandir. I start gardening at 9:00 am, but first I need to talk with Karthik. He is my mentor at Matrimandir, and I need to decide which work I will do. After talking with him, I go to the garden and start doing my work. After 1 hour, at 10:00 am, I go to tea time. Then I take bread with pesto on top and tea with sugar. At 10:15, I go to Karthik again, and if he has a different work for me, he will say, but if I want to keep doing the same work, I can. It is my choice.

I like it a lot. I love my experience in Matrimandir. It is a place so wonderful and magical. After all my morning doing gardening, I feel so light and happy. I feel free.

My recommendation is that if you want to relax and try to find yourself, Matrimandir is the correct place.

Thank You

-Durga

Inside India

My time at Inside India. I worked on so much, including but not limited to writing emails, making itineraries and working on the company newsletter pravahã. I really enjoyed the work atmosphere and the people were always open to teach new things and still let u learn on your own, my day started by coming in and waiting for my mentor Mahima to arrive (not to brag but i almost always came before her ;)) then we decided if we wanted to work on the newsletter or work with a client if we worked with a client our responses varied from client to client someone wanted to know about a workshop or a thing that Inside India provides. Still, others wanted to schedule events or take tours around Auroville. If we worked on pravahã, we mostly did page design, n as articles weren't really required since they could be pasted from the website. I really loved my internship at Inside India and would choose to go there for my third term, but I find the need for variety, which is why this term I'm going somewhere else.



Monologue presentation



My monologue was a short performance that expressed emotions, thoughts, and inner conflict of a single character. Through this monologue, I tried to convey feelings clearly using voice, expressions, and body language. It was a meaningful experience because the entire performance depended only on me, without support from other characters.

The biggest challenge I faced was memorising the lines and delivering them confidently. Pronunciation, clarity, and maintaining the right emotions were also difficult for me. I had to practice many times to control my nervousness and improve my voice modulation. Understanding the depth of the character was another challenge, but repeated practice helped me overcome it

I was surprised by my own confidence during the performance. Even though I was nervous at first, once I started, I felt comfortable and focused. I didn't expect to connect with the audience as well as I did, and that gave me a lot of encouragement.

This monologue experience taught me that I can step out of my comfort zone and perform in front of others. I realised that with practice and determination, I can overcome fear and self-doubt. It also helped me believe more in my abilities.

One important skill I developed during this project was communication. I learned how to express emotions clearly through voice, facial expressions, and body language. This skill will be useful not only on stage but also in real-life situations.

'I didn't expect to connect with the audience as well as I did, and that gave me a lot of encouragement.'

- Jeshika Sri

I faced challenges in memorising my monologue and the one that I wrote. While preparing for the monologue presentation, I thought I would not be able to memorise it my monologue surprised me by showing my confidence. And I felt proud of myself because I achieved it. I learned I can achieve many things by practising it and not to give up easily through the monologue. I experienced hard work and perseverance. I have developed confidence during the project.



'I learned I can achieve many things by practicing it and to not give up easily.'

“I thought it would be harder because of nerves and all, but it really wasn’t that hard.” - Samath



This term we had a monologue workshop with Mike. I had two monologues. One, which I made myself, was about why I am vegan, and the other, which Mike gave to me, was from Big Z in Surf’s Up. I don’t know anything about Surf’s Up, but Mike told me where it is from, so I know. One challenge I faced while preparing for the monologue presentation was remembering all the things I needed to do at the same time. Remembering to talk loudly, clearly, remembering my lines, remembering to walk, remembering to change speeds and tones in my voice at different times, remembering to use the stage, remembering to use expressions and hand gestures, etc. One surprise for me was how easy it was to finally present the monologues at the end.

I thought it would be harder because of nerves and all, but it really wasn’t that hard. One thing I found annoying was having to say the exact same monologue over and over again to memorize it, then correct my mistakes, then do this and that, but it really was the same monologue I was saying over and over again a million times. One skill I learnt is how to do these things, like, the process. It’s easy and fun and I can do it quickly now.

Christmas Dinner and Grace Group Sleepover

The evening started with the Grace groupers arriving early, so that we could help prepare for the Christmas dinner.

For dinner, we had pasta with tomato sauce. There was also potato salad and pizza. For dessert, there were lots of cakes, and yummy brownies with vanilla ice cream.

After dinner, we went for a walk to the Gaia Field near Cripa, to look at the night sky using the telescope that Manu and Garima let us use. They helped us to see Saturn and three of its moons using the telescope, which felt impressive.

After that, we walked back to the school, and my legs felt so tired because of the walk to and from the Gaia field.

Thamizhselvi and Bhakti then went to the ATB Hall (where we were all supposed to sleep), and the rest of us went to the hall underneath the Grace group classroom. We chatted and played a couple of games. Then Bhakti called us to the ATB Hall, since it was late. We chatted (quietly) near the ATB Hall for a bit, and then I went to sleep.

My mum picked me up at 4am because we had to catch a flight from Chennai. That felt nice because I could sleep in the car.

I think the rest of the Grace groupers went home at 7am. Even though I left earlier than everyone else, I felt happy with the whole evening and the sleepover.



“For dessert, there were lots of cakes, and yummy brownies with vanilla ice cream”

Books we liked in 2025

The Chronicles Of Ixia

I just finished reading this masterpiece. The book primarily follows Yelena, but it also takes brief breaks to focus on other characters, such as Janco, Ari and Valek, my favourite character. I really enjoyed this book for three main reasons. One of them is the strong 'I hate u, u hate me' kinda of thing between the two sides, the North and the South, and the Warriors versus the Magicians. The way their lifestyles, rules, and beliefs clash makes the story more fleshed out. I also loved the smaller details, like the Code of Behaviour in the North and the Code of Ethics in the South.

Other info: Yelena's story includes Poison Study, Magic Study, Fire Study, Night Study, Shadow Study, and Dawn Study. The Chronicles of Ixia also includes three additional books: Storm Glass, Sea Glass, and Spy Glass, which follow Opal, a character Yelena meets in the second book.

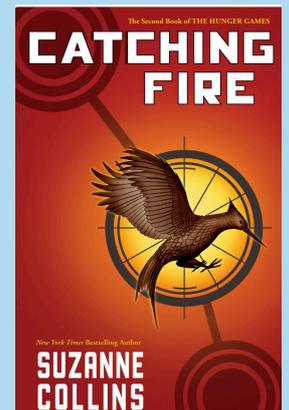


You can find the first three books at the Auroville Library, and the rest are available online through bookstores or libraries. Even though the book is rated 11+, I'd personally say it feels more like a 16-18+ read. Overall, it easily makes its way into my favourites.

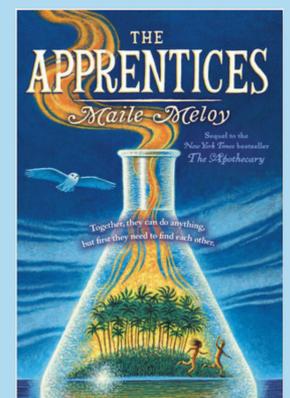


~Ayish

If I could recommend 2 books from all the ones I read this year, I would choose *Catching Fire* by Suzanne Collins and *The Apprentice* by Maile Meloy. *Catching Fire* is the 2nd book of the hunger games, so of course you would have to read the first one as well and so on. I really like this one out of the others because it's so much more interesting and a lot more good. Personally, sometimes I feel like all the second books in many series are always a lot more interesting than the others. Maybe because the first book got popular so that inspired the author to make the 2nd one "better". Also, maybe because you already know the characters and are familiar with the stories. This book, like all the other books in the series, is very fast paced which I really like because it means there's always something going on. And at this point you already know all the characters so it's a chance to really understand them deeper.



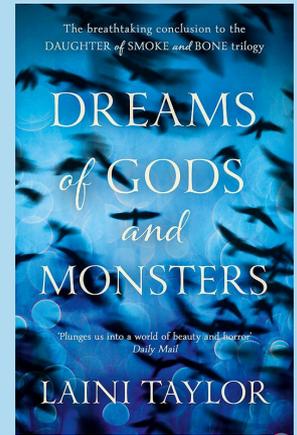
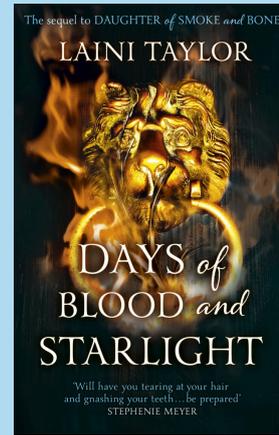
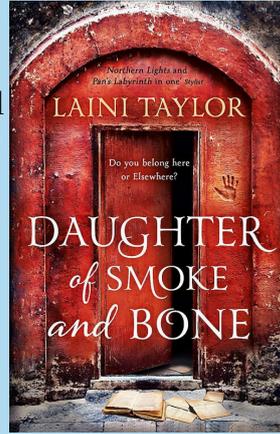
The second book I would recommend is *The Apprentice*. It's the second book of a series with three books. As I said, I like the second books in general. I really love this series because like the book I wrote about before, (*Catching Fire*) it has such sweet love interests. The series are about the threat of the Nuclear War with a little bit of magic which is super interesting. I don't necessarily like or reread books, but I love rereading these ones specifically because I really love them. You also notice more details and characteristics. :D



~Aditi

Daughter of Smoke and Bone trilogy

Mahavir asked me to only recommend two books I read this year but I just could not decide on two so I chose a series, The Daughter of Smoke and Bone trilogy a Young Adult (YA) Fantasy, blending elements of Fantasy Romance, Paranormal Romance, and Contemporary Fantasy series. (If you want a short summary you can just read the last two paragraphs:D)



The reason I chose this one was because I loved reading it, and trust me I don't say that so easily. And because the main character is the demon not angel and I love books that are not emphasizing on good and evil. This book is about a 17 year old girl called Karou who lives in Prague (But the second and third books are set in Morocco and another universe called Eretz.) She lives an almost normal life as an art student with her best friend Zuzana.

Now the abnormal part of her life is that she collects teeth for Brimstone who is the one who raised her with three other Chimera because she has no family (You'll figure out why she doesn't if you read it so I'm not going to spoil that for you.)

The book's main theme is that there is a world called Eretz and there are portals that connect this world to Earth. In this world there are Seraphim (The Angeles and bad guys) and Chimaera (The Demons and the good guys) who are in a century-long battle. Now the angels are not cut creatures that are all nice, they are huge fairy creatures with brutal beauty.

And the Chimera are demons who are a mix of different animals but they mostly have some human aspect like they could have a human head and body till the knees but from the knees down gazelle hooves, long black curved gazelle horns and huge black leathery bat wings.

Now back to Karou, her whole world turns upside down when the person who she looks up to the most-who raised her and her family, is taken away and her access to them is burned across all realms. This is all done by a Seraphin named Akiva, who almost kills her and whom she eventually falls in love with and teams up with him to save the whole Chimera race, crazy right?

The reason I love this trilogy is because of the way the author describes the fight scenes and the complex relationship and emotions between Karou and Akiva (Or any other characters). The detailing is amazing and it feels like you're the one in the story. And I also love the mentions of each weapon's name and the way she got it so accurately, the fighting style and description because I'm a big fan of swords, knives and so on. And I relate with Karou so much, the hardships and challenges she goes through especially , of course it's not the same but the root cause is.

And another important reason is the main character is a demon (I know I've mentioned it a lot, sorry about that) and it gives you a whole different opinion. The ending is not that happy like most books and that's one of the most important reasons I really enjoy reading books like this because it's unpredictable and hard to guess what happens next and it portrays the realness of our world and that not everyone has a and it show emphasis on that point "happily ever after" and it emphasis that point, and in the end you learn to live with what you have.

I hope this helps you understand this book and make it easier for you to make the decision to read it or not. Personally I think it's a great read if you love fantasy romance and a lot of adrenaline rushes. (And you can find all three books in the Auroville Library)

Energy moves before meaning.
It fills rooms without asking,
settles into corners,
waits in the pause between words.
It passes unseen,
through glances held a second too long,
through voices that soften instinctively,
through the air right before something changes.
It can drain,
it can steady,
it can quietly light everything up
without ever being named.
It lingers on walls,
in familiar places,
in moments that leave a feeling behind
even after they end.
Energy never disappears.
It only shifts,
changing form,
patiently shaping what comes next.

Leoni



We're old. We're young, are
happy moments ending now,
or "maybe not!"
Years fly in a blink of an eye,
years go bye so we change to
another's smile. "It's still on,
right?" (Yes) As the youngsters
grow high.
Wait... but why can't I smile?
"My face stays mild as my
emotions go wild, does it really
matter if you want to smile?
So continue on until a new
year arrives!"
2026 a new year has arrived.
Events and celebrations,
unexpected to your work of
imagination. Dancing and
cheering, laughing and smiling,
you're over there standing, and
we're waiting for your
connection.

Kent

Energy wakes with the morning light dancing in the shadows, silent and bright. It hums in the wind, it burns in the sun, A restless force that's never done.

It flows through the river, strong and free, whispers in leaves on every tree. IN beating hearts and moving hands, ENERGY shapes our lives, our lands. It lights the dark and warms the cold, a quiet power, brave and bold. It drives our steps, bother near and far, From human dreams to distant stars.

From sparks of thought to skies above, It fuels our hopes, our works, our loves. Invisible force, wild and true, The world moves on because of you

Eloise

