

MERC TIMES



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Frontline Health Workers amid COVID-19



Toiba Bashir

As the world is grappling with corona virus and people been given an alternative to work from home, health workers have been acting as shield for the people since the outbreak of this virus occurred from Wuhan, China last December. In Kashmir valley, there are more than 33,000 infected cases till now and over 600 have died including persons in medical services like few doctors, pharmacists etc.

Toiba Bashir, took a vox pop of health workers in the valley to know the challenges they have been facing during this pandemic. Here is what they have to say:

Mohammad Irfan Zargar, Block Medical Officer, Dangiawacha, Baramulla

"I was posted here just few days ago when this virus stepped into the valley. Since then, I have been on my toes to look around the administration and facilities provided by the government with regard to COVID-19. As many of our sub-centers have been turned into COVID-19 centers, I personally have to check the proper facilities provided over there. It has become hectic for most of my staff members now, as they are managing other works like OPD, maternal health, vaccination etc. and at the same time coping with this virus as well."

Tufail Ahmad, Doctor, Rangreth, Srinagar

"My permanent posting is at Dangiawacha Block but after COVID-19 I was posted at Rangreth. It is a Covid center and currently we have 20 patients admitted who are positive. Many have recovered and are back home. We have to be very careful and be in PPE gear throughout working hours and that is really tough. Any irresponsibility from our side can get us in trouble as this disease infects a person from anywhere."

Imtiyaza Javaid, NHM Nurse, Baramulla

"I'm a nurse under National Health Mission, posted at sub-health center, Watergam. Our hospital was declared as COVID center and it took a toll on our work as we could not attend the OPD and maternal patients. We started working from home and with the help of ASHA workers, I had to maintain the records of pregnant ladies and the immunization process. Since, vaccination is an important part of our health program; we arrange it on weekly basis at some particular Anganwadi center and call the children there for vaccination. I'm myself in the final trimester of my pregnancy and during lockdown period when the transport was off the roads and ambulance was not provided, I had to suffer a lot."

Misra Jaan, Theatre Assistant, GMC Baramulla

"Even in normal days our job is a hectic one, we rarely get time to have our lunch, but this pandemic has added more miseries to our work. We have to put on two layers of PPE gear for almost 7-8 hours and that is really suffocating."

Mohammad Amin, Sweeper, GMC Baramulla

"Since this pandemic started, the flow of patients has been a bit low but there is heaps of garbage spread all over the hospital as everyone who turns up here puts up masks and gloves, at least. Patients and their attendants show least manners to put used things in dustbin."

Shameema Begum, ASHA worker

"As an ASHA worker we have to help head nurses to maintain all the immunization records and also be with the pregnant ladies at the time of delivery, but I think we have been given a back side. We are not given the PPE gears as other health workers are provided with, that really risks our lives."

Muharram processions scampered in wake of COVID-19



Hakeem Farshita

Authorities decided to impose strict restrictions in parts of Kashmir to prevent people from taking out Muharram processions to mark the eighth day of the 10-day mourning period.

Shops and other business establishments in the areas, where restrictions were in place, remained shut, while public transport was off the roads. However, some private vehicles were seen plying.

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic calendar and considered to be the second holiest month, coming after Ramadan. Muharram, in itself, means "forbidden" and since it is considered to be holy, many Muslims use it as a period of prayer and reflection.

Despite strict curbs and heavy deployment of CRPF personnel and cops across the city, dozens of mourners appeared near different spots to take out traditional Muharram processions. The police immediately came into action and detained those in processions, an eye witness said.

However many are preferred to stay at home and follow the guidelines issued by the authorities. In a statement issued by Itihaad-ul-Muslimeen to media, "Muharram in Kashmir will clasp in accordance with the rules and decree given by medical authorities. So, that all remain safe, limited gatherings instead of big assemblies and congregations taking place at Imam Baras to prevent the spread of Covid-19."

"We have been asked to stay at home while few people are only allowed to visit Imaam Bara," Mariya Zehra, a girl dressed in black listening to Marsiya from her phone said.

"Women will only stay at home and listen to nohas and Marsiyas on Television as ordered to us by Itihadul Muslimeen," Syeda Zainab Rizwi, while talking to Merc times said.

"I hope and pray that this turns out to be the last year of restrictions on Muharram congregations," Zainab added.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole had earlier said that restrictions shall continue on all religious processions and gatherings in all districts in wake of Covid-19. He urged the heads of these bodies to use their influence and aware people about the importance of following Covid-19 related SOPs including social distancing protocol and use of face masks while commemorating martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and other martyrs of Karbala during these days.

For last several years, mourners have been defying the restrictions and tried to carry out the procession. However, police would bundle them into vehicles and release them later.



KU's Art Festival 'WAHRAAT-2020' Concludes

Humaira Nabi

Introduced with an aim to engage students amid lockdown *WAHRAAT-2020*, a month-long online national fine arts festival of University of Kashmir concluded on August 21.

Organized by the Department of Students Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir, the competition was kept open for students across the country. Students were asked to submit their art works like drawings, paintings, cartoons, comic art, sketches and folk art.

While appreciating the Department of Students Welfare for successfully conducting the month long competition, Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Talat Ahmad said, "Mental Health is of utmost importance especially during this pandemic and such competitions prove to be a powerful tool to deal with the current stress of isolation and uncertainty particularly within the student population."

Prof. Talat added that the idea of making this competition open and without any

theme is really worth appreciation "as anyone can come up with their artwork with no constraints."

"We received hundreds of entries from students of almost every corner of the country. We have shortlisted 100 submissions among which our esteemed jury will select the winner. The announcement is likely to be made on 5th September", said Shahid Ali Khan, Cultural Officer, DSW, KU.

The participants also looked enthusiastic and hailed the efforts taken by the University of Kashmir.

"I love painting but being an introvert I shied away from participating in any event. But when I heard our university is organizing an online art fest, I immediately enrolled myself. Events like these help people like me to show case the talent," Zainab, a participant said.

"This initiative was absolutely the need of the hour as boredom had overtaken our lives but this event has brought with itself a fragrance of normalcy," Atif Khan, another participant said.

Prof. Raies Ahmad Qadri, the Dean, Students Welfare KU in his remarks said, "Painting or drawing in the perspective of an art therapy activities supports student's resiliency and empowerment through creating a safe ambiance for decision making and problem solving to help handling, navigate anxiety, and stabilize stress."

Despite the success of this event, Kashmiri students had to face problems in their participation due to the low speed internet.

"The students were asked to submit a (fast-forward) 100 seconds video while creating their art work. The participants from Kashmir suffered problems while sending the videos on 2G other than that the event concluded smoothly with the participants facing no problems at all," said Shahid Ali Khan.

Wahraat-2020 is seen as a welcome step by students. However, it would be interesting to see how the University of Kashmir adapts itself to the new normal and cater to its students.

Apple Traders in Kashmir Peer at Losses

Farzana Nisar

Kashmir's apple industry is gazing at huge fiscal upset this year as the rainfall dearth allied with COVID-19 lockdown has affected the overall yield in farmlands across the Valley.

Horticulture is the second biggest trade after tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and over 2.5 million people are directly or indirectly associated with it.

Last year, the six-month long lockdown after the abrogation of Article 370 had ravaged the apple industry of Kashmir, which was followed by an unseasonal heavy snowfall. Also, the spurt of the maladies like scab have revealed havoc on the already harmed crops.

Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, 54, is seen picking up fallen apples in his orchard at Kulgam village located in the south of Kashmir.

"I fear huge losses this year as the strange weather patterns have played a spoil sport and impacted both the production and quality of apples. We will have to sell 'A

grade' harvest as C grade," Mushtaq said.

"Though I tried every possible measure to secure the crop, however, the substandard pesticides made it worse. The production this year cannot earn me even half of the money spent on sprays and other products. Only a relief package from government can help us pay our debts." Mushtaq added with a concerned look.

Another orchardist from Kachdoora area of Shopian village, Mohamad Ayyub Zargar, 47, looks at the ripened apples in his orchard with bearing despair in his eyes.

"A normal year is something that every Kashmiri would have wished for, but the situation created by the pandemic is shattering our hopes again. Earlier it was Article 370 and now it is the virus," he says.

Although, the production is not felicitous, Ayyub looks propitious that the harvest will help him overcome last year's loss. But the COVID-19 remains a black cloud over his hopes of vending the apple production. Amid lockdown he was left with no other option but to sell his stored

apples at lower prices.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, a commissioning agent, who acts as a bridge between apple growers and the sellers at Kulgam Fruit Mandi said,

"I apprehend there will be no buyers for our apples this year too, as the supply chain has been disturbed by the pandemic. Dealers or commissioning agents are not coming forward as they also don't want to lose their money. You never know when the government may again announce the lockdown."

"The delay in the timely spray chemicals because of their unavailability during initial phases of lockdown resulted in the outbreak of diseases in the fruit," he added.

He further revealed that some varieties of apples like Bulgarian get ripened in early August and need to be exported immediately depending on the area and climatic conditions and if the pandemic persists for long, it will lead to economic crises for both the growers as well as merchants.



A Quiet Place

A nerve-shredder horror story about a family that avoids deadly monsters by staying quiet

Taiba Hameed

Directed by American actor and filmmaker, John Krasinski, 'A Quiet Place' is a science fiction horror movie released in 2018. The cast includes John Krasinski, Emily Blunt, Noah Jupe and Millicent Simmonds. The movie received several award nominations- Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score, Best Theatrical Motion Picture Award, BAFTA Award for Best Sound, and many others.

A Quiet Place tells the story of a post-apocalyptic world which has been taken over by aliens. The catch is that they are blind but have super sensory audio receptors. The movie follows the story of a couple; Lee Abbott (John Krasinski), Evelyn Abbott (Emily Blunt) and their children Regan Abbott (Millicent Simmonds) and Marcus Abbott (Noah Jupe) in their quest to survival in the new world. The family speaks mainly through sign language which they have learnt because their daughter Regan was

born deaf.

This comes in handy after the alien invasion as the monsters are attracted towards sound and depend on it for hunting. Their ability to minimise their use of speech completely negates their use of sound and increases their chances of survival.

Visually the monsters are very cliché looking and thus the element of horror is taken away immediately.

Creative in its premise, the movie is well executed technically. John Krasinski juggles being in front of the camera as well as behind it and does a good job in both of them. He is also a co-writer of the script and in the 90-minutes long movie no time is wasted with unnecessary plot lines or pointless action sequences. It goes from the get go until the end and with the incredible sound design and mixing. The movie leaves a residual heightened sense of auditory senses. The signs of a good movie in horror- drama genre is a set-piece.

The movie delivers an excellent

performances, good pacing and staging. Sound in the movie is used in a very immersive way which engrosses us with what the characters themselves are hearing. The camera work is great and used well with thoughtful and informed shot framing. The thought that goes into setting of a predetermined shot gives the audience a good sense of intention behind the movements. There's a very common saying in cinema 'show, don't tell', and this seems to be adhered very well in the directorial decisions.

Overall, A Quiet Place is a complete bundle of technical excellence as well as performative brilliance. While Emily Blunt is a seasoned actor, the child actors do an equally well job of keeping up with level of the movie conveying fear and distress with their expressions as dialogues in the movie are very sparse.

I would recommend this movie to everyone, however, the horror enthusiasts might have to keep their expectations in check while watching it.



**Book
Review**

The Sealed Nectar

A virtuous masterpiece illuminating the life of the Prophet (PBUH)

Khalid Hassan

Originally published in 1976 in Urdu and Arabic, 'The Sealed Nectar' is an English version of Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtum (Arabic name), a complete authoritative book on the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) written by Safiur Rahman Mubarakpuri. It was accredited as one of the best books in a competition held by World Muslim League which was held at Mecca, Saudi Arabia in 1979.

Mubarakpuri was an Indian writer and author known for his Islamic works like 'When the Moon Split', 'Abridged Tafsir Ibn Kathir' and others. He wrote and compiled 17 books in Urdu and Arabic several of which were translated into English.

The Sealed Nectar teaches Muslims about the rise of Islam and how the Prophet (PBUH) was chosen by Allah to receive the divine revelation. The principal section gives

glimpses in the life of Arabs, its clans and their way of life. Every section in this book unfold new stories which puts an incredible impact on the reader. It explains the life of the Prophet (PBUH) in the light of authentic hadiths gathered from Saheeh Bukhari, Saheeh Muslim, Trimzi, and Quranic verses, therefore making the book credible, special and without any distortion.

Further, this book is vigorously referenced with bona fide relevant books on the history signifying the attention to details by the author. It includes a comprehensive seerah about the life of Prophet (PBUH) and shows how the Prophet's approach was gentle, determined and clear-cut.

This 588-pages book narrates the important events and struggles of the last Messenger, and summarizes them in order to provide a brief overview. It also outlines the lessons learnt from these events. However, the physical harms suffered by the Prophet

during the course of his preaching, including the bitter treatment he had to receive, has not been eluded in the textual account of this book.

Besides, it shows how Muslims strived for the rise of Islam. We additionally learn of the difficulties the Prophet and his companions confronted, and how they were assisted and helped by Allah. The goal of the book is to support confidence, clean characters and fan the battle to grasp reality and be devoted to it.

Beautifully compiled, The Sealed Nectar is a wonderful, informative and religious book which gives a realistic view of the spiritual life. The writer doesn't dig into scholarly complexities and insightful conversations nor does he restrict it so much that the readers thirst remains un-extinguished after reading. Priced at Rs 600, this book is a must read for those who wish to get brief insights into the life of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).



Book Review

THE PROPHET

A profoundly spiritual, philosophical and a poetic book

Asif Khan

Since it was published in 1923, The Prophet written by Kahlil Gibran has never been out of print. The perennial classic has been translated into more than 50 languages and is a staple on international best-seller lists. It is thought to have sold tens of millions of copies. This book follows the story of a man as he leaves the city of Orphalese, but not before addressing the people on key matters of life. As he leaves the people ask him about Life, Death, Religion, Love, Relationships and everything in between. The theme of the book is that life is interwoven between the universe and the individual. There is no separation. The main ideal that the protagonist tries to convey is that love is

central to everything. But love neither finds you or you it; it just comes and goes as it pleases. The concepts have been touched in a magnificent way by the Gibran.

The beautiful thing about the writing style of Kahlil Gibran is the use of his simple language to convey complex thoughts rather the philosophy of life. His books have always proved thought provoking and refreshing. The book is full of wisdom on each and every aspect of human life from friendship to relationship to death. It contains 26 chapters of poetic essay and is famous till date. Everyone should read this book at least once in their lifetime. It can change our way of thinking, our perspective about certain things. Some of my favorite and famous quotes from The Prophet are:

When you love you should not say, 'God is in my heart', but rather 'I am in the heart of God'.

And think not you can direct the course of love, for love, if finds you worthy, directs your course.

Let there be spaces in your togetherness.

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.

Let today embrace the past with remembrance and the future with longing.

What struck me most about this book is how the author conveys the story through the protagonist in a way that keeps the reader interested in what is being said. Gibran vividly provides detailed aspects of life and death in a prophetic way, hence the title becomes relevant. His other works include, Broken Wings, Madman, etc. This book would get 4 stars out 5 from me.



Outbreak

An incredible gripping movie gaining relevance in times of COVID-19

SHAHID HABIB

Release Date: 10 March 1995 (USA)

Director: Wolfgang Petersen

Screenplay: Laurence Dworet, Robert Roy Pool

Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Donald Sutherland, Patrick Dempsey, Kevin Spacey

With the world currently reeling under the umbrella of COVID-19 pandemic, Wolfgang Petersen's 1995 movie 'Outbreak' has instantly become relevant again. Based on Richard Preston's 1994 nonfiction book 'The Hot Zone', this movie follows the journey of a virus called Motaba which kills humans within 24 hours of exposure.

Starring Dustin Hoffman and Rene Russo, as a newly divorced couple, in a lead role. Both of them play the role of experts in disease-causing microbes. Wolfgang Peterson is a German film director, producer and screenwriter who had been nominated for two Academy Awards for

the World War II warfare movie 'Das Boot' (1981).

Outbreak, a medical disaster movie, opens 30 years ago with a striking scene of an African village that has fallen prey to the virus. Then, the movie comes in the present. We learn that the Motaba virus has gotten transported to the USA through an imported African monkey. The virus presents a potent threat after mutating into a strain capable of spreading like influenza and becoming airborne. A race begins to find a cure to this virus before it spreads throughout America and the rest of the world.

Over the course of the film, we learn the US Army's insidious plans to conceal the existence of the virus and turn it into their bioweapon. Besides military conspiracy, the movie also includes medical detective work and a love story in the way Hoffman and Russo's characters rekindle their feelings for each other while fighting the virus together.

The movie is filled with moments which brings to the mind real-world anxiety and tensions on display currently going

because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the scenes strike a real chord like the scenes of the armed men taking people to quarantine centers, people escaping quarantine, a mother unable to hug her daughter. Although clearly not the film's intended purpose, it also does a fine job of teaching us about the necessity of maintaining social distance and wearing protective masks during the pandemic.

Outbreak is an action movie, filled to the brim with tensions, explosions and helicopter chases. This movie, in quintessential American fashion, showcases the heroic individualism of Hoffman's character, Sam Daniels, as he takes the lead in finding a cure for the virus and ultimately succeeds.

Apart from a minor scientific inaccuracy like a mutation of the virus that can't be seen with a simple microscope, there wasn't much else that put me off the film. I would recommend this film to people who enjoy a well-paced thriller with a bit of intrigue and nice action set pieces and who wouldn't mind a taste of danger amid a real-life pandemic.



PHOTO ESSAY

MUHARRAM - THE SACRED MONTH

Sumaiya Mir

Muharram, also known as Muharram-ul-Haram, is the first month of Islamic calendar and hence, marks the beginning of the Islamic year. It is one of the four sacred months in Islam, and its first 10 days are observed in reflection and sorrow by Muslims, culminating in Ashura. Jaloos-e-Aza (Muharram processions) were carried out at various parts of Kashmir including Srinagar. However, in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were subjected to certain restrictions, guidelines and SOPs.



A congregation of mourners wearing masks outside the Imambarah located at Hassanabad, Rainawari, Srinagar.

Mosin Ali Bhat distributed masks among the Azadar (Mourners) and can be seen putting a mask on a face of a little girl named Aameena Hussa in the picture.



The Azadar apply Khaak-e-Shifa on their foreheads in Jaloos-e-Aza (Muharram processions) including Majalis since it is considered sacred. It is believed that when the pious blood of the Karbala martyrs fell on the khaak (soil), it became Khaak-e-Shifa- the cure of ailments.



A young guy named Farhan Ali, one of the mourners distributes khaak among others at Rainawari, Srinagar.

Khushi Hussain, an 11th standard student, dressed in a black abaya holds a black flag with 'Ya Ali' printed on it in front of her house in Bhat Mohalla, Rainawari.



Black colour in Muharram signifies sadness and grief. It is not only a colour but an expression of certain emotions. Therefore, mourners in this blessed month dress themselves in black. In addition to it, flags are the iconic and eye-catching thing in Muharram. Various flags of different colours especially black flags are raised during processions which represent mourning.

To spread the message of Karbala and remember its Alam'dhar (flag bearer), several young guys carry the Alam in Jaloos-e-Aza. Alam is an Arabic word meaning 'flag' and the one who holds it is known as 'Aalam'dhar'. In the times of Prophet (SAW) there used to be one person who held the responsibility of carrying the Alam during war. In the battle of Karbala, Hazrat Abbas, son of Ali (AS) happened to be the flag bearer of the army of Imam Hussain (AS).



Jaloos-e-Aza (Muharram procession) carrying Alam (flags) walk towards Imambarah, Hassanabad.



Andhadhun

An unpredictable thriller leaving one guessing throughout the movie

SS Irfan

'Andhadhun' is a 2018 crime thriller directed by Sriram Raghavan. The film stars Ayushmann Khuranna, Tabu and Radhika Apte in the lead roles. The movie is inspired from French short film 'L' Accordeur by Oliver Treiner. It was produced by Viacom-18 and released on 5th October 2018. The movie received Screen Awards for Best Director and Best Screenplay 2018 and Filmfare Awards for Best Actress, Best Editing and Best Sound Design.

The plot of the film is based on a pianist (Ayushmann Khurana) who pretends to be blind. He accidentally witnesses the murder of a former film actor (Anil Dhawan) which lands him in numerous troubles leaving him helpless.

The movie hooks the viewer from the moment it starts. It creates a sense of curiosity for every role and their intention in the film. It is filled with twists and turns after every scene leaving one by surprise. The movie may be regarded as one of the best thrillers of bollywood so far.

The cast and performance is awe-striking and brilliant especially that by Tabu and Ayushmann. Tabu who could be seen playing Pramod Sinha's wife, Simmi Sinha, is emotional, opportunist, dramatic, opinionated and dangerous at the same time. In this movie, Tabu proved herself one of the best actresses in the bollywood who could imbibe any character.

The only flaw which I spotted in the entire film was the police inspector Manohar (Manav Vij) who got stuck in the lift and the film nowhere revealed what happened to him after that.

Sriram Raghavan an Indian director has earlier given films like Johnny Gaddar, Badlapur, Ek Haseena Thi. Through Andhadhun he has proved yet again that he's here for many more years to come. The way the film has been shot in Pune and designed in terms of building the storyline, there's not a single moment in the film where you feel disinterested or bored. One has no idea what's going to happen next, which is so rare to find in Bollywood films and this movie successfully does so.

Amit Trivedi's music leaves spellbound particularly the piano pieces which linger

for long. In addition some 1970s songs from Anil Dhawan's movies add more aroma to the music. The background score adds a perfect layer to the ongoing proceedings.

The storytelling technique in Andhadhun was very unconventional especially with respect to its climax. Actually it is an open-ended film, which could be witnessed in the end where Ayushmann is seen playing piano somewhere in Europe and is blind which he actually was not.

Radhika Apte's dialogue justifies it in the beginning when she says "kuch chhezein adhoori hone ki wajah se to poori hoti hain, aur ungli karke bigaad mat dena." The director has left clues to the audience to interpret and understand whether he actually was blind or not. It could be understood only if one watches the movie with full attention keeping eyes and ears open. For this thrilling movie, I would rate it 4.5 stars out of 5.



Advisor Khan Inspects Progress Of Sports Infrastructure Developmental Work

Rayes Afzal

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan took stock of progress of sports infrastructure development works at Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall Polo Ground and Water Sports Center Nehru Park, Srinagar on Sunday, August 20.

During his visit to Multipurpose Indoor Sports Hall Polo Ground, Advisor Khan inspected various sections of the sports facility and had a firsthand stock of the ongoing works.

He directed the concerned executing agency to pace up the remaining works at the sports hall so that the facility would be dedicated to the sports persons and other players at the earliest.

On the occasion, the Advisor was briefed that the sports hall will relieve burden of Srinagar's lone Indoor Stadium and will have facilities for playing many indoor games like Judo, Badminton, Martial Arts, Table Tennis etc. The Indoor hall is being executed by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council at a total cost of Rs 5 crore.

Advisor Khan also inspected the nearby Football, Hockey and Rugby fields and was told that synthetic turfs are being laid at Hockey field and other renovation works would be executed soon for Football field as well as Rugby field.

Advisor Khan also directed the concerned engineers to preserve the aesthetic environs of the hall which also houses Football, Hockey and Rugby fields.

Later, the Advisor also checked the Water Sports Center at Nehru Park where he took stock of the renovation works and inspected different sections of the sports facility.

The Advisor also interacted with the water sports players who have won laurels at various national and international games.

He later inspected the proposed spot for floating jetty and rowing room meant for stationing rowing boats. He directed the concerned officials to identify a place and to hire a consultancy agency for laying artificial watercourse for holding slalom water sport.

The Advisor was accompanied by Secretary Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Sarmad Hafeez; Secretary J&K Sports Council, Naseem Choudhary, International Water Sports coach, Bilquis Mir and other concerned.

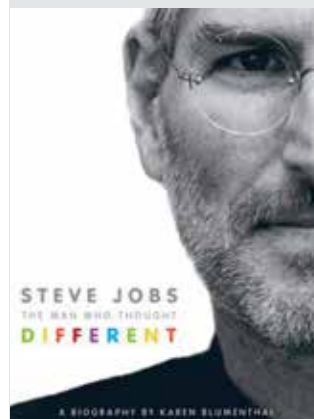


Book Review

Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different

A riveting and fascinating biography of the ground-breaking innovator

Sheikh Mustafa



Originally published in 2012, 'Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different' is a biography of Steve Jobs written by Karen Blumenthal. The author was an American business journalist and educator. She was awarded with Jane Addams Children's Book Award and YALSA's Award for Non-fiction respectively.

The critically acclaimed author, Karen, takes the reader to the core of the complicated and legendary man, Steve Jobs, while simultaneously exploring the evolution of computers. Framed by Steve's inspirational commencement speech and

illustrated throughout with black and white photos, 'The Man Who Thought Different' is the story of a man who changed the world.

From the very beginning, his path was unpredictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth. He dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of 20, he launched Apple in his parents' garage with his comrade, Steve Wozniack.

After that came the core and sign of his genius- his demanding control for flawlessness, counterculture life approach, and his degree of taste and style that pushed all the limits. A dedicated husband father, and Buddhist, he battled with cancer for over a decade but finally turned into an ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched- Mac to iPhone.

Author says Steve Jobs was intelligent, insane, crazy, and relentless. Blumenthal portrays Jobs as all of this and more in this biography that depicts how one man's vision brought about a change in everyday life of a modern day society.

Using the commencement speech that Jobs gave to the graduating class at Stanford University in 2005, the author elaborates on three main stories that he shared that day- the importance of connecting the dots in life, love and loss, and death.

Author mentions Jobs taught us whatever idea one has, whatever skill we possess, whatever cure and talent we possess, we just need to bring out that into this universe. She further writes 'Always be happy in life', 'Never regret over things', and 'remember time makes stories for all'.

The author delved into the last major phase of Jobs' life when he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and faced certain death. When I read this, suddenly my eyes got moist and it crushed my heart.

I selected the book 'Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different' because I was inspired by his motivational videos and I like his brand Apple. I would recommend this book to every student in order to see how things work and how Apple became the famous and incredible company. Also, the book gives several facts that one may not know. No doubt, the book is amazing, interesting and a useful read.

Steve Jobs was a revolutionary man who inspired us to 'Think Different' and convinced us to follow our heart and intuition in life. I liked the book because the author has not only presented the positive side of Jobs but equally highlighted the negative traits of his personality. I would rate this wonderful book 5 stars out of 5.