

D

A

N

D

In This Issue

Pen & Paper

The First Bougainvillea

Review of The Tortured
Poets Department

Review of A Little Life

Infatuation

Wordgames

Cryptic Crossword

E

L

I

O

N

ISSUE-6



Pen & Paper

~Advaith GS

There's something about pen and paper
that when I feel myself moving them,
I am brought back to simpler times
when the hand that taught me to use them
was all that I knew about the world
and all that I cared for
When we used to look at the stars
and craft stories of our own
born out of the imagination that we set aside
everyday
we were directors in our own right
There's something about pen and paper
that when I immerse myself in them
I feel reassured
That no matter how rough the road
No matter how treacherous man may be
I shall forge my way, undeterred.

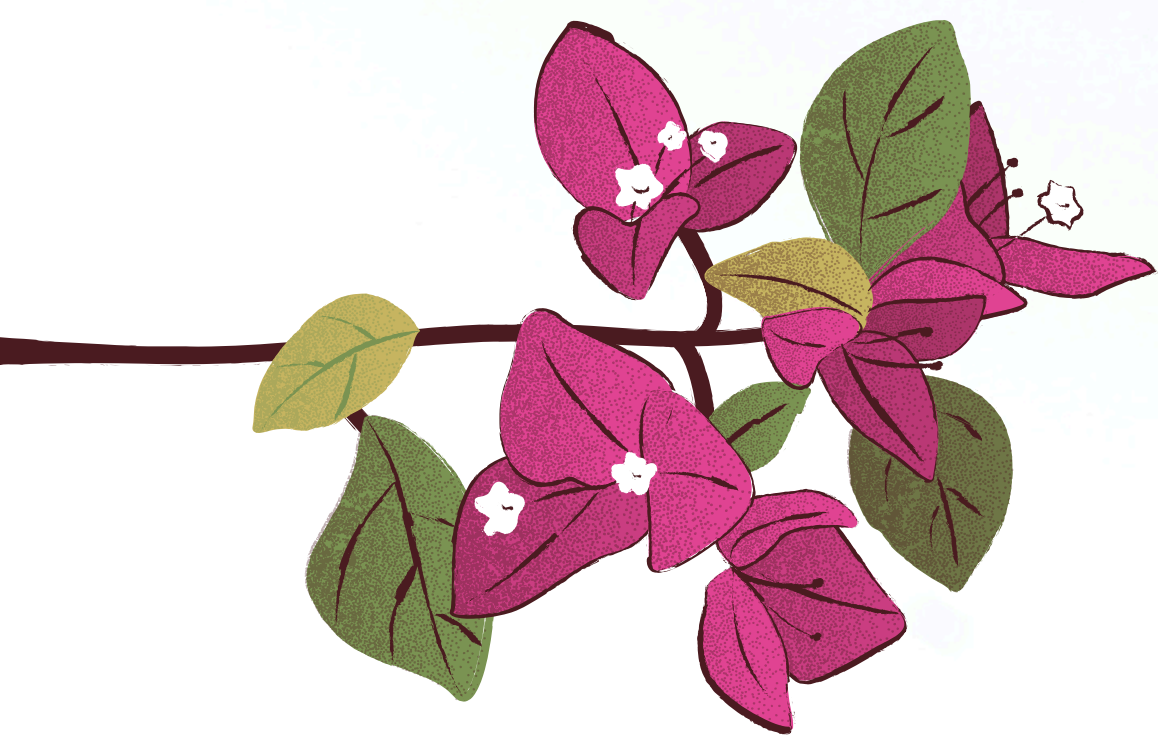
There's something about pen and paper,
that makes me feel whole
and reminds of the things that I didn't realise I knew
There's something about pen and paper,
that when they come together,
I am pulled into a world that is dissimilar
yet so pleasant and comfortable
I see trees of red, green roses too
I see them bloom, for none but themselves
I see bunnies slithering and snakes hopping
Elephants flying, and flies shuffling
Nothing seems out of place
Where the water is purely love
the food is nothing but compassion
and the air is unconditional
Where talking is not without conveying
and hearing is not without listening
Where silence is not offensive
and differences unite to give creativity





The First Bougainvillea

By Pragma Pathak



The first bougainvillea
Chilly gales blowing all around,
A monochrome of yellow and brown,
Devoid of warmth and colour
The trees drooped down
As if to converse with the earth
To not attract all of the leaves to itself.
The earth tried to pacify the trees
As it couldn't bear the sorrow of its companions.
It promised the trees to preserve the first sign of colour
And filled the dejected trees with hope
This hope gave birth to the first bougainvillea
True to its word, the magenta hue held on to the branches
Passerby halted and marvelled at the sight
Children giggled and circled the tree
The gales seemed less chilly now
The brilliant magenta brought in warmth
And just like that colour flooded the landscape.

The Tortured Poets Department

Album review by Anika Gupta

This review is based on Taylor Swift's new album titled 'The Tortured Poets Department.' I'm sure we've all heard it and thought thoughts that...may or may not be good. The first thought I had when I listened to the single 'Fortnight' was "seems good but um, hasn't this been done before? The whole being so mad in love that you belong in a mental institution?" 'Blank Space' vibes right? And as we all know that will be a forever bop.

What I got from this is that she's trying to redo her previous hits but in a more poetic fashion. The lyrics from her latest album, they're almost... too lyrical? If that's something you can say. "Sanctimoniously performing soliloquies I'll never see," is a lyric from an actual song from her album. Vocabulary-wise, it's beautiful. But I'm a poetry lover so I'd say that. I wonder how this lyric would sound to people who don't really know what that means. Nobody wants to be carrying a dictionary while listening to songs right? The beauty of her old songs was that they were so simple and so amazingly catchy that the melody would be stuck in your head for days. I don't see that in her new album. None of the songs are really melody-focused as much as they're lyric-focused. That might be a turn-off for so many people. It was for me. I got bored after the first few songs because they almost all sounded the same.

I think it would sound the same to anyone who didn't know much about music theory. Also can we talk about her song titles? Some of them honestly just don't seem like they fit in. And they're so unrelated to what the song even is about. I think this was a new take she tried to implement on her album. Something very Gen-Z. There's nothing wrong with having a quirky song title completely unrelated to the song, so many artists have done it. We just haven't seen her do it so it seems very much like she's trying very hard to be someone she's not or to try out a different approach to her way of titling.

The song "Fresh Out The Slammer" also sounds very similar to something Lana del Rey would do. Again, an example of where this album just sounds like bits and pieces of Taylor trying to be someone she's not. I definitely won't deny the hard work she put into this album. 31 songs? That's highly commendable but...slightly unnecessary. I feel like the more the songs, the less we can tell them apart from each other. And the more the number of songs, the less anything really strikes out. As someone who really loves simplicity, I loved Taylor Swift's previous songs all just because they were just so simply catchy, at the same time lyrically beautiful. Her new album is definitely so much more poetic and it expresses her emotions in a much more raw and beautiful manner.

However, it can be very likely that her genius lyrics could be a reason for her popularity downfall. Let's be honest, we definitely haven't heard much about this album after maybe, one week of its release. To me, the key to success of her previous albums and hits would just be simplicity. I would really love for Taylor to go back to her trademark way of mesmerizing us with just her and her guitar and her piano!

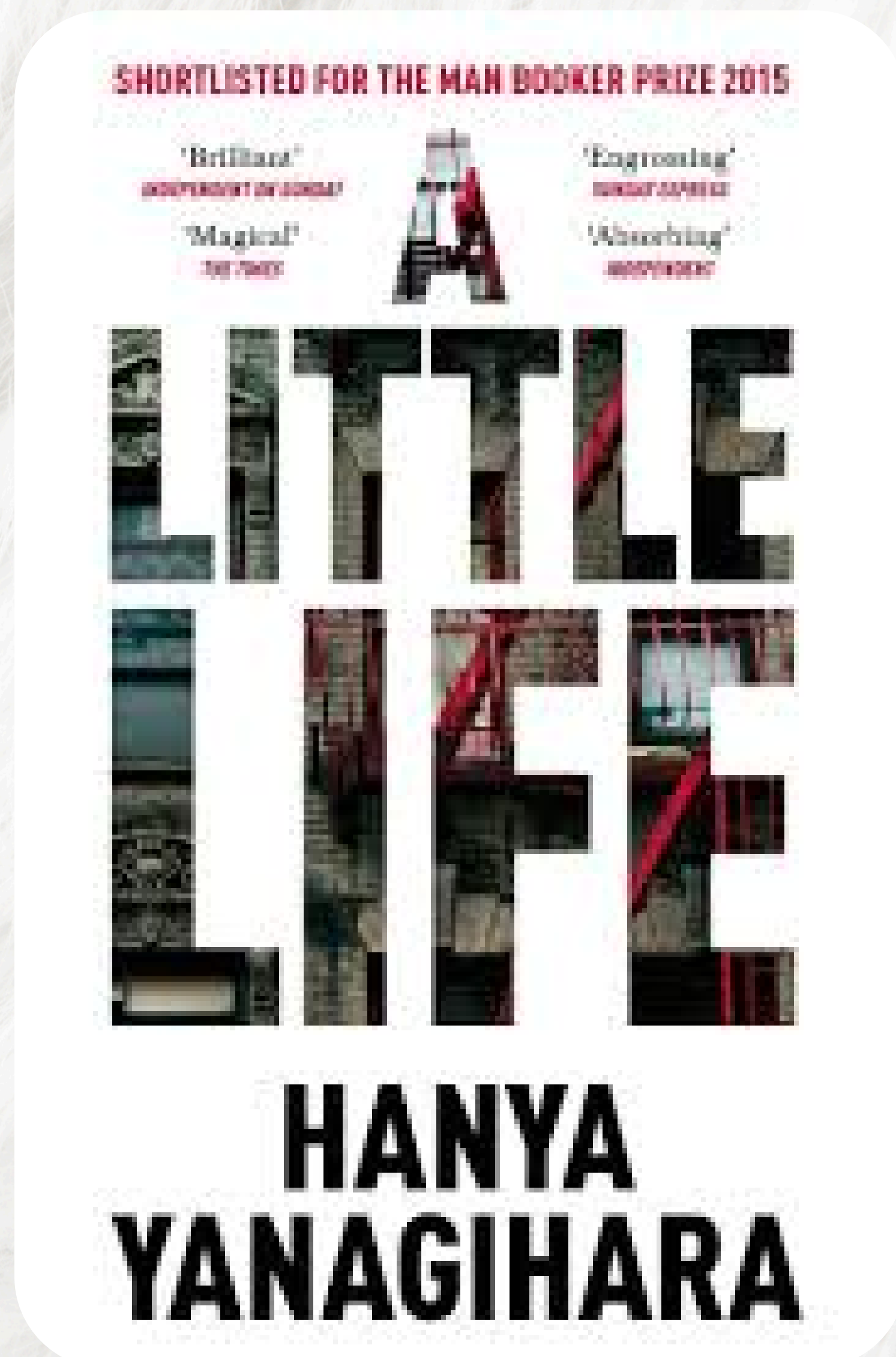
A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara

~Book Review by Sritama Sarkar

“The axiom of equality states that x always equals x : it assumes that if you have a conceptual thing named x , that it must always be equivalent to itself, that it has a uniqueness about it”.....” that its very elementalness can never be altered.”

A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara is a book with a beginning that sucks you into the vortex of something most people look for and enjoy reading about—mundane life, the friendship shared by four friends at a prestigious university in New England; and an ending that makes you want to toss all 720 pages out the window without a second thought.

It follows a chronological narrative interspersed with frequent flashbacks. We are offered a third person omniscient perspective into Willem, Jude, JB and Malcolm's minds. They are a diverse group: sweet, handsome Willem, who works as a waiter but aspires to be an actor; Malcolm, the overlooked sibling in a wealthy Upper East Side family, who works as an architect at a reputable firm; Jean Baptiste (JB) Marion, a sharp-tongued talented artist who comes from a loving family of Haitian immigrants, currently working as a receptionist at an arts magazine he wishes to be featured in; and the protagonist of our story—Jude St. Francis, an enigmatic lawyer and mathematician with a mysterious past.



Scan to continue reading



Prequels'24 Winning Entry

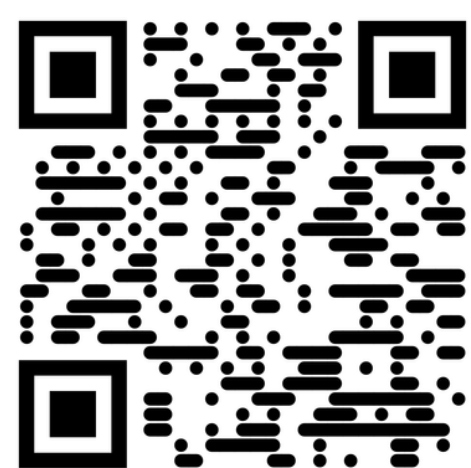
Infatuation

By Kajori

Many people fall in love with the book character they read about. But what if the character you fall in love with falls for you just the same?

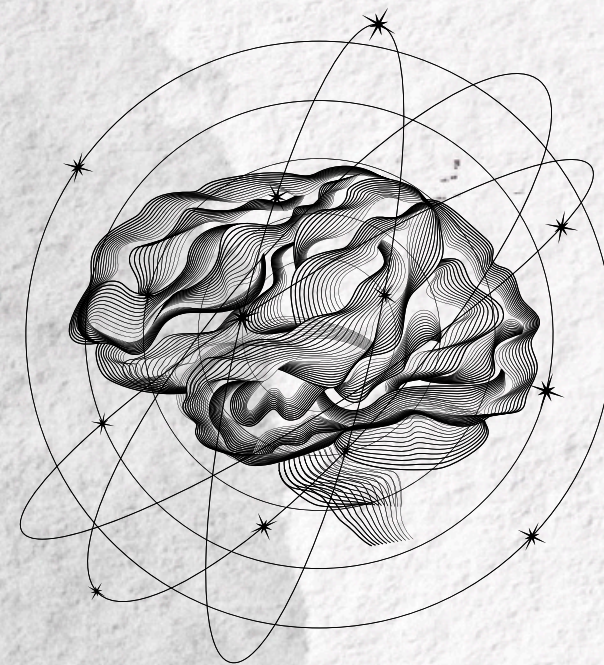
I have been in this void for more than a century. People say void is nothing but just darkness, but my void isn't like that. My void is filled with light, light which took everything from me. My family, my loved one, and my home. Just because I was a wielder of dark magic...

They said it was mercy that I am alive. But what is the point of being alive when I have nothing left. I would have killed myself if it wasn't for the promise I made to my mom. "A day will come when you will be free again. You, you must survive my child...and help them, when they need you" she said. I would have laughed at her face if her whole body wasn't drenched with blood, her own blood. Hahaha!! Save them, those same people who took her away from me. But it seemed like her dying wish, I couldn't say no. But that wasn't her last word. "Love her for me too"... her?... who her? My mom had the power to see the future, but only occasionally and that too not by her own will. Did she see her? When will I meet her?



Scan QR Code
to continue

WORD GAMES



Oronyms

Sets of words that sound similar, but have different meanings and spellings

Ex: Frozen sweet, me shout (3,5; 1,6)

ANSWER: Ice cream, I scream

-End life to eliminate suffering, children in a continent (10; 5,2,4)

-Inclined to, collagen tissue waterbody (8; 6,3)

-Negotiations to end conflict, stems of a legume (5,5; 3,6)

Spoonerisms

They are a set of two phrases with the first syllables exchanged.

Ex: police erotica; movie snack (3,4 ; 7)

ANSWER : cop porn, popcorn

-Dearth of baked dishes, collection of falsehoods(4,2,4 ; 4,2,4)

-Adhesive tape fortified, main design (7,3 ; 6,4)

-Stomach trousers, gelatinous legumes (5,5 : 5,5)

Tom swifties

In these puzzles, Tom says something and there is some wordplay on what he says to get a description of HOW Tom says it (which is usually an adverb, but not necessarily).

Ex:

"If you want me, I shall be in the attic," said Tom, loftily.

-“Get to the back of the ship!” Tom said
_____ (7)

-“We should try our hand at lottery “ said Tom
_____ (8)

-“Don't ask me why I was at the mausoleum,” Tom said _____ (11)

Mad Gabs

Mad Gabs is a word game where players try to decipher a phrase that sounds like a series of nonsensical words.

Ex:

Easel Aid Ease Man

ANSWER: He's a ladies man

-Egg know rinses bliss

-Calm tooth hen cove fit

-Abe who beat wrap

Ditloids

A “ditloid” is a type of word puzzle in which a book or film title, quote or well known saying must be deduced from a set of numbers and letters in a clue.

Ex:

AB and the 40 T

ANSWER: Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves

-221 B S

-12 K of the RT

-8 N in a O

Word pyramids

Begin with a word and progressively add letters to create valid words that fit the provided clues.

_ 1. delta

_ _ 2. adjoint representation of linear algebra

_ _ _ 3. in the life

_ _ _ _ 4. three feet

_ _ _ _ _ 5. what jew girls and skinny nerds take refuge in

_ _ _ _ _ 6. technically equal to ten thousand

_ _ _ _ _ 7. meta

Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS

3. Deception by using urban dictionary far along. (5)
4. If you are brimming with energy, then you must do a backflip (5)
5. A place where you mix chlorine and nitrogen. (3)
6. Things people shout at higher altitudes and temperature zero. (5)

DOWN

1. Kafka troubled results into a fail (5)
2. Person expert in confusing betrayal. (7)
3. The cherry off american dessert with fluorine tastes informative. (6)



*who
are we?*

We the 'English Literary Society' are lit enthusiasts, fanatic writers and crazy about word play. Next dandelion edition will be published soon. You can send us your entries on Instagram @elsltk

