Read Unlimited

With numerous books flooding the bookshelves, Friday helps you pick two must reads this month

MAXIMUM CITY, BOMBAY
LOST & FOUND

AUTHOR: SUKETU MEHTA

A narrative non-fiction by Suketu Mehta, this book is a reflection of memoirs and socio-political analysis of the history of the people of Mumbai. Delving deep into the politics of the modern world, Mehta details his childhood experiences in the city then known by the name ‘Bombay’. Revealing the multiple personalities of Bombay, he unravels passions and secrets of this city of contrasts.

The book begins with Mehta’s rediscovery and return to the city after 20 years to trace the changes. Cleverly introducing Bombay’s history, the book tracks the famous blast at the Gateway of India to the evolution and growth of Shiv Sena. Maximum city is on the whole a readable book, based on personal experiences describing the wonderful Mumbai that was and the darker side of the city we love.

UNACCUSTOMED EARTH
AUTHOR: JHUMPA LAHIRI

This is the latest book from Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri. After Interpreter of Maladies, this book is her second collection of short stories. Narrating strong heart-breaking emotional stories, the collection carries strong Bengali undertones.

Each of the five stories in the first section is self-contained. Unaccustomed Earth is rich with Jhumpa Lahiri’s emotional wit and subtle renderings. All characters have a common string of nationality binding them, the loss and a strong desire for belonging is present in every character. A masterpiece by Jhumpa Lahiri, this book is a must read.

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“If you love Mumbai, you must read Maximum city. Suketu Mehta is simply brilliant in his detailing and description. There are things that shock you and often surprise you. With amazing visual detailing this book is a must read.”
- Sapna Rang, 23, aspiring copywriter.

“Unaccustomed Earth is a perfect description of any middleclass lifestyle; it perfectly captures every emotion with great detailing. This book is a good read after Interpreter of Maladies.”
- Sushree Verma, 25, media student.

“I love the way the stories flow giving the readers a visual description. The second section makes me feel very sad. When it is Jhumpa Lahiri, the endings have to be emotional.”
- Jyoti Verma, 21, avid reader.

September fiesta

Mumbai is in a festive mood, with Ganesh Chathurthi sprinkling the colours. The endless magic of this festive spirit has more in store for you this month

Mount Mary is an old church situated in Bandra, and on each September, a week-long fair is held in its premises. Populately known as the Bandra Fair, the festival is celebrated on Mother Mary’s birth anniversary and people of all faiths gather to seek her blessing.

The streets take on a carnival-like atmosphere, with shops and marketplaces offering everything from food, shopping opportunities and joyrides. Street plays, musical concerts, book readings and food festivals (typically Goan) also become a part of the celebrations. Mount Mary Festival, which is held every year at Bandra, Mumbai attracts huge crowds from the city.

The festivities will kick off from this month to celebrate the birth (nativity) of holy Mother Mary. The growing popularity of the fair brings scores of people who in turn create problems like traffic jams which was a big issue last year. This time the responsibility of the traffic department would be judged on how they will control the traffic situation,” says Ravi Pannaik of Bandra.

It is no exaggeration that since 2003, Celebrate Bandra has now established itself as the most vibrant and diverse festival amongst all the suburbs in Mumbai. For over a fortnight, the Bandra suburb of Mumbai lies in celebration - a heady mix of music, dance, art and theatre that spells festivities as well as nostalgia for the young and old.

Celebrate Bandra festival is all about turning the spotlight on one of Mumbai’s oldest and definitely her most happening suburb. Whether you want a taste of Bandra’s heritage, her talent or the fantastic food on offer, the festival will leave you satiated yet begging for more. The 15 day event covers themes such as heritage, music, films, dance, art & craft, food, literary events. Celebrate Bandra festival is now one of the most vibrant and diverse festival in Mumbai.

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