## Read up on your character

Planning to do something interesting this weekend? Read up on some interesting book characters that will soon be made into films



here are several film adaptations of popular novels coming out in the next couple of years. Add these to your reading list and find out what the buzz is all about.

#### **Gone Girl**

One of the most popular books to read before the movie comes out is Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. This thrilling novel covers the disappearance of Amy Dunne through her journal entries and the life of her husband

Nick Dunne. Who could be responsible for her disappearance? The answer may surprise you. Gone Girl the movie is set to come out in October of 2014.

#### Fifty shades of Grey

Fifty Shades of Grey is an erotic romance novel by author E.L. James. I'm sure everyone has heard of this novel as it became the fastest selling paperback book of all time. If you still haven't read this book about businessman Christian Grey and college graduate Anastasia Steele's S&M practices in the bedroom, there is still time before the movie comes out. This high profile film stars Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson and is set for release in February of 2015.

#### Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

When it comes to young adult novels, this debut book by author Ransom Riggs is among my favorites. The book follows the journey a young boy takes after a death in the family to find a strange orphanage on a Welsh Island. The Hollywood Reporter announced director Tim Burton is turning this beloved book into a movie in July of 2015. There isn't a lot of other information concerning the movie, but there is still plenty of time to read the book.

#### **The Fault in Our Stars**

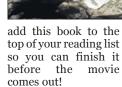
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green is about a young cancer patient who falls in love with an ex-basketball player and amputee at her cancer support group meet-

ings. This sad and heartwarming novel has been adapted into a movie that will hit the silver screen in June of 2014.

#### Vampire Academy

Author Richelle Mead tells the story of Rose Hathaway, her friends, her forbidden romance, and vampires in her Vampire Academy book series. This young adult paranormal romance novel has

been adapted into a film that will be released on Valentine's Day 2014. So



#### **Significance**

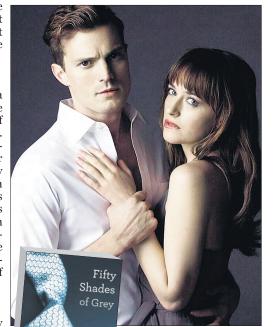
Significance is a novel by Shelly Crane that tells the story of Maggie and Caleb. Maggie is a down-onher-luck teenager whose world quickly turns around when she meets Caleb. This thrilling novel covers everything romance to the paranormal. Significance the movie will hit theaters in the summer of

#### **Divergent**

Divergent Veronica Roth's tagline "One choice can Roth's transform you" sums up this novel quite well. The book tells the story of Beatrice Prior who

has a tough choice to make when she turns 16. I don't want to go into too much detail for fear of giving the plot away. If you are a fan of the Hunger Games trilogy, then you will love Divergent as well. Read this book before the movie comes out in March of

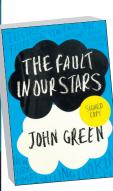
Since books are usually better than the movie, it's best to read these novels before the films hit the big screen. Part of the fun of reading a book is to let your imagination run wild by picturing the characters and scenes in your mind. Seeing Hollywood's interpretation in film form before reading the book can put a damper on the experience of the novel.







**Returning to homeland cuisines** 



# Anyone who reads can also write: Das

Anannya Chatterjee

he Ekkos Clan written by debut author Sudipto Das is about Kratu's search for the killers of his family, his own roots and the perilous secrets hidden in his grandmother Kubha's Stories. It is a contemporary mystery novel dealing with some intriguing aspects of ancient Indian history. Excerpts from an interview.

#### How did you get into writing, despite of being from a non literature background?

I've been writing since long. I started writing seriously during my IIT days, in the nineties. I would mainly write poems and short stories in Bengali. Then after the undergrad I did not write for 10 years between 1996 and 2006, after which I suddenly had an urge to do something beyond my work. By then I'd been working for ten years. Yet, I felt that I hadn't done anything that was unique, that would bear my signature, that would be an exclusive achievement of mine. That's when I felt that I could resume writing and actually write a novel. That's how it

#### How important is language vs plot for you?

Both are equally important. It's like asking which is more important in a car, the wheel or the engine?

How are you managing your time now - publicity commitments, inter-



something, time comes out of the schedule. Yes, it's not easy. I'm the VP Engineering of a company and I've lot of responsibilities at my work. But still I try to somehow manage both.

#### Who are your role models - the authors (Indian and foreign authors).

Tagore.. he has been always my driving force for most things I do. In writing too, Tagore is the biggest inspiration. Sunil Ganguly has been an inspiration too. His Bengali works, specially the Bengal trilogy - Shei Samay, Prathom Alo & Purbo Paschim - was a big motivation in writing. Among contemporary

English writing Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri and Khaled Hosseini are my role models. I've used their style of using vernacular words in English to a great extent. I am amazed at how Jeffry Archer and Sydney Sheldon wrote page turners one after another. Eric Segal is also one of my favorite English writers who

Clan

Some people have natural flair for writing, in your opinion how much of this skill is acquired

have inspired me to write.

### Ward-winning Michelin-starred Indian chef Vikas

Khanna has launched a new book, Return to the Rivers -Recipes and Memories of The Himalayan River Valleys, offering a gastronomic tour of the wonders of international cuisines.

Co-authored with Andrew Blackmore-Dobbyn and with a foreword by the Dalai Lama, the 444 page book published by Lake Isle Press, was launched at a media event here Tuesday at Junoon Restaurant.

Both a cookbook and a travelogue, Khanna's newest book, according to the publishers, "takes us on a pilgrimage across Himalayas as he delves into the culture and tradition surrounding these sacred pathways-everything from finding local ingredients to serving this incredible food."

The book offers 100 fullcolour photographs of plated dishes, exotic travel experiences, and personal and

reads a lot can also

write. It's a skill and

like any other skill a

part of it is inherent

talent and a part can be groomed by read-

ing a lot of books.

What is that binds you

into this world of writ-

drives you while you

are writing?

me driving.

ing? What is that which

The binding force is surely

the urge to tell a story I

believe in. What drives me is

the amazing experience of

writing itself. I get to know

so much while writing.

The research, the reading

I do for the writing.

Finally it's the characters

I create. I get into each

character and they keep



thoughtful musings that preserve the traditions, values and simple gifts that the Himalayan people bestowed upon Khanna.

Khanna's spiritual and culinary journey through the Himalayan heartland brings

foodies and travel enthusiasts some of the best recipes and culture from northern India, Bhutan, Nepal, Tibet and western China, according to a media release.

Khanna's book explores a wide variety of cultural deli-

cacies, as it is organised by Street Foods; Soups and Noodles: Vegetables; Fish; Poultry, Eggs and Cheese; Meats; Breads: Condiments; Desserts; and Beverages. Born in India, Vikas Khanna learned to cook from his grandmother and opened his own catering company at age seventeen.

apprenticing under the most renowned chefs of India, he moved to the US in 2000 and has worked his way up to be one of New York City's top-rated chefs.

He was named one of StarChef's Rising Stars in 2010 and is currently the Executive Chef of the Michelin-starred restaurant Junoon. Known as the host of MasterChef India and FOX Traveller's Twist of Taste, Khanna is equally recognized for his documentary film series about food and religion, Holy Kitchens. Khanna currently resides in New York City.

#### old your breath. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) media lab have designed a wearable book

that makes readers quite literally feel what the book's characters are feeling. The book, titled The Girl Who Was Plugged In, is part of an MIT project called Sensory Fiction.

The book includes 150 LED lights and a series of sensors and actuators wired to a vest that readers wear. Depending on how the plot unfolds, the augmented book generates vibrations and ambient light to simulate a character or story's mood, said a press release

issued by MIT. author is provided with new means of conveying plot, mood and emotion while still allowing space for the reader's imagination," said the release.

"These can be wielded to create an immersive storytelling experience tailored to the reader," it added.



started.