



SPECTRUM

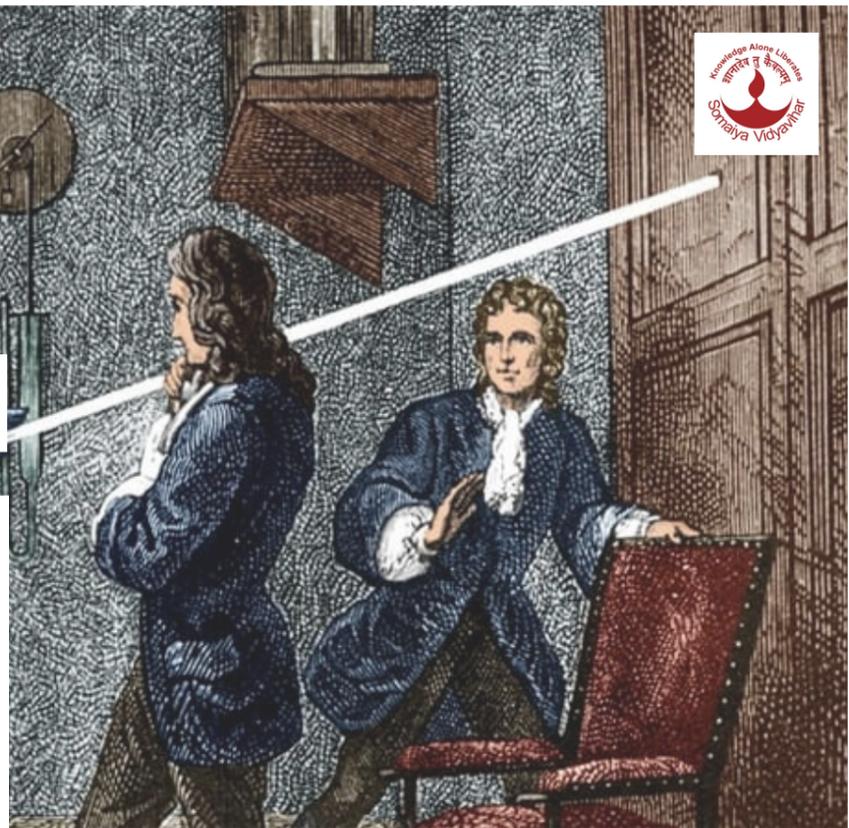
Issue: I Volume: XIII

Bi-Annual Creative tabloid of S.K. Somaiya College of Arts, Science and Commerce

September 2023

“Expressions of the heart is visible in any spectrum.”

Theme: Hustle culture and moonlighting



CONTENTS

Special edition:
Between the lines-
An author's struggle
unveiled

Calibre Corner:
Interview with a
hustler

Articles- Unfiltered
voices

Artistic Rhythms:
Poems
Artworks

Visual symphony:
Painting review

EDITORIAL BOARD

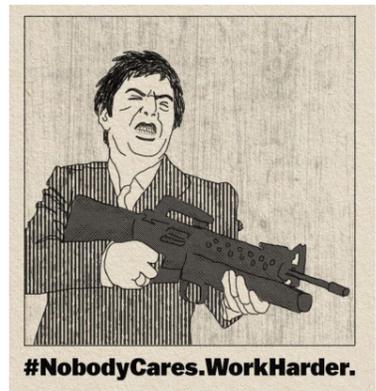
Dr. Sindhu Sara Thomas
Editor

Anuj Kanojia
Student Editor

Gargi Salvi
Associate Student Editor

Core Members
Mahek Gangar
Rishikaa Anerao
Zuhair Syed
Eshaan Dutta Kumar

Layout Editor
Anuj Kanojia



About the theme: Unfiltered voices:
Hustle culture and moonlighting-

The youth are amplifying their voices towards challenges of the current times and are combating overwhelming feelings, burnouts or juggling the work life balance from hustles or side gigs. Is 9 to 5 still not enough? To deconstruct the political system and realize "why are we here?"

(Inspiration credit: What was I made for music video by Billie Eilish)

GMAIL

To know more about the tabloid and even submit articles/ other content please mail us at:



sks.spectrum@gmail.com

SPECIAL EDITION

Theme - *Between the lines: An author's struggles unveiled*



An author's silence The WGA strikes

Eshaan Dutta Kumar FYBA

Barry Diller, the founder of Fox Media Group said, "These actors' and writers' strikes could lead to Hollywood's absolute demise."

At the premiere of Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer*, several of the actors and Christopher himself walked out of the screening in the middle of the movie. Many people were puzzled as to why someone would walk out of their own movie.

This was however just another instance of big names in the industry joining the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) in their strikes. This is the first time in 6 decades that both of these organizations have joined the strike together.

The strikes began on **May 2nd of 2023** after negotiations for a new contract with Alliance of Motion Pictures and TV Producers (AMPTP) fell through.

The strike was in direct response to the growing debate over usage of AI instead of writers.

In addition to this, the working conditions and management of writers was nightmarish. "The showrunner, 3 other writers and I were tasked with breaking an 8-episode season and writing 4 episodes. In 3 weeks", said one TV writer.

Many people, named and unnamed, have spoken out about these practices in the industry. The same unanimous writer then continued, "after each writer spent months, writing and rewriting their episodes, taking notes from the platform talking to each other to make sure each episode tracked.

After all that, I am still waiting for the payment. 3 years later. Apple TV never greenlit the show."

But the studio higher ups already had decided on their approach to this issue before the strikes had even begun. They had no intention of sitting down with the writers. After receiving greater feedback and results from Wall Street, many studios such as Apple, Netflix, Warner Bros., Discovery, Disney, and others became determined to "break the WGA", as one studio executive blatantly put it.

The studios and AMPTP believed that by October, a majority of writers will run out of money and will have to look for work. "The endgame is to allow things to drag on until Union members start losing their apartments and houses", a studio executive said.



This caused many big name actors to come forward and shed light on the issues faced by the industry. This finally led to certain studios to try and renew contracts, but were unable to reach a middle ground.

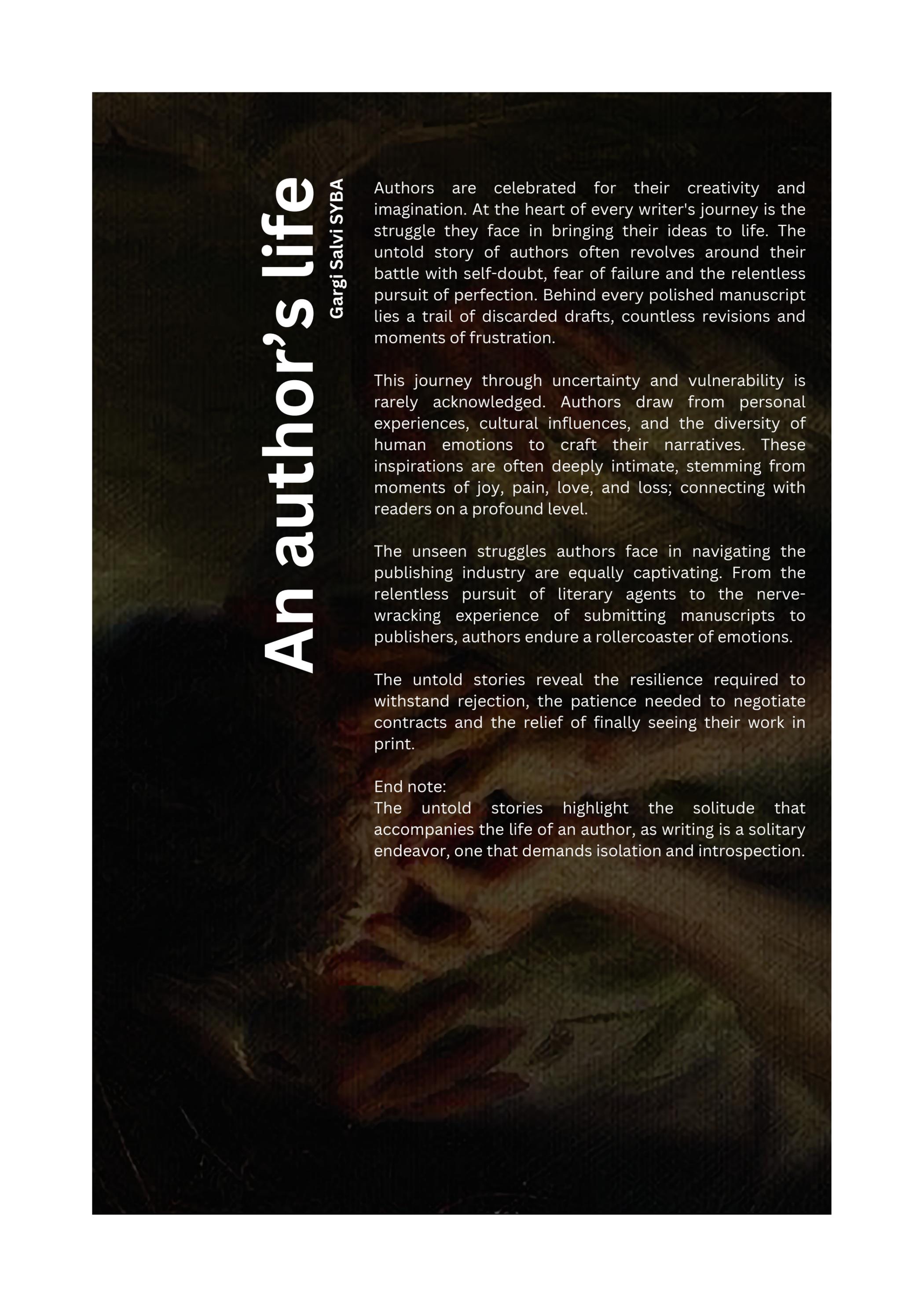
Meanwhile, Bob Iger, the CEO of the Walt Disney company has repeatedly said that the demands of the strikers were "unreasonable and unrealistic". He stated that show business is a costly affair and that writers get paid very fairly. Disney has tried to go through with various productions, however due to SAG-AFTRA joining the strike, various actors have pulled out of the productions.

This cruel approach is most beneficial to studios and streaming giants as it leaves the WGA in a very vulnerable position right before the Holidays, meaning that the AMPTP would get to dictate most of the terms for a new contract.

The WGA however continued on its strike. "One of the things the featured writers are fighting for is to finally make the studios admit that it doesn't matter if you're writing for a big screen or streaming, the work is the same, so the pay should be too", said one spokesperson of the WGA. As the strike continued, the SAG-AFTRA guild also joined the WGA in the strike on July 13th.

In conclusion, as more people are made aware of the strike, the worth of a writer is brought to the limelight. So many well-known writers are being threatened with AI and not getting fair wages for their work but what about the new writers?

The bright-eyed students who were passionate and hungry for success, now are made aware of how much they are valued in today's time. When the most successful writers in a multi-billion dollar industry are not able to secure stable and fair pay, what does this mean for other writers? Whether one writes an episode, a movie, an article or a novel, everyone has the right to expect fair wages for their work. If an industry is so fragile, that paying writers what they deserve will destroy it, then that industry should've been rubble long ago!



An author's life

Gargi Salvi SYBA

Authors are celebrated for their creativity and imagination. At the heart of every writer's journey is the struggle they face in bringing their ideas to life. The untold story of authors often revolves around their battle with self-doubt, fear of failure and the relentless pursuit of perfection. Behind every polished manuscript lies a trail of discarded drafts, countless revisions and moments of frustration.

This journey through uncertainty and vulnerability is rarely acknowledged. Authors draw from personal experiences, cultural influences, and the diversity of human emotions to craft their narratives. These inspirations are often deeply intimate, stemming from moments of joy, pain, love, and loss; connecting with readers on a profound level.

The unseen struggles authors face in navigating the publishing industry are equally captivating. From the relentless pursuit of literary agents to the nerve-racking experience of submitting manuscripts to publishers, authors endure a rollercoaster of emotions.

The untold stories reveal the resilience required to withstand rejection, the patience needed to negotiate contracts and the relief of finally seeing their work in print.

End note:

The untold stories highlight the solitude that accompanies the life of an author, as writing is a solitary endeavor, one that demands isolation and introspection.

Rishikaa Anerao FYBA

An author's mind

Authors, unlike many professionals, actually fight dozens of wars within their minds every now and then. Writing a book, or a story isn't about completing a 'task' but it can still feel like one, and that's when the hollowing feeling of lack of productivity swoops in. 'Should I have written more pages today? I'm never going to finish it.' If the lack of inspiration isn't gnawing at them, fear of rejection will. The fear of feeling disliked, the innumerable doubts that come along, while writing something, their opinions, questions like 'Will this part of the story connect to them as I think it will? Will they see what I see?', 'Is the language that I am using sophisticated enough?' have to be shushed down and dealt with, right away, all while thinking of a better adjective, or the storyline! We're taught as a society, not to show emotions or your deep, inner thoughts. Authors have to become completely vulnerable, to show true authenticity. They need to build that trust and connection with the audience.

Authors have to deal with criticism, from publishers, from people telling you what could've been better. A tiny detail misplaced here or there. A dialogue that could've been better. A part of the story that maybe touched their heart, doesn't even catch the audience's eyes. The struggles inside and outside the mind of an author are immensely racking.

So the next time you read a piece of written work, remember what went through it!

Mahek Gangar FYBA



Is it a blessing to paint a picture with words?
Being graced to give justice to your dreams and pour it in ink on a piece of blank sheet?

Authors and poets have been doing that since centuries long before us! While in the 21st century books are easier to print, people begged to find a publisher in the previous century! Today where we talk about technology and reading to be a prestige, people earlier used to do it out of boredom. Turning those pages, the smell of fresh, new books and a cup of coffee while you sit at the balcony in peace to read, it hits a different note.

Authors were treated as the smart and curious men with knowledge of the world, writing to spread the word. With genres ranging from romance to politics, crime to horror and fiction to science...we've had some of the best authors! The immense respect for the authors, to be literary explorers, researching and going in deep waters, writing for the sake of others. The immense respect that we have for them and the unique power that they have in them will always make us wonder. Writing in words, making us imagine things, like "... and melodiously the pretty bird sings", "Oh! What not would I give to have this power, And how scrumptiously I'd have it devour." The famous, familiar names we hear, some beyond the grave, yet so near. Leaving a legacy with words so brave, Even after centuries, still making us crave.

Shakespeare with his unique gift,
Twisted English through his wit and humor, Although after comedy he made a drift,
Writing about tragedy filled with terror and fear.

Virginia Woolf with her feminist schemes,
Was the voice of every girl that dared to dream, With patriarchy touching never ending sky,
She was brave to ask "why?".

Ruskin Bond with his short stories,
Created characters of innocence and queries, Yearning for something or someone,
But not craving for anything in return.

An author's Gamble

S

Many more authors have existed before, some make a name, while some just go but today where standing out is fashionable, authors are facing a new challenge. With the ease of self publishing, it's difficult to catch the eye and attention of readers. Where online marketing is prominent today, the joy of telling your friends about a book you read and asking them to read it has vanished. Finding new ways to market your book, creating a hype has made the book lose its essence of escape from reality. Reading on a tablet has made the optics business boom! There was a time when writing anonymously was required while today authors need to actively market their books. To keep up with trends, to go fact pace, to come up with new ideas to get readers to like you has been a great revolution in the writing industry.

I

L

E

N

T

Don't be afraid to speak up

Also the constant comparison with other authors, the fear of negative reviews on social media, and the vulnerability that comes with sharing one's creative work with the world can take a toll on an author's mental well-being. Even though the 21st century has presented authors with a unique set of challenges that encompass not only the craft of writing but also the intricate web of technology, self-promotion, and market dynamics. Navigating this landscape requires authors to be adaptable, innovative, and resilient in the face of an ever- evolving literary environment.

While these struggles are indeed formidable, they are also a testament to the indomitable spirit of authors who continue to create meaningful and impactful stories despite the odds.

B

A

T

T

L

E

S



Unfiltered voices

HUSTLE CULTURE AND MOONLIGHTING

Aren't we all?

Mishkat Khan FYBA

Once upon a time, there lived a young girl who harbored dreams for a really long time. Nonetheless, her dreams were crushed because of the harsh reality of the world. Just like any other kid her age, she was ensnared by the lavish portrayal that was seen on social media. She saw people her age earning and gaining financial independence. She also saw people getting up at four in the morning and having the perfect physique, reading self help books and there she was once again, couldn't help but stand in front of the mirror comparing herself to the people on social media and all she dreamt was to be just 'perfect' like them.

Once again she felt like a failure. In her bed scrolling through social media apps, having pending assignments from college, and an awaiting list of tasks. She had no ounce of motivation or patience left, her emotions all over the place. She rested motionlessly where she lay under heavy pressure that felt like it was cutting her oxygen. Stress was getting the better of her. The worry of the future crashing her felt heavier than the quilt she was under. The darkness of the future was deeper than that of the room she lay in. Staring at the ceiling blankly as the emotions got the better of her.

Once again she had let the stress take over. The moist feeling on her cheeks was the outlet of the trapped and indescribable emotions. The sun rays entered the room between the cracks of the blinds. Taking a breath, she tried to gather her thoughts...

And yet once again, it was another day where she would mask it off by laughing, goofing around, having fun and acting as if everything was good. She was fighting her own battles silently.

But in the end, aren't we all?

Committed to memories

Littymariam Thomas FYBA

People often say to stop dreaming about things that can't be true but if we don't dream how are we supposed to live in the world!
"Dreams are rich bundle of human wisdom"

In this world all of us are dreamers, this world moves because of us. The passion, love, dedication and curiosity we humans have for the things we do is rare. We are born to chase our curiosity, dreams, love because some things are worth taking a leap

You will feel left out sometimes, like everyone around you is doing something in their lives but you're stuck with these dreams that aren't going anywhere. However, everyone is stuck in some way or the other

Everyone is chasing their dreams in every possible way that can help them achieve it and to accomplish these dreams, people fight every obstacle that comes in their way no matter how impossible they seem. All of us will get stuck at times but isn't that the way of life? Trying, falling, trying, getting stuck and still not accepting defeat. Some dreams can be scattering but don't let that stop you because you never know what if it led you to some place where everything felt so right, where even difficulties felt like a blessing, a point where you know that at the end of this will be worth every battle you ever fought for. Achieving dreams isn't easy, but with self-belief and hard work, we can overcome anything. So, whether it's fixing, writing, singing, auditioning, or daring feats, go for it! Looking back, you'll find a sense of completion and fulfillment.

Flipping a Coin

Roshni Jani FYBA

Have you ever tossed a coin? What outcomes do you expect? It is an obvious answer- a head or a tail, but have you ever been confused while making a life decision? You don't toss a coin of decision, you probably want both the things for which you are confused.

Trapped in a self made cage

Vartika Bajaj FYBA

We all talk about how hectic the urban lifestyle is these days. We talk about how draining it is to keep up with the demands of a city that never sleeps, how we leave our loved one's behind because of the hustle and how the concept of kindness has been long gone.

We debate, we criticize but you know what? We go back to living the very same lives that we call toxic. But do we ever really stop and ponder? Do we ever really allow ourselves to feel the damage it has caused us?

We're taught how important it is to have a clear aim but what if we just don't know what's right for us yet? Is it so bad to be lost?

We try too hard but give ourselves very less credit. We fail to understand the fact that our best doesn't look the same every day and end up berating ourselves when we think we're not productive enough.

We want to do it all and we want to do it all perfectly. Eventually, we get so consumed in the daily chase and working on fumes that we forget what we actually desired to begin with. Don't we all just want to be content with ourselves? To live a fulfilling life?



Stuck in a vicious loop of our pursuit for perfection, we're constantly setting ourselves up for failure. We create a picture of what we think should be the ideal and we chase it, relentlessly. Growing up, most of us learnt that we'd be happier if we had more and so we spend most of our lives going after the more. How is it that we're still never content with ourselves when we always make mistakes no matter how much we chase perfection?

We're taught what to do to succeed, but how often are we taught to heal ourselves from the soul crushing weight of failure? As people who all strive for perfection, are we ever taught to comfort ourselves when we make mistakes?

Maybe success doesn't always mean having more. Maybe it doesn't take much to feel content. To find happiness in the trivial comforts the world has to offer. To feel lost and insignificant, like a nameless wildflower amidst a field full of flowers. To feel like your day has been ruined because of how bad your Biryani tasted, or to feel like you're the happiest person in this world when your favorite musician releases another album. To feel joy, love and grief.

Perhaps life is a lot more than what we have to do to achieve something. We're not what we have; we're our thoughts, our strengths, our flaws, and our feelings. Maybe someday, we can learn to embrace it all and really, maybe until then, we just have to pause and allow ourselves to feel. We're only humans, and feeling is exactly what we're made for.

Inventing YOU

Rishikaa Anerao FYBA

A luxurious yacht, a sprawling mansion with a backyard, an infinity pool, sleek cars standing in a row, an elegant personality and your dream body and to top off the list, traveling the world at twenty five. The definition of "success" has surely broadened over the years. Social media has left no stones unturned. To sell the idea of the 'perfect life' and people telling you what to do and what not to do; how everything is accessible to you and the only thing that is keeping you from that life is your 'lazy attitude.' This is the entire premise of the hustle mentality

The culture today targets the eighteen to twenty five years age bracket telling them that this is the time to achieve all your goals and live your destiny. This is a very distorted image to paste onto the minds of young adults- which is actually the time to make mistakes, to fail, to laugh and learn.

People go into this rabbit hole, not keeping in mind the ground reality and other factors, eventually leading to frustration and them questioning themselves, how and where they went wrong or blaming someone else it.

We see twenty five year olds buying cars and phones, working part time along with their main jobs; day and night to pay off their EMIs and home loans with nothing left in their hands for themselves, let alone for their parents' dreams. On the other hand there are teens these days who are living lives that the former generation couldn't even think of. While it is beautiful to see someone achieve their goals, it can be extremely heart wrenching for them to see someone else live the life they wished to live. The saying, "Don't sell your soul to the devil," applies here. The devil here, being the desires, the expectations and completely unnecessary pressures that we bring onto ourselves every now and then through people we meet, the media we consume and even unknowingly or knowingly by our well-wishers

It is not to say that you should just accept everything as it is and live like a happy monk, it means that you try your level best, with whatever lights your soul, inching towards your goals, having fun along the way and having no regrets, being in the present moment, trusting the process and so when you rest your head at night, you sleep peacefully, knowing, you gave it your best shot



Abstract love

Aarya Kadam FYBA

What was I made for? This question mostly arises when you are at the climax of your life, grinding through the routine. The answer, you might find, is quite relative. A politician's answer would be to make the world a better place; a doctor would say to save lives and the religious folks would think making people aware of the Almighty and His might is their purpose. If you find these examples unrelatable; try asking men who will say protecting and providing for their family is their goal or ask mothers who know that making people around them comfortable and happy is their ultimate purpose. While all these answers may seem quite appropriate to some extent, they are superficial. You can survive with these purposes but you can't live with them. One requires an abstract to live. Something that will make you "want to live" rather than "a need to live".

What are abstracts? Well, emotions, failure, friendships, experiences are some of the abstracts. Currently, in the Kaliyuga as we call it, the most needed abstract for us is love. Where do you find it? Many places; but the most intense one would always come from within. Now, how do you find it?

You find it by simply doing what you enjoy. Starting from reading, dancing, painting, cooking, coding, gaming, make up to meditating or journaling and self-assuring. All these fall under the broad spectrum of "self-love."

Actions like setting boundaries, having time off, not doing something for the sake of it are considered as actions of self-love. I think we, the Gen-Z generation, are very aware of the concept and importance of "SELF-LOVE" in one's life. We also know what life is devoid of self-love.

However, there is a difference between being aware of an idea and living it. We all know a balanced diet and sleep schedule is necessary but 95% of our readers (sadly, including me) eat junk food excessively and sleep at 4 in the morning. We all know being real is more important than being perfect yet we try to hide our imperfections. We all know being intelligent makes one's success easy but we do not try to become intelligent. Many students have the misconception that being intelligent is equal to scoring good marks. One should be educated in the various fields of society and contribute to it like politics, agriculture, finance, science and technology, literature, law and constitution, sports, news etc

Being updated in these fields help make a person truly intelligent. You need experience for wisdom. Teenagers should learn to interact with three-dimensional people more. One might disagree with me saying that genZ is not lazy and does love to explore but exploring into the future and goodness of the world does not cover it all. The past and hardships, lack and bitter truths of the world need to be explored as well, to have a cluster of experiences..

When you get enough experience, you will find it easy to get an answer to the question "what was I made for?" Try looking in the mirror sometime. Now wonder whether you are looking at yourself or for yourself. If you are looking at yourself you already have the answer, congratulations you got the key to the treasure box called life; make sure to enjoy the treasures fully. If you are looking for yourself and don't have the answer yet, you just have to look for it enough and you will have it. Until then, don't hesitate to keep exploring.

'There's some rubbish in my room and that rubbish is my indecisiveness.'

**Just begin,
you will figure out the rest**

Zuhair Syed FYBA

There's the age old classic movie called 'Three Idiots', which is the story of three young whimsical men, studying engineering at one of India's top engineering institutes. Three millennials grasping the ways of life around them while studying engineering at this college, with a director, who perfectly fulfills that "pernickety stem professor" trope. It showcases how reputed MNCs recruit students, fresh from the college. It undoubtedly reflects a culture of our country, that persists till this day, that typical eighteen year old teen, who took science after grade ten because it would open opportunities for them, gave JEE/NEET exam, and got a seat in one of the IITs, or other top universities with really fancy buildings and talented, accomplished professors and now don't have a clue what they will be doing in the future with their lives because they 'hustled' and worked hard 24/7 just so that they could get that prestigious "IIT" tag! However, once they get in, they don't know what the heck they would be doing with the degree in their lives!

This type of culture is not going to die anytime soon, in our country. Techpreneurs are now negatively impacting our entire culture, and taking the protestant work ethic to the next level! You've probably seen these stallions jostling each other constantly on social media, right? It seems they never rest!

It is a toxic culture dominated by cishet men aged between twenty five to forty five from well-to-do families and privileged backgrounds. It has a severe impact on the youth and their career perspectives. The youth get easily influenced by this type of culture, and think that there are only a few of these hustle jobs that they should aim for in their lives. This not only affects us young adults/old kids at the professional, and personal levels but it also severely affects our mental health. Everyone has their own definition of what success means in life. Don't let the toxic hustle culture and tatist "escape the matrix" influence you!

We live in the time of opportunities. There are so many things we can do; like a million different things we can do and make a living out of! Something that you love doing and contributing to society in your own personal way. Don't let these techpreneurs dictate what you do in life! But I know, it is easier said than done.

Now imagine this: you're working on your main job, but you're also working on projects you're interested in, working as a freelancer, or even selling your work online. It's like iron catching fire, which is very common in our busy world. Don't let things that don't get in the way of your core game cloud you. If you're a college student looking to make some extra money on the side, and feel like a side-job can help you get some money, then that's fine! Everyone is their own person, if you feel this way, then you should go ahead and do it!

Remember if you aim for the stars, the sky's the limit!



Visual symphony

Review of the painting of *The Dying Swan* by Vladimir Tretchikoff.

Review 1
Mahek Gangar
 FYBA



Ballet was her escape, dance was her dream; freedom was what she craved. Each of her step moving in perfection. Longing for the freedom to dance away from her cage. As far she went, the freedom felt distant. She cried and tried and wished and hoped for a miracle to happen, but alas not every princess gets her prince charming arriving on a horse to take her away to a place that people ever only dream of. She was all alone looking at her feet.

The ballet shoes that seemed worn off from years of practice and hard work. Her eyes shut and she found herself in her subconscious pit. Her pain and longing for freedom shown by the blood red scars shown on the wall of that pit. Trying to regain consciousness and control. Against the society that tormented her for being the standard of perfection. Prince charming won't be coming any time soon so she has to strengthen herself as she's about to get up.

A ray of hope, more like feathers come from the beyond. It's a swan, it's a sign. The symbol of wisdom, grace, beauty and evolution. She's on the right path she assured herself. The swan also assures her by keeping it's wing on the pretty ballet dress and touches her head indicating a small peck, assuring again that everything will be alright.

Are you a black or a white swan?

Review 2
Zuhair Syed
 FYBA

In this picture, I see a shade of my nascent past.

An angelic woman, comforted by the loving character of Mother Nature in her arms of tenderness and love. The heavenly creature, manifested in the avatar of a beautiful swan approaches the woman to deny Mother Nature's love. The woman, dressed as an immaculate, and sophisticated woman in a ballet dress, probably a ballerina, who troubled by her own incompetence to deliver her art properly represents the ills of our mankind, which has failed to love it's Mother, as how it was supposed to love her

But the Heavenly Swan, being the loving Mother Nature that she is, still embraces her sinful child and comforts her in her hour of need. She loves and forgives her child, even though her child is not deserving of forgiveness.

The child which is ignorant and shameful of it's sins, doesn't want to be reminded of her sins, and go through the anguish that it felt, once over again. But the ethereal swan isn't an unforgiving creature, she's a creature of motherly love and compassion, and not of despondency.



Review 3
Eshaan Dutta Kumar
 FYBA

Emotions are what fill up every second of our lives, and yet we struggle to fully convey them to others. One of the most common ways people reach out to others and convey their emotions is through art.

For centuries people have made art, each piece trying to say its own individual message of happiness, dread, sadness, nostalgia. But some paintings can convey various complex emotions in a subtle yet powerful way. One of those paintings is *The Dying Swan* by Vladimir Tretchikoff.

The painting is known for its melancholic sadness, conveyed by the ballet dancer performing the romantic ballad 'The Dying Swan'. The painting was inspired by a real performance of the ballad that moved and inspired Tretchikoff, who called it a very dynamic and graceful piece. So it's interesting that he chose to pose the ballerina not in a standing or more active pose, but rather on the floor with soft brush strokes. This creates a feeling of melancholic sadness, seeing someone so graceful down on the ground.

Calibre Corner

Interview with a hustler- Juhee Thakur

Anuj TYBA
Gargi SYBA

Q. Tell us about yourself.

A. Hello! My name is Juhee Thakur. I live in Matheran. I handle my home finances, academics, a job of teaching along with the household chores and preparing meals. I am a family oriented person.

Q. How would you describe your own relationship with hustle culture?

A. I never chose to be a part of this hustle culture lifestyle but I was pushed into it when my dad suffered a major accident. My younger brother's education became a priority and the hustling became my daily routine.

Q. Can you share a specific experience where you felt the pressure to work long hours? How did you handle that situation?

A. Once I had a long job till noon. Then, in the evening I did tutoring in classes as well as in my home. When I was under age I got a late salary and many people assumed that I didn't have much need for money.

That whole ordeal put me through a lot of stress. The expenses of my dad's medications and treatments, plus my grandfather who was also suffering from the last stage of cancer. But I knew I couldn't leave my family alone, I had to face the situation and decided to keep going.

Q. How do you maintain your hobbies, work life and educational life?

A. Painting helps me relax a lot. Whenever I find the time and opportunity I paint. It makes me feel at peace. Tutoring also makes me feel better because whenever I look at the kids having fun and laughing. It makes me happy as well.

Q. Who is your role model?

A. Definitely my dad. He has always been the one with a positive mindset, influencing me with it. I wanted to quit my job of teaching, but because of him I understood the value of such a noble job of giving knowledge to others. He also told me about passion over income and I remember that well. Also, I still teach those kids.



Juhee Thakur SYBA

Always smile because you are never fully dressed without a smile!

In a generation where they are hungry sharks for money, meet Juhee Thakur, a twenty year old second year student from S. K. Somaiya Degree College of Arts, Science and Commerce who works for her passion and not money, an advice given to her by her dad. Juhee is quite a resilient and creative individual who feels blessed that her family is proud of her hard work and hustle. Her 'I won't give up' attitude and shrewd determination makes her what she is today. "You go girl!!" is what we tell her. Get to know more about her life and her hustle from this interview.

I never distinguish or discriminate between my students on any grounds. Likewise, my dad always helps me in such situations in which I felt lost and I'm very grateful for that.

Q. How to find a balance between the desire to succeed and the need to take breaks?

A. My advice is to keep moving forward and a path will show up in due course of time. Be strategic, don't feel disappointed in yourself easily and make choices that would ultimately connect with your higher goals. Take breaks, don't overestimate yourself and find what works best for you

Q. What is the secret to your success?

A. I don't think I have succeeded yet. Back when my dad was hospitalized, my mother had to mortgage all her jewelry. So, for me personally, I'll call myself successful when I repay my parents. I'm on that path, but I'm still not quite there yet.

Q. Lastly, looking ahead, how do you envision the future and the impact of competitiveness, unemployment on the youth and society as a whole?

A. I have faced many difficulties in life, especially that of pursuing my passion in interior designing. Even though I am keen towards handicrafts, they are not as desirable as factory made goods. This is because handmade goods can sometimes be imperfect, whereas factory made goods can be more consistent in their quality.

So, opening a small business for handiwork is a big task in itself in our society.

I'd also encourage the hustling youth to cultivate tolerance. People nowadays have a lot of self-respect which is good but an overabundance of it gets in the way of not being able to work well with others. Everyone is overworked and overwhelmed unfortunately but you should stay sharp and keep improving your skills. Every field of work/ jobs has its own downsides. Make yourself aware of them and mentally prepare yourself for it and be humble at the same time. Have the same integrity towards treating your family and friends. That would be my advice.

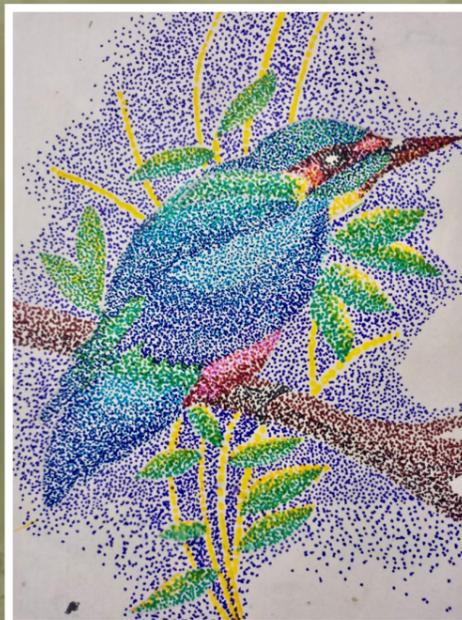
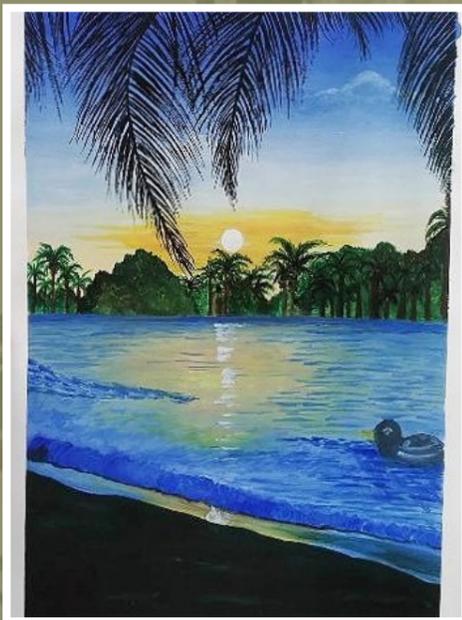
ARTISTIC RHYTHMS

Inspired by impermanence
and mere existence

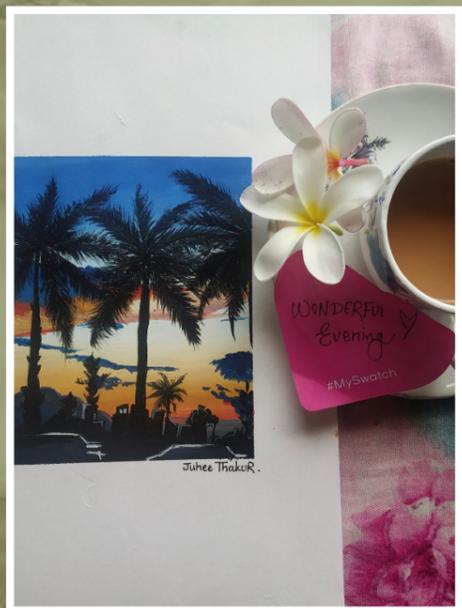
-Anuj Kanojia TYBA

How could I listen to the
world when your heartbeat
was louder to me?

—Anuj Kanojia TYBA



Mahek Verma FYBA



The most creative
expressions comes
from the purest hearts

—Anuj Kanojia TYBA

Juhee Thakur SYBA

ARTISTIC RHYTHMS



Rat race

Mahek Gangar FYBA

Teenage goes in such a rush,
While all the time, I remained shush.
Last of the teen year I got a different worry, I see all my
peers always in such a hurry.

To be somewhere, To be someone, To just not care, To just
run.
Things started to blur,
Being left out made me fear. Hustling and bustling,
Crying and craving,
Wanting to reach the top, Unsure if you're a hit or flop.

I see them going ahead,
Not sure if I'm stuck in a spot,
Not sure if they're being misled, Wondering if I'm actually
content or not.
I wake up from this dream,
I scream and scream and scream.
How do people crave so much?
How do they not get tired or crutched?

This rat race is really scary,
Does it not make people weary? How do people do it
everyday?
Do people expect it only this way?
It makes me sad to see,
In this rat race, will I lose me? Seems that, this "hustle
culture", Has started preying on us as a culture!

Dewdrops on an open petal

Anuj Kanojia TYBA

A doll with marshmallows in her blonde hair
Staying inside her pink bubble
She dreamed, endlessly
Did the voices in her head make her shiver
Did it?
The books were kept open,
Pages blank or scribbled without any order
Was it a waste of time to her?
What more could she write?
'Til she didn't dream

Porcelain vessels and macabre paintings
But the lights weren't too bright either
In her woven loom she said
Dear August,
"Please be good to me this year"
Little bit of burnt ashes, some musk and sandalwood
A jar full of water and some thyme too
Kept in a room alone
Don't try too hard my dear love
And answer me
...would you like to hear a story?

Windborne dandelions

Anuj Kanojia TYBA

I said no mom, I'm growing up
My career cannot be my sole identity
You know, I am more than that deep within
You know, princesses don't fight for nothing
The feelings just don't come and go
When was it? When was the last time you
ever felt so deeply?
Can you hold my pinky finger
And tell me that this feels familiar
And all the stories that you told me
...Were they really true?

You know sometimes I wonder
I am only here to brew a little something
Wondering if I can aim it big enough
For me to able to shoot it in the sky

..And here is my heart for you
For whatever innocent that is left in this
world
And I know, it'll be a Queen Anne's lace
Which is known for its delicate felinity
For every once a while it blooms before
saying a beloved goodbye
Don't force it to forget itself
Rather remember her as she was
For I might just hold it in my hands
And hide my hand behind my back
Don't you worry, I'll put them in a glass of
water
But tell me though...
Would they ever go extinct?



Like a winter sun

Taruba Fitwalla FYBA

Anger, impatience and arrogance
Sadly common in our generation
Don't you feel the need to pause for a minute or
two and give it your attention?
For this is not what I was made for.

As humans, we crave to connect,
Someone who understands us and supports us
Someone as a source of comfort.

We search for this friend,
Who can put an end
To our melancholy.

So, let's join hands and promise to be a confidant
Practicing connection and compassion.
For verily, this is what we're made for!



Young little mind

Prisha Daxini SYBA

I am a young little mind with many doubts
But do not find anyone to solve them

I am a young little mind with many ideas
But do not have any ears who listen

I am a young little mind with many stories
But do not have anyone to share with

That's why I call myself a young little mind
Who would continue my search to know myself



In hustle culture's dance

Zuhair Syed FYBA

In hustle's dance, we swiftly stride, the culture's
call, a relentless ride,
From dawn till dusk, the world we sway yet
shadows lengthen, burnout's price to pay.

Moonlight's glow, a second chance,
A secret world where dreams enhance,
With side gigs bright and passions we chase, our
generation's mark, a unique embrace.

Balancing both, a delicate art in a world where
hustle and dreams depart,
Generation's identity, complex and bold,
In hustle culture and moonlight's hold.

Oh, current generation's dual face,
In hustle and moonlight, we find our space.
Ambition fuels us, pushing to our prime yet self-
care's beacon must forever shine.

Blend the hustle's fire with moonlight's grace,
Forge an identity that finds its place.
In this ever-shifting work-life tide, we seek the
balance where our spirits glide.

