

WEBSERIES REVIEW

Decoupled Season 1



Director: Hardik Mehta

Cast: R. Madhavan, Surveen Chawla, Atul Kumar

STORY: Celebrity author Arya Iyer (R. Madhavan) and finance manager Shruti Sharma Iyer (Surveen Chawla) are a couple drifting apart. After several years of marriage, they are looking to divorce each other and also continue to live in the same house to co-parent their school-going daughter Rohini (Arista Mehta). And to make a formal announcement of their separation, they even decide to host a Decoupling Party/Ceremony in Goa.

REVIEW: Madhavan does a wonderful job playing a writer who minces no words in speaking his mind. He keeps his portal of Arya as subtle and simple, and just as effortless. Surveen Chawla complements him with her performance as the independent wife, or should we say soon-to-be ex-wife, Shruti. She looks wonderful and her chemistry with Madhavan is convincing, whether their characters are bickering or in banter.

Aseem Hattangady and Atul Kumar as Arya's friends — the filmmaker Mayank and Guru Agni respectively, Akash Khurana and Apara Mehta as Shruti's parents, Surinder Sharma and Madhu Sharma, Arista Mehta as Shruti and Arya's daughter Rohini, and Sonia Rather, (as air hostess Masha, who is drawn to Arya) play their parts as expected. Mukesh Bhatt as Arya and Shruti's driver makes an interesting and noteworthy observation on the history of the couple.

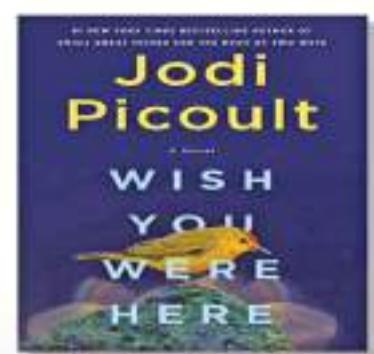
In-depth Analysis

Our overall critic's rating is not an average of the sub scores below.

Direction	2.5/5
Dialogues	2.5/5
Story	2.5/5
Music	2.5/5
Visual appeal	2.5/5

BOOK REVIEW

Wish You Were Here



Title: 'Wish You Were Here'

Author: Jodi Picoult

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton

Pages: 336

Price: 799 INR

Review: American writer Jodi Picoult is back with a new contemporary fiction 'Wish You Were Here', which was released in November 2021 and became an instant bestseller. Set in the backdrop of the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic, Picoult's new novel is about rediscovering oneself and hope. In an interview to NPR, Picoult revealed that 'Wish You Were Here' is inspired from the true story of a Japanese tourist Jesse Katayama who was stranded in Machu Picchu when the Covid pandemic began. Katayama stayed with the local community there for months till she was given special permission by the government to see the historical site! But unlike the true story, Picoult's novel is set in the Galapagos islands at a time when the world shut down due to the sudden rise of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The book is divided into two parts; the unexpected twists in the later half keeps the readers on the edge. While Picoult transports the readers to the beautiful tourist-free Galapagos islands in this book, she also writes about the ugly truths of how the pandemic strained relationships between loved ones and families due to separations. The author also captures the struggles and never-ending persistence of frontline workers who are fighting against the virus. "I wrote to help myself put the pandemic into perspective, and found comfort and hope in it," Picoult recently tweeted about her novel and we hope it would resonate with many readers too.

In-depth Analysis

Our overall critic's rating is not an average of the sub scores below.

Direction

Dialogues

Story

Music

Visual appeal

GADGET REVIEW

Infinix Note 11S



Expected Price Rs 15,999.

Display 6.95-inch (1080x2460)

Processor MediaTek Helio G96

Front Camera 16MP

Rear Camera 50MP + 2MP + 2MP

Rear autofocus Yes

Rear flash Yes

RAM 4GB

Storage 128GB

Battery Capacity 5000mAh

OS Android 11

GPS Yes

USB OTG Yes

USB Type-C Yes

Headphones 3.5mm

FM Yes

Face unlock Yes

Fingerprint sensor Yes

Colours Haze Green, Mithril Grey, and Symphony Cyan

Pros

- * Decent gaming-centric chipset support.
- * Full HD IPS LCD display.
- * Long-lasting battery support.
- * 33W fast charging speed.

Cons

- * Without any gorilla glass protection.
- * Average camera performance.

VEHICLE REVIEW

Skoda Kushaq



Starting Price

Rs. 10.79 - 17.99 Lakh*

Fuel Type Petrol

1498 cc

Engine Displacement

4

No. of cylinder

7 Speed DSG

Gear Box

147.51bhp@5000-6000rpm

Max Power

250nm@1500-3500rpm

Max Torque

5

Seating Capacity

5

No. of Doors

Automatic

Transmission Type

385 L

Boot Space

50.0 L

Fuel Tank Capacity

SUV

Body Type

188mm

Ground Clearance

6

No. of Airbags

Front

Fog Lights

Yes

Sun Roof

Remote

Trunk Opener

R17

Alloy Wheel Size

Disc

Front Brake Type

Drum

Pros

- * Classy exterior & interior.
- * Cabin has good legroom to offer.
- * Sorted suspension offers a balanced ride.
- * 6 airbags.

Cons

- * No 1.5L diesel.
- * Boot space is less.

ASTROLOGY

Health and Lifestyle

Five tips to develop your child's personality



Every individual is born with a unique personality that is eventually shaped by is or her surroundings. The surroundings and environment play a formative role in molding the child's future. The immediate and first environment of a child is their home, especially the caregivers-parents, grandparents and siblings.

This is followed by educational institutions where teachers and fellow students form the environment of the child. Special care should thus be taken so that the child is brought up with a positive attitude and in an environment that encourages them to grow into a well-rounded individual with an impactful personality. Here are some tips that will help you achieve the same.

Be a good listener

Your child would want to share everything with you and we all know that children's idea of 'relevance' is very different from that of adults. When children talk about the most insignificant things, they wish to be heard because to them it is important. If you make them feel heard and understood in their formative years, they will feel confident and secure in your company and grow up to be confident individuals who will listen to others properly.

Refrain from comparison

Every child is unique and is blessed with different calibers and qualities and this also implies that every child will be exceptionally good at a thing or two but not at everything. Hence, there should always be room for mediocrity. If your child performs an activity by putting its best into it, and you end up comparing it with a peer or another child, it will completely ruin their self-esteem and confidence in their capabili-



Encourage independence

You should know that every child is good at something but not everything. Therefore, instead of comparing, you should appreciate and encourage.

Limit screen time

Too much screen time can halter your child's social and intellectual development because it can lead to addiction, and leave little or no time for interaction with peers and family.

Parents should ensure that their child is spending more time in organic conversations and not with gadgets and the screen.

Children are extremely little, fragile beings with little sense of the world and there are numerous things that they do for the first time: walk, talk, eat, crawl and read; the list is too long and goes on and on but you should always take care that you help your child to an extent. If you go above and beyond to help your little one with everything, it might make way for excessive dependence. Helping the child become independent by letting it do things for itself is a good way to develop an independent personality.

Allow free playtime

This generation saw the pandemic, the rapid development of technology and excessive reliance on virtual mediums. It is thus recommended to lay emphasis on free play and allow that among children.

Values of team spirit, sharing, caring and resilience are inculcated through free play and interaction with other children. Playtime is also necessary for the physical and mental development of the child and its overall personality development.

Photo: iStock

ARIES
MAR 21 - APR 19

The week begins on Sunday, Dec. 26, with Mercury in Capricorn, in your house of reputation, making a sextile to Neptune in Pisces. Today, you could be basking in glory. You could receive compliments on a gift you gave or an excellent meal you made. Aries, you could be king of the grill or the hostess who rivals Martha Stewart.

TAURUS

APR 20 - MAY 20

Mercury in Capricorn, in your house of travel, making a sextile to Neptune in Pisces in your house of friendships. Today, you could be spending time with people you really care about. Taurus, there's laughter and fun as you play a board game, watch a favorite comedian or share a dessert and a bottle of wine. It's moments like these that make all your hard work worth it.

GEMINI

MAY 21 - JUN 20

Mercury in Capricorn, in your house of investments, making a sextile to Neptune in Pisces in your house of popularity. Today there's quite a temptation to chase after an investment tip or hot stock. All the cool kids on Reddit could be talking about some new leveraged investment or some obscure security. Now you're tempted to join the gang.

CANCER

JUN 21 - JUL 22

Now that you have introduced your sweetheart to friends and family, you might get questions about the future. Someone could ask when you're going to change your relationship status on social media. Cancer, your grandma won't have any qualms about asking when you are going to set a wedding date. Cancer, this is a good time to check twice to make sure everything is secure.

LEO

JUL 23 - AUG 22

You might be off sugar, yet that box of See's Candies seems to be calling you just after you finished off the plate of decorated sugar cookies that your mom sent. Today, Leo, it could be tough to avoid temptation. You could be called in for a last-minute shift or be filling in for someone on leave. Leo, the best thing to do today is to try to be flexible and make adjustments.

VIRGO

AUG 23 - SEP 22

You might whisper sweet sexy poetry into your sweetheart's ear. And this could have the desired effect of giving you a romantic adventure. Virgo, this could be an afternoon of sweet delight. You might make a purchase today that requires you to sign something, such as an apartment lease or a large purchase for the home.

Photo: iStock

LIBRA
SEP 23 - OCT 22

Sun in Sagittarius, making Jupiter in your house of romance and adventure. Libra, you have an opportunity to get back together with someone from your past. Libra, it's possible this person is coming into your life now, knocking on the door and waiting to be let in. Now you're likely weighing the pros and cons about answering that call.

SCORPIO
OCT 23 - NOV 21

You might sit down with your kids for a long discussion. With younger children, maybe you'll play games together, seeing how they deal with choices. Older children could tell you about their future plans for careers and where they want to live. Scorpio, this could be an eye-opening day for you. You and your sweetheart might not see eye to eye on a major purchase or whether to lend money to a family member.</p