

WEBSERIES REVIEW

A Thursday



Director: Behzad Khambata
Cast: Yami Gautam, Dimple Kapadia, Neha Dhupia, Atul Kulkarni

STORY: Naina Jaiswal (Yami Gautam), an unsuspecting 30-something preschool teacher rouses Mumbai Police and the media when she announces that she has held 16 kids from her nursery hostage. She issues a warning. Each child risks losing their life unless super cop Javed Khan (Atul Kulkarni) agrees to meet her list of demands. Naina's day long stand-off with the cops forms the story.

REVIEW: It lacks the compelling nature of Neeraj Pandey's storytelling but gets the underlying emotion right. Jarring background score and dated slowmo close-ups feel juvenile as the attempt to draw in the viewer feels too obvious. Conveying emotions shouldn't be confused with spoon-feeding. While the plot raises intrigue, the film lacks technical detailing that could fulfil its ambition.

Despite a rather predictable backstory, A Thursday redeems itself with its powerful emotional arc and social commentary in the latter half. It touches upon a relevant issue that will resonate with women across the globe. This may not be an edge of the seat thriller that evokes paranoia or fear but it dares to make an important point and that alone is its victory. Khambata cleverly makes ample use of the social media within the film to take the story forward and it works. The film also makes an apt observation of clickbait journalism and the business of 'breaking news'.

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

More Things in Heaven and Earth



Title: More Things in Heaven and Earth
Author: Kiran Manral
Genre: Fiction
Publisher: Amaryllis
Pages: 312
Price: 399 INR

Review: Popular Indian author Kiran Manral is known for writing books in various genres - from parenting to spine-chilling thrillers. Her new book 'More Things in Heaven and Earth' was released in April 2021 and it's a gripping story of love, obsession, and betrayal.

Kamla Malik is devastated; her husband Nihar dies unexpectedly due to a heart attack in Goa. In search of some closure, Kamla tries mediums and even Ouija boards to make a contact with her dead husband only to say a final goodbye to him. But does she want him back from the world that he inhabits now? Or worse, will he leave her alone when she finds him? Meanwhile, her doctors believe she is hallucinating and living far from reality. At the same time, her old, eccentric, and ailing aunt invites her to meet her in her villa in Goa. In search of a change of place, Kamla agrees and there she meets her maternal aunt's stepson, Victor. Soon, Victor claims his stake over the crumbling villa and on Kamla. But while Kamla knows that Victor is a part of her present, she is still haunted by Nihar.

The story deals with the themes of love, death, and grief and it's a captivating read. Kiran Manral's inevitable style and rich narrative hook the reader till the very end of the story.

GADGET REVIEW

Oppo Reno 7 Pro 5G



Expected Price	Rs 39,999.
Display	6.50-inch (1080x2400)
Resolution	Gorilla Glass
Protection type	MediaTek Dimensity 1200
Processor	32MP
Front Camera	50MP + 8MP + 2MP
Rear Camera	Yes
Rear autofocus	Yes
Rear flash	Yes
RAM	12GB
Storage	256GB
Battery Capacity	4500mAh
OS	Android 11
GPS	Yes
Bluetooth	Yes, v 5.20
NFC	Yes
USB Type-C	Yes
Face unlock	Yes
Proximity sensor	Yes
Accelerometer	Yes
Colours	Starlight Black, Startrails Blue

Pros

- * Solid industrial design.
- * Bright and vivid display.
- * Snappy overall performance.
- * Excellent battery backup.
- * Stereo speakers.

Cons

- * Specs not entirely competitive.

VEHICLE REVIEW

TVS iQube Electric



Starting Price	Rs. 14.99 - 23.29 Lakh*
Fuel Type	Electric
Motor Power	4.4 kW
Range	75 km/charge
Top Speed	78 kmph
Battery Type	Li-ion
Kerb Weight	118 Kg
Charging Time	6 Hours
Wheels Type	Alloy
Tyre Type	Tubeless
Standard Warranty	3 yrs
Max Torque	140 Nm
Drive Type	Hub Motor
Transmission Type	Automatic
Brakes Front	Disc
Brakes Rear	Drum
Suspension-Front	Telescopic
Suspension-Rear	Hydraulic twin tube shock absorber
Ground Clearance	150 mm
Kerb Weight	118 Kg
Tail Light	LED

Pros

- * Powerful hub motor.
- * Features Q-park.
- * Well-balanced suspension setup.

Cons

- * Annoying startup tune.
- * Doesn't support fast charging, yet.

Health and Lifestyle

Home decor tips to embrace a natural look sustainably



The notion of sustainability has been making rounds for a couple of decades now. The climate crisis has made the matter pressing; however, what fails to be understood is that sustainability is not limited to safeguarding the future but also about nurturing the present in the best capacity. The idea of being sustainable has been hyped up to become a trend that showcases adapting extensive interventions; however, it is also about small contributions that go a long way and can become stepping stones to a great ecologically conscious home and life. Devika Khosla, creative director of an interior designing company, shares some ideas on embracing sustainability and attaining a natural look at home.



Maximise on sunlight and natural air

Invest in larger windows to draw in all the vitamin D and ventilation. It will certainly reduce the electricity consumption of the home. If the sunlight is harsh, one could opt for double glazed windows with well-sealed frames to minimise air leaks and add layers of sheer curtains and drapes to keep the space warmer in colder seasons.

Natural materials

Natural materials for the win. Materials like marble, stone and wood form aesthetically better and calmer spaces because they are derived from nature. Using these materials in the home as a flooring material for furniture and other uses instead of artificial materials like vinyl or other synthetic products is preferable.

Refurbish time-honoured pieces

Vintage furniture pieces are the new trend in the design world that are great investments. They can be pre-owned pieces inherited from the family or a discovery at the local vintage store. These old pieces have stood the test of time and

survived because of the quality of the materials used and hence are sturdy even today. Renew its polish, remodel it, and it will be a showstopper.

Recycle your fabrics

Fabrics like linens, cotton and silk are biodegradable because they are natural materials and are aesthetically pleasing. One could use old dupattas, shawls, and sarees that can easily be recycled to make upholstery for cushions, furniture pieces, and throws. In addition, natural fibre rugs made from wool and silk for upholstery are ideal options that provide good insulation.

Support local brand and homegrown products

Sustainability is also about supporting the local community. Not only does it reduce the carbon footprint due to reduction in transportation, but it also grants economic stability to the vendors, artisans and craftspersons. It could be an art piece for your bedroom, an embroidered throw for your refurbished sofas or a piece of furniture itself.

Verdant and lively interiors

Plants provide oxygen and filter out harmful chemicals from the air. Besides these, they offer a natural ambience and bring freshness to the space. So invest in some good indoor plants to add the splash of life to any room.

Bamboo, Rattan and Cane

These days, Bamboo, Rattan and Cane are the shining stars of sustainable interior design, making their presence in varied scales of design elements, furniture and decor. They are highly durable materials and the answer to a low-cost solution for interior and exterior design. For instance, they can be used in a rustic interior setting or as a focal point in a room as a headboard for the bed and shutters of the wardrobes. In addition, they are sturdy materials and can be used to make chairs, stools, storage units, partitions, screens etc.

ASTROLOGY

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS 20TH - 26TH FEBRUARY 2022

ARIES



MAR 21 - APR 19

This week, you're called on to help. Aries, you're ready to jump in. The week gets off to a slow start as you focus on process rather than completion. You can feel like you are stuck in a routine. It's likely you are going over past paperwork, looking at your investments, and starting pulling together materials to do your taxes.

LIBRA



SEP 23 - OCT 22

This week, you are attracting romance. The week gets off to a sluggish start with less time for socializing and more obligations for work. Libra, you may be balancing your checkbook, organizing your receipts for the taxman, or catching up with work at the office. It's nose to the grindstone this week, and you are seamlessly moving from one task to the next.

TAURUS



APR 20 - MAY 20

The week gets off to a comfortably slow beginning where you have some time to get a few things done. This can make for a pleasant and agreeable day, doing things you know how to do and getting some loose ends tied up. This is a good day to explore becoming an expert in an activity you really enjoy that also happens to be a salable skill. You might be looking at long-term plans.

SCORPIO



OCT 23 - NOV 21

This week, a career opportunity could start to form. Scorpio, your patience is paying off. The week gets off to a calm start with more time to spend with people you love. Family members may get together to discuss divvying up resources. There could be a discussion about wills, trusts, and future planning. Or you may be pooling resources together to invest.

GEMINI



MAY 21 - JUN 20

This week, money matters are the focus. The week gets off to an irritatingly slow start as you clean up straggling correspondence and projects that have been sitting on your desk for a while. Consider taking a mental health day to listen to a book while you go through old paperwork and scan old photos. You may get very excited about an investment category, and you're ready to dive in.

SAGITTARIUS



NOV 22 - DEC 21

This week, you may formulate plans to make more money. Sagittarius, prosperity energy is flowing in. The week gets off to a frustratingly slow start with some work you have to do over. There's a focus on editing, fine-tuning, and making touch ups. This is quite different from your usual big thinking and the sweeping changes you like to make. But if you focus on getting tasks done quickly, you may have time.

CANCER



JUN 21 - JUL 22

This week, a romance may get serious. Cancer, you may be thinking about commitment. The week gets off to a peaceful start with the energy around daily life activities, getting things organized and everything in its place. This is a day to make your home more comfortable. You may be doing a home improvement project, sewing a quilt, or reorganizing your pantry.

CAPRICORN



DEC 22 - JAN 19

This week, you are captivating people's attention. Capricorn, you are magnetic. The week gets off to a productive start with time for you to focus on some leftover projects and get things off your desk. The moon reaches an opposition with the North Node in Taurus on Tuesday, February 22. Capricorn, you may be getting ready to launch a business, accept a promotion or make some major life change.

LEO



JUL 23 - AUG 22

This week, you're inspired to take care of yourself. Leo, it starts with getting more rest. The week gets off to a slow, meandering start. You may find yourself on social media scrolling and scrolling and scrolling. This is a day to think about your career. Let your mind wander toward the future. You may be quite comfortable in your job now, but it's wise to think about what's ahead.

AQUARIUS



JAN 20 - FEB 18

This week, you may have a great business idea. Aquarius, you're an innovative thinker. The week gets off to a bumpy start as you are plagued with interruptions, minor irritations, and repetitive tasks. This energy is about slowing down to make sure your life is organized, and you are ready for action. Today's the day to send out positive vibes to the Universe to bring in opportunities.

VIRGO



AUG 23 - SEP 22

This week, opportunities come from several directions. The week gets off to a great start with extra time for organizing, planning, and getting small projects done. You may be pulling together materials to give to your accountant for taxes. This is a good time to think about going paperless by downloading statements and shredding old pieces of paper.

PISCES



FEB 19 - MAR 20

This week, there are tantalizing possibilities with a friend. Pisces, it could be a whirlwind romance. The week gets off to an easy, breezy start with few obligations and a quiet energy that you enjoy. There's time now for some deep thinking. Pisces, you might make a quilt or do some woodworking with hand tools. Today, you're there for a friend.