

MOVIE REVIEW

Amar Singh Chamkila



Director: Imtiaz Ali
Cast: Diljit Dosanjh, Parineeti Chopra, Amurag Arora

STORY: Based on a true tragedy, the musical looks back at Amar Singh Chamkila, Punjab's popular but disgraced slain singer. Belonging to the ill-fated 27 club, he and his wife Amarjot, were shot dead in the late 80s by masked gunmen. The killings were preceded by anonymous threats directed at the singer for penning obscene lyrics that largely objectified women. Diljit Dosanjh and Parineeti Chopra play the lead roles.

REVIEW: Imtiaz Ali, known for his soul-searching, contemplative stories on love and self discovery, steers away from his usual path only to truly find himself again. Through Chamkila, he deep dives into a tragedy seeped in moral policing, caste discrimination, societal bullying and prejudice.

Poignant, provocative and poetic, Imtiaz's vision conjures vivid emotions. The objective, yet empathetic, biopic compels you to look inward. At 2 hours, 25 minutes, the film packs in a lot and has much to process, given it's non linear storytelling, genre hopping (docu drama-musical-semi investigative) & political insight. Punjab is viewed as a state of excess, be it through its extreme love, passion or control. The second half feels a bit repetitive but AR Rahman's music (background) and Diljit's rustic vocals keep the momentum going. While it isn't fair to expect Parineeti to match up to Diljit's singing, she has a likeable presence but her acting pales in comparison in crucial scenes.

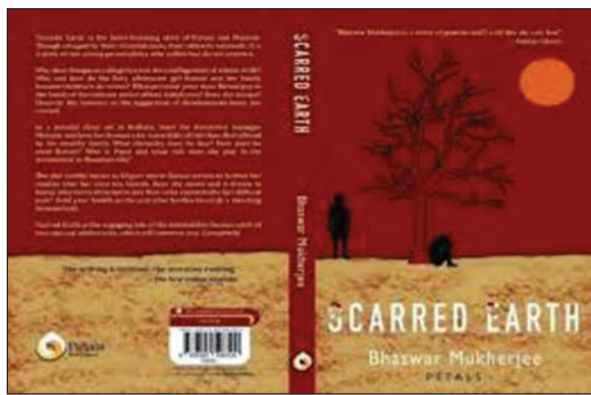
In-depth Analysis

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

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-----|
| Direction | ██████████ | 4/5 |
| Dialogues | ██████████ | 4/5 |
| Story | ██████████ | 4/5 |
| Music | ██████████ | 4/5 |
| Visual appeal | ██████████ | 4/5 |

BOOK REVIEW

Scarred Earth



Title: 'Scarred Earth'
Author: Bhaswar Mukherjee
Genre: Fiction
Publisher: Petal Publishers & Distributors
Pages: 274
Price: INR 350

Review: Could there be any truer words, given the context of social evolution in the face of human foibles since time immemorial? The good, the bad and the ugly faces of the society; all come together in Bhaswar Mukherjee's searingly soul-touching tale of tumult, human perseverance, grit, courage, justice, love, betrayal, hatred, and everything else. While the work may classify as fiction, it certainly draws inspiration from eclectic sources, the kinds that the newspapers are rife with nowadays.

The backbone of the story is simple. A ruthless cop who has been assigned a special task to be accomplished by virtue of his not-so-welcome posting to an obscure village in West Bengal, the atrocities that he commits, a parallel ethnic tension that shakes the place, and the spirited, but severely scarred young woman, who faces unforeseeable trauma, but nevertheless survives...

This young woman, who loses both her parents to the tragic turn of events, however, lives on, forged by 'a stronger force than the bonds of love and the paramount need for self-preservation', as realized by Muneim, a wonderful character, with such depth, that it is almost impossible to believe that he is a work of fiction. The novel also explores the theme of love in so many different forms, and so masterfully marauds across the boundaries that separate them, that it gives one a heartache to read through the pages. Filial love, social camaraderie, fraternal love, romantic love, marital love, love for power, money... the various forms of love intertwine to propel the story forward with conviction.

GADGET REVIEW

Vivo T3x 5G



| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Expected Price | Rs 14,999 |
| Display | 6.72-inch (2408x1080) |
| Resolution | IP64 |
| IP rating | 8MP |
| Front Camera | 50MP + 2MP |
| Rear Camera | 4GB |
| RAM | 128GB |
| Storage | 6000mAh |
| Battery Capacity | 44W Flash Charge |
| Fast charging | Android 14 |
| OS | Yes |
| Wi-Fi | Yes |
| GPS | Yes, v 5.10 |
| Bluetooth | Yes |
| USB OTG | Yes |
| USB Type-C | Yes |
| Fingerprint sensor | Yes |
| Proximity sensor | Yes |
| Accelerometer | Yes |
| Ambient light sensor | Yes |
| Colours | Celestial Green, Crimson Bliss |

| Pros | Cons |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| * Super AMOLED display. | * Slower charging. |
| * Long Battery Life. | * Slower refresh rate. |
| * More Feature loaded. | * Inferior chipset. |
| * Ultra-wide angle rear sensor. | |
| * 3.5mm audio jack. | |

VEHICLE REVIEW

Mahindra Bolero Neo Plus



| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Starting Price | Rs.11.39 - 12.49 Lakh* |
| Fuel Type | Diesel |
| Engine Displacement | 2184 cc |
| No. of Cylinders | 4 |
| Max Power | 118.35hp@4000rpm |
| Max Torque | 280Nm@1800-2800rpm |
| Seating Capacity | 9 |
| Transmission Type | Manual |
| Fuel Tank Capacity | 60 Litres |
| Body Type | SUV |
| Steering Type | Hydraulic |
| Steering Column | Tilt |
| Front Brake Type | Disc |
| Rear Brake Type | Drum |
| Parking Sensors | Rear |
| Tyre Type | Radial Tubeless |
| Fog Lights | Front |
| Boot Opening | Manual |
| No. of Airbags | 2 |
| Touch Screen size | 8.9 Inch |
| No. of Speakers | 4 |

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| * Great styling. | * Does get bouncy & bumpy. |
| * Robust, abuse-friendly build & body-on-frame construction. | * Steering is on the heavier side at parking / low speeds. |
| * Comfy front seats with armrests, excellent visibility. | |

Health and Lifestyle

Chic balcony seating designs that add a sparkle to your interiors!



As monsoon is in full bloom at the moment, it is the best time to convert your balcony into a delightful haven. A space where you can spend your mornings intentionally immersing in mindful practices, or unwind after a long tiring day with your favourite iced tea, or even have a fun game of carrom with your family post dinner. This space can be your personal go-to for pockets of joy throughout the day, or one where you play host and entertain your friends and family.

Statement piece
Creating an aesthetic balcony for yourself can be a creatively fulfilling process, one that you thoroughly enjoy and look forward to. When it comes to outdoor furniture, we will always be in favour of styles and materials that are more towards the natural side.

Beautifully woven wicker furniture is always a classic, absolutely timeless. Wicker chairs, swing seating or even a coffee table can accentuate a space and add so much character to it. This complemented with vibrant green plants, would be chefs kiss!















Planters for your balcony
When it comes to materials, bamboo and wood would not be left behind. These natural elements add a sense of calm and serene to any space. All of these are styles that can very well be incorporated into houses with any décor style.

Flower vase
When it comes to upholstery, our best bet would be materials that are not sensitive to fading in bright sun, and also water repellent. Keep the muted neutrals to match the vibe of the furniture, almost creating a boho dream. If prints are what you naturally go for, we would say go for chic stripes, and if you are feeling bold, bright prints will come in handy to create a tropical atmosphere.

Be sure that everything compliments each other well, creating a visual dream. You can stick with minimum pieces of furniture, that is may be one statement swing or sofa, and that's it, or you can create a lounge like seating depending on what you intend the place to be, your personal nook for some peace, or a place where you bring all your loved ones together for a good time!

ASTROLOGY

WEEKLY PREDICTIONS 21ST - 27TH APRIL 2024

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>ARIES</p>  <p>MAR 21 - APR 19</p> | <p>This week, profound experiences are possible. The week begins with the moon in Cancer opposing Pluto in Capricorn. Aries, the Universe is reaching out to send you a message, but if you're operating on autopilot, you could miss it. Mercury retrograde in Virgo and your house of daily routines makes a semisextile to Mars in Libra.</p> | <p>LIBRA</p>  <p>SEP 23 - OCT 22</p> | <p>This week, your intuition is loud and clear. The week begins with some unique energy. Venus goes in Leo, and Jupiter goes in Taurus. Both of these planets appear to be standing still, providing powerful energy to help you attract what you want. Take some time today to figure out what that is, from love to career to lifestyle.</p> |
| <p>TAURUS</p>  <p>APR 20 - MAY 20</p> | <p>This week, you gain a deeper understanding of an important concept. The week begins on with the moon in Cancer opposing Pluto in Capricorn. Today, a family member could say something that has such a profound impact on your understanding of family dynamics that you're flabbergasted. Taurus, it's like an important puzzle piece is finally in your hands.</p> | <p>SCORPIO</p>  <p>OCT 23 - NOV 21</p> | <p>This week, you're making good connections. The week begins with some very unusual energy. Venus goes in Leo, and Jupiter goes retrograde in Taurus. Today, both of these planets appear to be standing still. Scorpio, you might have a realization that you're in love. It could be a deep emotional connection with a person, or you could find yourself fully committed to a particular course of action.</p> |
| <p>GEMINI</p>  <p>MAY 21 - JUN 20</p> | <p>This week, you're getting a handle on things. The week begins with the moon in Cancer opposing Pluto in Capricorn. Today, you could feel an overwhelming urge to get your finances under control. You might be looking at the numbers and seeing that you've been doing some impulse spending. It also could be that there are financial opportunities that need your attention.</p> | <p>SAGITTARIUS</p>  <p>NOV 22 - DEC 21</p> | <p>This week, you have the magic touch. The week begins with an unusual event. Venus goes direct in Leo, and tomorrow Jupiter goes retrograde in Taurus. Today, both of these planets appear to be standing still, resulting in extraordinary energy. Venus represents your desires, while Jupiter brings luck and expansion. With these combined energies, you become a magnet for what you want.</p> |
| <p>CANCER</p>  <p>JUN 21 - JUL 22</p> | <p>This week, you get things straightened out. The week begins with the moon in Cancer opposing Pluto in Capricorn. Cancer, you are a sensitive soul, and you could be around people today who aren't necessarily cognizant of that fact. You might need to do something to guard your feelings, but mostly try not to take things personally today. The person in front of you might just be having a bad day.</p> | <p>CAPRICORN</p>  <p>DEC 22 - JAN 19</p> | <p>This week, you're finding solutions. The week begins with an extraordinary event. Venus goes direct in Leo, and tomorrow Jupiter goes retrograde in Taurus. Today, both of these planets appear to be standing still, granting them extra power. Capricorn, your desires are expanded, perhaps to the point of obsession. You have the ability to channel your power and energy into a single wish.</p> |
| <p>LEO</p>  <p>JUL 23 - AUG 22</p> | <p>This week, you could see some gains. The week with the moon in Cancer opposing Pluto in Capricorn. A relationship could be very intense today. Leo, it's possible that you find out a friend really wants to have a physical relationship with you. Or you might discover that someone at your job is very attracted to you. Whether this puts you in an awkward position or not, it could come as a big surprise.</p> | <p>AQUARIUS</p>  <p>JAN 20 - FEB 18</p> | <p>This week, you're finding your power. The week begins with a very special astrological event. Venus goes direct in Leo, and tomorrow Jupiter goes retrograde in Taurus. Today, both of these planets appear to be standing still, granting them immense power. Aquarius, you have access to this power today, so make use of it. Utilize the energy of Venus to visualize what you want.</p> |
| <p>VIRGO</p>  <p>AUG 23 - SEP 22</p> | <p>This week, you're getting things right. The week begins with the moon in Cancer. You could be feeling extra sensitive today, especially regarding a love relationship. You might be reading between the lines in their last text. Today, you could misinterpret where they're coming from and skew it toward the negative.</p> | <p>PISCES</p>  <p>FEB 19 - MAR 20</p> | <p>This week, you're seeing what's ahead. The week begins with some very unique energy. Venus goes direct in Leo, and tomorrow Jupiter goes retrograde in Taurus. Today, both of these planets appear to be standing still, emphasizing your future desires. Take this opportunity to contemplate and visualize what you want to manifest.</p> |