



Festive face



Zarin Saleh Hussain

The month of October is finally here! The month of celebration, pretty, colourful clothes, sparkly make-up, and lots and lots of fun! Make-up is an illusion. It should look natural. You want to look fair, radiant, and so you take good care of your skin.

Skin health:
 Don't forget the three-step daily skincare routine of cleansing, moisturising and protection from UV rays.
 ♦ Have your daily dose of beauty sleep of seven to eight hours.
 ♦ Drink plenty of water.
 ♦ Eat plenty of green-leafy vegetables and fruits.
Remember –
 ♦ Always clean and moisturise your skin before putting on any make-up.
 ♦ A thin layer of foundation is the best way to go. Identifying your exact skin tone is the first and the most important step you can take towards using cosmetics effectively and making the most of every feature. Unless you experiment with different hues and break some of the rules, you will never be able to find out which shades of make-up work best for you.

- Here are a few basic make-up tips:
- Prepare your skin with moisturiser with UV protection (during the daytime).
 - Blend a foundation matching your skin tone all over your face and neck.
 - Fill in your brows with a light brown eye-brow pencil.
 - Line the inside of your eyes with a black eye pencil.
 - Take any colour glitter/eye shadow and apply onto your eye lids.
 - Highlight your brow bone with a light colour eye shadow with sheen.
 - Try light shimmery eye shadow in beige just under your brow bone to draw attention to your eyes.
 - Curl lashes and apply two coats of mascara.
 - To define eyebrows, put clear mascara on them and brush them to desired shape.
 - Make powder eye shadow last longer and stay crease-free by dusting your eyelids with translucent powder first. It'll absorb the oils from your skin and keep your make-up looking fresh.
 - Take a big blusher brush, and brush bronzer all over your face. This will highlight the best features of your face – the tip of your nose, your cheekbones and chin.
 - Gloss up your lips (for the night).

Be careful not to drag at your skin while applying make-up. Apply your make-up in upward strokes.
Must haves for make-up:
 • Cleanser • Moisturiser • Concealer • Foundation
 • Translucent powder • Blusher • Eyeliner • Eyebrow pencil • Mascara • Eye shadow • Shimmer • Lip guard
 • Lip liner • Lipstick • Lip gloss.
 Moisturise your skin at least five to ten minutes before you start applying make-up – this gives it time to soak into your skin.
 Translucent powder should be applied sparingly, using a large, professional poser brush. It provides light coverage, and it may also be used to refresh make-up, or even in place of foundation for quick application.
 Always use a primer before applying any foundation.
 zarinalehussain@yahoo.com

Life calls upon us to perform strange tasks. And we are made to carry them out as best as we can. It was this thought that ran like a refrain in my mind when I was present at Shilpgram, Guwahati, for a book release. It was a beautiful autumn evening, the sunset a deep salmon pink and grey as we walked on the grass towards the auditorium. The long, harsh summer finally seemed to be on the wane and one could imagine the arrival of cool days, *kohua* flowers and the radiant Goddess. Under that quiet starlit sky, we were all the more keenly aware, as it were, of the ceaseless rolling of the wheel of time, the hands of the clock following each other, the cycle of seasons and solstices, that universal rhythm which ruled our lives, and is somehow so reassuring because of its very predictability.

But life itself is not predictable, and not so reassuring either. It can take a moment to change it, and with that, all the dreams you have treasured. No one can tell you this better than Atul and Rupali Borgohain, our hosts for the evening. As they receive us graciously, and go about conducting the evening's programme with quiet thoroughness, they are the picture of rectitude, and it is you, the bystander, who feels your eyes turning moist.

I have lost count of the number of book releases I have attended, some of them under duress. They are tame, predictable affairs, with speakers lauding the book, and a celebrity releasing it. There is hope expressed of future efforts, and a general self-congratulatory air. Twenty-four hours later, you will certainly have forgotten all about it.

This, too, is a book release. But with a crucial difference. It is like an elaborate play with the central protagonist missing. And yet, it is she, the missing young woman, who is the most palpable presence throughout, haunting, wistful, appealing to you for your understanding and acceptance of her brief life and startling poems.

Perhaps the greatest burden a human being has to carry is the one of his/her dead child. It is a bitter fate, and one that leaves one questioning the very existence of God. Writer Isabel Allende's book *Paula* recounts in excruciating detail the coma and death of her daughter and is one of the most eloquent tributes in literature to the bond between a mother and her child. In Ajeet Cour, the Punjabi poet's autobiography – *Pebbles on A Tin Drum*, she relives the nightmare of watching her daughter succumb to burn injuries. After World War II, Otto Frank sought comfort in spreading the words of daughter Anne Frank, who had perished in a concentration camp, all over the world. In very much the same way, the Borgohain's are hoping to resurrect their



Candle in the wind

beloved first-born, the beautiful Atrayee, who passed away on October 2, 2009, by compiling her poems in a lavish production – *Reflections of Atrayee Borgohain*. In trying to write about Atrayee, I am reminded of artist Bikash Bhattacharjee's *Doll* series of paintings. In one particular painting, an adorable little girl, precariously perched, is rummaging for something in a drawer which is clearly out of reach. You cannot see her, for her back is towards you, and you have the disquieting premonition she may lose her balance and fall. I have this same feeling when I listen to the words encapsulating Atrayee's life. I cannot know her, she already has her back to me, her melancholy poems show she was trying to reach something beyond her grasp – peace, love, freedom from her inner demons. And like a shroud of mist around all this – the feeling of some impending doom.

This is what I meant when I said life calls upon us to perform strange tasks. Here I was, called upon to talk about a young woman I had never met, and to say goodbye before I had even said hello. And yet, the task was surprisingly easy, because her poems were so real, so honest, that it felt she was confiding in me, baring her life, and reminding me that in our dreams, anxieties and loneliness, in our brave and heartbreaking struggle to find the real, rather than the illusory, we are all not so different after all. Today, we

should desist from going into the details of her tragic demise. Instead, we should rejoice that her literary endeavour has fashioned for her a kind of immortality, just as eminent critic and translator Pradip Acharya, when releasing the book, described it as "the most lyrical tribute parents could have given to their child."

The young woman as a tragic heroine is a well entrenched literary stereotype, ranging from Antigone, Cassandra, Desdemona, Tess, Hester, right to Rahel of Arundhati Roy. There is even a literary term for them – wilted

flowers. That evening, I could feel a sense of that abstract Atrayee, a tragic real life literary figure almost on the hues of Virginia Woolf or Sylvia Plath. What is inescapable is the fact that her greatest strength, her ability to look beyond the brightness and superficiality, the razzle dazzle of life, to the heart of darkness, also proved to be her Achilles heel.

Atrayee was just what little girls have always been – sugar and spice, and all things nice. She came into the world on January 17, 1989, sharing her birthday with the great cultural icon of Assam, Jyoti Prasad Agarwala. But from a very young age, it was not enough for her to pamper her stuffed doll, or take a healthy interest in baby pink nail polish. Once, on a holiday at Tenga valley, she penned her first, faltering lines, about "birds that fly, the rivers pass by", about red flowers. It was a

poem any precocious child could have scribbled, and any parent proudly displayed as the first flowering of literary genius. But Atrayee's poem held a last line which seems unusual, even a little disconcerting, for one so young. She asks "Why am I sad?" And indeed, why was she sad? She was a cherished first-born, born to privilege, an easy heir to all the comforts of affluence, with successful parents and a happy home life. While all around her, her friends chatted about school and term assignments, MTV and hair colour, Atrayee wrote of being a little lantern in the sky, a lone candle burning in the darkness. It is as if she is raging already against the dying light, as it were, and the "plastic reality of time". In one poem laced with quiet hysteria, she details the agony of a young, bulimic girl, who throws up her food after a dance, ostensibly to win the approval of her beau. Running through many of her poems is also a vein of urban angst and displacement. They give voice to the deep alienation of young people today, who have lost the sense of warm, enfolding community, the feeling of belonging. The grey alleys and impersonal structures speak of nothingness to Atrayee, and also the ugly truth that love, friendship can be purchased, like goods.

Strangely, in a preface to a poem titled *Roshni*, Atrayee writes, "A tribute to all those who lost their daughters to the world, all the people who had the courage to accept fate, all the parents who never knew when they had last seen their child, the last words they spoke, the wishes their child had – still in their heart while they were transformed into Angels..."

This book is clearly a labour of love and a work of art. Atul Borgohain's magical photography captures the delicate beauty of a blossoming girl. One sees a close knit family bond at home, or when enjoying holidays with the carefree informality of all happy families. Atrayee's poems are beautifully juxtaposed against pristine Naturescapes, acknowledging her deep love for earth's bounty.

In the end you are left with the impression that Atrayee's poems, in spite of their dark, melancholy strain, are a quiet affirmation of life. She was painfully aware that life was transitory, but that did not stop her from questioning it, engaging in its many dilemmas, and thus leaving her own mark on the rock of time.

Atrayee's poems are not meant to solve the riddle of her life. Nor are they meant to be theorised about. We must just rejoice she wrote them, and through them she remains with us still. As she herself writes – "for every dark night, there's a bright blue day. For every tear that falls, there a hand to dry it away..."

indrani.raimedhi@gmail.com

Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole

Cast: Sam Neill, Geoffrey Rush, David Wenham.
 Director: Zack Snyder.

Acclaimed filmmaker Zack Snyder makes his animation debut with the fantasy family adventure *Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole*, based on the beloved *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* books by Kathryn Lasky. The film follows Soren, a young owl enthralled by his father's epic stories of the Guardians of Ga' Hoole, a mythic band of winged warriors who had fought a great battle to save all of owlkind from the evil Pure Ones. While Soren dreams of someday joining his heroes, his older brother, Kludd, scoffs at the notion, and yearns to hunt, fly and steal his father's favour from his younger sibling. But Kludd's jealousy has terrible consequences--causing both owlets to fall from their treetop home and right into the talons of the Pure Ones. Now, it is upto Soren to make a daring escape with the help of other brave young owls. Together, they soar across the sea and through the mist to find the Great Tree, home of the legendary Guardians--Soren's only hope of defeating the Pure Ones and saving the owl kingdoms.



You Again

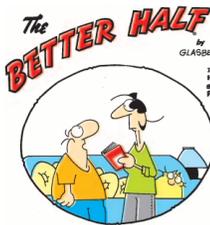
Cast: Kristen Bell, Jamie Lee Curtis, Odette Yustman.
 Director: Andy Fickman.



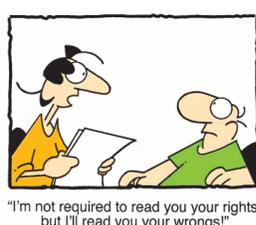
TOP 10 Hollywood

- The Social Network
- Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga'Hoole
- Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- The Town
- Easy A
- You Again
- Case 39
- Let Me In
- Devil
- Alpha and Omega

Successful PR pro Marni (Kristen Bell) heads home for her older brother's (Jimmy Wolk) wedding and discovers that he's marrying her high school arch nemesis (Odette Yustman), who's conveniently forgotten their problematic past. Then the bride's jet-setting aunt (Sigourney Weaver) bursts in and Marni's not-so-jet-setting mom (Jamie Lee Curtis) comes face to face with her own high school rival. The claws come out and old wounds are opened in this crazy comedy that proves that not all rivalries are forever.



"Your lotion removes old, dry skin. How much should I use to remove 50 pounds' worth?"



"I'm not required to read you your rights, but I'll read you your wrongs!"



"If I look long enough, eventually I'll find a website that recommends ice cream and pizza to lower my cholesterol!"



"I'm planning for an early retirement. On my last day of work, I'm leaving at 4:30 instead of 5:00!"

FORECAST

OCTOBER 11 – 17, 2010

ARIES (MAR 21-APR 19)
 As the leader of the pack, you will encounter things before anyone else does. Towards the middle of the week, you are using others to your advantage, or at least you're putting their unique talents to use for the sake of the greater good, and by Friday, you're going to get some recognition for all the connections and possibilities you've created. On Saturday, your friends will all but build a statue in your honour. Sunday, get some rest.
TAURUS (APR 20-MAY 20)
 As tantalising as the potential pay off may seem, taking a risk at the outset of the week isn't going to pan out the way you want. Your charm gets you more midweek than you might expect. Thursday is a day of enlightenment, but Friday and Saturday are, frankly, weird. Rather than attempting to understand, just try not to take anything personally. On Sunday, be around people who make you feel comfortable.
GEMINI (MAY 21-JUN 21)
 Spend Monday and Tuesday with your ears open. Be the master of your own fate and, when it comes to your friends, be encouraging without being dogmatic. Wednesday and Thursday most likely find you at work and involved in a minor squabble, but Friday and Saturday, the stars have something fairly radical in store for you. A change of heart. A change of perspective. Some kind of surprise. Sunday has you thinking about change.
CANCER (JUN 22-JUL 22)
 At the start of the week, you're tapped. You are out of gas. You lack fuel. This is more of an emotional state than a physical reality. Wednesday and Thursday are, therefore, ideal days to recharge. Friday and Saturday you feel restored and confused when someone else emotionally retreats. If you have nothing else to do on Sunday, go exploring.

LEO (JUL 23-AUG 22)
 You've seen romantic comedies about people as giddy as you and you-know-who are, although you also feel like your romantic happiness at the start of the week is transcendent. Certainly, it lifts you up higher than you have been in a while. Success on the love front translates into more confidence in every other aspect of your life – which explains why the middle of the week you're able to ask for things and then (poorly) get them. Friday and Saturday you might have to let a few things go, make a few compromises, but nothing you can't handle. On Sunday, art is on your mind.
VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP 22)
 You have responsibilities and you're dedicated to seeing them through – even when, on Monday and Tuesday, you have a perfect excuse to let yourself off the hook. And fate will reward you: Wednesday and Thursday are a postcard of romance. Friday and Saturday you're itching to do some cleaning. Sunday, some confusion about your relationship with you-know-who requires your attention.
LIBRA (SEP 23-OCT 22)
 The right words just slide out of your mouth on Monday, without your having to think about it. Expression and high ideas figure into your day on Tuesday as well, but Wednesday, you fall into a sentimental mood and by Thursday, you feel entirely unsocial. Then, Friday, a dose of fun – and possible romance – dramatically improves your outlook on everything and returns you to the present. You will remain cheerful, alert and attuned to beauty through the weekend.
SCORPIO (OCT 23-NOV 21)
 Largeness is a theme on Monday. "The bigger, the better" is your philosophy. By Tuesday, you might find yourself the proud and somewhat embarrassed owner of an incredibly expensive piece of art. Midweek, practise self-control. Friday and Saturday, your problem-solving skills are needed at home, and Sunday will tax your imagination in pleasurable ways.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22-DEC 21)
 You and your friends are more jovial than a performance troupe on Monday and Tuesday. But Wednesday and Thursday, your focus turns inward. Values, original thinking and music figure strongly. Friday is a fine day to go to a party – and Saturday is rife with new ideas. You impress people wherever you go. But, you exhaust yourself in the process. On Sunday, slow and steady is the answer.
CAPRICORN (DEC 22-JAN 19)
 If you're trying to solve a problem on Monday or Tuesday, consider what your own mind has been telling you. And whatever you do, don't get stressed. By Wednesday or Thursday, when positivity and good outcomes are strong themes, everything will have sorted itself out. Money is in the stars on Friday – and Saturday has something to do with your future. On Sunday, your compassionate side emerges in an interaction with friends.
AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18)
 Remember the "Care Bears"? They lived on clouds, they each had their own specialty and they harnessed the group's power to do good things. That's what your group of friends is like on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday are, unfortunately, the opposite of expansive, but Friday is just about perfect. This mood, gloriously enough, lasts through the weekend.
PISCES (FEB 19-MARCH 20)
 An authority figure is a big part of your life at the start of the week. Relationships with friends in high places are crucial on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, take off your shoes and give yourself a break after a gruelling week. Then, spoil yourself this weekend.