

A Magazine By InfoOfBooks.in



Value

"For those who read in style"



2020

**EXPERIMENTS AND
LESSONS OF 2020**

TRUTH AND DARE

December 2020

My 2020: Experiments and Lessons

For me 2020 came up with an overload. My exam of JEE mains was scheduled on 10th of January. I panicked as I had gone through 23 days of leave from my classes just a month ago due to Typhoid. The exam was around the corner and I had neither recovered from the loss of my studies nor from the physical weakness I had due to illness.

Somehow, I gave the exam and the result was not up to the mark.

Anyhow, I spent the first month. Somehow dealt with the stress and recovered that horrible situation. But still, I was unable to deal with the time management.

Very soon, the world faced a blessing in disguise, 'The Lockdown.'

Of course, the months of March and April brought a lot of trouble. We have still not recovered from the losses we had then. But, as every coin has two faces, so had the lockdown.

Many people filled up social media with thousands of complaints like boredom, unavailability of resources etc. whereas others took it as an opportunity and started doing the things which they wanted to do before but couldn't do them because of not having time.

That was the time when I came close to two people, Sanjay and Ritika. We had several zoom meetings and brainstorming sessions. And after weeks of hard work we came up with Value Magazine. A zero-investment startup, launched on first of June, 2020.

Working on Value Magazine for months made me grow at professional level.

Throughout this whole journey, I learned that the best way to learn anything is doing experiments.

Here's my key lesson of the year.

“I learned HTML, CSS (languages used in web development), and JavaScript (A programming language) without spending a single rupee. We did a startup with zero investment. The only privilege I had was an Internet connection. So, if you have an Internet connection and you want to do anything, the only things you lack are guts and discipline.”

What was your key lesson of the year? Send it to us on editor@infoofbooks.in. We will feature the best one in the January edition of the magazine.

**Written by Rajat Gupta, CEO of
Value Magazine**



2020: The most productive year for me

Since 2017, Every year, I invest time in discovering myself or improving my skills. 2020 has been a rollercoaster of emotions and a farrago of information.

I set the song, “Memba for Aisha” as the tone of the year because I wanted to experience how it feels like to walk on a tightrope and sing in a lifeboat. I did not attend college in 2019 and so, I took a three-months break from my professional life to prepare for my boards.

The outbreak of Corona Virus made one thing clear: Info-products will have a huge market in future. I enrolled myself in various courses and educated myself in the spheres of Digital Marketing, Editing, Psychology etc. I made learning as my top priority and in this journey, I met Ritiqa Pachauri. Along with Rajat, my old favourite colleague and Ritiqa, we launched the Value Magazine in June 2020.

I and Jinal Solanki co-authored a book named, “Me with You” which became an Amazon Bestseller within 12 hours. Later on, I signed a film contract which restricts me from marketing the book. Many Authors came in touch with me for book marketing. They spent a huge sum of money on Self-Publishing with minimum returns. On July 31st, I launched my first Start-up, “EnGame Book Publishing House” with the aim of helping aspiring Authors. Till now, we have served several international clients and we aim to maintain the tag: ‘THE HOUSE OF THE BESTSELLERS’

I would like to conclude that, 2020 has been the MOST PRODUCTIVE YEAR of my life with minimum distractions and high growth.

**Written by Sanjay Lunia,
Managing Editor of Value
Magazine**



Truth and Dare

When a game of Truth and Dare takes a deadly turn, secrets hidden begin to unmask.

“Finally, we get a weekend away.”

“Yes! And I’m so excited to be a part of this getaway. It’s been so long since all of us were together at the same place.”

“Absolutely. We’re going to have a blast!”

Nick, Rohit and Steve were heading towards the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for a weekend reunion with two of their other school friends. After a two-hour long flight, they landed at the airport and headed towards the hotel. Shyam and Keval were already there.

“Hey guys!” Shyam rushed towards his three friends and Keval followed. They hugged and bumped fists and howled as if they were back to being teenagers.

“It’s so good to see you after so long.” Shyam said.

“Same here bro. So, what’s the plan for the weekend?” Nick asked.

“First let’s freshen up and we’ll all head up to the beach. We’ll discuss the itinerary there.” Rohit and Steve said as they started heading towards their rooms.

“The plan is to get drunk at take on the island today and tomorrow we’ll explore the place in the morning, have a body massage in the afternoon to ease the cramps and a nice

dinner with booze of course.” Keval stretched his arms and laughed.

“Just booze or something else too?” Shyam chirped.

“Of course guys. I’ve got these too.” Nick showed everybody a small plastic bottle with blue pills and the four of them jumped with delight.

After the massage the four of them started drinking at the beach and each one of them swallowed a pill each.

“Let’s play a game.” Shyam said as he spun an empty beer bottle on the table.

“How about truth and dare?” Rohit asked and they all agreed.

After a few harmless rounds of Truth and dare, the boys decided to take it up a level. Truths were disallowed and only dares became the part of the game.

“Go and kiss that girl.” Keval asked Nick as he pointed towards a single lady sitting in the shack and sipping wine.

“Let’s not do this now. It’s getting risky.” Shyam protested but Nick had already started walking.

“I’m going.” Shyam said and made his way back to the hotel. The rest of them stayed.

Nick landed his lips on hers and yelled “I won!” Just when he was about to leave someone hit him from behind and bashed his skull open. Then there was mayhem.

Rohit and Keval were surrounded by five guys. Much stronger than them.

“Let us go.” Keval pleaded.

“Why are you doing this?” Nick asked.

“The girl your friend kissed is our boss’s daughter and our boss doesn’t spare anyone who lays an eye on her. Let alone kiss her.” One of the men said.

“Okay. But we didn’t kiss her. It was just a stupid game. Look, you’ve already killed our friend. Please, let us go.” Rohit joined his hands. The three of them were now crying.

“Okay, we’ll free you from your misery.”

Three young men found dead at the beach: Drug overdose suspected

Shyam turned cold as he read the headlines in the morning and he ran towards the beach. He had been trying his friends’ mobile numbers but was unable to connect with either of them. He was worried as hell when he read the local newspaper. “What happened!?” Shyam asked the owner of the shack the next day.

“Your friends had gone cuckoo. They were seeing things and talking to imaginary people. One of them took a steel rod from behind and smashed someone’s skull open. Then they two started fighting and beating each other, all the while talking to invisible men. It was scary. I’m glad you went away otherwise, you would have met the same fate as theirs.” The owner replied.

“*It was the blue pills which killed them.*” Shyam spoke to himself and went to the Police Station to give his statement.

**Written by Ritiqa Pachauri, Editor
in Chief of Value Magazine**



Book review 1

Name of the book: The Palace of Illusions

Author: Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni



About the Author:

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni is an Indian-American Poet, Author and Professor. Her collection of short stories won the American Book Award in 1996. She was born in Kolkata and currently lives in Houston, USA.

Review of the book:

The book, "The Palace of Illusions" narrates the Mahabharata from Draupadi's point of view. It emphasised on the respect and the place of women in the society during the epic. It was an emotional and gripping tale with good uses of metaphors.

Few quotes from the book:

"Your childhood hunger is the one that never leaves you."

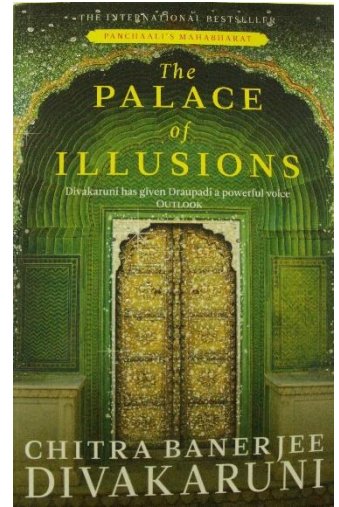
"Expectations are like hidden rocks in your path—all they do is trip you up."

"Aren't we all pawns in the hands of time, the greatest player of them all?"

"She who sows vengeance must reap its bloody fruit."

Personal Commentary:

This book is suggested to those who had never read Mahabharata. I did not enjoy it much as Draupadi was portrayed as an immature teen and the Draupadi-Karna love angle was far away from sanity. However, saying that, this book is a feast for someone looking for an alternate version of Mahabharata.



Written by Sanjay Lunia

Book review 2

Name of the Book: How not to be wrong. The Hidden Mathematics of Everyday life.

Author: Jordan Ellenberg



About the author:

Jordan Ellenberg is an American Mathematician. He is a professor of Mathematics at University of Wisconsin Madison. He writes both Fiction and Non-fiction. He maintains a blog called Quomodocumque which means “After whatever fashion.”

One of his fiction works involves ‘The Grasshopper King’ which was published in 2003.

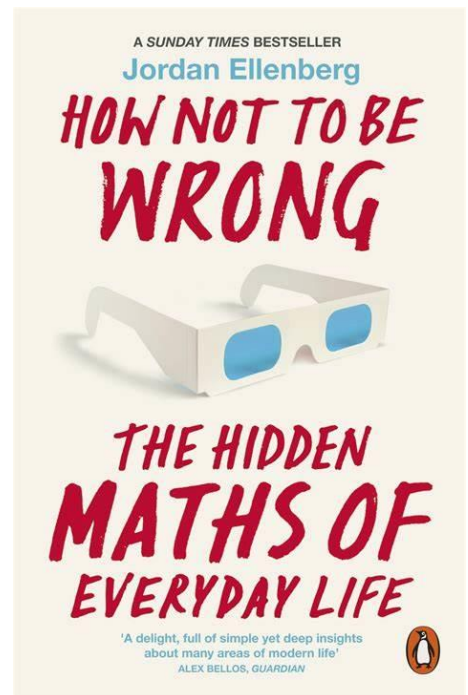
About the book:

This book explains the different applications of Mathematics and makes you realise the practical significance of it. The author has beautifully conveyed how mathematicians think and how they apply mathematics in day to day life.

Personal Commentary:

Most of the content of this book was really very simple for me but I really enjoyed it. I will recommend this book to all

the science students who don't understand the practical application of Maths.



Written by Rajat Gupta