

R A D

(M A G A) Z I N E

INTROSPECTION & BEGINNINGS

*travel / lifestyle / aesthetics / fashion /
beauty / art / food
and everything in between*





YOUR GATEWAY TO STORIES

Rad is not just a zine; it's a journey through uncharted realms of creativity, culture, and connection. Each edition of Rad is a carefully curated collection of stories, art, and ideas designed to inspire, challenge and enlighten.

From my heart to yours.

Dreams. Passion. Love. Peace.

These words may seem simple, but they hold the power to shape lives, guide us through the toughest of days, and fill our hearts with hope. As I sit to pen this note, I think about what drives us—what keeps us moving forward despite the challenges, what ignites our souls, and what makes life so uniquely beautiful.

For me, dreams have always been the cornerstone of everything I do. They whisper possibilities into our ears, urging us to reach higher, dig deeper, and create something extraordinary. Passion gives those dreams wings, infusing every small action with energy and intention. Love—be it for people, art, or even quiet moments of solitude—grounds us, reminding us of what truly matters. And peace? It's the destination we all hope to find, a feeling that settles into your heart when everything feels just as it should be.

This zine, Rad, is a reflection of all of that and more. It's a space where we explore stories of introspection and beginnings—because every great thing starts with a moment of reflection. It's where nostalgia meets hope, where creativity finds freedom, and where dreams find their voice. In this issue, I've curated pieces that reflect the beauty of slowing down, looking inward, and finding the courage to start anew.

Whether it's embracing the magic of winter, rediscovering the joy of reading in all its forms, or diving into the rich stories behind our traditions, I hope this issue inspires you to chase your dreams, nurture your passions, and find peace in the little things.

So, here's to you— the seekers of stories. May you find love in these pages, passion in every word, and the quiet reminder that you are always capable of new beginnings.

With all my heart,
Radhika Anand
Get in Touch

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HOME



FEEL



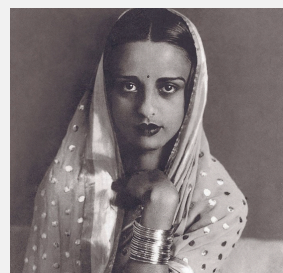
STORY



FAITH



HISTORY



LIFE

CHASING WINTERS

THE SPELL OF WINTER'S CHARM



There's something magical about winter in Delhi. The way the air grows crisp as the season shifts, the smell of wood smoke mingling with mist, the thrill of pulling out scarves and sweaters—all of it feels like an invitation to slow down and savor life just a bit more. Winter in Delhi is more than just a season; it's a feeling, a chapter, a mood.

Since moving to Bangalore, I've realized how much these small, wintry details are woven into my memories. Bangalore has its own charm, of course—lush greenery all year round, the pleasant coolness in the air that never quite tips into chill. But Delhi winters? They're something else entirely. There's a nostalgia that comes with that first breath of winter in the North, a reminder of bonfire nights, street markets bustling with people wrapped in shawls, and that cozy, comforting sense of togetherness that only the chill brings. And then, there's the soundtrack of it all: classic

old Hindi songs playing softly in the background. There's something about the quiet intensity of winter that makes these songs sound richer, more soulful. Every note seems to linger a bit longer, blending with the cold air, stirring memories of warm cups of chai & quiet afternoons spent watching the fog roll in. Somehow, Rafi's voice sounds warmer, and Lata's notes more tender, as if the season itself has wrapped them in a blanket of nostalgia.

Maybe you're reading this from a place where winter doesn't quite arrive with the same intensity. Or maybe, like me, you're somewhere new, learning to adjust to a different rhythm of life & weather. No matter where you are, winter can be a reminder to reconnect with yourself. It's a season that nudges us to wrap ourselves in warmth—both literally & figuratively—and look inward.

CHASING WINTERS



This is the perfect time to ask: What memories and experiences do I want to bring with me into the new year? Winter, with all its quietness, invites us to reflect, to be still, and to consider what we want to carry forward and what we're ready to let go of.



Even as we adjust to new places, seasons, or situations, there's something grounding about holding onto small rituals and memories. For me, it's lighting a candle that smells like pine, playing a beloved playlist of old songs, or taking a few extra moments with my morning coffee, savoring the quiet. These tiny acts have become my way of capturing winter's magic, even from afar.

“So wherever you are, whether you’re missing a season you once knew or embracing a new one, I hope you find comfort in winter’s stillness. Let it remind you of what matters, of the things that bring warmth and joy, and perhaps most importantly, of the beauty in slowing down.”

As winter unfolds, let's take a cue from the season: settle in, breathe deeply, and find beauty in the quiet moments. Winter, after all, isn't just a time for cold—it's a season for cozying up to our truest selves, one nostalgic tune at a time.

PAGES VS. PIXELS

*HOW WE'RE REDEFINING THE
ART OF READING*



For most of my life, I'd always been a "pages and ink" kind of reader, the kind who would choose a worn paperback over a shiny gadget any day. There was something sacred about holding a physical book—the rustle of the pages, the distinct scent of paper, the quiet focus that came with it. I'd carry a book everywhere: to college, work commutes, even on errands, in the hope I'd steal a few minutes of reading.

But somewhere along the way, my habit began to slip. Books started gathering dust. And while I kept collecting them (sometimes, if I'm honest, for the aesthetic), my lifestyle no longer fit the slow, mindful ritual of reading as I'd known it. Moving cities, packed schedules, and the digital distractions we all know too well created a gap between me and the reading I once loved.

It wasn't until I reluctantly tried audiobooks that I realized something important: maybe reading, like everything else, had to evolve with me.

'Why Do We Feel Attached to the "Old Way" of Reading?'

I'm not alone in feeling attached to physical books. For many of us, reading isn't just about consuming stories; it's about ritual, memory, connection. Physical books feel like pieces of ourselves—the stories we grew up with, the characters that shaped us, and the little notes or dog-eared pages that hold personal memories. Switching to a screen or audio can feel like giving up a piece of that connection. In asking friends and colleagues about their reading habits, I heard the same sentiment over and over: "I'll never stop loving real books, but..."

That but speaks volumes. Despite our attachment to physical books, digital formats offer something invaluable—accessibility, ease, and an adaptability that fits our fast-paced lives. Audiobooks and e-readers are ways to take stories with us into our hectic schedules, to



keep the essence of reading alive in whatever form we can manage.

The Unexpected Benefits of Letting Go (a Little)

For me, audiobooks became a way to return to stories. Suddenly, I was “reading” while cooking, while commuting, even during workouts. I was no longer losing out on the joy of reading just because my life had become too busy to sit down with a book. Others in my circle felt the same: “Audiobooks let me dive into books I’d never have time to read otherwise.” And yes, I still miss the feel of a real book, but the joy of reconnecting with stories has been a game-changer.

One respondent summed it up perfectly: “Physical books are for when I want to slow down, but audiobooks are for when I want to catch up.” It’s a reminder that maybe there’s no need to choose between the two. We can have both—a Kindle for late-night reads, a real book for a cozy Sunday, and an audiobook for those in-between moments.

“Redefining Reading: A New Kind of Connection”

In a way, this shift from physical books to digital and audio isn’t just about convenience—it’s a new way of connecting with stories. For those who are visual, Kindles allow adjustable fonts and lighting. For auditory learners, audiobooks offer a richness that can make stories come alive in fresh ways. And for those who still crave the physical, there’s no reason not to savor a real book when time allows.

Our reading habits, like the stories we love, are personal. They reflect who we are, where we’ve been, and even where we’re going. So perhaps this shift isn’t about letting go of physical books but about embracing a new kind of flexibility. It’s about finding a way to keep reading meaningful and relevant, even as life changes.

So, Where Do You Stand? To everyone still clinging to a paperback: I get it. Physical books will always have a special place. But if you, like me, find yourself missing out on reading because life keeps getting in the way, maybe it’s time to give audio or digital a try. You might just find that the magic of a good story is just as powerful in your headphones or on a screen as it is in your hands.

Here’s to stories—in whatever form we choose to experience them. They are still our companions, still a source of comfort, knowledge, and connection, whether we’re turning a page or pressing play. The love for storytelling remains as strong as ever.



BLUES & BLISS

THE BANGALORE SKY

Bangalore's sky is its silent storyteller. It's always changing—clouds rushing past like they're late for something, the colors shifting from a soft morning haze to a fiery sunset glow. There's a stillness in its motion, a paradox that never fails to mesmerize.

Some days, the clouds seem so fluffy and perfect, like they've been hand-painted with care. Other days, they carry the weight of the monsoon, heavy and brooding, ready to drench the city in a moment's notice.

“Hope floats in Bangalore’s skies. It’s in the way the clouds part to reveal a golden sunbeam, or the way a rainbow quietly stretches across the horizon after a storm. It’s in the way the rains renew the city, making it feel fresh and alive again.”

So the next time you're rushing through Bangalore—late for a meeting, stuck in traffic, or chasing yet another deadline—take a moment to look up. The sky has a story for you, and it's one you don't want to miss.



THE QUIET

A JOURNEY OF FAITH & PEACE

Faith is a curious thing. It grounds us, anchors us when the waves of life feel too heavy, and often guides us toward something greater than ourselves. For me, faith has often been synonymous with the soft hum of Ik Onkar, the quiet sanctity of a gurdwara, and the way the Golden Temple shines as a beacon of peace and devotion.

My journey with Amritsar started years ago when I was just a child. I visited the Golden Temple for the first time during a school trip in the 6th standard. I'd love to tell you I remember the sights, the sounds, the feeling of walking barefoot on the cold marble, but truthfully, I don't. The memory has faded into a vague blur. What I do remember, however, is a lingering sense of awe—a feeling that even as a child, I was stepping into a place of profound peace and spiritual energy.

Fast forward to three years ago, when I bought my first car. One of the first thoughts that crossed my mind was, I should drive to the Golden Temple and take blessings. But life, as it does, kept getting in the way. Work, travel plans that fell through, illness—there was always something keeping me from making the trip. Yet, they say you visit when you're called, and this year, despite the odds, everything fell into place.

The journey itself was far from smooth. Initially, there were no trains available, and just as I began to lose hope, I fell sick. Still, something kept nudging me forward, and before I knew it, I found myself in Amritsar, standing before the shimmering temple in the crisp winter cold.

The Golden Temple is more than a place of worship; it feels like a heart beating in rhythm with the divine. Its walls tell stories of Sikh gurus, of resilience, and of unwavering faith. Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings of equality and humility echo in every corner, and Guru Arjan Dev Ji's vision for the temple as a space for all continues to inspire millions. This history, this legacy—it's not something you simply read about. It's something you feel.

As I walked through the temple complex this time, it wasn't the grandeur or the architecture that struck me. It was the stillness. The peace that wrapped itself around me, as though the temple knew exactly what I needed. The sarovar (holy water), reflecting the golden domes, felt like a mirror for my own thoughts—calm, yet introspective. The langar reminded me of the beauty of service and community. And the kara prasad, warm and sweet, was a reminder of the small joys that bring us closer to divinity.



“Faith isn’t always about rituals or prayers; sometimes it’s as simple as sitting in the cold, savoring prasad, and feeling at ease.”



“For years, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib in Delhi has been my constant—a place I visit every time I’m in the city, to ground myself, to reset. But there’s something about Amritsar, about the Golden Temple, that feels unparalleled. Maybe it’s the history. Maybe it’s the people, or the unwavering devotion that surrounds you. Or maybe it’s just the silence that says more than words ever could.”

Faith is a curious thing, isn't it? It isn't always about rituals or prayers or grand gestures. Sometimes it's as simple as sitting in the cold, savoring prasad, and feeling at ease. No rush, no expectations—just peace.

And as I left Amritsar this time, I realized faith isn't just about waiting for the right moment; it's about trusting that when you need it most, you'll find yourself exactly where you're meant to be.

THREADS OF TIME

THE BEAUTY IN WAITING FOR WHAT LASTS



Winter brings more than a change in weather—it's an invitation to slow down, reconnect, and, in some ways, return to ourselves. Indian winter fashion is the perfect companion for this introspective season, where every garment, every accessory, carries stories from the past while inviting us to create our own. In a world focused on fast trends, Indian winter wear is a gentle reminder of the beauty in holding onto heritage, weaving tradition into our lives, and finding new ways to wear our roots.

As winter unfolds, out come the shawls, the thick cotton saris, the soft woolens from our mother's or grandmother's closets. These aren't just clothes; they're pieces of history, reminders of people and places that have shaped us. For me,

every time I wrap myself in one of my mother's shawls from her days in Kashmir, it's like stepping into her world. There's a warmth beyond the fabric—a sense of connection, of understanding where I come from. Each item tells a story, giving us a chance to reflect on our own journeys while celebrating the roots that have shaped us.

While these pieces ground us in our past, they also offer a chance to create something new. Winter fashion, especially in India, lets us blend the old with the new. We pair a traditional shawl with modern boots, or wear a handwoven sari in unexpected ways, creating fresh looks that feel both familiar and exciting. It's an opportunity to create personal style from our heritage, showing that fashion can be both a remembrance and a reinvention—a celebration of our past and a beginning of something uniquely ours.





When we wear something as simple as dark kajal around our eyes or tuck a fragrant gajra in our hair, we're continuing traditions in our own way. And isn't that what fashion, at its core, is about? It's a form of self-expression that evolves with us, giving us the freedom to reflect, reinvent, and celebrate our individuality. This season, let's think of fashion not just as something we put on but as something we live in, an extension of our stories, and a testament to the heritage we carry forward.

“As we embrace winter, let's also embrace the beauty of wearing pieces that remind us of who we are and where we come from. Fashion isn't only about trends; it's about making meaningful choices that reflect our journeys.”

Fashion is more than what's seen on runways; it's about what resonates in our hearts, in our memories, and in the legacies we're building for ourselves.

THE INDIAN FRIDA

STOP DREAMING AND START DOING.



Amrita Sher-Gil never settled for comfort. She refused to fit into the molds society laid out for her—choosing instead to paint truths, to live boldly, and to step into the unknown. Her work, like *The Three Girls* or *The Bride's Toilet*, speaks of introspection and struggle, but also of growth—the kind that only comes when we embrace discomfort.

Comfort, after all, is where dreams fade. It's easy to stay still, to stick to what's familiar. But Amrita's art reminds us: beginnings are messy, and breaking boundaries is hard—but it's where life truly happens. She didn't just dream of creating. She did—honestly, unapologetically.

So, let her life and her art ask you: What's stopping you?
Step into the uncomfortable. That's where the magic begins.



Fin.