

HiFi In Bollywood / Rishi Vohra

Yes, there have been a spate of books inspired by the Hindi film industry, but when was the last time you read one with Salman Khan in the opening act?!

This is a light, breezy satire on the high glamour and low lives of Bollywood. It's often difficult to capture the entirety of an industry that is so diverse and intrinsically bizarre in its workings, but the author (who has worked in the film industry in the past) offers a pretty good glimpse to the reader, often using humour as his tool. The word HiFi incidentally stands for 'Hindi Film Industry', something he read in a tweet from Salman Khan.

Charted like a Bollywood script, there is a hero (Rayhan Arora), an overbearing father, a bride-to-be (Vanita) and a mysterious woman whom Rayhan gets fascinated by (Viola). Leaving the cushy promises of corporate life behind to secretly pursue his dream, Rayhan returns from California to Mumbai to work as an assistant director in Bollywood. He's gone against the wishes of his father, who had other plans for him, one which included marriage to a girl of his choice, Vanita. But Rayhan hungers for the razzle-dazzle of films and is soon ensnared in a crazy world of kooky eccentrics—a local political goon, a maid with silver screen ambitions and a gay director, amongst others. Naturally, nothing goes as planned for Rayhan and mayhem ensues.

A quick read to dip into for all Bollywood addicts!

Publisher: Jaico; **Genre:** Fiction; **Price:** ₹299

Texts From Jane Eyre / Mallory Ortberg

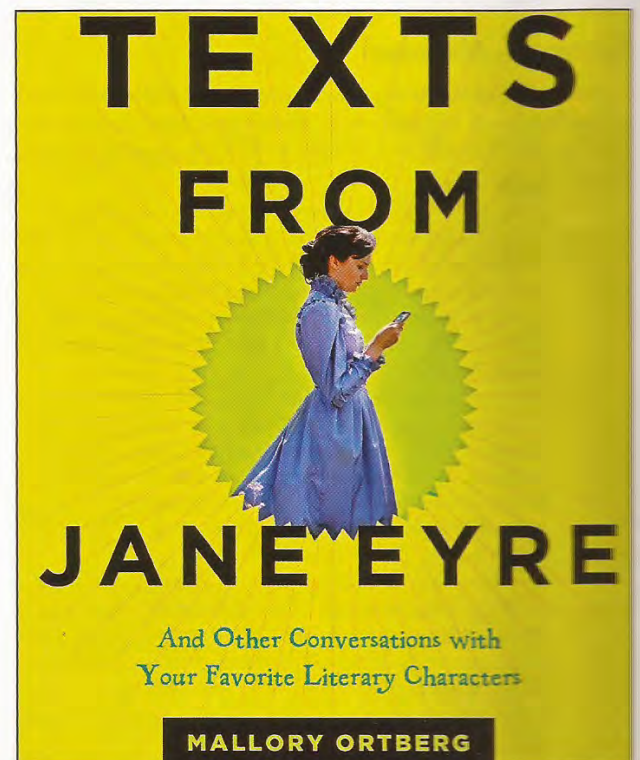
Expect LOL moments from this rambunctious satire that equips renowned literary characters with smartphones, resulting in riotous tête-à-têtes.

You know you're in for a rollicking read when the author in an interview with *The Huffington Post* describes her book as: "It's a party with dead people who never existed. It's a party of dead people who were made up by other dead people." Mallory Ortberg's debut novel *Texts From Jane Eyre: And Other Conversations with Your Favourite Literary Characters* takes the piss out of literature's cult figures, both fictitious and otherwise. From Circe's dinner invitation to Odysseus (hopefully pork chops weren't on the menu) to Peeta Mellark from *The Hunger Games* thinking it's a super-smart idea to open a bakery called The Hunger Grains, the book spans generations of much-loved reads.

What self-centred texts would Scarlett O'Hara (*Gone With The Wind*) type if armed with a mobile phone? Would William Blake spew out sonnets and descriptions of his macabre drawings over WhatsApp? How would Ron Weasley of *Harry Potter* fare if given a free rein of Muggle gadgets? Ortberg's re-imagined dialogue between literature's much-loved characters is hilarious to say the least.

Not for pretentious snobs who take themselves too seriously, this book—that can be devoured in a single sitting and one that doesn't lose its sidesplitting humour even on multiple reads—is an irreverent homage to literature's greats.

Publisher: Henry Holt & Co; **Genre:** Fiction; **Price:** ₹1,650



Text: Farhad J Dadyburjor, Desiree de Andrade