

31ST JULY, 2021

JDSOLA's Independent Student Publication

THE LIBERAL CANON

ONE YEAR OF TLC

From launching in July 2020, to all the incredible experiences along the way, including our podcast, PaperPlanes, interviews with some of our favourite faculty members and most importantly, the privilege of being a platform to so many voices, we're so grateful to have each of you as a part of our journey. Here's to so many more years of The Liberal Canon!

NMIMS
JYOTI DALAL
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

JDSOLA'S OFFICIAL STUDENT
PUBLICATION

THE LIBERAL CANON

EDITION 1

30TH JULY 2020

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WHOSE SCREEN IS IT ANYWAY?

THE NEED FOR DIVERSE STORIES

BY NEEHARIKA NENE

As a brown girl, my adolescence was spent trying to juggle the two versions of women that I saw most - the American teenager at the centre of every story, and the over sexualised accessory in Bollywood films. The catch? I didn't see myself in either of these versions. And as I would figure out much later, neither did most brown girls my age. So who were these mysterious women from billboards and movie screens? Who did they really represent, and whose gaze were they made for?

....continued later



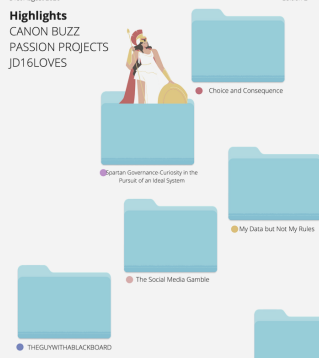
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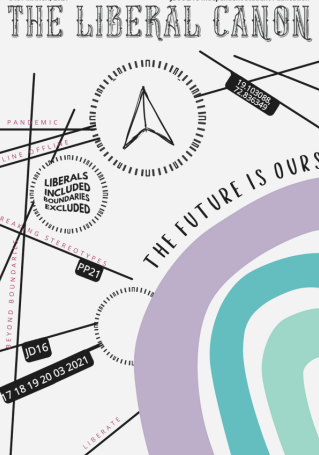
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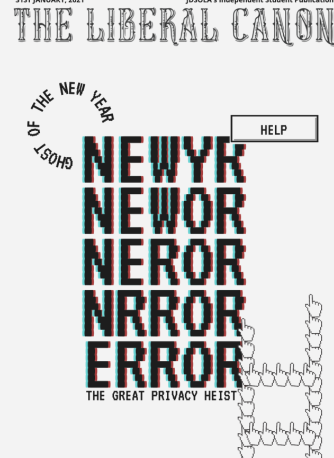
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THE LIBERAL CANON

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THE LIBERAL CANON

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THE LIBERAL CANON

26th SEPTEMBER, 2020

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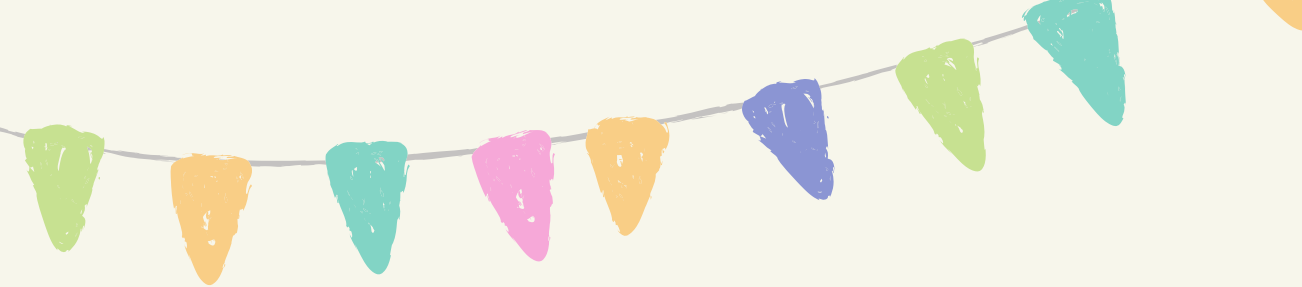


THE LIBERAL CANON

30th NOVEMBER, 2020

JDSOLA's Independent Student Publication





Happy Birthday to The Liberal Canon!

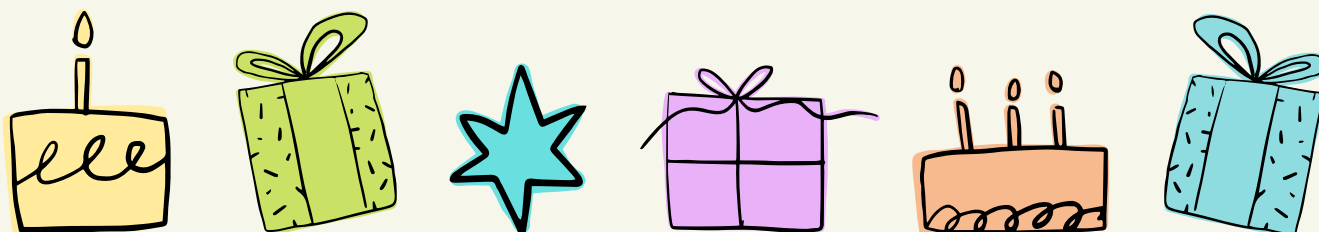
This newsletter was born to be a home for expression. In the midst of the pandemic in July 2020, we often felt unheard, helpless and lost; TLC was created to be the residence of those ruminating thoughts. In July 2021, we are completing a year with the same zest, determination and capability and many new ventures (we have a podcast now!)

I want to thank the entire team of TLC for their continuous commitment and invigorating ideas that fabricate every edition. Embroidered with hand stitched designs and team patchwork, the edition flows out in the silkiest manner. Along with the team, students who participate by sending in their work are truly the backbone of the newsletter. We hope to emulate your work more positively and creatively with each edition. Lastly, I would like to appreciate the faculty's accommodating attitude and the admin for their skillful expertise.

After concluding a year full of uncertainties, we can finally be confident of one constant - TLC will live on as the independent publication for its opinionated, humbling and passionate students. It's been an honour to watch the newsletter grow to now having a supplementary podcast! In a year, we have managed to achieve way beyond our expectations from TLC and I fervently believe that this is only the stepping stone.

To me, TLC was an unrequited internship - due to the obvious shortages from COVID-19 and the immense pressure to finalize your dream job - the thought of having this nucleus within the college itself was a relief. It allows you to try your hand at marketing, editing, designing, managing, video editing and way more! I hope TLC can provide a safe space and blueprint for you to nurture your dreams. Thank you for being part of the first leg of TLC's journey! I'm excited to see what is in store for us, how we can explore and expand and incessantly better ourselves.

-Sanah Shah
Editor-in-Chief



5 Ruskin Bond books that Capture the Magic of India

by SAACHI GUPTA

1. A Flight of Pigeons

In this novella about a British family during the revolt of 1857, Ruskin Bond departs from his usual poetic and charming writing style. Instead, he adopts the voice of Ruth, a young British girl whose father is killed in the riots. Without much feeling, she narrates the story of her family as they go into hiding while the British struggle to remain in power. Despite everything, it is hard not to sympathize with Ruth and her mother Mariam. Bringing out their "common humanity", Bond makes it natural to root for them as we follow their dangerous journey to freedom, as they are aided, again and again, by unexpected sources. The book was republished in 2002, with an introduction from Ruskin Bond, where he stated: "I feel it still has some relevance today, when communal strife and religious intolerance threaten the lives and livelihoods of innocent, law-abiding people."

2. Vagrants in the Valley

A sequel to Ruskin Bond's adored debut novel *The Room on the Roof*, *Vagrants in the Valley* sees Rusty and his friend Kishen return to Dehradun, now as adults with responsibilities. The book is bittersweet and more detached, missing much of the happiness and innocence present in its prequel. However, it once again manages to capture the charm of small



Portrait by Sudarshan Rao

town India, as well as its downsides. *Vagrants in the Valley* is a harsh reminder of how moving forward and moving on is inevitable and necessary. The reality it presents is painful, but Bond does it skillfully, concocting the perfect mix of nostalgia and the itch for a better future.

3. A Handful of Nuts

Featuring cameos from Madhubala, Dilip Kumar, and a loose circus tiger, *A Handful of Nuts* is deserving of praise for its flawless ease, humour, and optimism. In the 1950s, we follow the life of a budding writer in his twenties trying to make a living in Dehradun. There are several distractions all around: from his first tryst with love, to his friend William Matheson borrowing money for the third time in the week. The book is unexpectedly witty, leaving the reader laughing at the dinner table for way too long (tried and tested), while still managing to retain a sense of nostalgia.

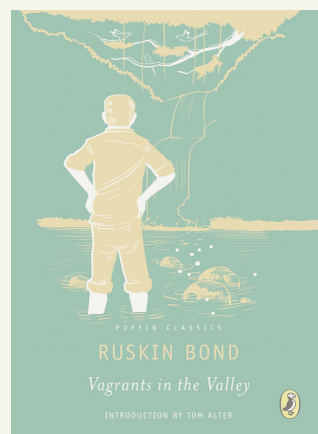
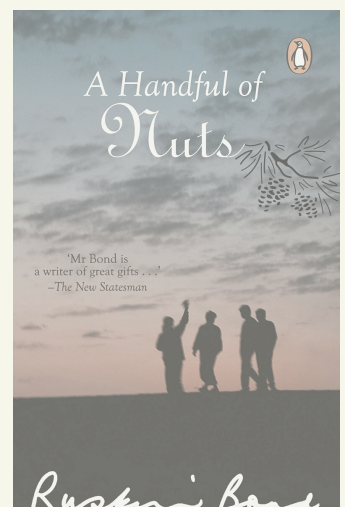
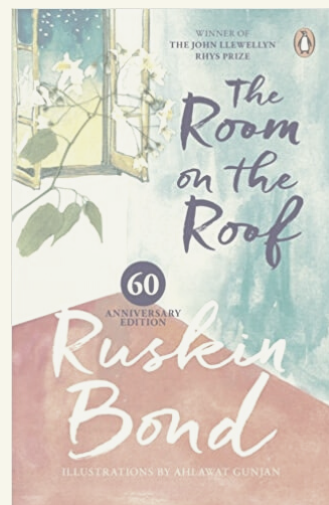
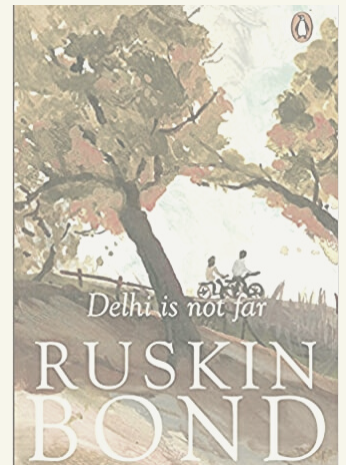
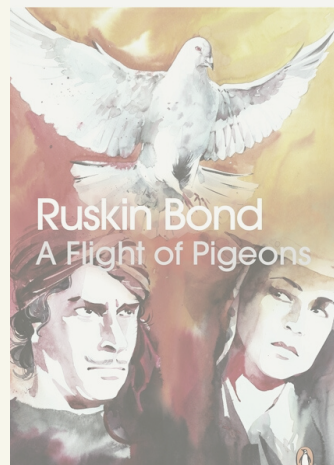
4. The Room on the Roof

There is a reason that Ruskin Bond's debut novel *The Room on the Roof* is one of his most acclaimed. Semi-autobiographical in nature, the book is the origin of the beloved character Rusty, recording his escape from his abusive guardian and his consequent love affair with the streets of Dehradun. Accompanying Rusty, we find ourselves falling in love with the smells, tastes, sights, and people of India – from Somi and Ranbir to the fiesty Kishen and even Maharani, the famed cow in the market. This classic coming of age story sees Rusty fall in love for the first time. Towards the end, however, we find him with a broken heart as the life he created for himself falls away, one piece at a time. Like all Ruskin Bond books, the message here is clear: the time has come to move on.

5. Delhi is Not Far

Since I first read it, *Delhi is Not Far* has become one of my favourite books of all time. The novella is based in the small town of Pipalnagar in the 60s, and follows the life of another aspiring writer, Arun. Melancholy and soft, it captures a growing love between Arun and Suraj, an orphan who lost his parents in the 1947 partition, and sells knickknacks for a living while studying for his college exams. Their commitment to each other despite the ambiguity of their relationship is striking, and the hints of queerness present in the novella are inescapable. However, that's not all the book is loved for: its poetic nature and unexpected

humour works perfectly to encapsulate life in the sleepy town of Pipalnagar, which both protagonists detest. Falling in love with Pipalnagar is inevitable for us – but for the people who live there, the longing for something more (specifically, Delhi) is just as inevitable.



Dear Sky

by HRITIKA DALAL

Dear Sky,

The other day I sat on my porch,
engulfed in your warm presence.
My breath hitched,
you remained complacent in its true
sense.

I saw you, and I sat there mesmerised,
as you absorbed the delightful shade
of blue.
Stared in wonder, as you welcomed the
transition
from the lightest to the darkest hue.

I saw you, and I imagined city lights
beaming at you
as you warmed your way around them
like a familiar ornament.
And the mere observers gasping at you,
admiring your ubiquitous strength.

I saw you, as your form embraced its
colours.
As your shades met like two forbidden
lovers.

I saw you, my gaze never wavered,
always observed: in awe of you.

I saw you, ever changing shades.
But you? Never changing you.

Vast

by Akanksha Das

My fluttering sails flail against the
mast
The first time you tell me , " the sea
is vast"
As my stomach dives and my spirits
soar
The waves propel me further away from
the shore

When I say I've learnt what it is
adventure meant
I'm still blissfully unaware of how
the waves can also be turbulent
As I marvel at how fast , along placid
waves , my little boat goes
I really don't know
just how quickly it can also capsize
in their deathly throes

This remains an outcome that I cannot
place
Until it is one I have to face
But when I do, I lay afloat
Stranded on, what remains of, a sunken
boat
As uncertainty, swirling like water ,
fills me with dread
I'm taken back to the words you said

"The light from the rising sun is
always stronger than the shadow fear
casts
Carry on ,my love, the sea is vast."



As I prepare, once more, to hoist my
sails
A heart that grows heavier each time
it fails
For all that it has learnt to cry
Still promises to soar every time I
try

It doesn't matter until the mirage of
forgotten bliss
Is brought to my boat by newer waters
that kiss
As they make the last of its' former
fears fade
My boat remains unprepared to ever
leave their safety to find newer
waters to wade

Unlike before, while it doesn't seek
the shore
It still remains petrified to ask for
more
It is, as I watch the dolphins prance,
That your words tell me to take a
chance

You say,
" The beauty of motion lies in
learning how the things you love can
be what you move past"
"Carry on, my love, the sea is vast"

Your words,
for all that they are what, I don't

want to heed
I realize, are also what I need
So, when the waves we kissed ask me
why my boat can't wait
I tell them that we must leave in
search of horizons they think we
cannot navigate

And I confess, as I give it my all
There are still days that I wish the
sea was small
That the imprints of all that we
amassed
Weren't washed away by the waves I
passed

For a boat that now knows what to do
It's still hard to have nothing to
hold on to
With no certain shore for my seeds to
grow
How do I sustain all that I sow?

You smile then, as we glance at birds
that fly
Turn into specks of black, as you
reply
" For all the nests they build to rest
The sky will tell you it knows them
best"

" Darling, it is here you last
In the colossal sea
that considers you just as vast."



tabletalk

with tlc

We introduced a new vertical to our newsletter -- a podcast! It's the perfect compliment to our mission of spreading knowledge through various platforms. **Table Talk w/ TLC** is hosted by the podcast connoisseurs - Karan Kapadia with "The Karan Kapadia Show" and Siddharth Agarwal with "Sit with Sid". As both of them are exceptionally intriguing hosts, the podcast centers around creating and enhancing important conversations that will aid college students. Till date we've had -

Sanah Shah, our Editor-in-Chief and Founder

Anirudh Tagat, our Economics professor

Univ Connect, a start-up by college students

Khaliq Parkar, our ex-political science teacher

Saachi Gupta, a fellow JDSOLA student and Founder of Push Up Daisies

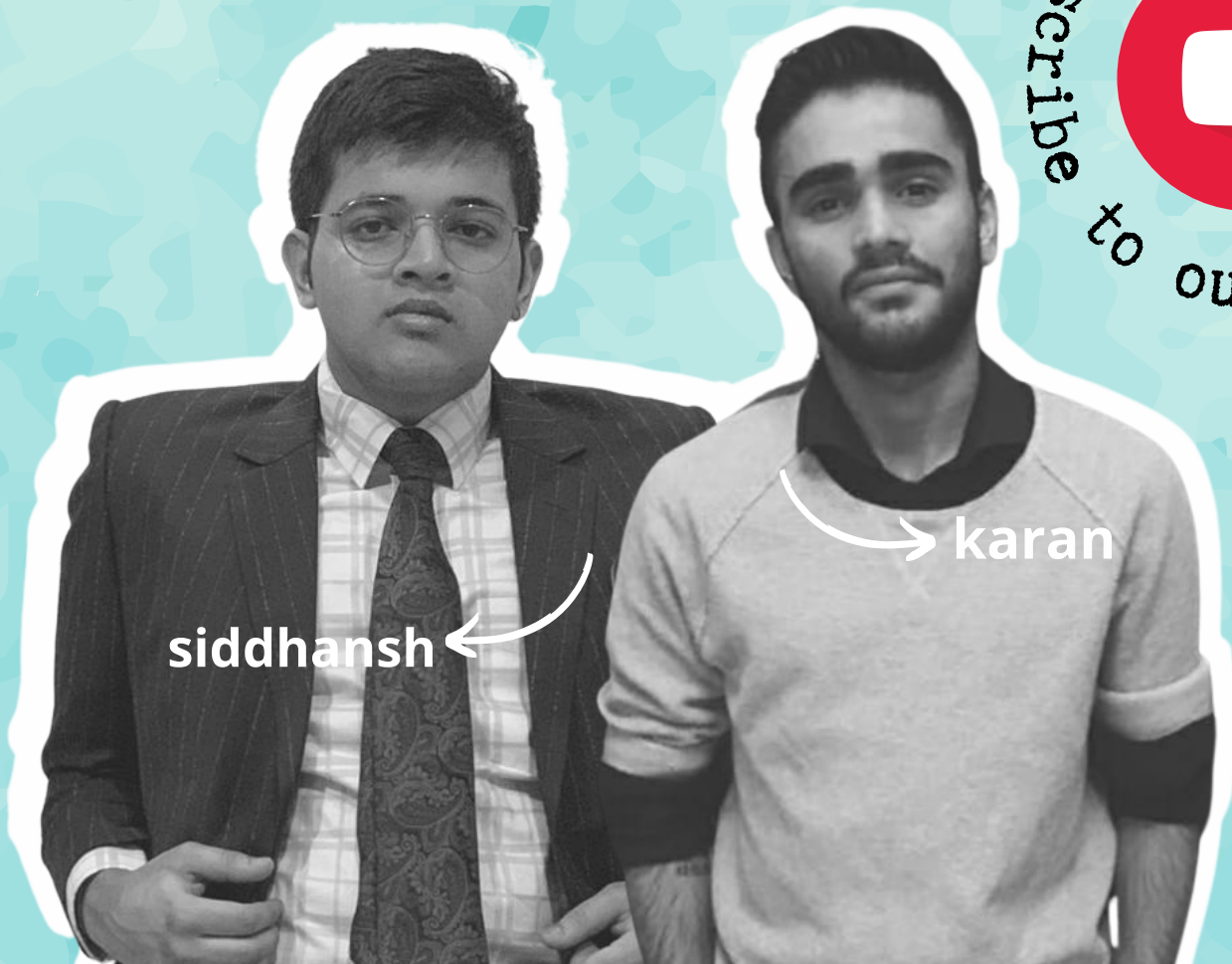
Ronit Harsingani, Founder of a micro investment start-up, Spare8

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TLC'S COOKBOOK

by SIMRAN BHIMANI

PINA COLADA ICEBOX CAKE

If you like Pina Coladas... Well, this recipe is perfect for you.

- In a large bowl whisk together 200 grams of soft cream cheese and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup icing sugar. Once this mixture is smooth and creamy, gradually whisk in 1 cup of coconut milk.
- Once that is incorporated, add 100 grams of vanilla pudding mix (instant packet mix). If you're using an electric whisk, make sure you're using the lowest speed so that you're left with a smooth mixture.
- Now, with a spatula, gently fold in 200 grams of whipped cream. You can add more if you like, but remember to fold and not mix.

- Now in your glass baking dish, add a single layer of graham crackers, and over this evenly pour a couple tablespoons of either coconut milk or light rum, and layer your cream cheese- whipped cream mixture over that.
- Now add a layer of chopped pineapple and toasted coconut.
- Repeat these layers as desired, with your topmost layer being a nice golden layer of toasted coconut and refrigerate for at least 2-3 hours before serving. Enjoy!

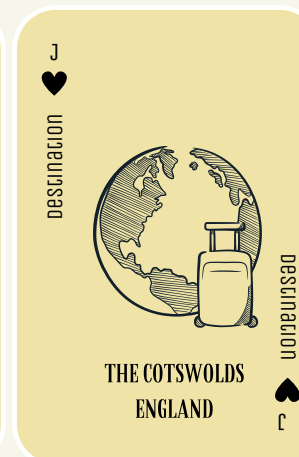
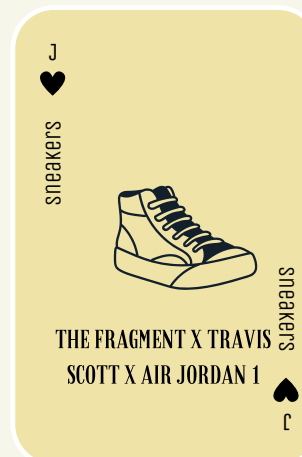
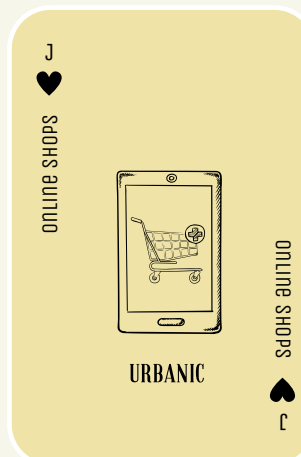
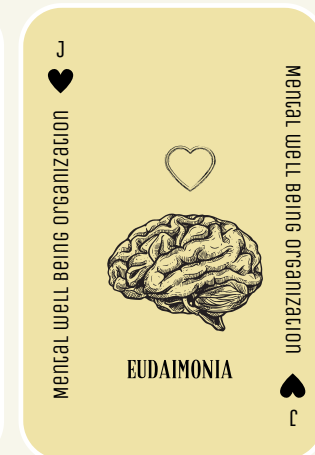
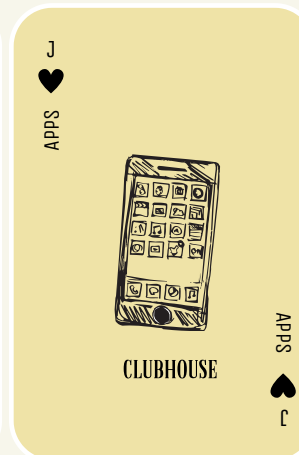
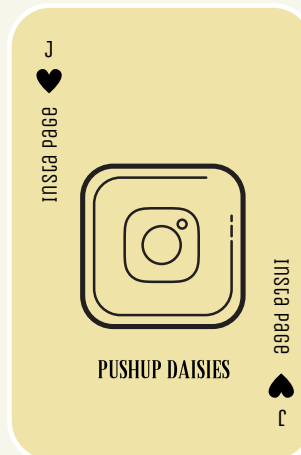
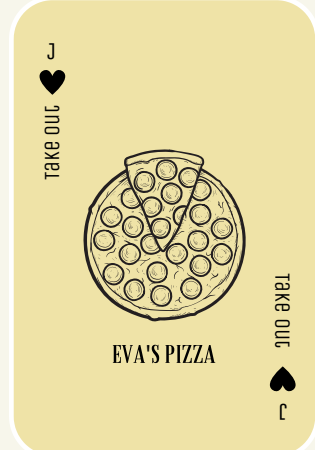
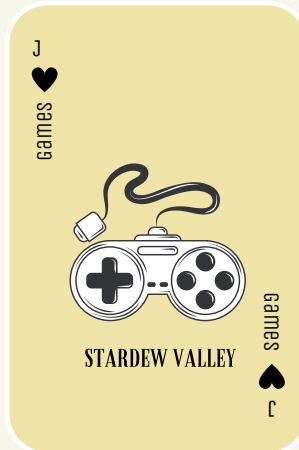
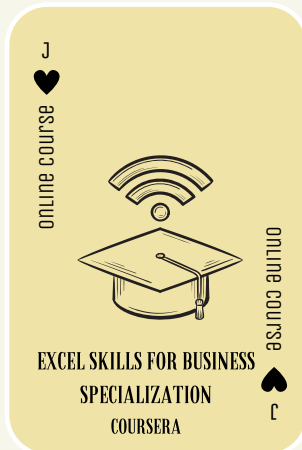
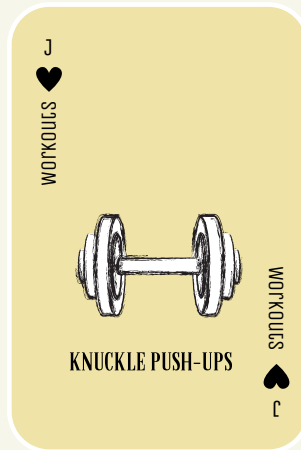
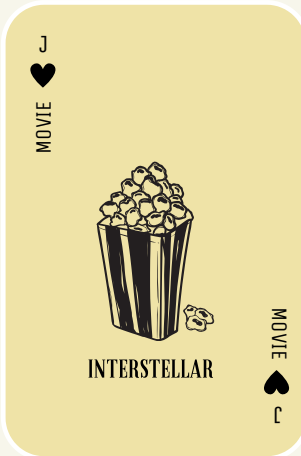
STRAWBERRY & CITRUS SORBET

Want a refreshing summer sorbet to relieve some of this summer heat? Well, this recipe is super healthy as well!

- Blend 3 cups of strawberries with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lime juice and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice until the mixture is smooth. To this, add $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of homemade sugar syrup.
- Now you can pop these into popsicle moulds or simply freeze it in an ice cream dish for a couple of hours, and then enjoy this refreshing treat!



jdI6 loves



MEET THE TEAM

Editor in Chief: Sanah Shah





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