

# 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!

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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

Poetry in this Issue  
 Unstilted by Dhruvach Sachin  
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**THE LIBERAL CANON**  
 31st August 2020 Edition 2

**Highlights**  
 CANON BUZZ  
 PASSION PROJECTS  
 JD16LOVES

- Choice and Consequence
- Central Government's Curator in the Pursuit of an Ideal System
- My Data but Not My Rules
- The Social Media Gamble

• THEGUYWITHABACKBOARD

31ST JANUARY, 2021  
 JDSOLA's Independent Student Publication

**THE LIBERAL CANON**

OF THE NEW YEAR  
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HELP  
 THE GREAT PRIVACY HEIST

31ST MARCH, 2021  
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**THE LIBERAL CANON**

PANDEMIC  
 LIBERALS INCLUDED  
 MINORITIES EXCLUDED  
 THE FUTURE IS OURS  
 BREAK THE ESCAPE  
 PPE  
 JD16  
 7 18 19 20 03 2021  
 LIBERTY

30th APRIL, 2021  
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**GOVERNMENT HELP?**

Social Distancing, Isolation,  
 Masks, Sanitisers, PPE Kits,  
 Hospital Beds, Medicines,  
 Vaccines, Oxygen,  
 Doctors.

26th SEPTEMBER, 2020  
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CRICKET AND MENTAL HEALTH  
 MEET BHAVENDRA  
 TO A MORE EQUAL WORLD  
 MANDEVI SINGHARH BHARVA  
 JD16 LOVES  
 CANON BUZZ  
 PASSION PROJECTS

25th DECEMBER, 2020  
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PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN

Seasons Greetings from The Liberal Canon!  
 CHRISTMAS EDITION

31ST OCTOBER, 2020  
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I got the American Day of the Dead by Joseph J. White.  
 I got the Principles of Fall Diseases by George P. Koshki.

I got the conversation with Dr. Vikram Swaminathan.

HA PUP-O-WEN  
 EDITION

30th NOVEMBER, 2020  
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**THE LIBERAL CANON**

28-06-2017  
 MUMBAI DISTRICT  
 MENTAL HEALTH  
**KANYEWEST**



Happy Birthday to The Liberal Canon!

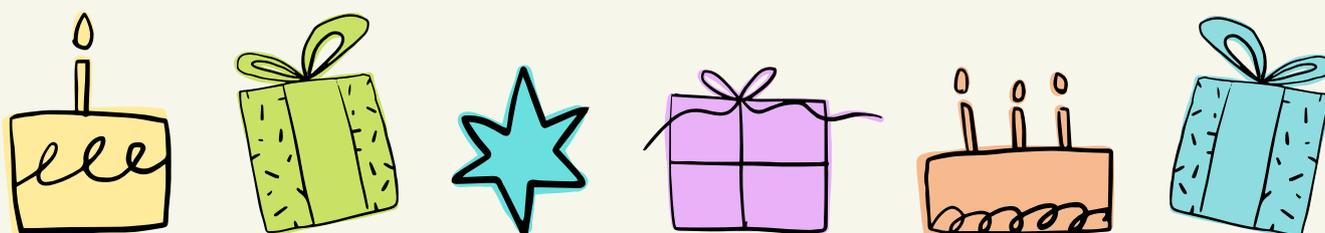
This newsletter was born to be a home for expression. In the midst of the pandemic in July 2020, we often felt unheard, helpless and lost; TLC was created to be the residence of those ruminating thoughts. In July 2021, we are completing a year with the same zest, determination and capability and many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

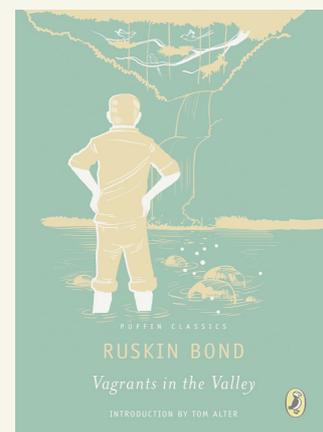
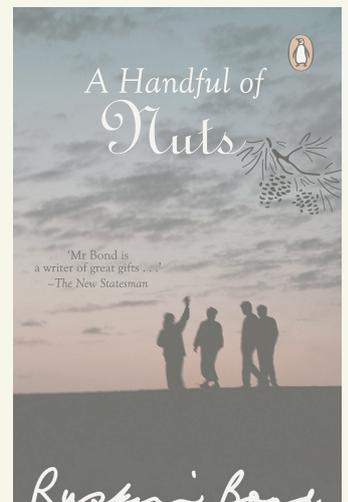
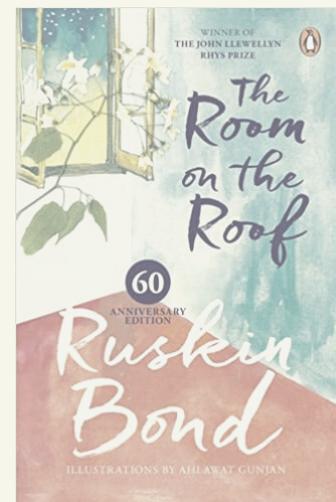
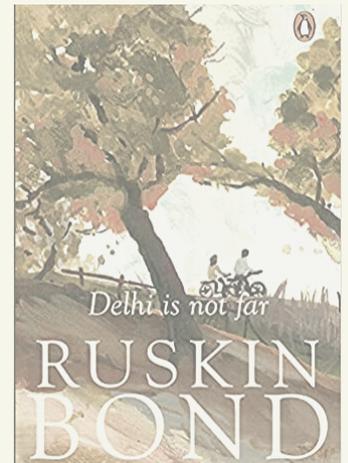
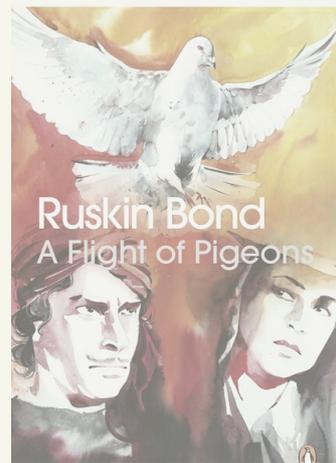
#### 4. The Room on the Roof

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 feisty 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

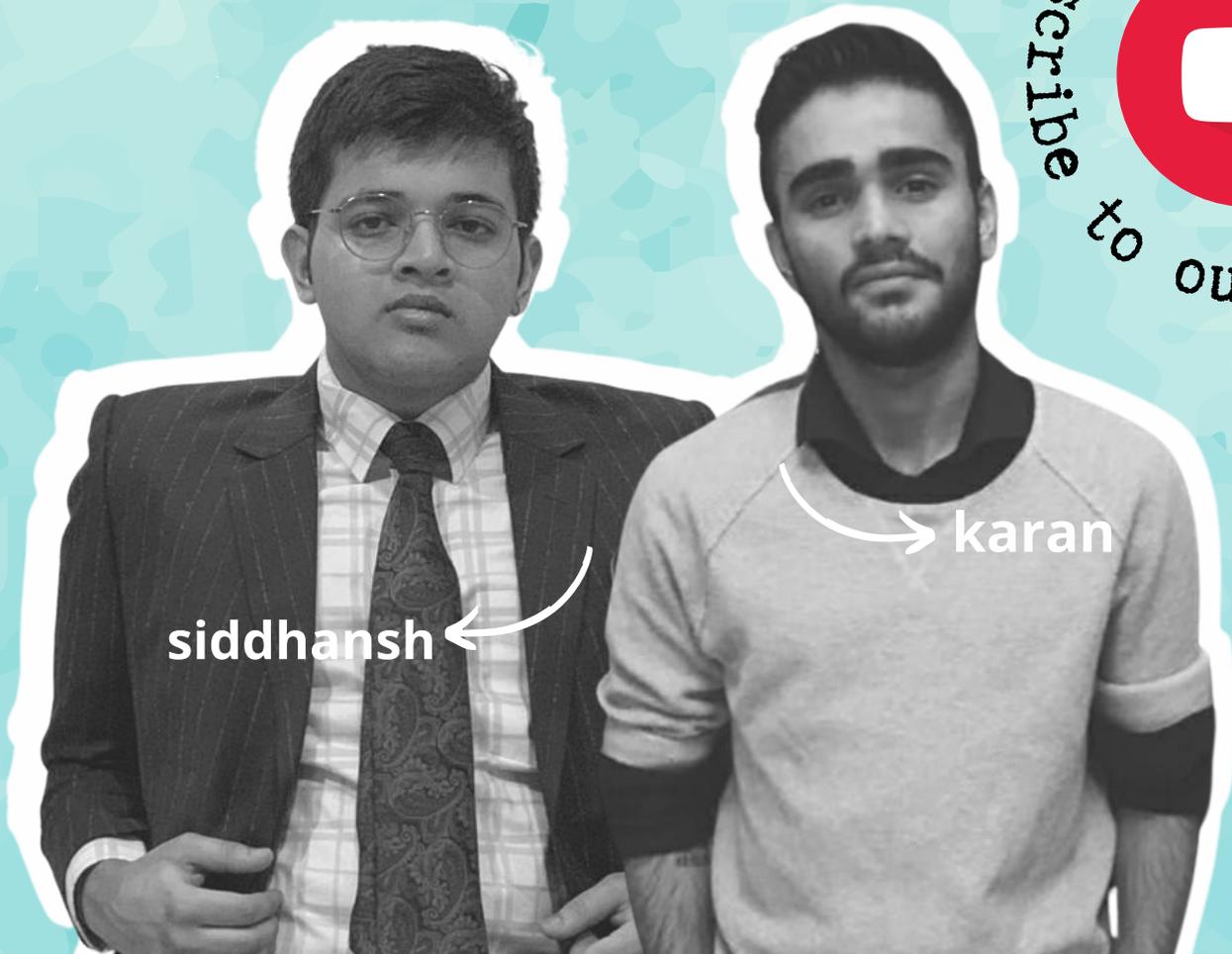
Univ Connect, a start-up by college students

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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siddhansh

karan

# 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

J ♡  
MOVIE



MOVIE ♡  
INTERSTELLAR

J ♡  
BOOK



BOOK ♡  
MEIN KAMPF

J ♡  
TV SHOW



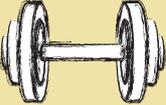
TV SHOW ♡  
THE GOOD PLACE

J ♡  
PODCAST



PODCAST ♡  
TABLE TALK WITH TLC

J ♡  
WORKOUTS



WORKOUTS ♡  
KNUCKLE PUSH-UPS

J ♡  
ONLINE COURSE



ONLINE COURSE ♡  
EXCEL SKILLS FOR BUSINESS SPECIALIZATION COURSERA

J ♡  
GAMES



GAMES ♡  
STARDEW VALLEY

J ♡  
TAKE OUT



TAKE OUT ♡  
EVA'S PIZZA

J ♡  
INSTA PAGE



INSTA PAGE ♡  
PUSHUP DAISIES

J ♡  
BORED GAMES



BORED GAMES ♡  
PEACE, DEATH!

J ♡  
APPS



APPS ♡  
CLUBHOUSE

J ♡  
MENTAL WELL BEING ORGANIZATION



MENTAL WELL BEING ORGANIZATION ♡  
EUDAIMONIA

J ♡  
ONLINE SHOPS



ONLINE SHOPS ♡  
URBANIC

J ♡  
SNEAKERS



SNEAKERS ♡  
THE FRAGMENT X TRAVIS SCOTT X AIR JORDAN 1

J ♡  
DESTINATION



DESTINATION ♡  
THE COTSWOLDS ENGLAND

J ♡  
ART



ART ♡  
GUERNICA PABLO PICASSO

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