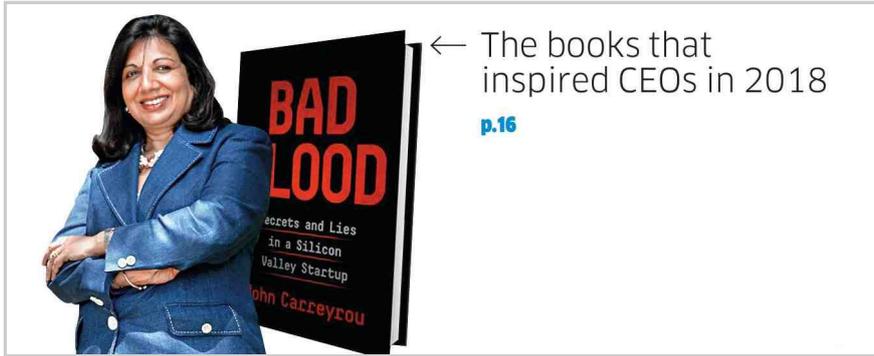
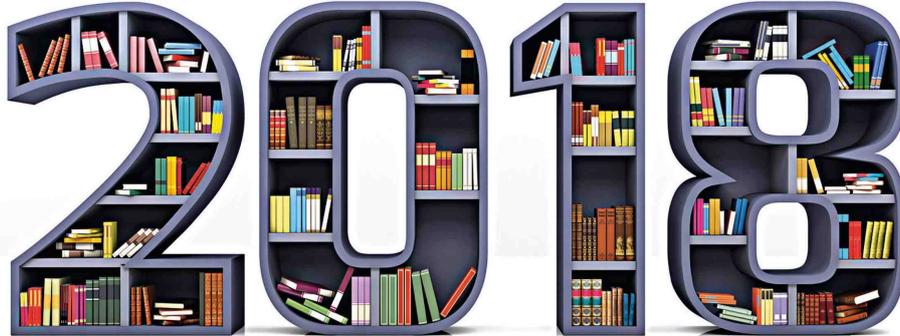


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My Best Reads of

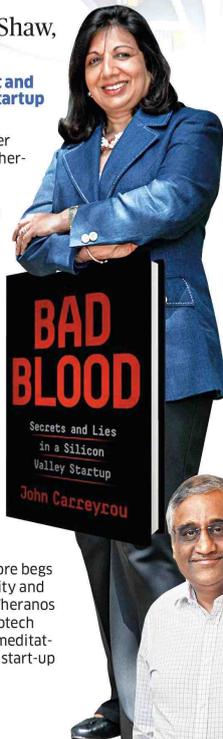


12 business leaders and entrepreneurs talk about the books that moved, inspired and entertained them - from Nadella on Microsoft to Manjekar's autobiography

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw,
CMD, Biocon

BOOK: Bad Blood: Secret and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup
by John Carreyrou

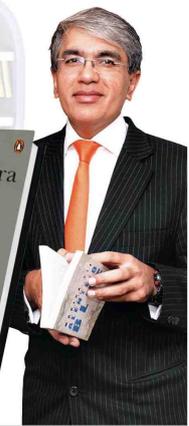
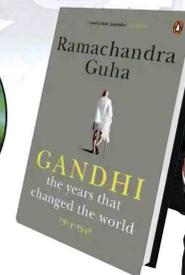
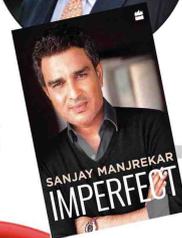
"The book reveals the darker side of a biotech start-up, Theranos, founded by a highly networked young woman, Elizabeth Holmes, who was often referred to as the female Steve Jobs! What was chilling was the way the VC community lapped up an un-validated technology based on a galaxy of High Networth Investors and board members and gave it a staggering \$9-billion valuation! As a biotech entrepreneur, it led me to believe that we function in a sinister ecosystem where fortunes are built and destroyed at the whims of influential VCs and investors who hardly do any due diligence. It therefore begs the question of their integrity and fiduciary responsibilities. Theranos will be remembered as a biotech fraud that was either a premeditated mega scam or a massive start-up failure."



Bharat Puri,
MD, Pidilite Industries

BOOK: Imperfect by Sanjay Manjekar

"As a cricket aficionado, I've seen that a lot of biographies tend to be like PR tomes -- always soft-stepping controversial issues. After long, one read a cricket book that is unvarnished. Manjekar has exposed his vulnerabilities, talked about his failures, and given an inside view of how cricket was back then: whether it was the rivalry between players from the west and the north, or the seniors expecting deification."



Manish Sabharwal,
chairman & co-founder, Teamlease Services

BOOK: Gandhi: The years That Changed the World by Ramachandra Guha

"I knew Gandhiji was at war with the British but he was also at war with India with his three other goals: religious tolerance, ending untouchability and economic self-reliance. He sought out a debate with people who had different opinions and often changed his mind. There was a consistency in his inconsistency. He was an advocate of patience - he believed violence was a form of impatience - but he ran out of patience by 1942 with his Quit India call. His genius of growing leaders was reflected in his team of rivals - Nehru, Patel, Rajaji are described as his heart, hands and head - but there were many others he drafted to help his cause."

Kishore Biyani,
group CEO, Future Group

BOOK: Hit Refresh by Satya Nadella

"The book explains how a culture can be reset in a large company, how culture can bring belief, growth and innovation and build a lasting organisation."

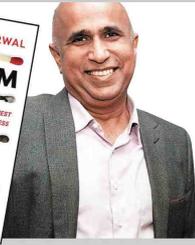
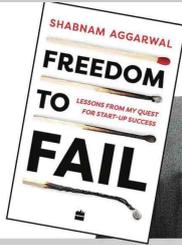


Manu Kumar Jain, VP & MD, Xiaomi

BOOK: Hit Refresh by Satya Nadella

"Due to my schedule, I do not get to read as much as I would like to, yet Hit Refresh compelled me to keep my schedule aside and finish the book. I was blown away by how Nadella unfolds the inside story of Microsoft and how it rediscovered its true personality. The book gave me inspiration on reading about the entire transformation -- from the company's culture to its competitive landscape and industry partnerships. For any individual who is 'awed' by exciting ideas - Hit Refresh is a refreshing mix of empathy, ideas and inspiring transformations."

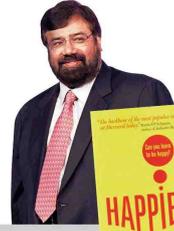
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K Ganesh, serial entrepreneur

BOOK: Freedom to Fail by Shabnam Aggarwal

"Refreshingly honest and devoid of any blaming and shaming by a young entrepreneur who moved to India from the US and attempted to build a start-up. Her travels spoken from the heart in a simple narrative captures the pressures and pleasures of the startup world. A first-time author baring her soul about the tumultuous journey is something all of us can identify with."



Harsh Goenka, chairman, RPG Enterprises

BOOK: Happier by Tal Ben-Shahar

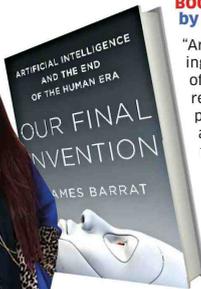
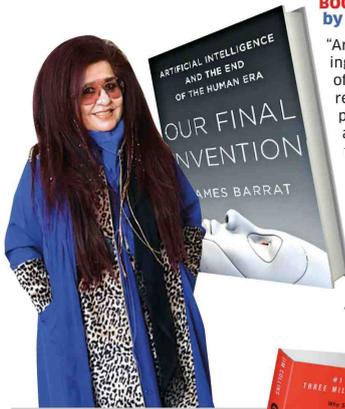
"The author is considered the foremost guru of happiness. Many interesting takeaways: living with emotions; healthy relationships; expressing gratitude; positive regimen, living in the present and much more -- simple philosophies yet far reaching in impact."



Shahnaz Husain, chairman, Shahnaz Husain Group

BOOK: Our Final Invention by James Barrat

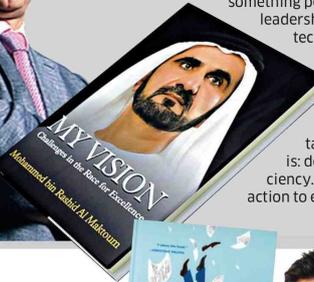
"Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a subject is riveting. The possibilities of applying it to my work of customised beauty care prompted me to read the book. It led me into thinking of the possibility of combining Ayurvedic inheritance with AI. I felt it would be ideal for our treatments and therapeutic products, which can be even more personalised. It can take an individual skin or hair profile into account and then manufacture products accordingly. The possibilities are limitless, but the fact remains that it is human intelligence that helps to prepare the systems of AI. The book also warns us of the dangers of the pendulum swinging the other way, where AI will rule human intelligence."



Niranjan Hiranandani, MD, Hiranandani Group

BOOK: My Vision: Challenges in the Race for Excellence by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai

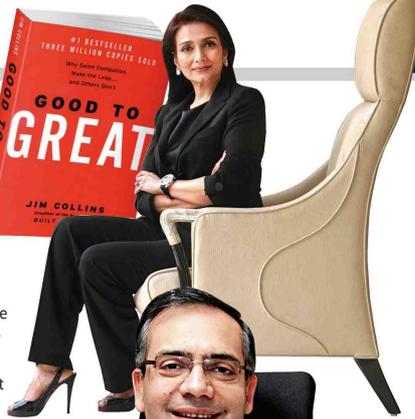
"The book takes us back to the history of Dubai -- how from being a poor country with most of the oil resources in Abu Dhabi, Dubai took to pearl trading to sustain itself. But with the Japanese learning the art of artificial pearl-making, Dubai's pearl industry was destroyed. It was something they turned into an opportunity. Dubai invested big time into building ports, airports and other infrastructure -- something possible under strong leadership and good use of technology. The author talks about the efforts they are still making towards 'excellence in development'. The key takeaway from the book is: do not worry over deficiency. Have a vision. And take action to execute that vision."



Vinita Jain, founder-chairman, Biotique

BOOK: Good to Great by Jim Collins

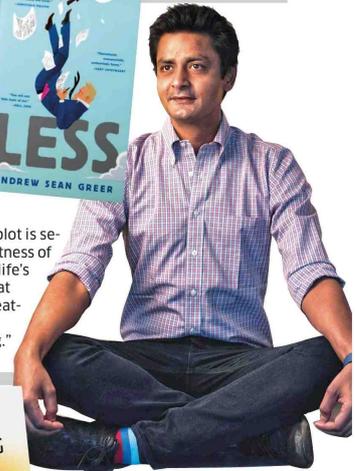
"It is incredibly well-researched and documented, full of values and ideas that are recognised as important in building a great business. The author highlights perfect examples, and some fantastic insights to support the conclusions. The book not only inspires you professionally but also encourages the reader to find greatness in all parts of one's life."



Manu Chandra, chef partner, Olive Group of Restaurants

BOOK: Less by Andrew Sean Greer

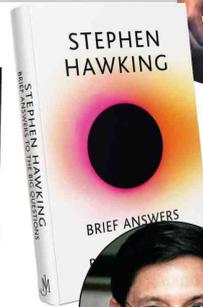
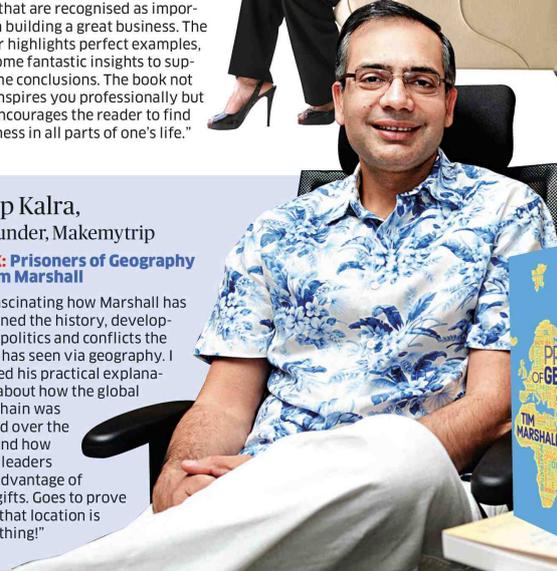
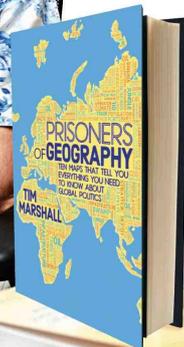
"The best book I read this year was Less. Being a single man, I identified with many aspects of the story. Though the plot is serious, I liked the humour and lightness of not giving two fudges to most of life's curveballs. And it's something that made me put the book down repeatedly and reflect. A funny book doesn't win a Pulitzer for nothing."



Deep Kalra, cofounder, Makemytrip

BOOK: Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

"It's fascinating how Marshall has explained the history, development, politics and conflicts the world has seen via geography. I enjoyed his practical explanations about how the global food chain was formed over the ages and how smart leaders took advantage of their gifts. Goes to prove again that location is everything!"



Vinayak Chatterjee, chairman, Feedback Infra

BOOK: Brief Answers to the Big Questions by Stephen Hawking

"It was posthumously published in 2018 from the physicists' personal archives. I found it engrossing and stimulating as it scientifically sought to present answers to questions like - Is there a God? What's inside a Black Hole? How did life begin? And such like."



As told to: Malini Goyal, Indulekha Aravind, Shephali Bhatt, Prerna Katiyar and Suman Layak