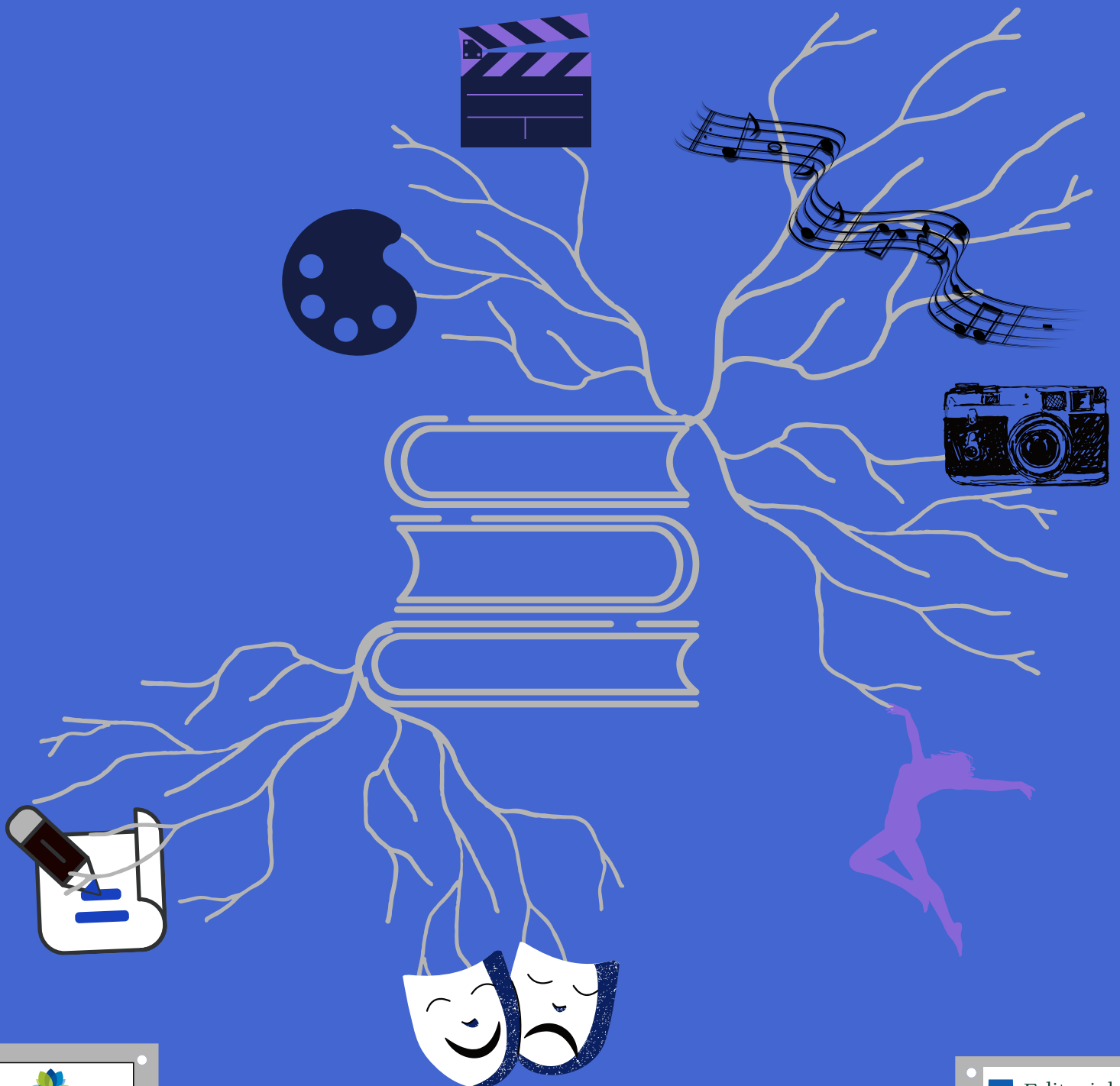


# THE NETWORK

July 2021, vol.7



# THE EDITORIAL DESK

The thoughts that constantly travel in our heads and hearts are limitless. Each thought rings with intimacy and unbound freedom. Each entity of our dreams is calibrated of the most fragile, most fantastical thoughts that can reach us. Fantastical, a word derived from fantasy. Some regard fantasy as improbable, impractical, and impossible. Some use it as a lens to look into a world they might not believe in, but want to be a part of. Fantasy is a collection of ideas that can never happen in real life. But somehow, when we read books and watch films involving it, we see ourselves standing right there. With the villains, standing right in the midst of the chaos, gazing and savoring the most minute details. With the heroes, in the ballrooms, dancing with others. Reading and watching art like this somehow engrosses us in a way life never can. Maybe it's the frivolity, maybe it's the adrenaline, maybe it's the magic, the potions, or maybe it's just the fact that we admire it so much. Each book and film in this edition will do the same. And maybe, these books and films will enhance the ones we create for ourselves. The ones we find utmost comfort in, and the ones which are a reflection of the soul in us that will never grow up. The soul in us that clings onto perhaps the ignorance or maybe, goodwill of the world. Fantasies can never restrict our freedom. They can never direct our thoughts in one particular direction because the lack of direction is what fantasy really is. When the world crumbles down, when the last wine glass shatters, creating a permanent, blood-red stain, that's when we use fantasy to heal the wounds. Each book and film in this edition is a tribute to that one piece of us that can never part with this comfort.

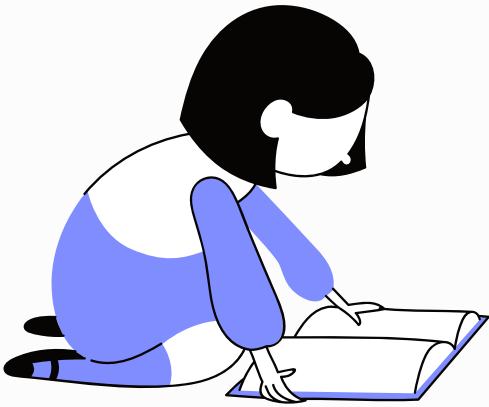
**By - Navya Sundararajan**



# BIBLIOPHAGIST

[ bi-blē-lä-fə-jist ] noun

An avid or a voracious reader



## EDITORIAL NOTE

By- Devarya Madhukar

The very act of imagining something improbable could be called a fantasy. It could be a world made of gold, gossamer webs, colonies of goblins, elves, gnomes and even fire spewing dragons. All of these things are extremely improbable. Most would find it both an incredible and impossible dream, but they serve a very important purpose.

The world of fantasy gives us a break from the mundane regime of our lives. Watching or reading about these impossible things transport us to that construed reality and we get a strange sense of peace. This month we embrace these stories and talk about the joy these fantasies bring to us.

I especially encourage you to read the books and movies we review in this edition as fantasy is my personal favorite genre and I would like to discuss it with more people. The reality of what we conceive as normal today may have been a fantasy a zillion years ago.

And who knows what we fantasize today may become our reality tomorrow. Though I am not sure whether I will like when the alternate world of my imagination becomes a Reality.

As we transcend between the two worlds, I urge others to share their experience of their fantasy lands through Network.

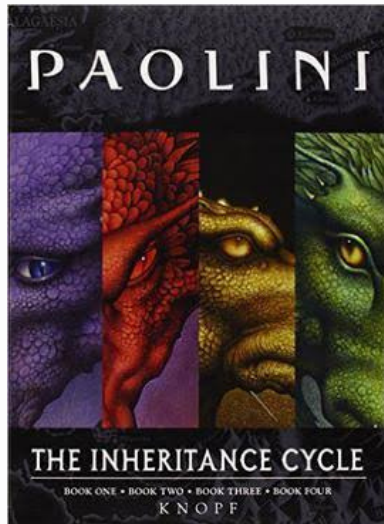
**"Happiness can be found in the darkest of times, only if one remembers to turn on the light."**

**- Albus Dumbledore**

# BOOK REVIEW

The Inheritance Cycle

by Christopher Paloni



I was first introduced to this series by my dad right after I finished Harry Potter and had nothing else to read, and it practically changed my life. This was the series that made me get addicted to reading, it was the first book that was not made to be read by children but could be read by children. In my opinion, it is simply a work of art.

In this story, we explore the world of Alagaësia and the adventures of our main character, Eragon as he struggles to defeat and kill Galbatorix, the self-elected evil ruler of this fictional country. Now at first, the plot may sound childish and generic, but once you start reading you immediately realize how deep it really is. You feel for the characters and their struggles, failure, and achievements. It also has the fantasy essentials like Dragons, Orks, Elves, and dwarves.

I also praise this book for its imagery. It creates vivid scenes and landscapes that can only be compared to Harry Potter as everything else just falls short. The imagery further enhances the extreme amount of world-building and lore to the point where it is downright unnecessary. And might I mention that Christopher Paloni wrote and published the first book at the age of seventeen, that alone should be enough reason for you to give it a read.

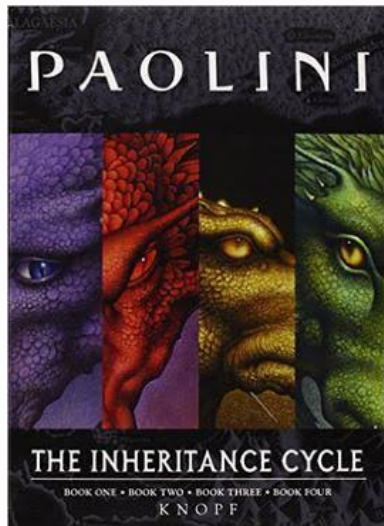
**"A Boy...  
A Dragon...  
A World of  
Adventure."**

**-Christopher  
Paloni**

# BOOK REVIEW

The Inheritance Cycle

by Christopher Paolini



This series consists of 4 books: Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr, and Inheritance.

Eragon is when we first meet our main character who's name is, well, Eragon. We are also introduced to several important characters and lays the overall groundwork for the entire story. We also look into Eragon's relationship with his pet Dragon Saphira who plays an extremely important role in the story.

Eldest is about coming to terms with your family and the events that transpire in it build the basis for the rebellion against Galbatorix and also provides a deeper look into the life of Eragon's cousin Roran.

The Brisingr is when things really kick into gear and serves as the climax of the story and is one of my personal favorite books. Inheritance builds further upon the theme of book two and is the exceptional conclusion to this story. The fantastical world that the inheritance cycle presents is genuinely like no other and I recommend everybody to read it.

"A Boy...  
A Dragon...  
A World of  
Adventure."

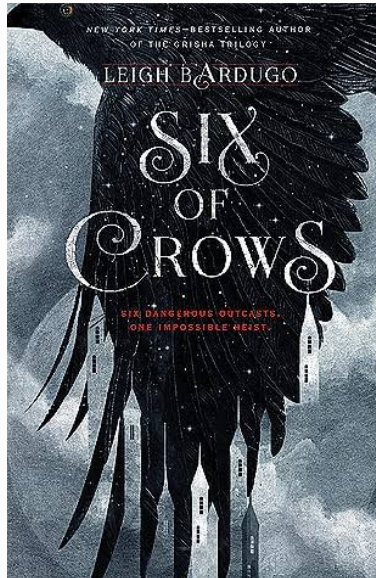
-Christopher  
Paloni

-Devarya Madhulkar

# BOOK REVIEW

## Six Of Crows

by Leigh Bardugo



Sometimes we tend to find solace in the flaws. Sometimes that's our wonderland. I wouldn't have associated fantasy with anything other than happy endings, delighted people, and healed scars if it hadn't been for this book. Crookery, thieves, knives, corruption, blood and money, this book is perhaps a twisted fantasy and I still found abundant loads of comfort after I read it. Six of Crows is a book narrating the story of an intricate heist. A heist carried out by 6 people, reluctantly working together with different motives yet the same spirit. Their only reward is the money, and hopefully their life if they don't die carrying it out. Each chapter is narrated from the perspective of a different character, heavily flawed yet working at not crumbling down.

At first, we have Kaz Brekker, Inej Ghafa, and Jesper Fahey, respectively the mastermind, wraith, and gunman. These three are part of a gang called The Dregs in the city of Ketterdam. Soon, the rest of the characters enter the story and so, the heist begins. The planning is ridiculously smart. And the way each character goes through different phases of confusion and jealousy, I really resonated with. The world they live in is cruel and merciless. This is a world where money can buy way more than just objects, women are forced into objectifying their bodies, little boys are left on the streets and people are entangled in webs of lies. However, to me, the fantasy is that these people find each other to rely on. They find happiness in an unfair world, they find a clear reflection in a shattered mirror just because of each other. They break, they learn, they break again but then they grow. With this book you understand that a happy ending is improbable, yet you still find comfort, the way they eventually do with each other.

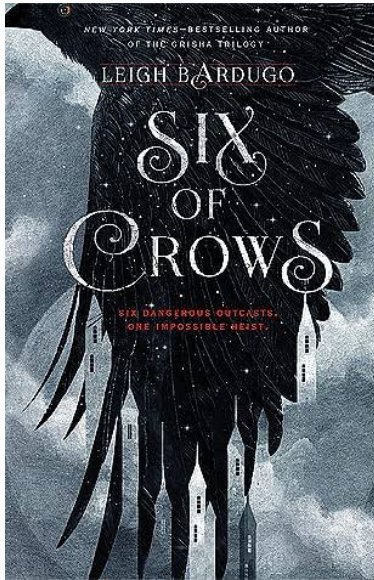
**“He was twisted, crooked, wrong but not so broken that he couldn't pull himself into a semblance of a man for her.”**

**- Leigh Bardugo**

# BOOK REVIEW

## Six Of Crows

by Leigh Bardugo

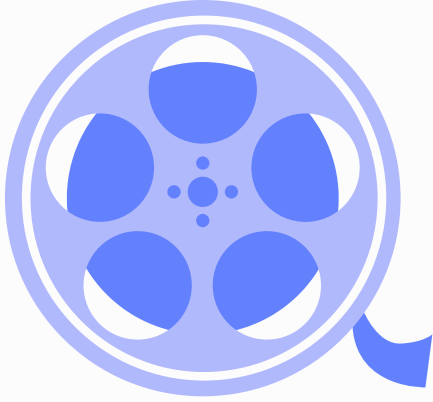


What I loved about it is that it emphasizes each one of their histories and gives those as much importance as the present. It's a really smart book and I went along reading it as if I was of the same caliber as Kaz, and failed. It is so well written. This book tests you. It made me cry yet it made me smile at the romances and the love they all carried for each other. Also, the prospect of them being imperfect and borderline villains was heartwarming. Kaz charmed me with his "I don't care, but I do." attitude. Inej is who I aspire to be. This book might be a little slow in the beginning but once you hit the climax, you'll be stunned by the work put into it. I really want to read this book for the first time again. This'll probably sound corny but perhaps fantasy doesn't always mean a happy ending. Maybe it means that whatever happens, happiness can always be found, and might never have to end.

**-Navya Sundararajan**

**"He was twisted, crooked, wrong but not so broken that he couldn't pull himself into a semblance of a man for her."**

**- Leigh Bardugo**



# CINEPHILE

/ˈsɪnəˌfɪl/ noun

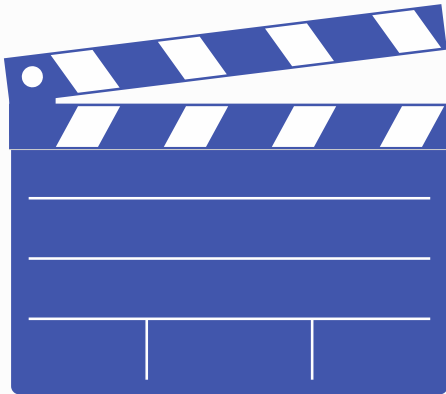
A person who is fond of motion pictures.

## Editorial Note

By- Nirali

"I'm sitting outside a window and looking at the sun. He resides on his temporal throne made of a pleasant white, and stares right back at me. He looks almost lazy, I think, floating in the cerulean blue of the sky, a golden beast yet to be awakened. He looks nearly calm, I think, as his yellow light basks the abandoned buildings in an uncaring haze." Senseless isn't it, to dip in and out of a reality visible only to your eyes, to roam its winding streets and laid-back valleys. Where every dusk holds more promise and every dawn holds more peace. Whose very plane of existence is a comfort to your soul. And glorious isn't it, that this purposeless freedom is what sews the very core of your thoughts and reveries together, keeps an unborn beauty and unborn hope from falling apart.

Fantasies aren't an escape from actuality, but a blissful path to stay in it. Surviving, anchored. They make you cry, laugh, contemplate or even scream from the very acuteness of what they say. How they recognize and understand you without barely being there at all. They are distinguished from real-world genres due to the very lack of them. Yet it is their whimsical persistence and ambition that gives us the courage to face what is in front of us, to fight for what has been lost. Your fantasies are never real. They don't exist. But maybe that's what makes them so precious, what makes you want to do everything in your power to bring them to life.



**"Fantasy is  
hardly an  
escape  
from  
reality. It's  
a way of  
understand  
ing it."  
Lloyd  
Alexander**

# FILM REVIEW

## My Neighbour Totoro

Director – Hayao Miyazaki



My Neighbour Totoro takes its viewer through a journey of order and chaos. It's based in a place where imagination is welcome and boundless, while at the same time, reality stays underneath the surface. This animated film was made back in 1988 by Studio Ghibli, which uses the signature troll of this film, 'Totoro' as its logo today.

The premise in itself is simple: two sisters and their father, the Kusakabes move out to a nice house in the Japanese country while their mother is in the hospital recovering from an illness. It doesn't take long for the story to become interesting.

As the sisters move out to the new house, their imagination is left to run wild. The younger one, Mei, is only 4 and is somewhat stubborn. Her older sister, Satsuki, is more mature and goes to school. Despite the slight contrast in their personalities, the sisters have a great time together and try to find happiness during a chapter in their lives that would otherwise leave them anxious.

Satsuki and Mei see dust-bunnies come to life. They see magical forest spirits. Trolls of different sizes. One of them is pretty huge. He calls himself Totoro. He towers over everyone. He can fly. And he can growl as well, and that too, very loudly. He's not big in a terrifying way, though. No, he's helpful, comforting, and always there when one needs him. If he growls loud enough, he conjures a giant cat-bus.

We see hues of green, blue, and azure. All colors that can come to mind. We see secret doors. We see the alpine mountains and the emerald trees. What beholds us is a world of magic. A world of our wildest imagination.

**"That's wonderful. Good for you! I've always wanted to have a haunted house. It's been my lifelong dream!"**

# FILM REVIEW

## My Neighbour Totoro

Director — Hayao Miyazaki



This world of imagination, though, where we see trolls, cat buses and dust particles come to life is only visible to Satsuki, Mei, and we, who's watching the movie. We see them and hear the blissful melody of the film as they revel in their imagination. We see them trying to cope with the fact that their mother's unwell, but hope for a time where she can, too, explore this realm of the world with them. Hopefully, it will be soon. And even though being realistic is important, their wonderland is helpful for them too. It makes sure they don't get too crazy.

Sometimes, it's important to be realistic. Other times, escaping to our own world can help us to cope, to stay sane.

**-Naomi Pandey**

**"That's wonderful. Good for you! I've always wanted to have a haunted house. It's been my lifelong dream!"**

# FILM REVIEW

## The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring An Entry Ticket To An Enigmatic Universe Director – Peter Jackson



The Lord Of The Rings is yet another miraculous creation that has clearly been directed with immense enthusiasm, and of course – a profusely vivid imagination! The Fellowship of the Ring is like an entry ticket into a universe of adventures that make one fly through and feel the excitement of a new world that J. R. R. Tolkien has skillfully crafted for his audience. From the creation of new languages such as Elvish, to the designing of new creatures such as Hobbits - the author's imagination has kept a bunch of surprises and mysteries for the audience to discover gradually. Once the play button is clicked, the viewer is sure to dive deep into a whole other world – one's imagination gets to work and starts painting such creative pictures, even beyond what happens in the film, one starts to give their own creative interpretations of the scenes. The movie is compelling from the moment one lays their eyes on it – the mysterious yet enchanting introductions depicting the journey of the rings. Ones resembling their power, clubbed with the subsequent effects grasp the curiosity in their minds. The film and design are definitely advanced in accordance to the time when they were made. The film follows the storyline of how one infinitely powerful ring of the Dark Lord constructs the events of the lives that the characters are living, lives which are filled to the brim with twists and turns. The sudden discovery of the protagonist being the inheritor of the Herculean ring is what decides the course of events that are to take place in the characters' atypical lives. They burden their shoulders with the responsibility of helping the ring reach the destination that it is meant to, not knowing whether the next second is to bring them eternal happiness or fear or even death.

The actors are wholly responsible for providing life to each and every character with stunning skill; each emotion strikes a chord. Although, one feeling that this specific movie does not spark within the audience is that of serenity, for the viewer can never remain calm. The anticipation won't allow it. The uncertainty makes one feel as if they don't know what's coming next, life or death. The directing couldn't have been better.

**"A wizard is never late,  
Frodo Baggins.  
Nor is he early. He arrives  
precisely when he means to."**

# FILM REVIEW

The Lord Of The Rings: The Fellowship Of The Ring  
An Entry Ticket To An Enigmatic Universe  
Director – Peter Jackson



According to me, this film is what someone would witness on a battlefield. There is such dramatic tension involved in almost each scene. Now for me, the movie was like a lesson to appreciate whatever I have been blessed with, and to hold onto it for as much as I can. It also taught me about being able to let go of things because in the end, nothing lasts forever. All in all, it was a great experience watching this movie- and one would definitely recommend it.

**-Aishwarya Anand**

**"A wizard is never late,  
Frodo Baggins.  
Nor is he early. He arrives precisely when he means to."**

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