



## Dining for Women

### January 2010 Recommendations: Fair Trade Shopping, Books & Films Featured Program: Matrichaya

#### This Month's Recommendations:

- ♀ Fair Trade Shopping
- ♀ Books
- ♀ Videos & Films

#### Fair Trade Shopping

*Our thanks to Carolyn Mayers for Fair Trade Shopping Recommendations*



Really beautiful hand block printed table linens - see also Marketplace India below

<http://store.tilonia.com/tablelinens.html#paging>

Recycled sari and other beautiful products including a throw that could double as a big table runner.

<http://www.ashaimports.com/cgi-bin/xpresscart/store.cgi?category=Sari+Products>





Lovely handmade greeting cards with dried flowers

[http://www.hopeforwomen.com/lifestyle/products/india\\_collection/](http://www.hopeforwomen.com/lifestyle/products/india_collection/)

And - from my favorite store for Indian tablecloths, napkins, clothing and more!

[https://www.marketplaceindia.com/Secure/StoreItems.aspx?](https://www.marketplaceindia.com/Secure/StoreItems.aspx?ITEMS=CATALOG&CAT=297&TP=330)

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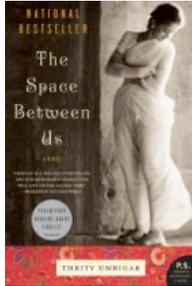
Hand-embroidered blue floral scarf from India. Order at Ten Thousand Villages.

<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/blue-floral-scarf>

## Books

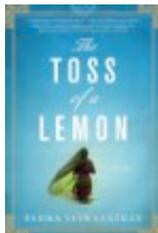
### Fiction

***The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar** (Harper Perennial, 2007)



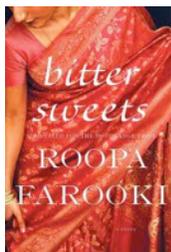
Thrity Umrigar's novel about a wealthy woman and her downtrodden servant, offers a revealing look at class and gender roles in modern day Bombay. Alternatively told through the eyes of Sera, a Parsi widow whose pregnant daughter and son-in-law share her elegant home, and Bhima, the elderly housekeeper who must support her orphaned granddaughter, Umrigar does an admirable job of creating two sympathetic characters whose bond goes far deeper than that of employer and employee. --From the publisher, *Harper Perennial*

***The Toss of a Lemon* by Padma Viswanathan.**(Harcourt, 2008)



In 1896 ten-year-old Sivakami receives a marriage proposal from twenty-one-year-old astrologer Hanumarathnam. By eighteen, she is a widow, restricted by Brahmin traditions, with two children to raise. Her servant Muchami helps Sivakami guide her offspring through the political and social changes of the twentieth century's early decades. "Journalist, playwright and short-story writer Viswanathan's absorbing first novel, based on her grandmother's life, goes deep into the world of southern India village life." --*Publishers Weekly*

***Bitter Sweets* by Roopa Farooki.** (St. Martin's Press, 2007)



Bengali shopkeeper Nadim Rub dupes Ricky-Rashid Karim into marrying his illiterate thirteen-year-old daughter, Henna, beginning a series of deceptions that plague succeeding generations. Ricky and Henna's daughter Shona eventually confronts her own lies to save her sons. Orange Award nominee, 2007. "*\*Starred Review\** This sparkling, fresh debut follows three generations of a family caught up in the web of their own deceit."--Booklist

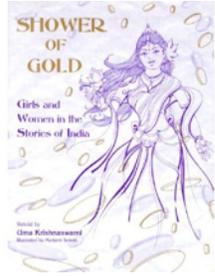
***Interpreter of Maladies: Stories* by Jhumpa Lahiri.** (Houghton Mifflin, 1999)



Nine tales of brief encounters with lasting effects, set in India and America. Each emphasizes cultural transition and loss. Pulitzer Prize winner and international bestseller. "Lahiri's characters suffer on an intimate level the dislocation and disruption brought on by India's tumultuous political history."--*Publishers Weekly*

## Children's Books

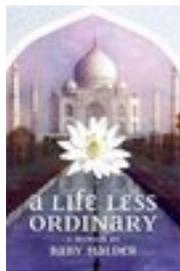
***Shower of Gold: Girls and Women in the Stories of India***, by Uma Krishnaswami (Linnet Books, 1999))



Folktales, ages 5 and up. Eighteen folk tales from India, including the story of Chitrangada, who chooses to rule her kingdom rather than remain the wife of a handsome prince; and Supriya, who teaches adults about compassion. Told in a simple, engaging style.

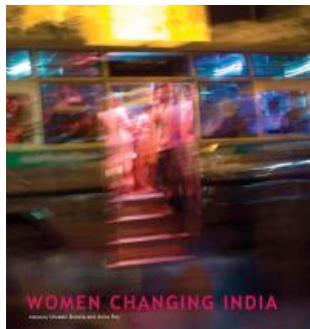
## Nonfiction

***Baby Halder: A Life Less Ordinary*** (HarperCollins, 2007).



A best-seller in India, this stirring autobiography, translated from Bengali and Hindi, is about poverty and brutal child labor, not in factories but at home . . . The astonishing Cinderella ending is rooted in gritty realism: Halder's new boss, like the kind father she never had, sees her reading his books as she dusts them and encourages her to write her own story—this story. --Rochman, Hazel, *American Library Association*

## Nonfiction



***Women Changing India***, *Urvashi Butalia and Anita Roy (Editors)* (Zubaan Books, 2010)

[http://www.zubaanbooks.com/zubaan\\_books\\_details.asp?BookID=162](http://www.zubaanbooks.com/zubaan_books_details.asp?BookID=162)

India is changing. At the heart of the change are its women. The change is widespread and varied, individual and collective and is reflected across the spectrum of women's lives, whether in politics or in economics, in their daily lives, in business, or the field of work within the home and outside. This book attempts to map – in words and photographs – some of the change that is both visible and invisible in the India of today. **Six writers from India write the stories that six photographers capture. Their beautiful and evocative photographs focus on the world of women working with microcredit, participating in grassroots governance, moving into new jobs, working behind the scenes in the male world of the Mumbai film industry, making their individual contributions in varied fields and imagining a new future for themselves and their sisters.** Published to celebrate 150 years of BNP Paribas in India and to mark the 25th anniversary of the feminist publishing house, Kali for Women/Zubaan, *Women Changing India* offers a window into the lives of women living in India today and brings to public attention their complex realities and their aspirations for a better world. --from the publisher, *Zubaan Books*

## Films & Videos

### Women Fighting for Their Power in Rural India - 5 Minute video from BBC

Watch Kiran Devi in action, the female village head of Panchayats.

From Broadcast on BBC World News tve's life, which documents the stories of individuals and communities facing up to the dangers, disasters and dilemmas of 21st century Planet Earth.

<http://www.5min.com/Video/Women-Fighting-for-Their-Power-in-Rural-India-460503638>

### Slumdog Millionaire, 2008



Mumbai, India. Uneducated waiter Ram Mohammad Thomas wins a billion rupees on a quiz show but is accused of cheating and thrown into jail. In flashback-accounts to his lawyer, Ram explains his past adventures supplied him the winning answers. "A gaudy, gorgeous rush of color, sound and motion, "["Slumdog Millionaire,"](#) doesn't travel through the lower depths, it giddily bounces from one horror to the next. A modern fairy tale about a pauper angling to become a prince, this sensory blowout largely takes place amid the squalor of Mumbai, India, where lost children and dogs sift through trash so fetid you swear you can smell the discarded mango as well as its peel, or could if the film weren't already hurtling through another picturesque gutter." --*New York Times*

### The Story of India, BBC Documentary, 2009



a [BBC TV documentary](#) series, written and presented by historian [Michael Wood](#), about the 10,000-year history of the [Indian subcontinent](#) in six episodes. It was originally aired on the [BBC](#) in six episodes in August and September 2007 as part of the BBC season "India and Pakistan 07", which marked the 60 years independence of [India](#) and [Pakistan](#). In the United States, [PBS](#) broadcast the series. Wood journeys through the Indian subcontinent, tracing the incredible richness and diversity of its peoples, cultures and landscapes.

— Changing the world one dinner at a time