

Fair Trade Shopping, Books, Films, and Music Anchal Project, India October 2012

Fair Trade Shopping



This month's Fair Trade recommendations are particularly enthusiastic – the [quilts](#), [baby quilts](#), [pillows](#), and [scarves](#) are made by the very women we are raising funds to assist!

Anchal Project works with Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) in India, providing them with an economic alternative to the sex trade as well as health care and educational workshops in financial planning, leadership, stress management, and design.

Anchal products are made from six layers of 100% recycled cotton sari held together by a simple running stitch. Caring for your quilt is easy! Machine wash in cold water and tumble dry low.



Each Anchal product is signed by the woman who created it

Quilt prices range from [\\$98](#) for baby quilts (approximate size 33"x50") to [\\$200](#) for a 54"x76" quilt (which can also be used as a throw, or even a tablecloth.)

We know a pastor who purchased a baby quilt to use as her prayer shawl.

This is a very exciting time for Anchal! In addition to this month's support from Dining for Women, the organization will benefit from publicity generated by the documentary *Half the Sky*, airing October 1 and 2 on PBS. Anchal's first partner in Kolkata, India – New Light – is among the programs featured in the documentary.

AND – this month Anchal officially launches the 'Didi*Connection' – their new line of limited edition scarves promoted for them by actress and activist America Ferrera, who visited the Anchal artisans during the filming of *Half the Sky*. Scarves (flat or infinity style) retail for [\\$75](#).



*Didi means 'sister' in Hindi – the promotion is based on the simple realization that a woman, across continents and seas, is your sister and that ***you can do something to change her life.***



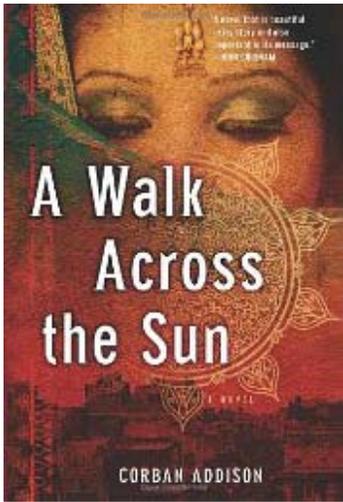
Anchal pillows range in size from squares at 12"x12" to 18"x18" and rectangles at 12"x16" and 12"x28". Prices range from [\\$45 to \\$70](#)

Order YOUR quilt, scarf or pillow today! We guarantee they'll warm your heart.

Learn all about Anchal Project on this month's [Program Page](#).

Recommended Books

Fiction



[A Walk Across the Sun](#) by Corban Addison – Recommended by Anchal (Silver Oak, 2012)

When a tsunami rages through their coastal town in India, 17-year-old Ahalya Ghai and her 15-year-old sister Sita are left orphaned and homeless. With almost everyone they know suddenly erased from the face of the earth, the girls set out for the convent where they attend school. They are abducted almost immediately and sold to a Mumbai brothel owner, beginning a hellish descent into the bowels of the sex trade.

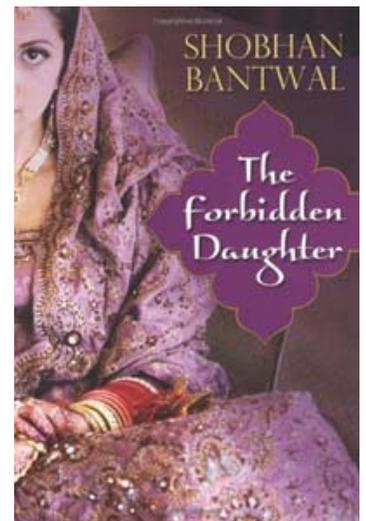
Halfway across the world, Washington, D.C., attorney Thomas Clarke faces his own personal and professional crisis—and makes the fateful decision to pursue a pro bono sabbatical working in India for an NGO that prosecutes the subcontinent's human traffickers. There, his conscience awakens as he sees firsthand the horrors of the trade in human flesh, and the corrupt judicial system that fosters it. Learning of the fate of Ahalya and Sita, Clarke makes it his personal mission to rescue them, setting the stage for a riveting showdown with an international network of ruthless criminals.

[The Forbidden Daughter](#) by Shobhan Bantwal (Kensington, 2008)

Set in the sensual richness of India, Shobhan Bantwal's gripping new novel asks: Where can a woman turn when her life's greatest blessing is seen as a curse?

It's a girl! For most young couples, news of their unborn child's gender brings joyful anticipation. Not so for Isha Tilak and her husband, Nikhil. They already have a beloved daughter, but Nikhil's parents, hard-wired to favor male children above all, coldly reject little Priya at every turn. Vain and selfish, they see female grandchildren as burdens, and would just as soon never meet the one growing in Isha's belly. Even the obstetrician agrees, going so far as to suggest the unthinkable, throwing Nikhil into a rage—and changing Isha's life forever...

"Vivid, rich...expertly portrays a young woman caught between love and duty, hope and despair." - Anjali Banerjee



We recommend you [click to view this short film](#), on the topic of the book above....

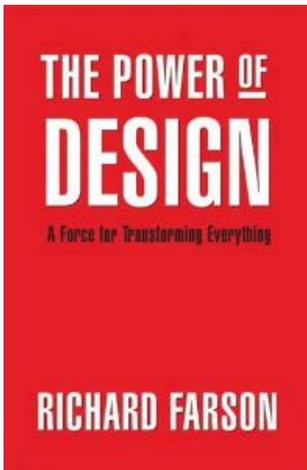


One of Photojournalist Walter Astrada's most notable projects is "Undesired, 'Missing' women in India," a documentary on the sex selective practices in India. Take a few minutes and check it out - caution: contains some graphic images.

The cultural pressure to bear a son confronts so many women in India – cutting across every social divide from geography to economy. This preference originates from the belief that men make money while women, because of their expensive dowry costs, are a financial burden. As a result, there is a near constant disregard for the lives of women and girls. From birth until old age, women face a constant threat of violence and, too frequently, death.

Recommended Books

Non-fiction



The Power of Design by Richard Farson – Recommended by Anchal Project
(Greenway Communications, 2008)

Richard Farson asserts a deeply engaging premise: Design can transform the world. It can put right what is wrong in our communities. It can address society's most intractable ills. Properly mobilized, he argues, design could make a whopping impact on deep-rooted dilemmas such as the ravages of poverty, the miserable state of the American education system, and the failure of criminal justice. It could do nothing short of move mountains.

Farson describes the many ways that designers of all types hold themselves back from serving society in meaningful ways. In the end, Farson leaves us with a powerful message of hope. If we have the courage to embrace design's unrealized potential, there appears to be no limit to the role it can play in the future of civilization.

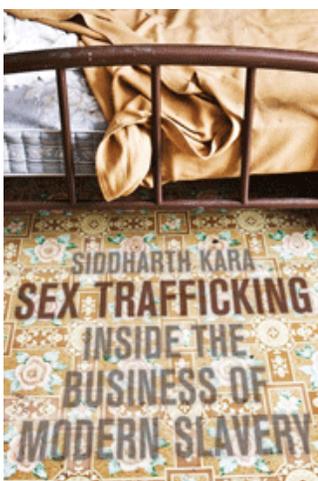
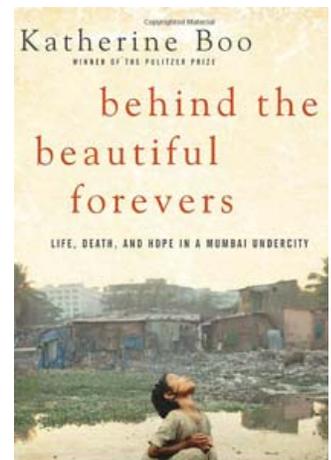
"For most of us, the word design conjures up thoughts of making things look good, look better, of styling, of fashion, and of gussying up the world. For Farson, it's not that at all, not looking good but being good." - Richard Saul Wurman, Founder and Creative Director, Access Press, and Founder, TED Conferences

Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo (Random House, 2012)

With intelligence, humor, and deep insight into what connects human beings to one another in an era of tumultuous change, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* carries the reader headlong into one of the twenty-first century's hidden worlds, and into the lives of people impossible to forget.

Katherine Boo spent three years among the residents of the Annawadi slum, a sprawling, cockeyed settlement of more than 300 tin-roof huts and shacks in the shadow of Mumbai's International Airport. From within this "sumpy plug of slum" Boo unearths stories both tragic and poignant - about residents' efforts to raise families, earn a living, or simply survive.

"Moving.... a humane, powerful and insightful book....A book of nonfiction so stellar it puts most novels to shame." – *Boston Globe*



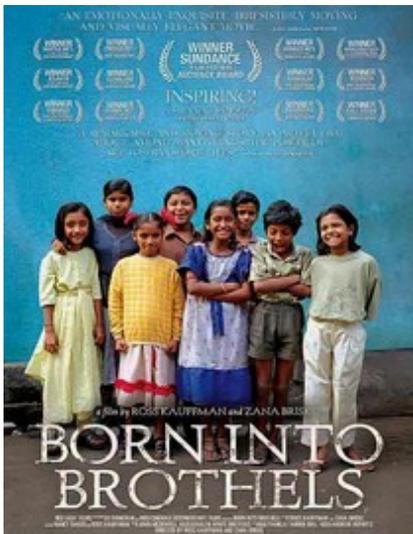
Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery by Siddharth Kara
(Columbia University Press, 2010)

Every year, hundreds of thousands of women and children are abducted, deceived, seduced, or sold into forced prostitution, coerced to service hundreds if not thousands of men before being discarded. These trafficked sex slaves form the backbone of one of the world's most profitable illicit enterprises and generate huge profits for their exploiters, for unlike narcotics, which must be grown, harvested, refined, and packaged, sex slaves require no such "processing," and can be repeatedly "consumed."

Kara traveled across four continents to investigate these crimes and take stock of their devastating human toll. He draws on his background in finance, economics, and law to provide the first ever business analysis of contemporary slavery worldwide, focusing on its most profitable and barbaric form: sex trafficking.

"Siddharth Kara has done a great service by laying bare the realities of sexual exploitation of women and girls around the world and the scale of this modern slavery. His book should be widely read and his recommendations taken very seriously." - Baroness Vivien Stern, King's College London

Recommended Films & Videos

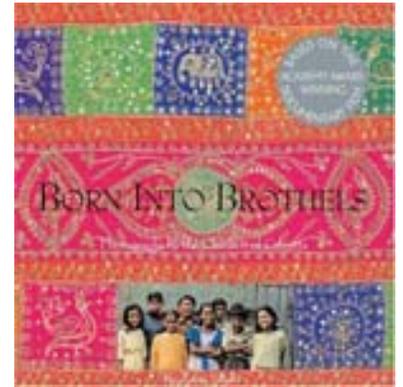


Born Into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids (2004: 85 minutes)

British filmmaker Zana Briski's Oscar-winning documentary is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in Calcutta's red-light district, where their mothers work as prostitutes to ensure their survival. Spurred by the kids' fascination with her camera, Briski decides to teach them photography. As they begin to look at and record their world through new eyes, the kids awaken to their own talents and sense of worth.

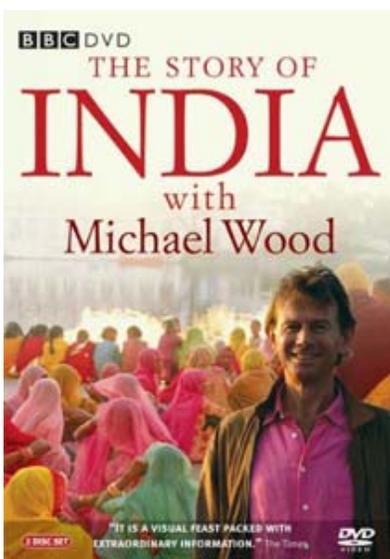
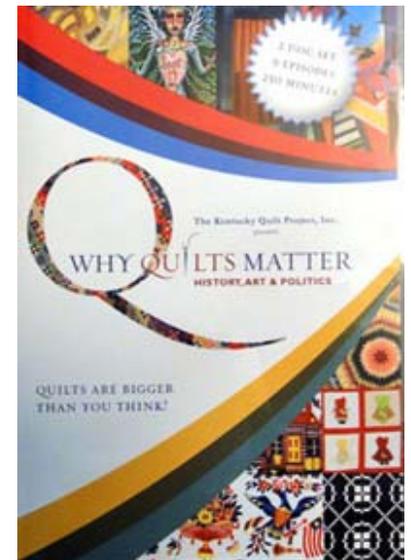
2005 Academy Award winner – Best Documentary
Also available on [Netflix](#)

See the [Companion Book](#) of photographs taken by the children



Why Quilts Matter (Recommended by Anchal) This nine-part documentary series produced by the Kentucky Quilt Project will change the way you think about quilts. It's an exploration of quilts with a capital Q that takes you on an amazing journey.

“You can look long and hard and you won’t find an object more central to the history of women than the quilt. In this episode we look at the quilt’s historical and current roles as (among others) an avenue of personal expression, a sly medium of social and political opinion, and a building block of financial security. Unique among objects, quilts are both lowly “women’s work” and great art. They are something made from nothing; they are both nurturing and inspiring. They can communicate both intimate memories and great societal truths, and they have throughout history. Here curators, quilt makers, and scholars discuss the surprising number of ways in which the quilt has been and continues to be woven into the histories and psyches of our mothers, our sisters, ourselves.” - From Episode 7 - Empowering Women – One Quilt at a Time
([Watch a preview of this episode](#))



The Story of India (2 discs – BBC/PBS 2007)

Explore the rich culture of India with this visually striking program that takes viewers on a fascinating journey from the country’s ancient origins to its significant place in our contemporary global community. Hosted by noted British historian Michael Wood, the series explores the many facets of Indian society, including the arts, spiritual traditions, the diverse population, the rising high-tech business community and much more.

The world’s most ancient surviving civilization, with unbroken continuity back into prehistory, India has enjoyed not just one but several brilliant golden ages in art and culture. Its great thinkers and religious leaders have permanently changed the face of the globe.

“It is a visual feast packed with extraordinary information” – *The Times*

Also available on [Netflix](#) - or [watch any or all episodes free online](#)

Recommended Music

Sound Check looks at the developing music culture in contemporary India and explores the exciting variations of the 'Indian Sound' emerging from musicians across the country: a variety of sounds that are coming together and exploding in India's contemporary music culture, opening avenues for experimentation and hybridizations, plugging India's tradition of classical and folk music into a global music ideology and creating soundscapes that are international and yet Indian.

This **40 minute video** is a great look at the depth and breadth of contemporary music in India.



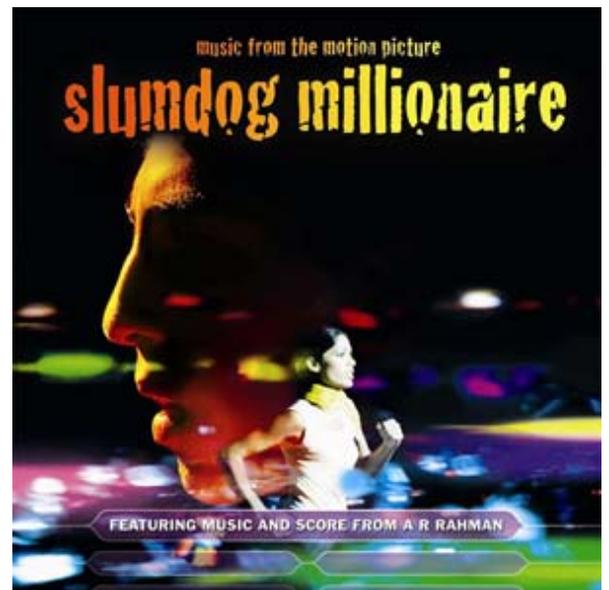
Listen to the Top Bollywood Songs of 2012

The biggest form of Indian popular music is 'Filmi' - songs from Indian films - which makes up 72% of the music sales in India. Filmi music tends to have appeal across India and overseas, especially among the Indian diaspora. Songs are often in different languages depending on the industry, for example in Hindi or Tamil. 'Playback singers' pre-record songs for use in film, and the actors lip-sync. Though playback singers may release solo albums, their performances in soundtracks tend to be more noticed due to the widespread appeal of movies. The songs of a film, the quality of the music and its music director (composer), lyricist, and singer have often determined the success of a film.

You may be familiar with the 2009 movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. As Gautam Chintamani, Delhi-based author and documentary film maker, says of the soundtrack, "Nothing can prepare you for the sound of **Slumdog Millionaire**. The album mirrors the magical journey of Jamal, a slum dweller who goes on to win a million rupees. *Slumdog* can be best described as a confluence of many music styles similar to the cultural cauldron that India has been identified for many years now. It's not surprising that Rahman let go of a lot of offers to concentrate on the score of *Slumdog Millionaire*."

"The propulsive score, by Bollywood soundtrack auteur A. R. Rahman, is hip-hop fusion of a very up-to-date kind" – Kurt Loder – MTV.com

If you've not yet seen the film, watch it on [Netflix](#) or buy on [Amazon](#).



Submitted by Marcie Christensen, DFW Researcher & member