



## COOKING THE BOOKS : DECEMBER 2024

**That which we manifest is before us!**

### Flaky Lemon Blueberry Scones



Hello

I love this quote by Garth Stein in *The Art of Racing in the Rain*. The movie is on Disney Plus and I can't help but get a lump in my throat when Kevin Costner, voicing Enzo, says "Faster, Danny, Faster! "

Here's the full quote :

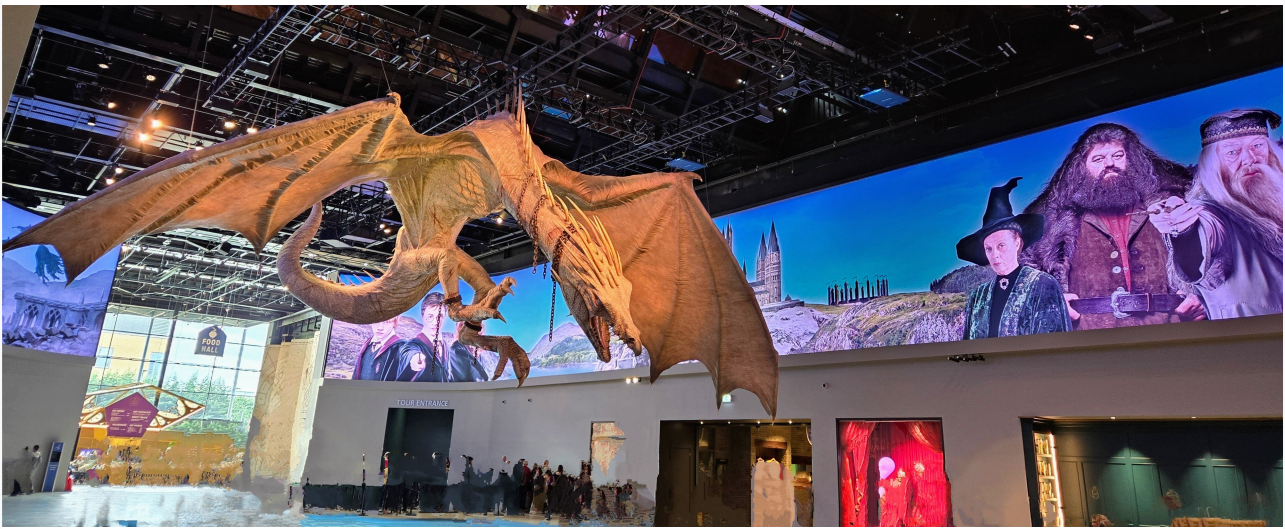
**"That which we manifest is before us; we are the creators of our own destiny. Be it through intention or ignorance,**

**our successes and our failures have been brought on by none other than ourselves."**

And what better time than now to reflect on what we've done this year and what we want to manifest for ourselves for the new year.

Of course, this could just as easily translate to a life goal or a food we're craving. For me a cup of tea, a warm scone with clotted cream is what I would like to manifest for the holidays. There are scone recipes and more scone recipes. I've tried quite a few but my fave, to date, is by [Entertaining with Beth](#). It's a repeat but totally worth it!

## This year's highlights...



As a fan of the books and the world, this was pretty special. Yes, she-who-shall-not-be-named has disappointed many of her fans and readers. But the world she created remains, undeniably, magical. As was my visit to the Warner Brother Studios in London.





The closest I came to "flying." This was taken in Cappadocia and we were lucky enough to see these majestic balloons from the ground, taking to the sky like birds with oversized heads. We also had a chance to take a ride in one and experience sunrise. I say lucky because so much is dependant on wind conditions. The day after this picture was taken, all flights were cancelled for five days due to strong winds. Another memorable and magical experience!



How can food *not* feature in the year's highlights? Pav Bhaji is a [Bombay street](#) food I grew up with. Sardar's was the place most Bombayites (Mumbaikars now) frequented. It was the best!

I recently ate this at a restaurant called MINT in Seattle and it was delish! (I feel a manifestation forming...)

Google the recipe on YouTube. I haven't included a link because there are so many good ones and I'm always experimenting with different recipes. The only thing that doesn't change is a generous dollop of butter on top and the bread, light fried with butter. Yum!

**Don't miss out...**



# WARNED

## THE ASTROLOGER'S PROPHECY



EERIE TALES FROM THE EAST

MAHTAB NARSIMHAN

One last chance to get ahead on the gift giving. And what better gift than a book!

Check out these [books](#) on offer and go wild. You have been Warned!



Here are a couple of reviews in case you're on the fence...

"As a final note, I think this book is a wonderful opportunity for parents to have conversations with their children about how people deserve to be treated and how oppression still exists in many places in this world. Some oppression is easily seen – as in the caste system illustrated in this book – and some is more hidden, but talking about it can help children learn to identify it and, like Avi and Lalita, fight back against it.

I am definitely looking forward to reading more books by Narsimhan, and I have already bought the other two books of this trilogy." ~ Jennifer C.

"What I particularly loved about this book was the pace and quick escalation of stakes. When the book opens, we are already standing in line with Avi at the astrologer's tent in the remote village of Tolagunj, India—we are thrust into the action of the plot straight away. This book also highlights the social inequities of the caste system, bringing it to life through the character of Lalita. Many young readers may be shocked by the outright unfairness of this system, so THE ASTROLOGER'S PROPHECY will serve as a perspective shift. I'm looking forward to sharing this book with the students in my creative writing classes!" ~Lee Fodi

I bet there's at least *one* book here you'll love. And if it happens to me mine, I won't mind one little bit ;)

## Some final words...

That's it for this last newsletter of 2024. Wish you a wonderful and relaxing holiday season.

My current fave quote:

**"Boredom is a filter. Common ideas come before it. Uncommon ideas come after it. Sit with a project long enough to get bored with it, then sit a little more. The most useful insights bubble up after you get bored."**

**~ James Clear, Author of Atomic Habits**

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Until the next newsletter...[rock on!](#)

xo

Mahtab

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### Stardust Stories

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