



# A 'novel' initiative

## Harry Potter, Nancy Drew, Sherlock Holmes: Your New Pals On The Delhi Metro

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We all love Easter eggs. They tell us that there's more to the story than what meets the eye. Going through the same movie scene twice, just to make sure that the glitch was faulty and not intended, trying to memorise all the conspiracy theories and build more conspiracy – we've all been there. But what if you could find Easter eggs in real life? 'Books on the Delhi Metro' is an initiative that leaves Easter eggs in Delhi metro in the form of paperbacks. With the motto 'Take it, read it and return for someone else to enjoy' this society is taking forward a legacy that began in the London tubes.

### The Synopsis

With the habit of reading falling prey to the constraints of time, this innovative initiative comes to the rescue. A bunch of good Samaritans hide books in various metro stations across Delhi. Commuters can take cues from their Instagram page to locate the novel and enjoy a good read on their little voyage. After reading, all one needs to do is to post a picture of the book and its



GT reporters with Shruti Sharma, founder, Books on the Delhi Metro

whereabouts, tagging @booksonthedelhimetro. They repost it and the cycle goes on.

### The Prologue

The inception of this organisation that took off in May, 2017 can be credited to Shruti Sharma, content developer, and her husband, Tarun Chauhan, a civil engineer. The idea, she admits, was inspired by Emma Watson who left books on the tubes in collaboration with 'Books on the Un-

derground', a worldwide movement. "I got in touch with Hollie Fraser and asked if I could do something similar in Delhi. She was thrilled with the idea and now, here we are," recalls Shruti. With more than 40 book fairies, thousands of online followers and innumerable readers, the movement is growing stronger. The couple initially started by supplying books from their own library, but with such rapid growth, they have been receiving

books through donation and from various publishers.

### The Plot

The motivation behind this project is nothing but the bliss of happiness. "There are people who once used to read, but now reading has taken a backseat owing to the chores of daily life," Shruti says with a heavy heart. "My purpose is to get them back on track." She tells us about the countless number of times

she has been thanked for rejuvenating the love for literature in people's lives. A happy heart to take home is the sole profit from this enterprise.

### The Climax

"Some of our readers seem to enjoy their books very much, for we never get them back," the founder explains. Shruti contents herself with a return ratio of just 50% and believes that books are internally circulated within one's

kinfolk. "I am a positive person. I hope those books find a good home," she remarks with a smile.

Metro is an inevitable part of a Delhiite's life. So take a note, book lovers. The next time you are aimlessly looking down at your phone at Rajiv Chowk, with nothing better to do, hunt for a book bearing the sticker 'Books On The Delhi Metro', and you might find yourself a buddy for the ride back home. 📖

Pics: Rohit Sreenath, AIS MV, XI F



Books on the Delhi Metro await you



Metro riders with BOTDM books

Pics: Gauri Tripathi, AIS MV, XI A



Slaying with words Editor-in-chief



## Slaying and swaying

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Slaying with dedication All work no rest



Swaying with excellence Focus on point

