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Katha Kshetre

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# KATHA KSHETRE

An international literary quarterly of fiction with news,  
views and comments on current topics  
in the world of literature

In this issue we feature

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Book Review

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### **Perfect Dress but an Imperfect Woman**

**The Perfect Dress** (novel) by **Mary Jane Cole**, pages 245, price \$14.95, published by Authorhouse US, ISBN 1-4208-9015-8 [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) < [colemaryj@aol.com](mailto:colemaryj@aol.com) >

The title, the cover picture and the font size did not fascinate us. So reading was delayed. Once we read the first chapter 'Paint it Black' we were hooked. Within a month we completed 36 chapters in the midst of our hectic work. In the end we got the clear picture of Mary Leigh Worth, her life from age two till her thirties. We suddenly found 'everything title, cover picture and font size fitted perfectly to the content of the book. We enjoyed 'the roller coaster ride'.

We are sure the readers, of course ADULTS only, will find reading the book very pleasant and satisfying. The book has the elements of love, sex, hate, happiness, misery, sorrow, respect, disregard, terror, mystery, intrigue, design, talent and even stunt all the elements required for a romantic suspense thriller film.

Orphaned at infancy, Mary Leigh Worth grew up in the streets of Chicago, San Francisco and Waikiki (Hawaii) just like any other single woman in the American free society. She wanted to be a dress designer (that she became), wished to find her perfect man (that he found in Captain Halib Mohammad), longed for a settled family life with Hal for good (that did not happen soon but realised in the end) Hal was not a man of marrying type. That broke Mary's mind. She was deeply hurt. Her hurt turned unto rebellion. She gave up herself to all the vices alcohol, drugs, sexual promiscuity, living with hippies and transvestites. She married two wrong men, one 33 years older but rich and another ten years younger but pauper. Being a Catholic lady she led a life immoral and unethical to Christian principles. However she was a woman of substance. Her deep love for Hal buried in her heart kept her going on. Finally, she got him dramatically. Happy ending

The book contains discourse on American, Arab culture and

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even Indian culture, a sort of comparative study. It speaks about various habits of eating and drinking. It has insights into human behavioural patterns. An aspiring dress designer will get a lot of information on the art of tailoring.

The story is told in the first person, a difficult task for the beginners. Mary Leigh discloses her eventful life without fear or favour. She asks herself questions on life and love. She sometimes gets answers. And other time she seems to be at a loss. At another time she finds herself in between the devil and the sea. The author, Mary Jane Cole, a graduate both in Behavioural Science and Fashion Design, narrates the story with out any break and breach on the way till the end. She brings in surprise element in each twist and turn so beautifully that the reader is naturally captivated. Her narrative style, simple and short, is studded with a number of idioms and phrases. An aspiring writer shall benefit a lot from reading Mary's works. The book confirms that Mary knows the art of crafting a novel. We do not quote some of them due to space constraints

Nevertheless we felt that the denouement could be improved and the last few chapters could be written better. The encounter with Saba, rescuing Hal and his friends from the hideout, the following stunt between Mary and Saba and the involvement terrorists and FBI, the mock marriage etc seemed to be melodramatic. We felt a serious writer should not use cheap ingredients we call *Masalas* spices. **J.Kaval**

**Windows on Our World. Part I: Hope.** By **Les Bill Gates**, pages 332, price \$22.95, published by Lulu.com, ISBN 978-1-84753-515-3. [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) & [lesbillgates@yahoo.com](mailto:lesbillgates@yahoo.com)

Similar to the epics Mahabharata and Ramayana, the classics of Indian literature, Windows on Our World is a fantasy trilogy in the tradition of fantasy novels of recent era created by Les Bill Gates, the pen name of Leslie William Gates. Hope is the first part and the remaining parts, Faith and