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Destination: India

Film: **Hotel Salvation** (2017, NR, 100 mins., in Hindi w/English subtitles)

Faced with his father's bizarre demand to go and die in the holy city of Varanasi and attain Salvation, a son is left with no choice but to embark on this journey. (Hoopla)

Audiobook: **Lion** by Saroo Brierley

At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read or write or recall the name of his hometown or even his own last name, he survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. Brierley always wondered about his origins. Eventually, with the advent of Google Earth, he had the opportunity to look for the needle in a haystack he once called home and pore over satellite images for landmarks he might recognize or mathematical equations that might further narrow down the labyrinthine map of India. One day, after years of searching, he miraculously found what he was looking for and set off to find his family. (Hoopla)

Audiobook: **The Palace of Illusions** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

The novel is a rendition of the Hindu epic Mahabharata as told from Draupadi's viewpoint, namely, that of a woman living in a patriarchal world. (Hoopla)

E-book: **Heat and Dust** by Ruth Praver Jhabvala

A profound and powerful novel, winner of the Booker Prize... Set in colonial India during the 1920s, Heat and Dust tells the story of Olivia, a beautiful woman suffocated by the propriety and social constraints of her position as the wife of an important English civil servant. Longing for passion and independence, Olivia is drawn into the spell of the Nawab, a minor Indian prince deeply involved in gang raids and criminal plots. She is intrigued by the Nawab's charm and aggressive courtship, and soon begins to spend most of her days in his company. But then she becomes pregnant, and unsure of the child's paternity, she is faced with a wrenching dilemma. Her reaction to the crisis humiliates her husband and outrages the British community, breeding a scandal that lives in collective memory long after her death. (Hoopla)

Destination: India

E-book: **Erotic Stories for Punjabi Widows** by Balli Kaur Jaswal

Nikki lives in cosmopolitan West London, where she tends bar at the local pub. The daughter of Indian immigrants, she's spent most of her twenty-odd years distancing herself from the traditional Sikh community of her childhood, preferring a more independent (that is, Western) life. When her father's death leaves the family financially strapped, Nikki, a law school dropout, impulsively takes a job teaching a "creative writing" course at the community center in the beating heart of London's close-knit Punjabi community.

Because of a miscommunication, the proper Sikh widows who show up are expecting to learn basic English literacy, not the art of short-story writing. When one of the widows finds a book of sexy stories in English and shares it with the class, Nikki realizes that beneath their white dupattas, her students have a wealth of fantasies and memories. Eager to liberate these modest women, she teaches them how to express their untold stories, unleashing creativity of the most unexpected—and exciting—kind. (Overdrive)

E-book: **Milk and Honey** by Rupi Kaur

The book is divided into four chapters, and each chapter serves a different purpose. Deals with a different pain. Heals a different heartache. Milk and Honey takes readers through a journey of the most bitter moments in life and finds sweetness in them because there is sweetness everywhere if you are just willing to look. (Overdrive)

No Library Card Needed

E-book: **Very Close to Pleasure There's a Sick Cat** by Shakti Chattopadhyay

Loneliness, anxiety and dislocation dwell in Shakti Chattopadhyay's poems, but they are balanced by a compelling belief in the redemptive power of beauty. A compilation of verse from one of the most important Bengali poets of the twentieth century.

(<https://www.seagullbooks.org/very-close-to-pleasure-theres-a-sick-cat-pdf/>)expires 4/19/20

Virtual tour: **Wonders of India**

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