

Vishwanath Salian | ADC



**BOOK LAUNCH:** Author Rohit Trilokekar's debut novel *The Kitty Buddha* was launched by actress Perizaad Zorabian at Title Waves, Bandra (West), over the weekend. Seen in the picture (from left): Publisher Bhaskar Roy, author Rohit Trilokekar, actors -- Kunal Vijayakar and Perizaad Zorabian. The book is published by Palimpsest Publishing House.



Carol Andrade | ADC

carolandrade@aftermoondc.in

## Cat perspectives

This week, Editor Carol Andrade reviews two books with feline motifs running through their pages. In a stroke of Orwellian writing, 'The Wildings', by Nilanjan Roy, deals with cats that populate Old Delhi in a way that present them almost as if they were human beings, full of whims, idiosyncrasies and flaws. 'The Kitty Buddha' by Rohit Trilokekar works almost as a counterpoint and a companion piece to the previous book, in that it deals with a wise-cracking smutty cat achieving enlightenment while searching for her lover.

**M**Y advice is not to read this immediately after you have finished the previous cat book, because while this is also a book about a cat, it is startling in its presumptions and occasionally disconcerting in its use of language to describe sex between cats, and just under the female cat veneer can be discerned the persona of a young man who gave up a career in sales to pursue writing.

The Kitty Buddha is his first book and hopefully there will be many others, because the basic premise is definitely interesting. Here is a cat, "pampered and privileged" and also named Kitty. She meets Tommy, a macho - well - tom - with whom she has sex and by whom she is dumped, a procedure considered completely normal in the cat world which is really not big on fidelity.

But Kitty is different and goes on a tour of Mumbai, encountering one charac-

### All about the lovely seventh sense

ter after another. She is looking for Tommy and finds life instead, lovers on beaches, contract killers, drug peddlers, koli women, security guards and the like. In other words, people who are pretty much a cliché for Mumbai, city of Bollywood, mafia of various kinds and of course, some with hearts of gold.

Kitty is also given to quoting people - Martin Luther King, using the language of the street to describe her experiences and talking out loud like any young, urbanised human who has had too many unsavoury experiences. The spiritual development bit is a metaphor for her own enlightenment, at the end of which she proclaims herself the Buddha, having left her life of comfort to travel the world, looking for something. But it's just a "stud cat" she is looking for and instead received

"enlightenment" and that is the part one tends to find disconcerting. Plus there are too many rhetorical questions Was I really enlightened? Could it be mere hallucination?

Apparently not, because as Kitty is talking to a big black bird, thinking, "I'm going to teach you a thing or two, 'enlightenment strikes'. And that's when it hit me. That was the purpose of my life, my purr'spective, whatever you might call it. To teach others the true meaning of life! All about the lovely seventh sense. About letting go! That's what the Buddha had done, hadn't he?... Could I be missing something...?"

We could ask the same question.

**The Kitty Buddha**

By Rohit Trilokekar

Published by

Palimpsest, 197 pages

Price: Rs.499



ROHIT TRILOKEKAR



[Home](#) > [48 Hrs](#) > Writer's block: the kitty Buddha

## **Writer's block: the kitty Buddha**

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### **The Kitty Buddha by Rohit Trilokekar**

You can tell from the first chapter itself that Mumbai born sales executive Rohit Trilokekar is a witty writer, which is apt, because he recently released a book called The Kitty Buddha, which is a well-written tale of a pussycat that becomes more than just, well, a cat. Those with slight sensitivities though should beware before diving in; the book is laced with adult humour as it travels on a path with a new philosophy that Kitty believes is the antidote to suffering. Filled with a gamut of emotions and instances with her lover Tommy, we're made to traipse through her journey of life as Kitty sets off to try and understand it's deeper meaning, just like Prince Siddhartha. Filled with peppering of the city life such as actors, killers, peddlers and a bevy of animals that are almost like a philosopher's followers, the book observes, comments and discusses in short, witty sentences. The writing seems a bit contrived at times and conversations though short, a bit long-drawn out — but it's interesting and worth a read. If you don't mind a little adult humour, by all means, pick up a copy of Rohit's debut novel.

**Price** `499

**Where** Available at all the leading bookstores across the city such as Title Waves, Bandra (W) and online stores such as [www.flipkart.com](http://www.flipkart.com)