

What you need to know before PURCHASING A KINDLE

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I first considered getting a Kindle when I started traveling frequently. Overtime, the idea grew more appealing as I realised how much time I spent commuting. On the way to university, the long hours on the bus often felt like wasted opportunities. Reading seemed like a good option, but my bags were always overloaded with study materials and textbooks, leaving little to no room for the books I actually wanted to read.

The idea of having an entire library condensed into a lightweight device started to seem not just convenient, but almost essential. Since then, I have started to read significantly more. It's a refreshing change from the constant distractions of traditional digital devices. According to findings

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by Statista, internet users spent six hours and 36 minutes online daily as of the second quarter of 2024. A large fraction of this time involves endless notifications and distractions that make it hard to focus on anything meaningful for an extended period of time. This is where Kindle stands out, since it offers the benefits of a digital device while maintaining the simplicity and focus of reading a physical book, free from the noise of the digital world.

While it is not cheap, the variety of options make it easier to find the right fit for each reader. Starting off, the Kindle Basic (10th Generation) is an entry-level model and comes with 8 GB of storage, which can accommodate up to approximately 5,000 text-heavy eBooks,

depending on the file size and formatting. It features an e-ink display designed to provide a glare-free reading experience, closely mimicking the appearance of real paper. This makes it ideal for use in both indoor and outdoor settings, including bright sunlight.

However, it's worth noting that not all Kindle models are waterproof. The Kindle Paperwhite series, which offers a step up from the Basic model, includes a range of versions starting from the Paperwhite 4 to the more recent Paperwhite 5 and Paperwhite 6 Signature Edition. These models come with additional features such as higher storage capacities, ranging from 8 GB to 32GB, and adjustable warm light settings for a more comfortable reading experience at night.

Each model in the Paperwhite lineup caters

to different user needs. For example, the Paperwhite 5 introduced a larger 6.8-inch display with thinner bezels, while the Signature Edition offers features like wireless charging and an auto-adjusting front light.

Kindle devices are renowned for their exceptional battery life, which can last up to a month or more on a single charge, depending on usage. This makes them incredibly travel-friendly and hassle-free, allowing users to read extensively without constantly worrying about finding a power outlet. Kindle's long battery life is a significant advantage for an avid reader like myself.

In addition to its portability, Kindle supports wireless listening devices via Bluetooth,

compensating for the lack of a traditional headphone jack. This feature is particularly useful for those who enjoy audiobooks available through Amazon's Audible service. With a pair of Bluetooth-enabled headphones or a speaker, users can seamlessly switch between reading and listening.

When compared to other e-reading devices like Kobo and Nook, Kindle stands out primarily because of Amazon's ecosystem. The Kindle Store offers one of the largest selections of eBooks, including exclusive titles that are not available on other platforms.

Kindle users can take advantage of Kindle Unlimited, a subscription service that provides unlimited access to a rotating catalogue of over two million eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines. For Amazon Prime members, Prime Reading adds even more value, offering access to a curated selection of books and magazines at no additional cost.

Kindle also seamlessly integrates with library borrowing services like OverDrive and Libby, making it easy for users to borrow and read library eBooks directly on their devices. While competitors like Kobo also offer library integration and support for a broader range of file formats (such as EPUB without conversion), Kindle's simplicity and vast library of content often make it the preferred choice for many readers.

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Ultimately, what sets Kindle apart is its ability to combine the best aspects of physical books with the convenience of modern technology. With its extensive content library, subscription options, portability, and long battery life, Kindle transforms how you read and allows you to focus on the joy of reading, no matter where you are.

Ohona Anjum writes, rhymes, and studies English literature.

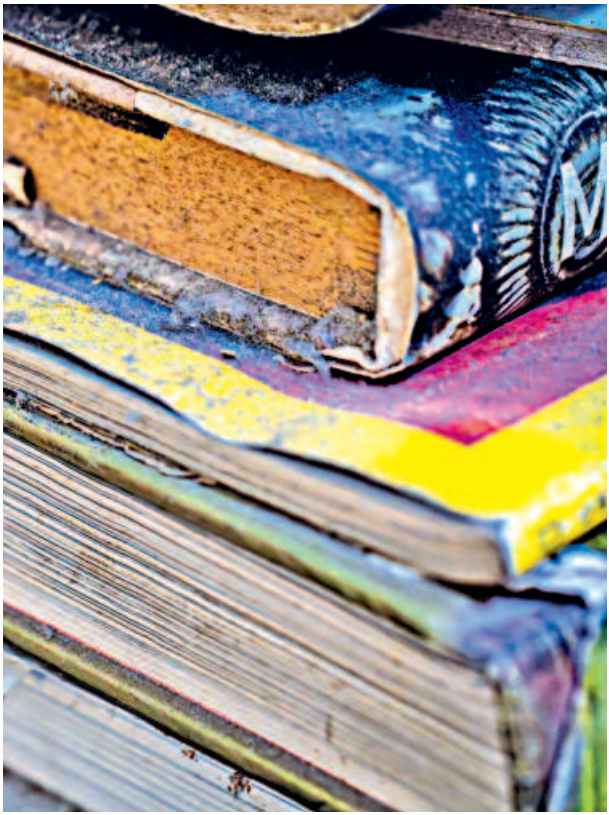


PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

Musings of a once avid reader

ANICA BUSHRA RAHMAAN

I pick up my copy of *Orlando*, poised to be swept away to Woolf's radical world, even though my eyes are bleary. I haven't gotten any reading done in the last two days. I have to read at least one page tonight. I must. It's a self-imposed insistence or, perhaps, defiance. Otherwise, I will be forced to face the bitter reality, that the bond I once shared with books is fading, like a flame flickering in the wind, no matter how hard I try to shield it with my hands.

I remember a family member once telling me that I would eventually grow out of my habit of reading and that life would, at some point, allow little space for it. I dismissed it with arrogance and barely concealed irritation. Books held a very precious place in my life, and that would always be the case. I would make sure of it.

And now, when I am not even halfway through the page, the weight of growing up hums persistently in the back of my mind. I have an early morning class the next day, I should just go to sleep. I have an assignment due soon. If I am staying up late, I might as well finish that. The quiet demands of adulthood have rendered reading – something that used to be so captivating, freeing, and easy – into a chore.

Sure, there are explanations and even solutions. I could blame it on how pervasive technology, social media, and phones have become. I could also try switching to a new genre or different medium. But they all feel hollow – only serving as a reminder of how hard it is to rekindle something that once came so naturally. It instills a sense of obligation instead of mere joy, making the distance feel even greater.

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It might seem silly to be distraught over something like this. I mean, it's just books, right? Try telling that to the 15-year-old girl for whom books were a blissful escape and a constant. On the roads, no matter how much her mother scolded her, she would sneak glances at the book on her lap, the streetlights, flickering in and out, serving as her only guiding light. She would stay up through the quiet hours of the night, with burning eyes, consuming story after story as though the words might vanish. She had no worries about the obligations of the next day or the pending tasks festering away at the back of her mind. She simply let the words flow through and warm her heart.

She would read in between classes, during lunch breaks, and in any situation that warranted waiting. That teenager would be crushed at such an unfolding. It hurts to drift away from books and the warmth of words, and let my imagination lie dormant. It almost feels a little like grief.

A book still travels with me wherever I go. It's the one habit I have not been able to shake off – an empty comfort. In the end, I still try to read a page, close the book, and place it in my bag. Maybe, one day, the words will pull me back like they used to and I will finally be able to restore this fraying thread. For now, I will pretend just a little longer.

Anica Bushra Rahmaan has deluded herself into thinking hoarding books counts as reading. Perhaps, one day, she'll be able to read it all. Reach her at anicarahmaan@gmail.com



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