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Post-Event Report

Event	Halloween week
Topic	Social media posts on Halloween: Introduction to Halloween, Celebrations, Gothic fiction, Gothic fiction writers, Quiz, Facts and Tiny Tale Competition
Organizer	Encore - The English Literary Society of Department of English, SGND Khalsa College
Date	23rd October 2021 - 1st November 2021
Time	NA
Duration	1 week
Place/Platform	Social Media platforms
Number of Participants	NA
Guest Speaker/Trainer	NA
Welcome Speech	NA
Introduction to the Speaker	NA
Activities	Halloween facts posted by Agam Kaur (English Hons., 2 nd year) Sunday Halloween Quiz by Virtika Sehgal (English Hons., 3 rd year) Tiny Tale Writing Competition
Main Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The posts explored the origins of Halloween; the visually appealing posters discussed Halloween celebrations and their versions in the modern world.• Monday Post: Halloween themed poster• Tuesday Post: Introduction to Halloween - Its origin and Culture• Wednesday Post: Halloween celebrations around the world and its legacy• Thursday Post: Introduction to Gothic fiction: its origin and adaptation in literature• Friday Post: Edgar Allan Poe and his contribution to Gothic literature• Saturday Post: movies and book recommendation



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Vote of thanks	
Feedback (Share the link of the Google Form & attach the Excel File generated therein) NA	
Attendance Sheet (Attach Photocopy) NA	
Poster (Attach below)	
Pictures (Attach Five Photos)	
Attach Photocopy of two Certificates NA	

Signature:

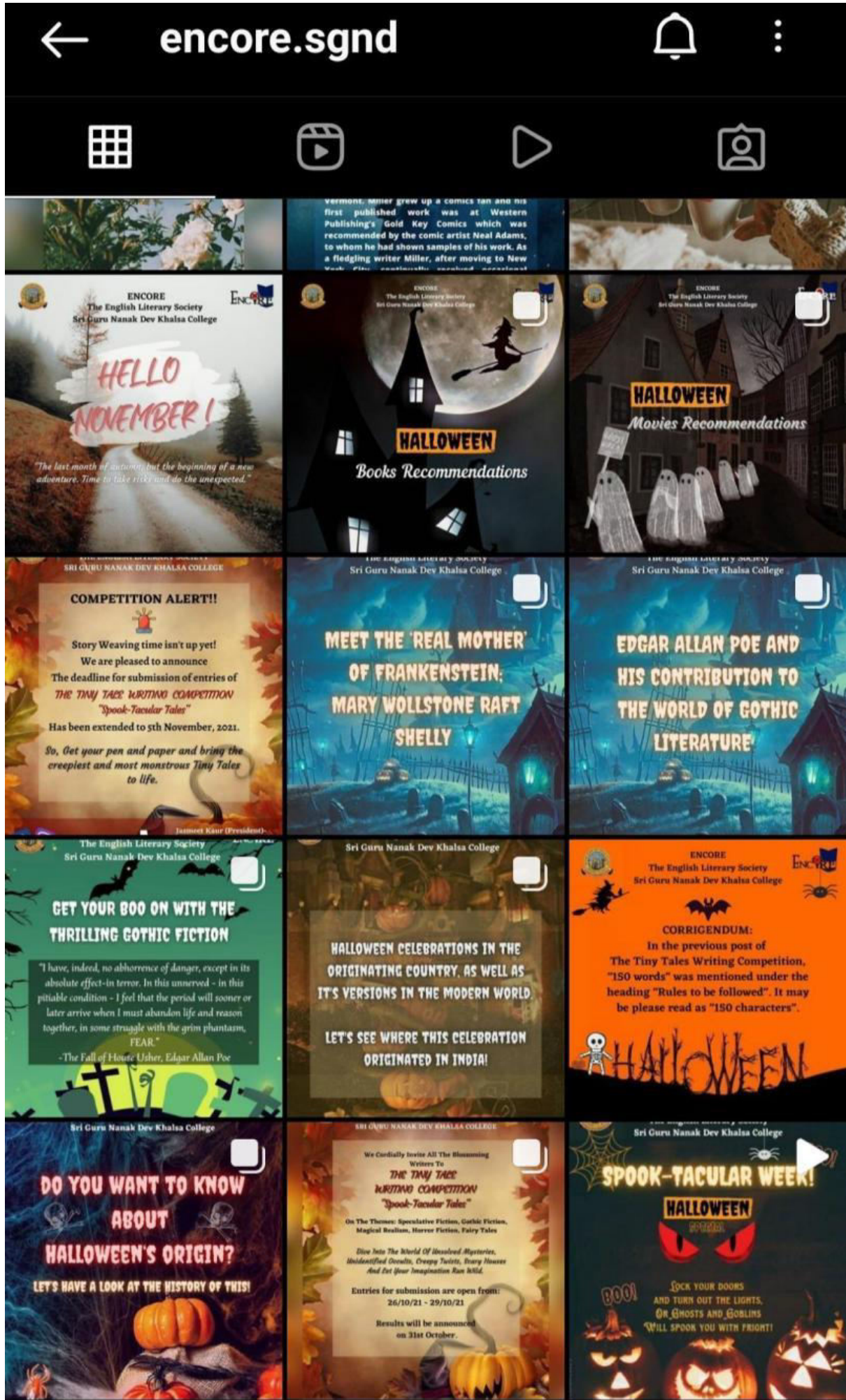
Name: Dr. Abhishek Sharma

(Convenor)



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BOO!

SPOOK-TACULAR WEEK!

HALLOWEEN

SPECIAL



BOO!

LOCK YOUR DOORS
AND TURN OUT THE LIGHTS,
OR GHOSTS AND GOBLINS
WILL SPOOK YOU WITH FRIGHT!





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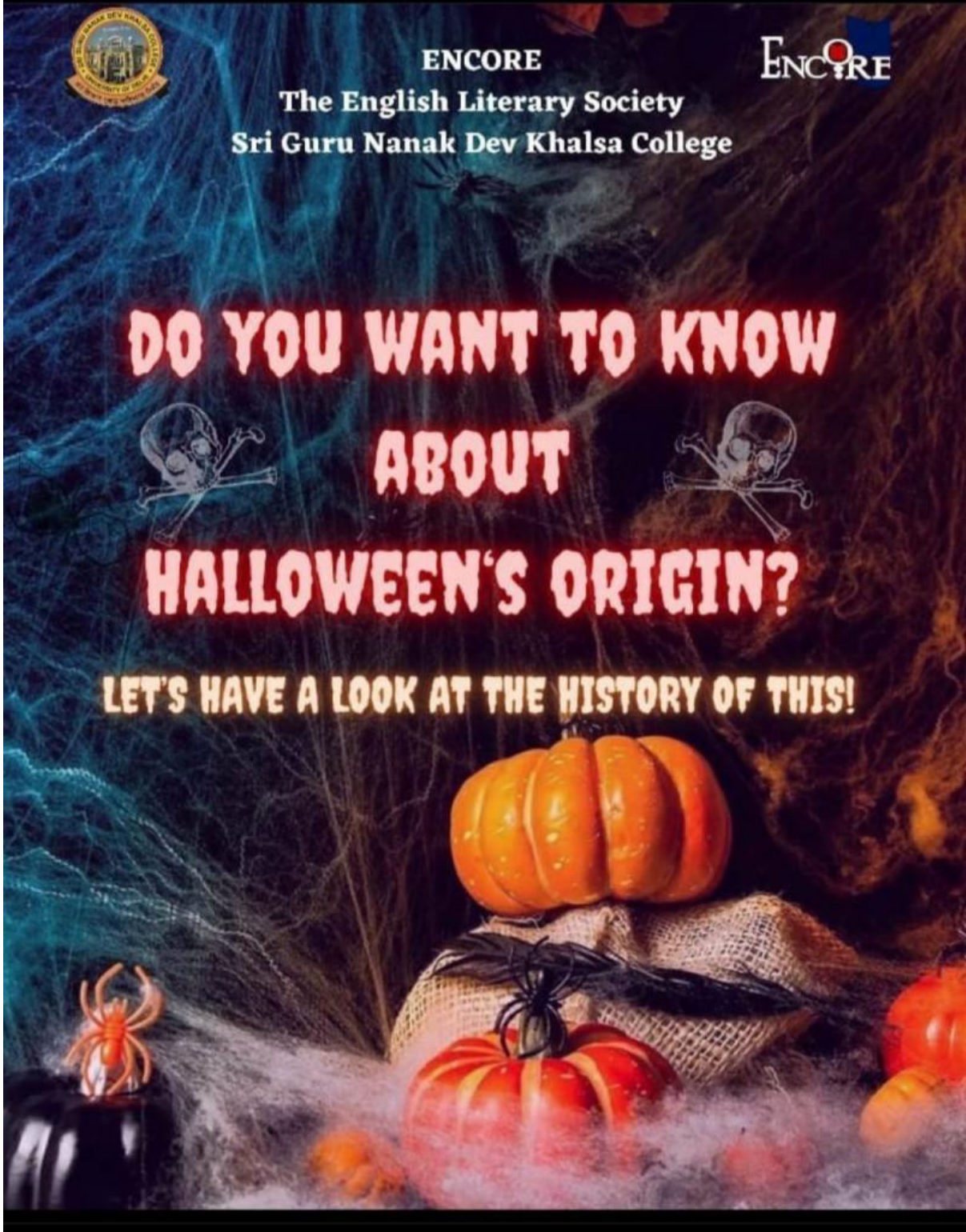


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DO YOU WANT TO KNOW
ABOUT
HALLOWEEN'S ORIGIN?

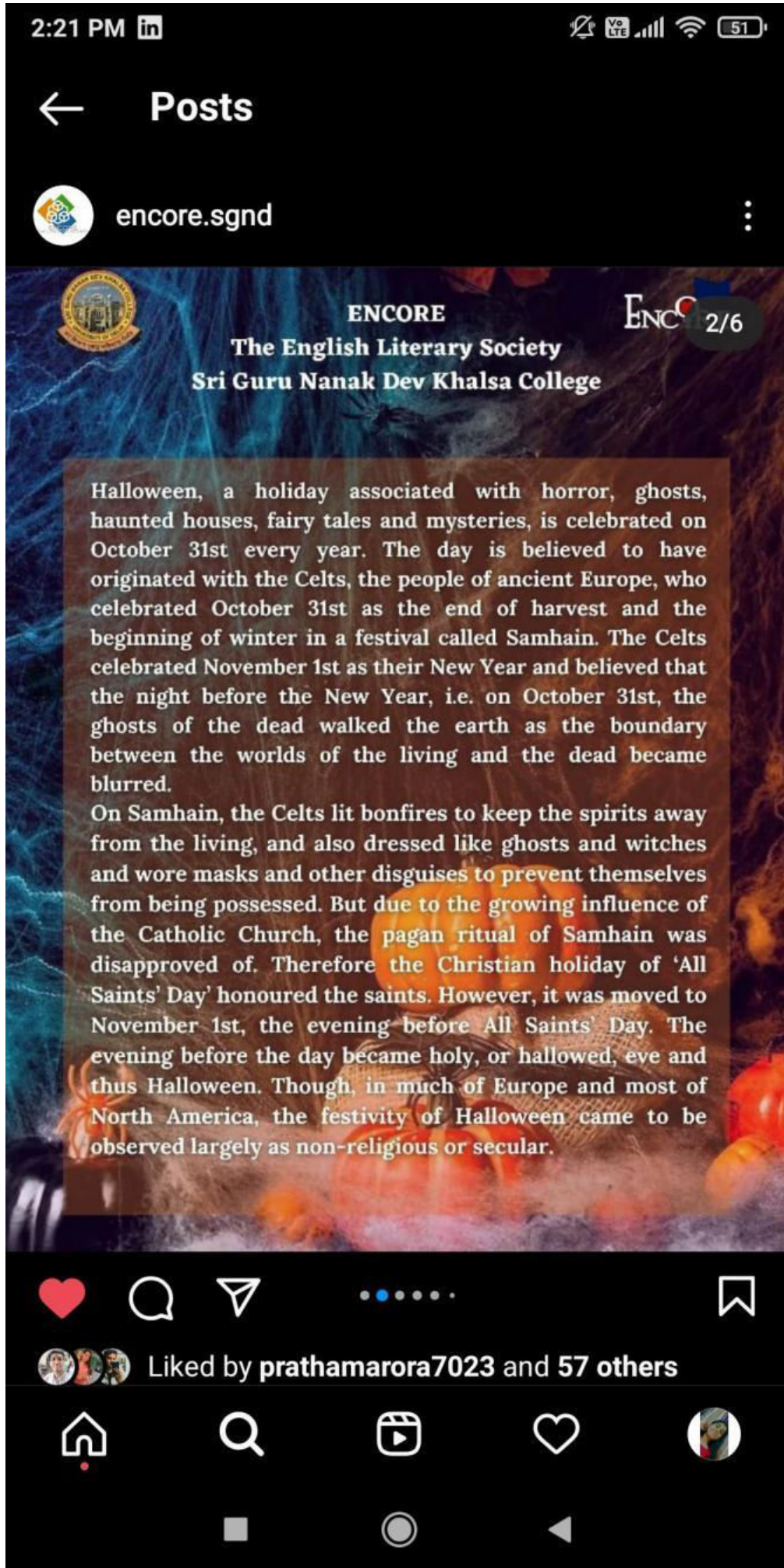
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THIS!





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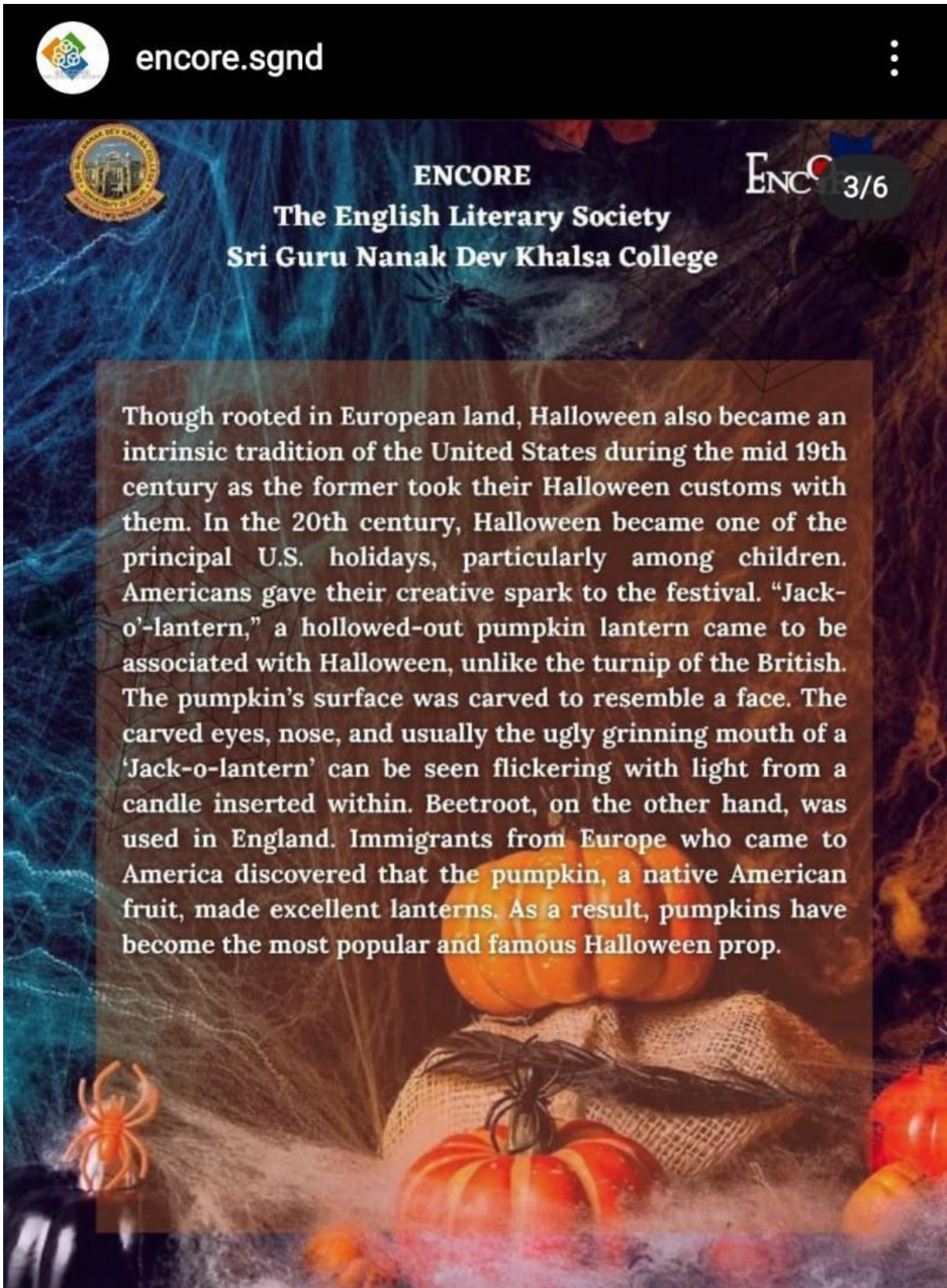


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Though rooted in European land, Halloween also became an intrinsic tradition of the United States during the mid 19th century as the former took their Halloween customs with them. In the 20th century, Halloween became one of the principal U.S. holidays, particularly among children. Americans gave their creative spark to the festival. "Jack-o'-lantern," a hollowed-out pumpkin lantern came to be associated with Halloween, unlike the turnip of the British. The pumpkin's surface was carved to resemble a face. The carved eyes, nose, and usually the ugly grinning mouth of a 'Jack-o-lantern' can be seen flickering with light from a candle inserted within. Beetroot, on the other hand, was used in England. Immigrants from Europe who came to America discovered that the pumpkin, a native American fruit, made excellent lanterns. As a result, pumpkins have become the most popular and famous Halloween prop.





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But this is not all: the joy, thrill, terror and scare of Halloween develop from its amazing and heart wrenching celebrations which particularly excite the children. Halloween eve became fascinating when people dressed up as saints went door to door reciting songs or poetry. Children would often go door to door requesting "soul cakes," a biscuit-like goodie. Soul cakes, on the other hand, started on November 2 as part of the All Souls' Day holiday. But as the concept expanded into trick-or-treating, they became a component of Halloween night. In the early to mid-1900s, the candy-grabbing concept grew popular in the United States, with families giving goodies to youngsters in the hopes that they would be immune to Christmas pranks.

Not only this but, the costumes also were an important element of the celebration, and they too evolved. While they began as solemn homages to saints, the ritual fell out of favour at some point, until youthful Scottish and Irish pranksters resurrected the tradition as a method to frighten unsuspecting neighbours. Halloween costumes became terrifying, creepy, humorous, and inventive all at the same time due to these neighbourhood hooligans.



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The observance of Halloween was highly restricted in colonial New England due to stringent Protestant theological systems. Halloween was far popular in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and rituals of various European ethnic groups and American Indians collided, a uniquely American version of Halloween arose. "Play Parties," which were public activities held to celebrate the harvest, were the first celebrations. Neighbours would tell each other ghost stories, tell fortunes, dance, and sing.

The telling of ghost stories and various forms of mischief-making were also a part of the Colonial Halloween celebrations. Annual autumn celebrations were prevalent by the middle of the nineteenth century, but Halloween was not yet widely observed. The new experiment swamped America in the second half of the nineteenth century. These newcomers, particularly the millions of Irish escaping the Irish Potato Famine, helped to promote Halloween across the country. Today, not just America and England, the craze of Halloween has reached every nook and corner of the world. However, every tradition is not followed with sincerity in these parts of the world as they have their own set of rituals.



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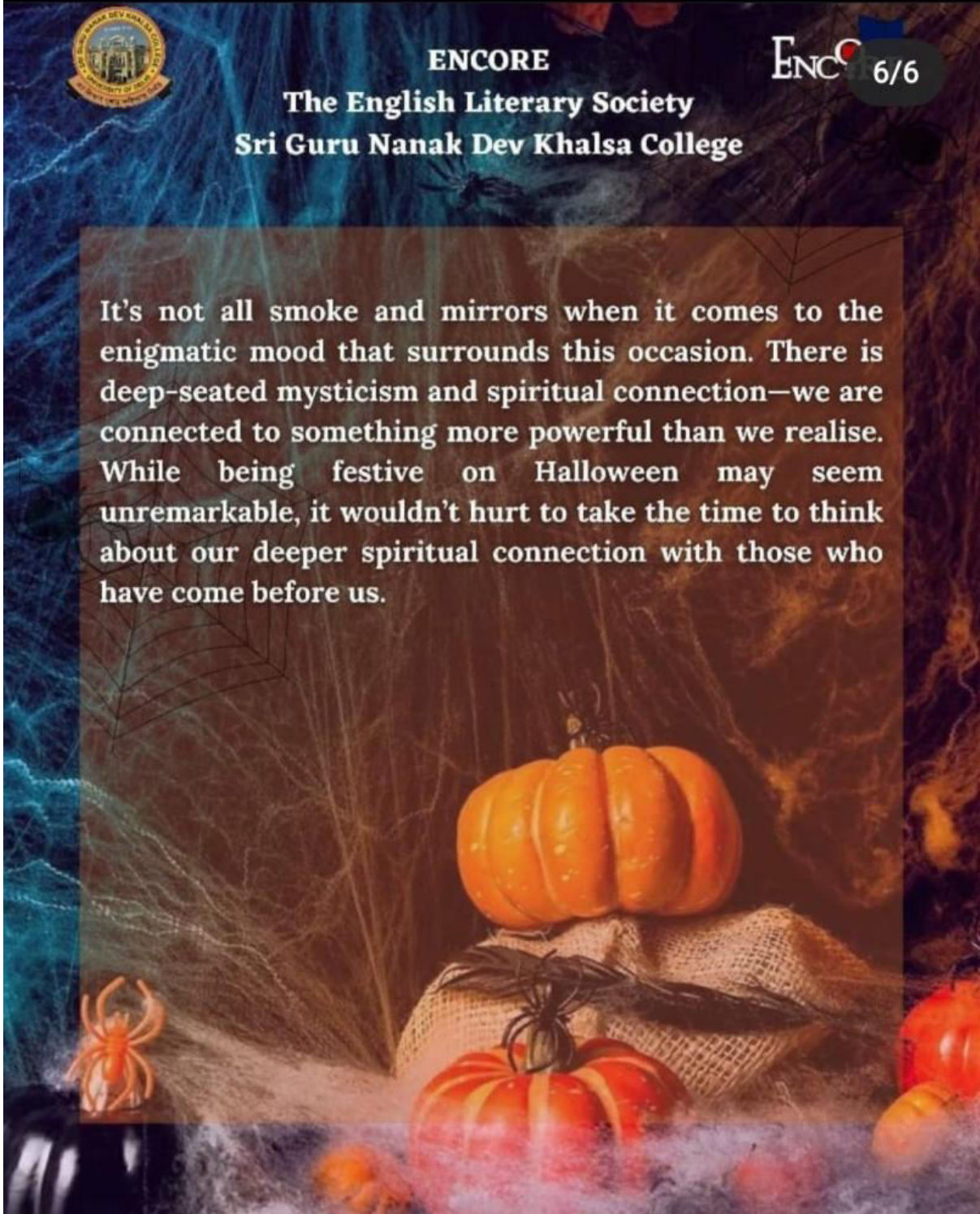


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It's not all smoke and mirrors when it comes to the enigmatic mood that surrounds this occasion. There is deep-seated mysticism and spiritual connection—we are connected to something more powerful than we realise. While being festive on Halloween may seem unremarkable, it wouldn't hurt to take the time to think about our deeper spiritual connection with those who have come before us.





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**HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS IN THE
ORIGINATING COUNTRY, AS WELL AS
IT'S VERSIONS IN THE MODERN WORLD.**

**LET'S SEE WHERE THIS CELEBRATION
ORIGINATED IN INDIA!**



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Halloween, the day when people remember the dead, is celebrated annually on 31st October. They don costumes and throw parties, where a winner is announced for the best Halloween costume. While children, knocking on doors and bellowing "Trick or Treat" wander around at night, hoping for candies in return, adults carve pumpkins and use them as lanterns. Usually, these decorations take place in the house in a spooky environment that scare children and others, adding thrill to the celebrations.

Initially, it was a 'pagan' holiday, inclusive of some rituals, such as carving pumpkins, dressing up as ghostly creatures, etc. However, with time Christianity appropriated incomplete and these holidays became a part of pop culture and therefore are celebrated with the greatest joy in the Western world. The origin of the festival is believed to have been from Ireland.



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As soon as one hears the word “Halloween,” pumpkins pop up in their minds as they are an integral part of the celebrations. It dates back to the roots of an Irish legend of Stingy Jack. According to the legend, Jack invited the devil to have a drink with him. However, he wasn’t willing to pay for the drinks and asked the devil to turn into a coin so he could buy their drinks. Jack, being Jack, kept the coin in his pocket next to a silver cross that kept the devil from reverting to his original form. Jack freed the devil on the condition that he would not bother him for a year and that when Jack would die, he would not claim his soul back.

Jack deceived the devil again and made him climb a tree. When the devil was up on the tree he carved a cross on the bark of the tree so that the Devil could not come down until he promised that he would not bother him for another ten years.



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When Jack died, God refused to let him enter Heaven, and the Devil, who was angry with Jack, did not allow him to enter Hell. He sent Jack off into the night with only a glowing coal to light his way. Putting the glowing charcoal inside a carved turnip Jack roamed the Earth ever since.

The Irish began to call this ghostly figure “Jack of the Lantern” or “Jack O’Lantern.” In Ireland and Scotland, people used turnips (the original object used by Stingy Jack) and carved spooky faces they believed scared Stingy Jack. In England, however, beetroot is used. Immigrants from Europe who moved to the United States discovered that the pumpkin, a fruit native to America, made perfect lanterns. That is how pumpkins became the most popular and prominent prop of Halloween.



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This European tradition later was borrowed by Americans where they began to disguise themselves as scary characters. They went from house to house asking for money or food, which is now known as "Trick or Treat." Halloween is an event to dress up, party, and have fun.

Tremendously celebrated in the United States, Canada, Ireland, England, New Zealand, and Australia, the craze for this festival now extends its roots to the Indian region as well. However, Indian mythology has its own set of concepts of the afterlife and communication with the dead. These are weird religious beliefs and is natural for Indians to immerse themselves in folklore and mythology.

Children in India usually discover ghosts and supernatural beings - for the first time - through stories recited by their grandmothers, based on folktales. This instinct attracts more and more people to the festival. It is very common for us to believe in these things.



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Being new to the Indian tradition, Halloween is more relevant and is mostly recognized by residents of metropolitan cities like Delhi and Mumbai. Thus, the craze of the festival has not yet hit small Indian towns. Teens and adults dress up as ghosts and spooky characters and throw parties day and night. Many family-recreational parks, play areas, and activity centers organize special events for children. Even in restaurants, Halloween-themed dishes are served.

Although this festival has been recognized, it also has suffered setbacks. Many people do not believe that one should engage in celebrations by remembering the dead and the departed, even if it is done for fun. Indian traditions perceive remembrance through fasting or prayer and charity in the specific period called "Pitru Paksha." Souls that have passed on don't do well with festivities.



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Celebrating Halloween develops a sense of imagination and fun in young people. Children, in particular, learn a lot from these festivities. It also helps in trashing myths and legends about ghosts and supernatural beings. Just like the other festivals, Halloween can be seen as an event to be explored for initiatives, exclusive offers, and entertainment. It can be seen as a day to spend with our friends, family and loved ones.



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**GET YOUR BOO ON WITH THE
THRILLING GOTHIC FICTION**

"I have, indeed, no abhorrence of danger, except in its absolute effect-in terror. In this unnerved - in this pitiable condition - I feel that the period will sooner or later arrive when I must abandon life and reason together, in some struggle with the grim phantasm, FEAR."

-The Fall of House Usher, Edgar Allan Poe



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The 'Boo-tiful' eve of Halloween is associated with horror, ghosts, magical realism and fairy tales. And not only kids but adults are also seen wearing spooky costumes, carving pumpkins on the doors, telling each other ghost stories, telling fortunes, dancing and singing, and enjoying themselves to the fullest.

But the fun, horror and occult of Halloween are not limited to just following the traditions, eating, and partying. A large part of the celebrations also revolves around weaving Gothic and Horror stories as well as Fairy tales with creepy twists, unidentified creatures and magical elements within them, thus completing the eve of Halloween.



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Though these stories woven around Halloween are solely for entertainment, literature takes the business of Gothic fiction, horror and magical realism with much more seriousness. Elements such as extravagance, superstition, fancy, and wildness, which were initially viewed negatively, became associated with a more expansive and imaginative potential for aesthetic production in the 18th century, which can then be referred to as 'Gothic Fiction.'

If one has to dive deep into the historical connection between Gothic fiction and Halloween, it is apparent that both of them have many features in common. Both Gothic fiction and Halloween are of European descent, with the former originating from 'Barbarian' superstitious beliefs and practises, natural wildness, melodies and romances.



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When the summer days finished, the festivity of Halloween evolved from 'pagan' celebrations of pastoral and agricultural festivals devoted to warding off the spirits and forces of darkness and decay, as well as the glory of the dead. Thus, both have their roots in social rituals and norms committed to the supernatural or the realm of the dead.

Enlightenment beliefs praising the virtue of logic developed in the mid-eighteenth century, emphasising scientific inquiry and reason, as well as a critical examination of established institutions, practises, and morals. This marked a departure from a previous social order based on faith and conviction. The three most common and important tropes in this genre, 'terror' in both a psychological and physical sense, 'the supernatural,' which includes ghosts, curses, and haunted houses, and 'architecture,' which includes castles, dungeons, secret passages, cathedrals, crypts, and graveyards, emerged as a reaction to the Enlightenment,



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Praising the pleasures of extreme emotion, and the unknown, and evoking excitement and uncertainty. As a result of which the Gothic was given a new push.

The employment of horror is the most common subject of Gothic fiction. Horror, death, monsters, and figures like vampires, ghosts, skeletons, witches, and demons are all heavily featured, along with psychological and physical dread, mystery, the supernatural, ghosts, haunted houses, Gothic architecture, castles, abbeys, darkness, decay, doubles, lunacy, secrets, and generational curses. From wild ghostly landscapes to damsels in distress, violent and erotic fantasies to supernatural and uncanny phenomena, Gothic Fiction celebrates the dead. Thereby, death and the afterlife become themes of Gothic literature.

This style of writing however is also a genre of fiction that mixes themes of horror with romance, through nature worship and natural imagery.



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Apart from that, Gothic literature (particularly novels and stories with settings like the dark, eerie graveyard, the haunted castle, and the lone mansion on the hill) was influenced by the unique vision of the sublime. Books frequently featured such locations and were labelled Gothic, since their imaginative inspiration was drawn from mediaeval architecture and ruins. Throughout history, images like these have piqued the interest of readers.

Horace Walpole's hugely successful Castle of Otranto started the trend in England (1765). Ann Radcliffe, whose Mysteries of Udolpho (1794) and Italian (1797) are among the best instances of the type, was his most devout devotee. Following the publication of Horace Walpole's "The Castle of Otranto: A Gothic Story," Gothic literature flourished in Europe, America, and a few other nations, notably France. Its scary and daring stories set in dark and ominous locales were popular in the nineteenth century.



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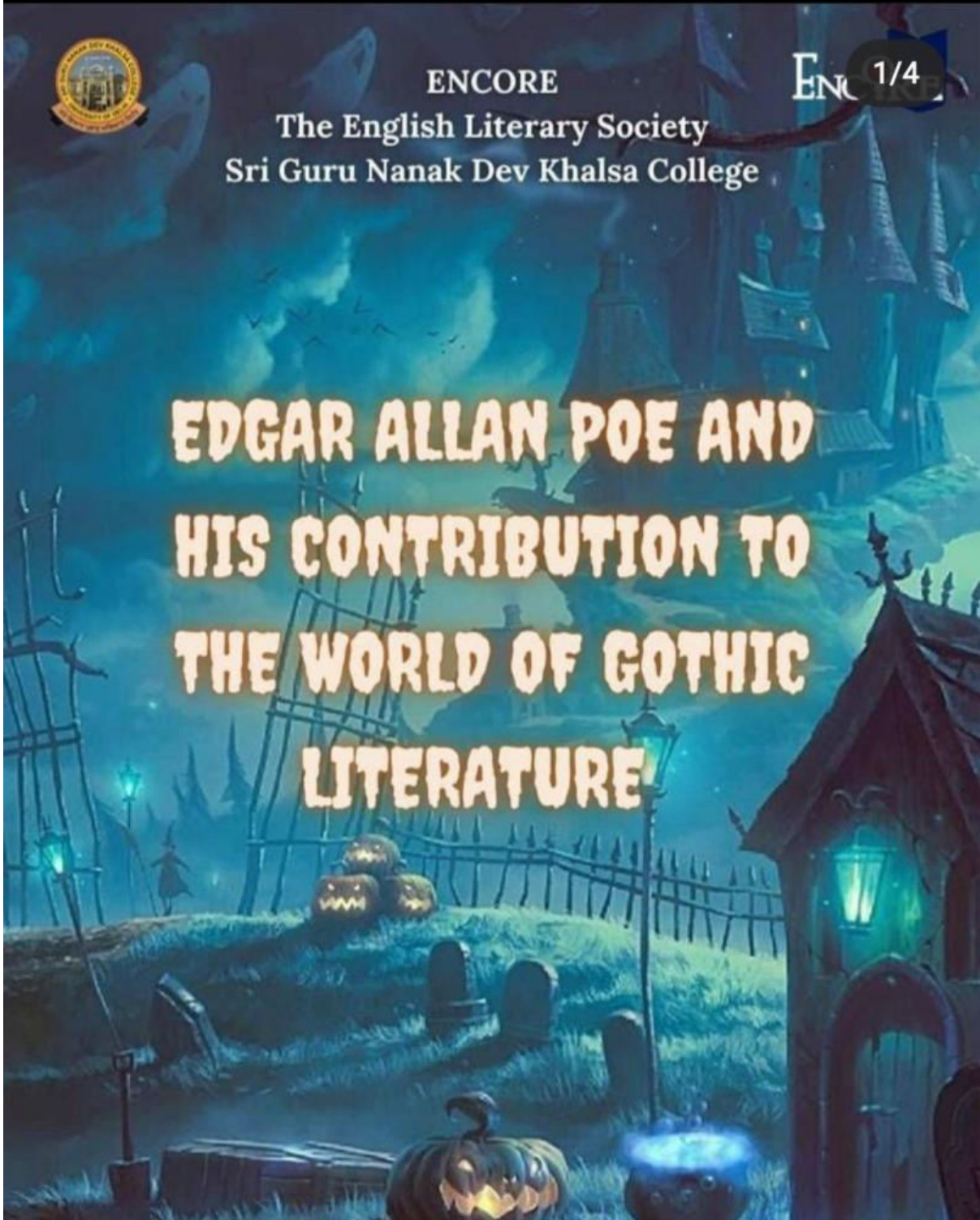


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**EDGAR ALLAN POE AND
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO
THE WORLD OF GOTHIC
LITERATURE**





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Gothic literature—a style of writing that goes from figures like monsters, vampires, ghosts, skeletons, witches, demons to psychological dread, physical horror, death, mystery, haunted houses, as well as Gothic architecture, castles, abbeys, along with darkness, decay, doubles, lunacy, secrets, and generational curses—is incomplete without the mention of some the prominent writers who developed and changed the style of writing. Edgar Allan Poe, a prominent American writer known for his work and extensive contribution in science, detective, and horror stories, uses psychics in his stories that give readers the thrill of peeping into the protagonist's mind. A sense of distinct morbidity is provided in his stories through the themes like the resurgence of the dead, horror of death and its effect on human psychology, and reading its effects through symbolism. He romanticises the idea of darkness, cultivating mystery and macabre through the use of the gothic by incorporating a demoniac undertone in his narrations. He is often described as someone whose writings are haunted by darkness consisting of intangible magnetism.



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Add a little bit of Poe seems to have developed an interest in poetry early in his life but was never supported by his foster father or professors. His life occurrences and experiences are often interpreted as the inspiration behind the characters and plots of his stories. He was abandoned by his father and lost his mother at the age of three after which he was fostered by a family of Allans who gave him the name Edgar Allan Poe. They, however, never adopted him officially. As he grew old, he developed a gambling habit and became hooked to booze, which his foster father refused to pay. His debts continued to grow as he left college in its first year and was even abandoned by his fiancé. His life remained full of tragedy as he first lost his foster mother to tuberculosis then his wife as well. He started drinking heavily after suffering these tragedies, romanticizing death and becoming obsessed with it.

Even though Edgar Allan Poe began his writing career as a poet, he rapidly realised the popularity of short stories. Although Edgar Allan Poe was not the first to write horror stories, his literary approach laid the groundwork for what has become a hugely famous literary genre. Other horror writers such as Ambrose Bierce and H.P. Lovecraft was inspired by his use of psychological horror through first-person narration. Poe began by writing burlesques of Gothic stories, but he soon moved on to writing real Gothic fiction. Dungeons, ghosts, and decaying castles with secret passageways are common features in Gothic stories, a general atmosphere of gloom and doom, and elements like dungeons, ghosts, and decaying castles with secret passageways.



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To heighten suspense and draw readers into the character's struggle, Poe uses his main character as a first-person narrator in several of his works. It also provides readers with an intimate insight into the character's psyche, adding realism to Poe's writings by helping readers to feel more connected to—and hence more terrified of—the characters. The unreliable narrator in "The Tell-Tale Heart" is one of Poe's most masterful uses of first-person narration in a ghost story. The paranoid narrator rushes to reassure the reader that he is of sound mind and body at the beginning of the story. However, as the story unfolds, the reader sees the narrator's mind disintegrate as he suffers from paranoia. The reader follows the man's feelings as they build inside his mind at the height of his distress:

"I talked still faster and louder. And the sound, too, became louder. It was a quick, low, soft sound, like the sound of a clock heard through a wall, a sound I knew well. Louder it became, and louder. Why did the men not go? Louder, louder."

He unravelled the mystery of the impalpable by materialising it, using psyching and insanity of the human mind, creating a sense of terror and horror amongst his readers leaving them flabbergasted. His stories and poems such as "The Black Cat", "The Raven", "The Pit and The Pendulum", "Fall of The House of Usher" are some of his finest works in gothic literature in which he used themes of revenge, insanity, hypnotism, horror, and death using symbolism attracting both admiration and animosity.



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**MEET THE 'REAL MOTHER'
OF FRANKENSTEIN;
MARY WOLLSTONE RAFT
SHELLY**



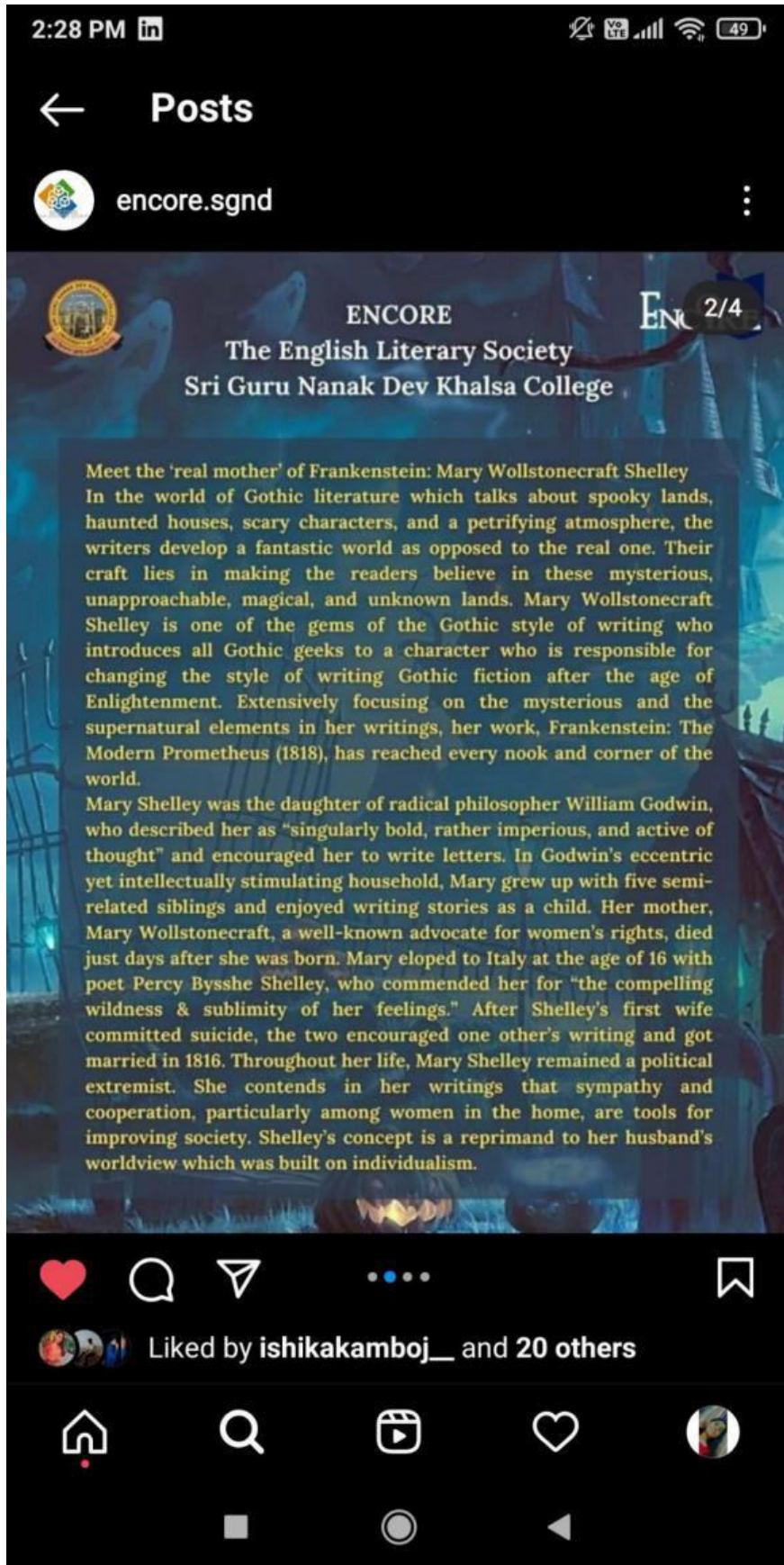
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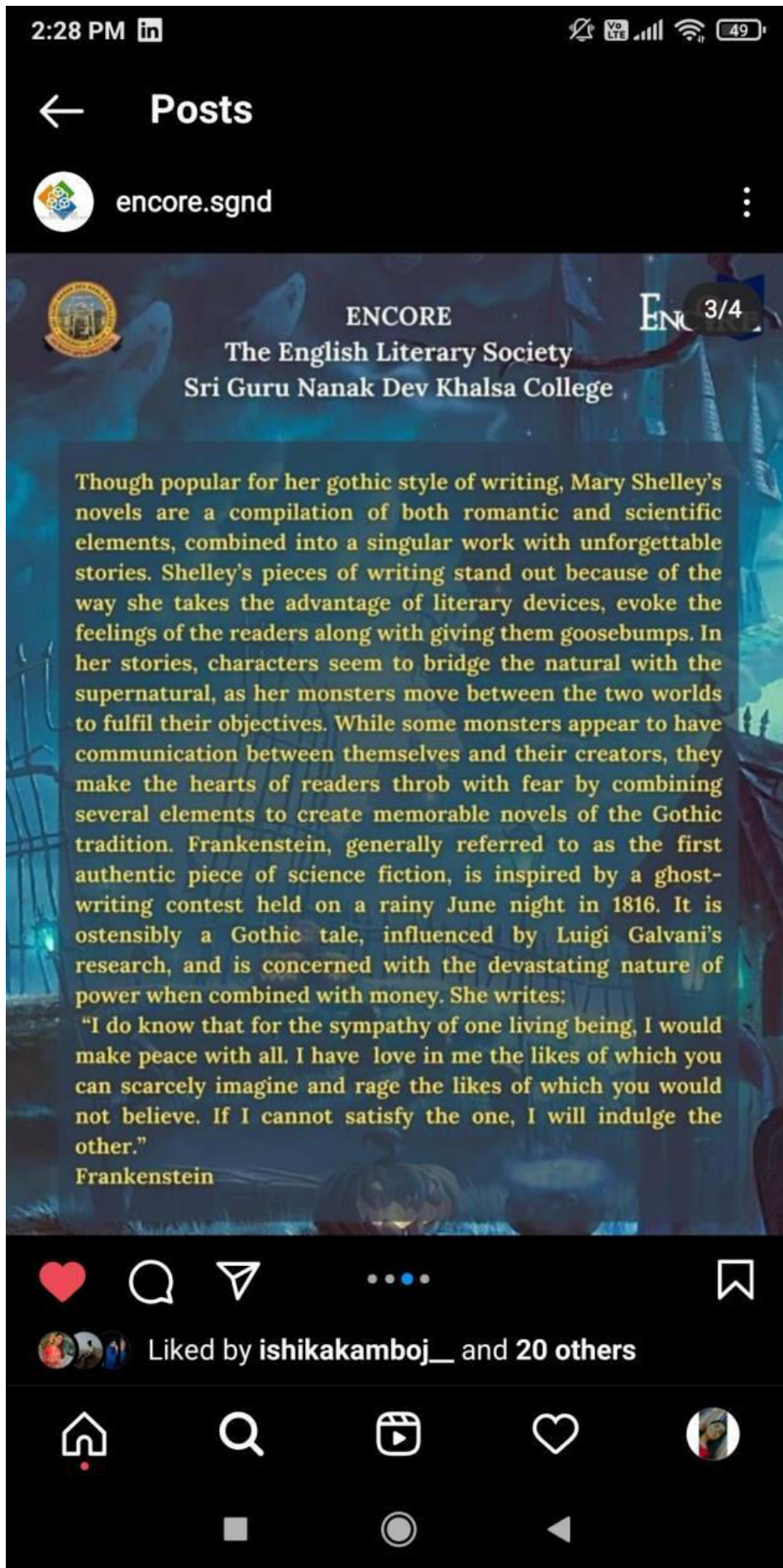
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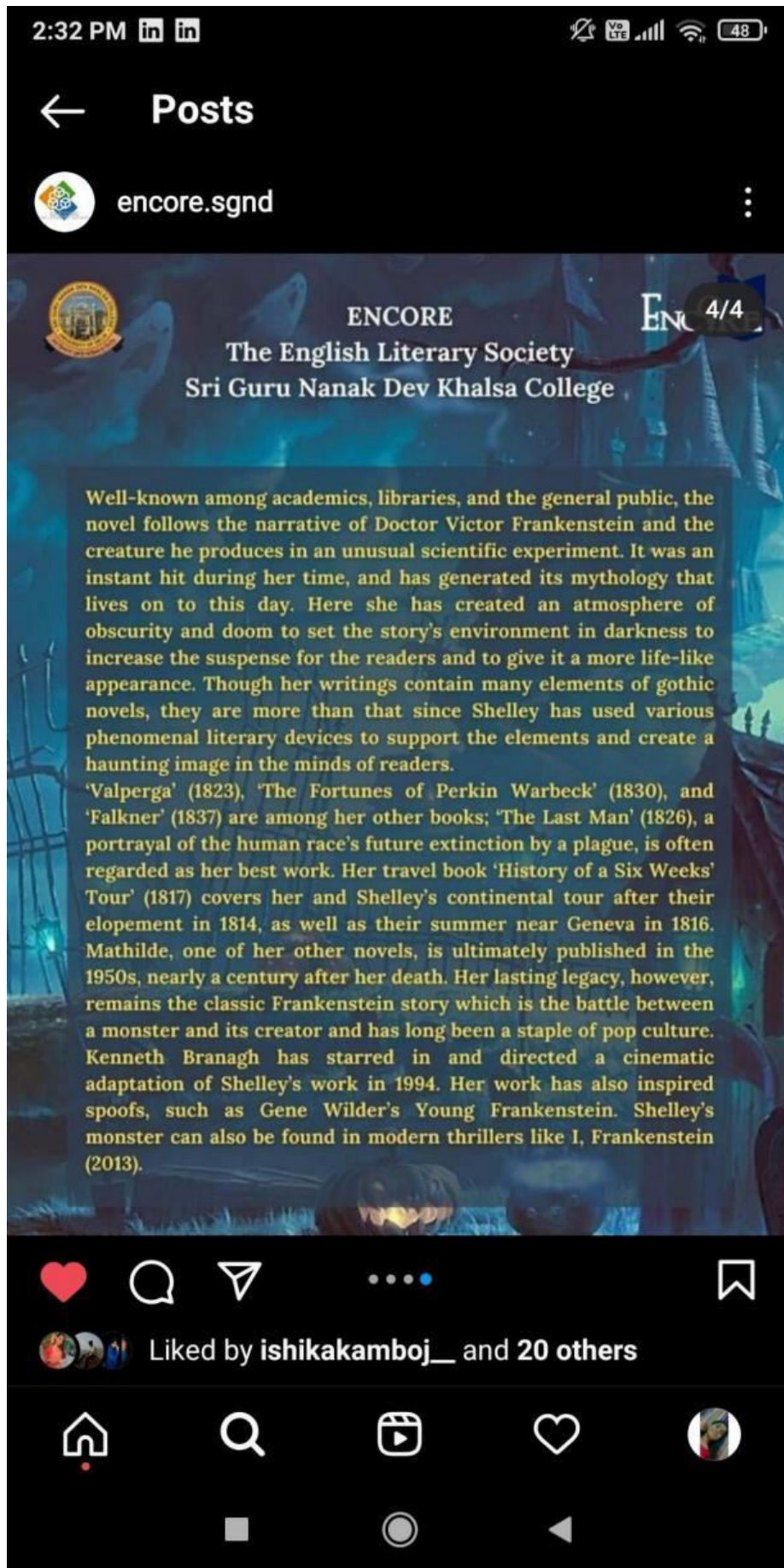
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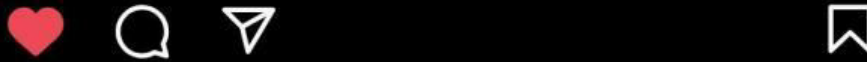
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1. "THE HAUNTING OF HILL HOUSE" BY 'SHIRLEY JACKSON'



The Haunting of Hill House is simply the best haunted house story ever written. The scares come not just from the malevolent actions of a house that seems sentient and angry, but from the claustrophobia we experience from the novel's unreliable narrator, Eleanor, whose descent into madness is slow and excruciating and only begins after we've been lulled into a false sense of security by the seeming relatability of her early persona.



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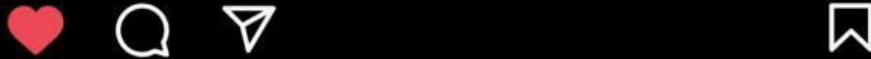
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2. "NIGHT AN VEL FILM" BY 'MARISHA PESSL'

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In the Internet Age it's pretty easy to fall down a rabbit hole of pop culture obsession, and there are still dark areas of culture that haven't had a wiki created around them. Pessl's story about a mysterious underground filmmaker whose movies may or may not contain hints of dark power and horrific events and the journalist who becomes obsessed with him asks the reader how you can be certain there's a clear line between fact and fiction, then, once that wedge of doubt is established, presents a terrifying fiction to fill that space.



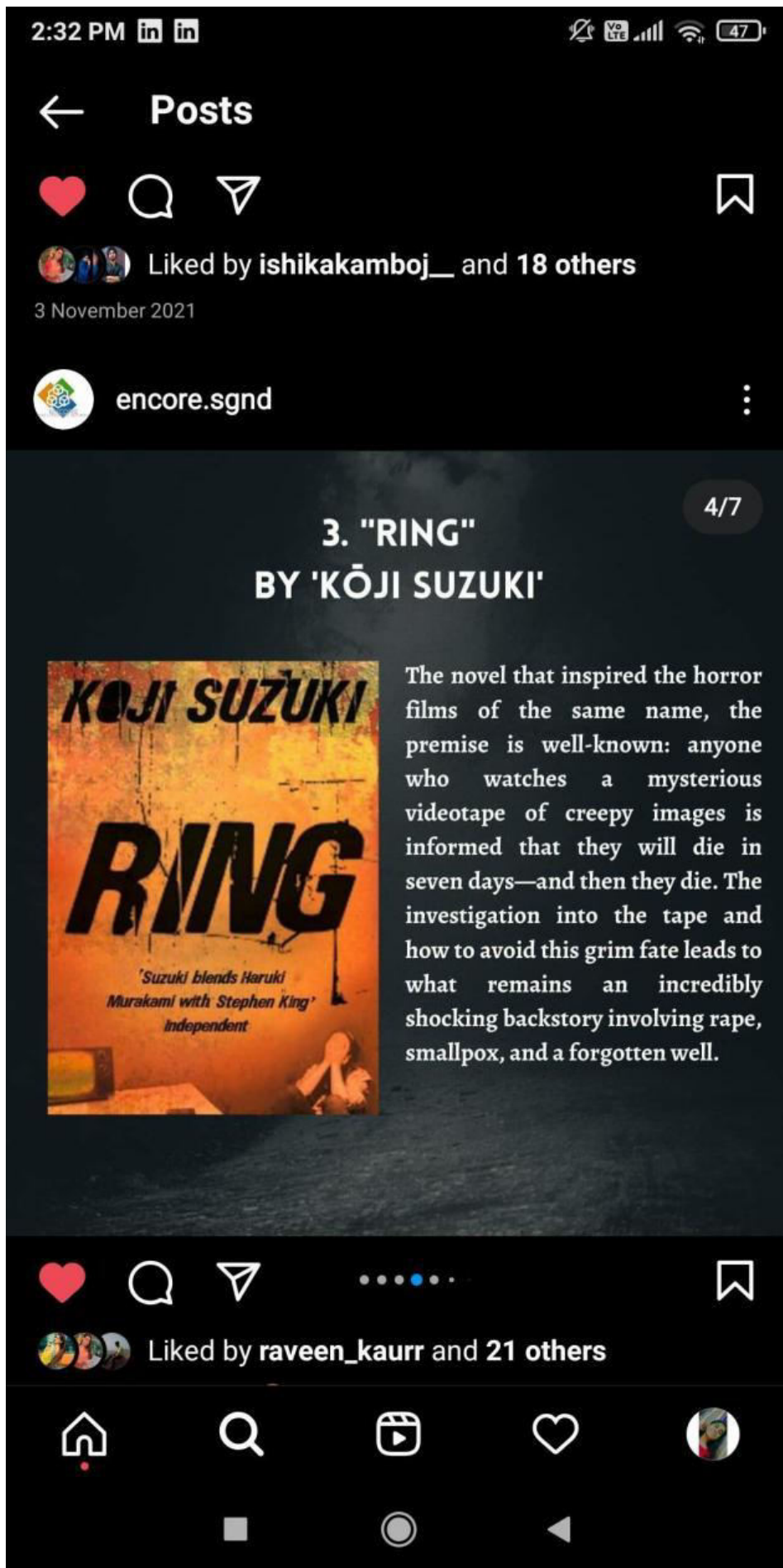
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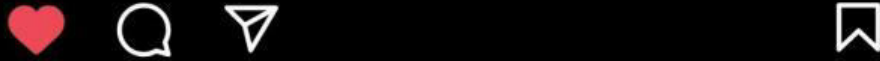
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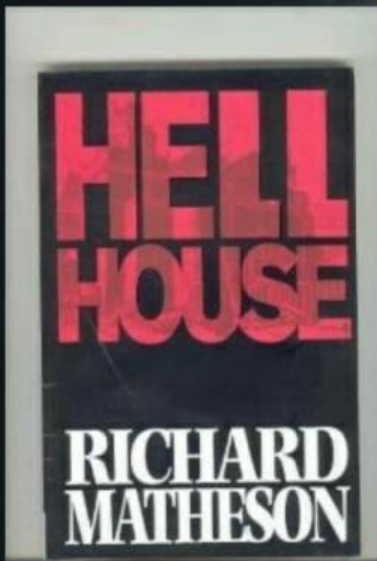
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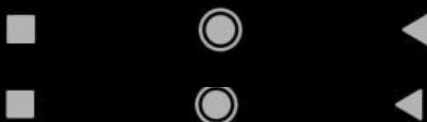
4. "HELL HOUSE" BY 'RICHARD MATHESON'



What Matheson taps into in this classic haunted house story is the universal fear that we are already lost, already broken. Hired to investigate the existence of an afterlife by exploring the notoriously haunted Belasco House, a team moves in and slowly succumbs to the influence of the entity within—an entity that only uses their own weaknesses and secret shames against them. Their descent into the depths of horror is too close for comfort as a result—for everyone reading the book knows all too well that they have weaknesses, and secret shames, as well.



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encore.sgnd Shhh 🤫
The thrill is yet to start 🤫 ... more

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5. DON'T LISTEN (2020)



After a tragic turn of events at the new home he's fixing up, Daniel hears a ghostly plea for help, spurring him to seek out a famous paranormal expert.



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