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“Make time for it. It will keep you company for the rest of your life.”

Some years ago, I remember reading the above quote from *The Times* on the flyleaf of one of our age's greatest novels, Vikram Seth's *A Suitable Boy*, and those words have stuck with me ever since. Not because they endorsed one of my favourite books (although that helped), but because the invitation to “make time” for reading, and the rewards that flow from that, applies not just to a single book, but to all good books.

We live in a fast-paced world (as our theme this issue, *Fast and Furious*, celebrates) and there's always an easy temptation at the end of a busy day to flick on the television or surf the Net, rather than to open a book. But to do so is really to miss out on one of the simplest and most enriching pleasures humankind has devised for itself – the joy of reading. Books allow us to learn new things, to be a witness to history, to see inside the soul of a person, to be transported to another time, another place, another life, another world. Of course, one could say that the television or Internet allows one to do all these things, but nothing resonates or lasts like the written word.

So in this, my first issue as editor of *The Read*, I would like to rededicate the magazine you now hold in your hands to the simple joy of reading and invite you, our readers, especially our young readers, to join me in making time for that pursuit. Good books (and magazines!) will keep you company for the rest of your days, I assure you.



JFK Miller
Editor

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*Subject to change



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Singapore

COVER: Formula One car (David Madison/Corbis)