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Bookends

Akshita Nanda

Who: Ms Erin Ganju (right), 43, chief executive officer of international literacy campaign Room To Read.

The United States-based non-profit group, set up in 1999 by former Microsoft executive John Wood, builds schools and libraries for children in developing nations. It especially focuses on education for girls.

The avid reader attributes her own love of books to parents who read aloud to her and her sister at bedtime.

She and her husband, Dr Jitendra Ganju, do the same with their six-year-old daughter Julia in their hometown, San Francisco.

She will speak about the work her group does on Tuesday at The Claude & Tuulikki Janssen Auditorium, Insead Asia Campus.

The session will take place after a 7.30pm screening of highlights from the PBS documentary *Half The Sky*, about women and girls fighting to change their lives for the better.

Entrance is free but seats are limited and must be reserved by e-mailing araja@iconinternational.com.sg.

What are you reading now?

I am currently reading *Behind The Beautiful*



PHOTO: SERGIO VILLAREAL

Forever: Life, Death And Hope In A Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo. My husband grew up in Mumbai and India is one of the 10 countries where Room To Read operates, so I love reading books about India.

I really enjoy reading books about coun-

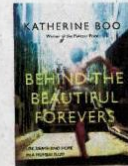
tries where I am travelling to.

This summer, while in Paris, I read *The Paris Wife*, a novel about writer Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley Richardson, by Paula McLain; in Rome, I read *The Restaurant Man* by Joe Bastianich, a non-fiction book about Italian food and restaurants.

If your house were on fire, which book would you save?

Actually, since I have my books on an e-reader now, I wouldn't worry about saving them from a fire.

Instead, I would take the sweet little books that my daughter enjoys creating for me – she illustrates and writes little books about the both of us playing with fairies and animals. They are precious and invaluable.



Behind The Beautiful Forever by Katherine Boo (2012, Granta, \$25.95), *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain (2011, Little, Brown, \$19.80) and *The Restaurant Man* by Joe Bastianich (2012, Viking, \$48.10) are available at Books Kinokuniya.