



Of tapestries and anniversaries

THE flowering of a writer, especially a writer of books for young adults is a joyous affair, more so, when we learn that the author of *The Last of the Firebrakes*, **Farah Oomerbhoy's** debut novel, was partly inspired by the tapestry that hangs in her grandmother's home.

And Tuesday evening saw some of Mumbai's yummiest mummies amongst others, gather at Le Mill where Oomerbhoy's sister-in-law **Roohi Jaikishan**, executive director RR Oomerbhoy, along with **Cecilia Morelli Parikh** and **Julie Leymarie** of Le Mill, co-hosted the formal launch of the book.

In attendance were Farah's husband **Riyad Oomerbhoy**, mother **Zinia Lawyer** and brother **Rustom Lawyer**, along with **Natasha Poonawalla**, **Anu Dewan**, **Ashiesh**



Shweta Nanda

Shah, Chetan Jaikishan, Queenie Singh and Rishi Sethia, Rahul Khanna, Rima Jain, Tara Sharma, Tanya Dubash and many more.

What's more, it turned out to be a double treat - not only did the book launch in the US as a bestseller on Amazon.com and was nominated as a finalist in the USA Best Book Awards 2015, but Farah & Riyad Oomerbhoy's wedding anniversary, which fell on the same day, was celebrated too.

A statuesque **Shweta Bachchan Nanda**, who read excerpts from the book, said, "I read the first draft of Farah Oomerbhoy's book a few years ago, and really enjoyed it. It is so wonderful to see the published book finally out in bookshops across India." About her grandmother's tapestry, Oomerbhoy said, "I didn't



Farah and Riyad Oomerbhoy



Roohi and Chetan Jaikishan with their kids

really think I would ever publish this book when I started imagining the world of Avalonia. It was only when I stood before a tapestry in my grandmother's house, that I realised the magical market could easily be in the forest depicted in the tapestry. That's when the whole story started taking shape."