



Pen Chant

Reviews on Books, Movies and More...

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HARUKI MURAKAMI

kafka on the SHORE

feline; because of this, he is thrown into a dangerous path that runs parallel to Kafka's. Portals to different dimensions open, and fishes and leeches begin raining from the sky. But what ties them to seemingly unrelated pieces of information? Is it something that these characters can control?

“When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That is what the storm's all about”.

A fun part of the book is its many musical references- classical music referencing the likes Beethoven and Schubert. Kafka on the Shore is like a 'literary puzzle' filled with time travel, hidden stories, and magical underworlds. It consists of mind-bending imagery, which twists the line between reality and dreams. It is exciting to see how whimsical characters and eerie coincidences fit together. The deeper you go, the more you find. The title may symbolize a journey- both literal and metaphorical as the characters navigate the shores of their identities, self discovery, existence, blending the real with fantasy. Despite its complex genre and narrative, Murakami evokes a spectrum of emotions from melancholy to hope leaving a lasting impression on the reader.

Written by Haruki Murakami, Kafka on the Shore was originally published in Japan in 2002. The English translation by Philip Gabriel was released in 2005. It is in the literary genre of magic realism and features the dual story of Kafka Tamura and Satoru Nakata. Murakami captures the turmoil of a teenager's desperation to escape his father excellently; unfortunately for Kafka, the illusions of his mind become much harder to run away from, finding solace and friends in seemingly fantastical places. Nakata, suddenly awakes from a coma he was in since the second world war, and discovers that he can now talk to cats, but cannot read or write anymore. Thanks to his mysterious new powers, he's tasked with finding a fugitive

Anushka Jitani

XII



**ALEX
MICHAELIDES**



THE SILENT PATIENT

The Silent Patient is an intense book written by Alex Michaelides in 2019. Read it to indulge yourself in if you are interested in murder mysteries or thriller books in general.

This is the perfect book which will keep you engaged and will keep you on the edge of saying, "one more chapter please".

The story is narrated from the perspective of Theo Faber, a psychotherapist and begins with a woman named Alicia Berenson who is thirty-three years old and a painter, kills her husband. She goes silent, she neither speaks up for herself nor shows any sign of grief. People go crazy to know why she killed her own husband. Many theories float in the air and nobody knows the truth because Alicia goes completely mute. Faber tries to uncover the mystery behind her silence

and takes great interest in Alicia because he believes that Alicia has her own story and a dark past which led her to these current actions. Her artwork becomes a significant point, providing clues and symbolism. Spending time with Alicia becomes a hard task because she doesn't speak at all, but with time, she grows more comfortable with Theo and gives her diary to him. After reading the diary, Theo is left flabbergasted. Finally, when Alicia speaks up Theo knows she is lying.... The most interesting part of this whole book is the twisted ending.

It just escalated so fast that I couldn't even process what I had just read.

The ending will leave you shocked because it's out of the ordinary, completely unexpected. This is a must-read thriller of a book which explores the themes of mental health, trauma and human psychology.

Shabhat Sabir Ansari

VIII





LANCALI I fell in LOVE with HOPE

This noteworthy book stood as the Nominee for Best Young Adult Fiction in 2022.

It tells a story about five friends Hikari, Neo, Sam, Coeur and Sony who were living in a hospital due to their terminal diseases, the most interesting part about these friends was that one of them wasn't even a real person but rather a concept of the hospital that takes a physical form. Sam who i'd say was the soul of the hospital thought that he would never believe in love again after his lover died until Hikari showed up in his life and shook him back to reality. All five friends had nothing but each other and their only source of joy was also only one another, and while these five friends were staying in a hospital together, they slowly found out what it meant to be alive again, but one of the most mesmerizing things about the book was that though it

was an absolutely tragic story where all the friends were destined to die, it was still narrated by none other than Hope.

The narrative is beautifully characterized, its realism makes you feel something else, the book leaves its readers inspired and optimistic along with a glimmer of hope in their eyes; it has a poetic touch to it, it is in bits tragic, yet remains absolutely beautiful. This book is one that everyone can relate to and find themselves in each of the characters. A line that I thought was powerful is:

“People have stories written on them, around them, in their past, in their futures.”

While conversations about mental health as well as bullying have come out of the closet, the book underscores the lack of understanding around its significance.

Zisel Rumina Mongsrang Sangma
VIII



For The Good Times

Knives Out

A Movie Review

“This takedown of and love letter to classic Agatha Christie whodunits consistently takes its cake and fully gobbles it down”

Released in September, 2019, *Knives Out*, is a mystery/thriller film directed by the acclaimed Rian Johnson, who also directed *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. The movie which runs for two hours and ten minutes, begins with the death of Harlan Thrombey, a best-selling author played by Christopher Plummer. The rest of the film revolves around the Thrombey family as the main character, Benoit Blanc (played by Daniel Craig) sets out to solve the mystery surrounding the death of the man.

The prime suspect for the murder is Martha Carbera, played by Ana de Armas, who was one of Harlan's close companions, alongside the responsibility of being his nurse. One of the most unique characters, given her penchant for honesty, Martha must clear her name and avoid the dangerous game that the Thrombey family seek to play with her.

The rest of the film revolves around the dysfunctional family fighting to obtain whatever Harlan has bequeathed not to them, but to Martha. As the envious and manipulative family members battle it out to deem the innocent and the guilty, alongside trying to stake a claim over a dead man's riches, Detective Blanc seeks to unravel the web of lies.

The film itself is quite entertaining and enthralls the audience with its twists. Though it is fit for a slightly mature audience, *Knives Out* is definitely a commendable movie with a thrilling plot. Powerful and skillfully written dialogues, remarkable editing, and great use of classic cinematography techniques this movie is filled with humour and an intriguing plot, as it leaves one sitting back in amazement with its sharply crafted entertainment which keeps one guessing till the very end.





Keane Somewhere only we know

the song's lyrics which express a need for a safe haven where the singer and their lover can be truly themselves. The song's introspective lyrics and melodic arrangement create a poignant atmosphere, making it a standout.

The instruments sound simple yet powerful. It gives an extra layer of emotion while the sound of the drums and bass give a soft beat. Overall, the song comes out to be naturally remembering and heartfelt.

“Somewhere Only We Know” by Keane is an eternal favourite that has been enjoyed by listeners all around the world for nearly two decades. It is a timeless ballad with emotive vocals and a captivating piano melody. It is the lead single from the album ‘Hopes and Fears’ is an ideal pick for those in need of a moment of comfort because of its tune and thoughtful lyrics, which arouse feelings of nostalgia and longing.

“Somewhere Only We Know” can be interpreted as a song about friendship and shared memories. Even find it to be a song about faith and hope. Personally, I think it is a song to grieve year-back memories and long for them to come back. Regardless of how it is interpreted, “Somewhere Only We Know” is a song that has the power to move and inspire. It is a song that reminds us that there is always a place where we can be loved and accepted for who we are no matter how hard or difficult the present moment can be. This song achieved great commercial success reaching a wide audience. Hark! Can you hear it?

Simple piano chords play the song's starting note before Tom Chaplin's ethereal vocals enter the music with raw emotion enhancing the listeners connection to

Aira Thoudam
XII



If I Were God...

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD IT WOULD BE!

If I were God and was asked to make a whole new world, I would make a world exactly not like the present one. I would make a world where babies come out of the womb laughing instead of crying. A world where both men and women can give birth because I really want men to experience childbirth. I don't know how that would be possible but hey I'm God right? I'll think of something! A world without insecurities.... Wow ! ...if only that were true. But since I'm God I'd wire the minds of my humans in such a way that the word insecurity will not even be in their dictionaries! Instead, it will be replaced by the words: confidence, fearlessness, boldness and amazingness (I don't think that is a word but it's ok because I'm God).

A world where girls aren't afraid to walk alone at night, a world where the girls aren't advised to

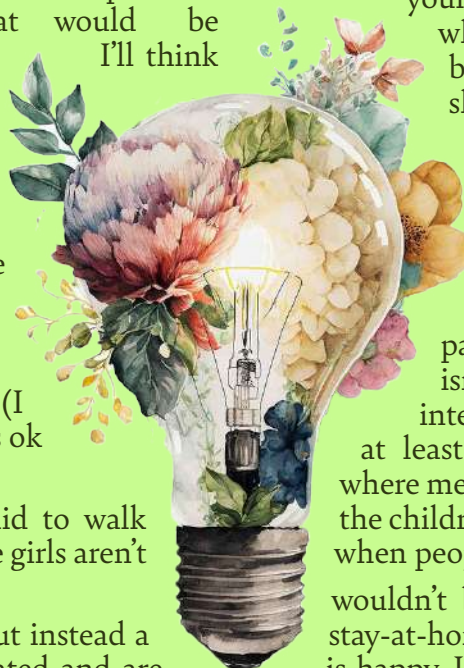
carry pepper spray with them but instead a world where the boys are educated and are taught to respect girls and not objectify them.

A world where everyone can love whoever they want to fearlessly, without having to hide it from society. A world where people don't run after money. I'd make a world where everyone can chase their dreams and explore and have fun. I'd make a world where school or work is not a burden. School will be interesting where the

students can study the subjects they want to and not forced to, where children actually take interest and have fun in studying and not just do it for the sake of doing it.

A world where there is peace. A world where the young children aren't left traumatised when they wake up from their sleep by the sound of gun firing and shooting. A world where everyone is treated equally. Just imagine a world where a woman goes to a construction site to work and isn't looked down upon because she is a woman. A world where a woman who has interest in a particular sport, example cricket, isn't asked the question "oh, you're interested in cricket? Can you name at least five cricket players?" A world where men can stay at home and look after the children and the wife goes to work and when people ask him what he does? He

wouldn't be ashamed to say that he is a stay-at-home dad. A world where everyone is happy. I know that is too much. But I'm God I can do anything, right and I will make sure that happens. If not 100% happy at least 75% happy. That works, right? What a wonderful world it would be!



Ruhi Kalita

XII





HOPE

Nobody knows- but these speak a lot,
A make- believe smile and a heavy heart.

When the feeling of being
misunderstood has crippled down,
And now you can't help but see the world in
'blacks' and 'browns'.

A change is staring- but it feels oblivious,
A naive heart and an ambitious mind can become
strenuous.

I find myself clenching onto a little hope,
And try to bring myself together as I cope.

But dont you worry-I will be fine,
This stupid heart just got caught in a lie.
And I know the stars and the sun will align,
to bring back the things that once were mine.
So I close my eyes and let the wind take my grief aside.

Convincing myself to feel alright.
Nobody knows- but these speak a lot,
A make- belief smile and a heavy heart.

Aakansha Kumar
XII



Lyrical

Serpent

The Serpent I may be now, with the angels I once
stood

But then came the question in my mind of
brotherhood

And the comfort of pride snuck into the chambers
of my chest

Forgetting all reminisces of affection in the past
like a pest,

I stood and challenged my Father, never making
amends

I vowed to myself and my soldiers that until the
world He so loves, bends

That until everything He protects meets its end, I
will never rest

Manipulating the lust and greed of these little
humans, I will prevail

The music to my ears will be of their cries and their
wails

As The Bard once said, "Look like the innocent
flower but be the serpent under it."

Beware for if you come hither, you might get bit.

For I am that very serpent who lurks under the
shadows of your mind.

Seek me and you shall find, seek me and misery
you will see

If I could change who I was, who would I be?

Atoti Zhimoni
XII



READING GENRES

FANTASY



a story that is not possible and may include talking animals or magical powers

MYSTERY



a suspenseful story about a puzzling event that is not solved until the end of the story

SCIENCE FICTION



a type of fantasy that uses science and technology (robots, time travel, machines)

REALISTIC FICTION



a story that uses fictional characters, but could happen

POETRY



verse written to create a response of thought and feeling from the reader; it often uses rhythm and rhyme

INFORMATIONAL



texts that provide facts about a variety of topics

AUTOBIOGRAPHY



the story of a real person's life that is written by that person

BIOGRAPHY



the story of a real person's life that has been written by another person

HISTORICAL FICTION



a fictional story that takes place in a specific time period; often the setting is real, but the characters are made up

TRADITIONAL LITERATURE



stories that are passed down from one group to another; (includes fairy tales, folk tales, myths, fables and legends)



ABOUT MARCH



March, famous for the Ides, the Mad Hatter, the expression : Mad as a March Hare, is the month of transition, where the chill of winter gradually yields to the gentle warmth of spring, echoes the thematic evolution often found in literature. As the world around us awakens from its slumber, so do the narratives within the pages of our favourite books. Much like the changing seasons, literature in March offers a diverse landscape of stories, ranging from tales of rebirth and renewal to reflections on change and growth. And we find ourselves drawn to narratives that capture the essence of transition and transformation.

"A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle: This beloved children's novel follows the adventures of Meg Murry and her friends as they embark on a journey through time and space to rescue Meg's father. Filled with themes of courage, love, and the power of imagination, it captures the spirit of adventure and possibility that often accompanies the arrival of spring.

"The Awakening" by Kate Chopin: This novel tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a woman who undergoes a personal awakening and discovers her true self amid the changing social landscape of late 19th-century America. The themes of rebirth and self-discovery resonate with the spirit of March as nature undergoes its own transformation.

Just as the earth begins to bloom with the promise of new life, literature too brims with stories of characters undergoing personal

journeys of self-discovery and enlightenment. Whether it's the coming-of-age adventures of classic protagonists like Holden Caulfield or the introspective musings of contemporary voices exploring themes of identity and belonging, March invites us to delve into narratives that mirror the shifting landscape of our own lives.

March holds a special significance for literature enthusiasts as it marks the celebration of World Poetry Day on March 21st. This day serves as a reminder of the enduring power of language and the written word to evoke emotions, provoke thought, and inspire change. From the timeless verses of poets like William Wordsworth and Emily Dickinson to the contemporary works of spoken word artists and slam poets, March provides us with an opportunity to immerse ourselves in the beauty and depth of poetic expression.

As we bid farewell to March and welcome the arrival of spring, let us carry with us the stories and verses that have enriched our lives during this transitional month. Just as the characters in our favorite novels navigate the twists and turns of their narratives, may we too embrace the changes and opportunities that lie ahead, guided by the timeless wisdom found within the pages of literature.

In conclusion, March serves as a literary journey through the seasons of life, inviting us to explore themes of transition, transformation, and the human experience. As we turn the pages of our favorite books and poems, let us find inspiration in the ever-changing landscape of literature and the world around us.

(Ms) Tamanna Seth





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