

More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop - A Review

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Abstract

Sathoshi Yagisawa's novel More Days at the Morisaki Bookshop recounts Takako's experience in an old bookshop located in the streets of Japan. This Japanese fiction overlaps with all required charms & a great classic - Beit romance friendship, family relationship, themes of love and death etc., predominate this timeless story, which is studded with a narrative that threads cultural landscape, with the theme of the novel. The characters are skit fully portrayed and tailored to the Web of the narrative. The novel carried with it the rich memories of any frequent visitor to a book shop for reading and buying books.

Keywords: Morisaki Bookshop, Cultural Landscape, Memories

Sathoshi Yagisawa's novel, timeless classic which is a record the pleasures of reading books as well the joy that one feels after Visiting a second hand book shop, as one flips through the pages of the novel, our memories teamed up with lot more enjoyable experiences one often has during a casual visit to the bookshop. Visiting a bookstall is an unforgettable and most memorable experience for any book lover and all those Occasional visits often leave us an inedible imprint in our memory. My mind wanders back to my bygone days and even these days when I make a visit to my beloved bookshops in Madurai. I have been frequently visiting my beloved bookstalls in Madurai ever since my college days. Since then there has been an unbreakable bond between bookshops and me, which can never be explained in words. Visiting the book shop, is perhaps the most delightful of all experiences I have ever had. How happy I would feel to step into the threshold of the book shops which often invites me to get inside and to touch and feel those musty papers which inevitably carry the great minds of many eminent authors who by virtue of their rich experience have encapsulate their river of perennial ideas in the magical Printed Pages.

Reading Yagisawa's novel *More days at the Morisaki Bookshop* furnishes me with a golden opportunity to rewind those happy memories which I have gained out of visiting old book shops. The novel is written in simple, lucid translation. The plot is too easy to digest, Morisaki Bookshop located in the Streets of Japan becomes an interesting and the most desirable destination for all book lovers and readers as such. The novel has all the charms to offer-friendship, family ties, a little bit of romance that spices up the crunchy morale of the bewitching classic, of course, all the events are centered around this Morisaki bookshop, which appears to be a visible force in the novel. The novel opens with the beautiful introduction about the Morisaki bookstore and how it attracts the constant flow of regular Customers like Sabu who tend to Visit the bookshop almost every day. The story is narrated by Takako, whose uncle Saturo and aunt Momoko who actually owned the book

shop at the busy streets in Japan. Takako sums up her love for the bookshop as follows: at the 'From the beginning of summer to every spring, I lived at the Morisaki Bookshop, I spent that period of my life in the spare room on the second floor of the store, trying to bury myself in books. The cramped room barely got any light, and everything felt damp... The Morisaki bookshop is precious home, it's a place I know I'll never forget. The description of the bookshop is stunning and it leaves the readers spell bound: 'His (uncle's) Morisaki Bookshop is an old fashioned store, in a two floor wooden building untouched by time, every bit the image of vintage bookshop, the inside is cramped ... There is never enough space on the shelves: the books are piled up on top, and along the walls, and even behind the counter where the cash register is, And the intense, musty smell. Particular to old bookshops penetrates everything'.

The plot revolves around uncle saturo, his wife Momoko, their niece Tokako, her lover Wada and the intrinsic bond that exists between all the characters with the Morisaki Bookshop, What really impresses the readers is the extreme love the book lovers and visitors of the bookshop have for the place and how Morisaki bookshop connects people with it, In a sense, Morisaki is not just a bookshop, but it has become a major character, It's Power and influence on all other characters is often felt as we get to know about each character and their relationship with the bookshop, It's Presence penetrates into the lives of all Characters - Be it Tokako, Uncle Saturo, Momoko or Wada, all these characters' personal lives have been influenced by the bookshop and the memories it has left on them. The novel could be called as a 'book lover's favorite', but one cannot simply brush aside the various intricacies which are intrinsically woven in the web of the narrative. The love episode of Tokako and Wada, Uncle Saturo, Momoko or even Tomo- Takano add pep to the central theme of this mesmerizing classic, Satoshi Yagisawa has also dwelt upon the significance of family ties and friendship which add weightage to the major concept of this masterpiece Visiting a bookstore and searching for books.

The characters are skillfully sketched. Tokako, the narrator is a young kind lady whose love for

her aunt Momoko and uncle Saturo are beyond words. She has a deep love and passion for Mohsaki Bookshop. She takes immense pleasure and pride in sitting at the counter of the book shop doing brisk business. She values her love for Uncle Saturo and aunt Momoko more than anything else, even she acts as go-between When Tomo has doubts regards Takonos love for her, when Tomo informs her about her wish to buy The Golden Dream, a book which never exists, Tokako readily accepts it as a chance to buy the book from the bookshops and present her as a birthday gift. Tokako's love for aunt Momoko reaches its Zenith, when she feels heartbroken to know about Momoko's infliction with cancer which ultimately claims the old lady's life at the end of the novel. Tokako, though young in age is well matured in spirits. She obeys the words of her aunt Momoko and looks after her uncle Saturo after her aunt Momoko's death. She keeps up her promise to her aunt to make uncle Saturo cheerful and to make him go ahead with the bookshop as usual, after her demise. She also arranged for a trip to her aunt Momoko and uncle saturo to a mountain terrain inn for their relaxation and rest. The love episode of Uncle saturo and Momoko is touching. Even at the time her death, aunt Momoko shows her deep love and concern for Uncle Saturo, she even leaves a letter to uncle Saturo in which she has entrusted her hope on Tokako and her last wish to see uncle Saturo opening the Morisaki bookshop, and keep going with his business as usual. The characters of Wada and Takano Complement each other, Wada's true love for Tokako and Takano's true love for Toma are brilliantly exposed. The bottom line is that this novel is a must read for all those who have a deep passion for books and used bookshops.

Conclusion

Reading *More Days at The Morisaki Bookshop* is a rewarding experience for lover of books. The language is simple, making it good for beginners. The book offers insights into how the power of books can be uplifting for the spirit, and how the power of relationships can change our lives for the better. Bacon is absolutely right when he declares that 'Reading makes a full man'. Reading books and visiting old book shops are great qualities which

we have to inculcate for the betterment of our mind and soul. As Leigh Hunt observes in his essay, 'My Books', how delightful it is to have book shelves in our house for relaxing and entertaining our mind with ideas amalgamated from reading great minds. As Leigh Hunt puts it, "How pleasant it is to reflect, that all those lovers of books have themselves become books! yet this body of thought, that lies before me in the shape of a book has existed thousands of years in one single book like the compressed spirits of Milton, can be gathered together.

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