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ANIMAL FARM

GEORGE ORWELL



Animal Farm by George Orwell:

Animal Farm is about farm animals who rebel against their cruel human owner to build a fair and equal society. After gaining control, they create rules so all animals are equal. The pigs, especially Napoleon, take charge because they are intelligent. Over time, they become greedy and begin to abuse their power. They change the rules, control information, and treat other animals unfairly. Despite working hard, the other animals suffer more than before.

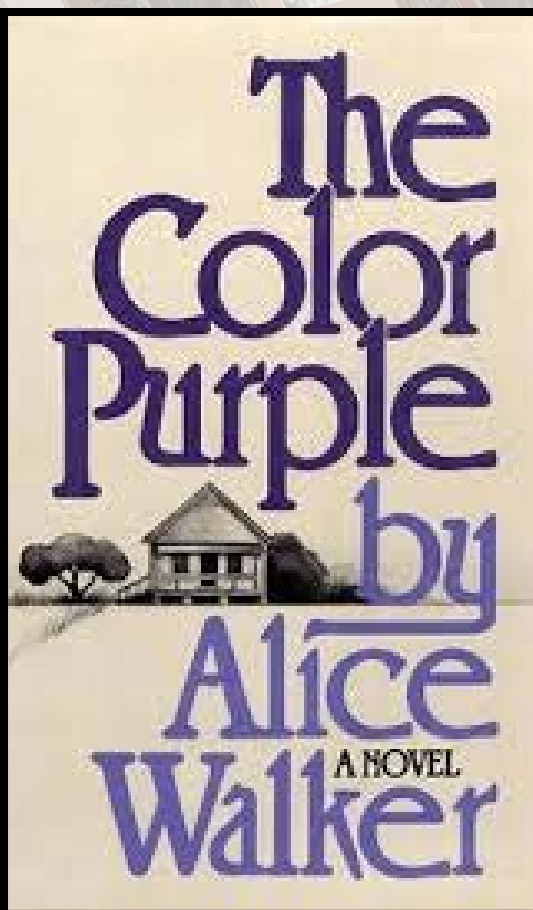
Recommendation:

I recommend Animal Farm because it is a short and powerful story with a clear message. It shows how people can be misled by leaders. The simple language makes it easy to understand, and it teaches readers to be aware, think independently, and value equality.

Favourite Character:

My favourite character in Animal Farm is Boxer the horse. Boxer is very strong, hardworking, and loyal. He always believes in the farm and its leaders, and his personal motto is "I will work harder." He helps build the farm and supports other animals without complaining. Even when life becomes difficult, Boxer does not give up and continues to trust Napoleon. His honesty and dedication make him a kind and admirable character.

Reviewed by: Dirga Maya Chhetri_121189_ BA in Anthropology.



The Color Purple by Alice Walker:

“I think it pisses God off if we walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don’t notice it.”
(Walker,1982,p.173)

Tired of daily bulky reads? Here is your chance to read a folksy novel by Alice Walker.

The Color Purple, is not a novel. It is a collection of letters that a poor, colored, woman, (still a human but subjugated in every aspect of race and gender) Celie, writes to God. Through the letters she writes in her limited vocabularies we understand how every day of her life unfurls to give another set of trouble.

Do NOT Panic!

Simply read further! Because your patience will help Celie discover the beauty of her life, of herself and the unlimited scope life has to offer her. It is as though she finally learns to walk in the field of life and notice the color purple.

The novel emphasizes that no subaltern will see the light of the day unless a privileged looks at her with mercy and sisterhood. Shug Avery, looks at Celie with her loving eyes and renders every kind hand she could to give a life of her own. Celie not only learns to wear pants like a man, but also sews pants as a main item in her newfound business.

I enjoyed reading this book, not because I liked reading about a poor helpless woman finding the purple (beauty) in her life. This novel rejects the idea of a ‘perfect victim’, instead it shows that even those who suffer can feel anger, jealousy, or make apparently silly and starkly questionable choices. Do you wanna know how? Grab your copy from the library. Here is a little help, the book can be traced at, 813.54 Wal (Main Opac), RTC library.

See you there when you visit the library looking for this must read, *The Color Purple*, by Alice Walker.

Reviewed by: Lakshmi Acharya_114768_ BA in English Studies_Cohort 2022.



Monk Chasing Monkey by Kunzang Choden:

Monk Chasing Monkey is an influential novel of contemporary Bhutanese writing that addresses the “monkey mind”, the unrestrained nature of the human thought process. As a seminal Bhutanese writer, Choden seamlessly blends narrative with philosophical inquiry, offering a story that entertains while portraying the light of Bhutanese society and the human condition. The novel’s protagonist Rigzin lives a simple, peaceful life in a secluded monastery in Bhutan as a monk.

One day, while he’s at prayer, a pop song wafts through his consciousness, and it’s just enough to pique his curiosity. Rigzin’s quest for understanding this phenomenon, a manifestation of the “monkey mind” in him, leads him to leave the monastery and wander through the entire country.

His travels introduce him to new people, a variety of ways of life, and a modern Bhutan far removed from the cloistered world he grew up in. But his journey is much more than a physical trip through the nation; it’s also a psychological exploration, as he tries to comprehend the rapid societal shifts occurring all around him. One of the book's dominant themes is the idea of the "monkey mind." Rigzin's agitated thoughts and desires serve as an example of how the human mind, prone to distraction and novelty, can be easily drawn away from inner stability. The author demonstrates how the curiosity triggered by new experiences can, paradoxically, both enlighten and confuse us by pulling us from internal peace—a very pertinent message for today's media-saturated world.

Another important theme the story addresses is the conflict between tradition and modernity. While Rigzin represents traditional Bhutanese values grounded in simplicity and spirituality, the external world he encounters signifies globalization, modernization, and change. Through the experiences of the monk, Choden highlights the challenges facing Bhutan in maintaining its cultural identity amidst the encroaching global influence. Thus, the novel transcends a personal story to provide a panoramic perspective on societal transformation. The theme of identity and self-realization is powerfully explored. As Rigzin struggles to reconcile his past with his present and make sense of the complex realities of modern life, he begins to doubt his identity and purpose. Eventually, his arduous and often confusing journey allows him to gain a deeper understanding of himself, realizing the importance of balance and self-acceptance to achieve lasting peace. These philosophical undercurrents give the book a depth beyond its initial plot outline. The prose in *Monk Chasing Monkey* is elegant and straightforward. The author skillfully uses humor and vivid descriptions to create a narrative that is accessible to a wide range of readers. In addition, the novel offers readers an immersive insight into Bhutanese culture, providing rich details about its landscapes, traditions, and the everyday lives of its people.

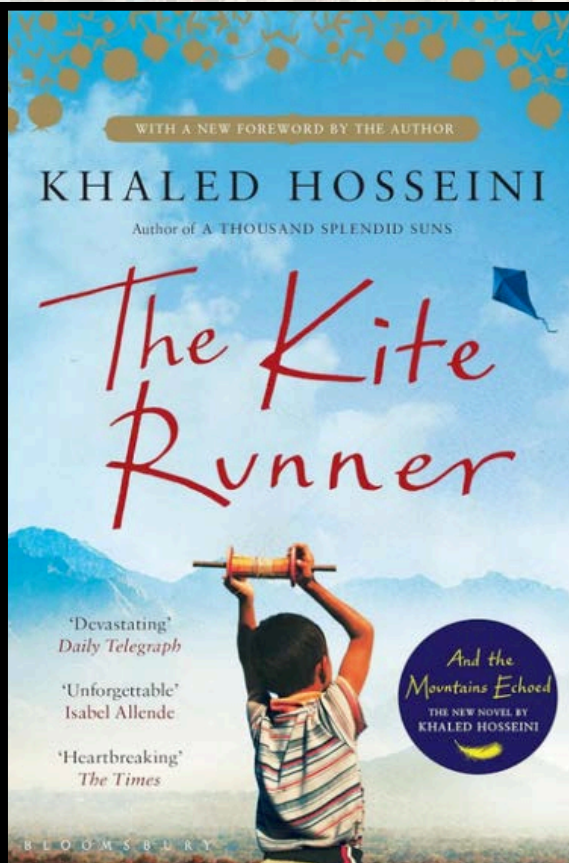
Despite the book's merits, it does have its flaws. The episodic nature of Rigzin's narrative, where individual events loosely string together rather than following a cohesive structure, may make the plot feel less compelling to some readers. Moreover, the absence of overt conflict or significant dramatic action may leave those accustomed to more intense thrillers unsatisfied. However, the depth of its thematic material and its cultural significance compensate for these weaknesses. To conclude, *Monk Chasing Monkey* is a reflective work of literature that effectively depicts the turbulent nature of the human mind and the difficult balancing act between tradition and modernity. Through Rigzin's transformative journey, Kunzang Choden conveys essential lessons on curiosity, self-discovery, and the quest for inner peace. The novel is highly recommended for readers with an interest in Bhutanese society and the ongoing social changes within the nation.



Reviewed by: Tshering Gyem.

126759.

BA in Development Economics.



The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini:

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini is a compelling story that explores themes of friendship, class, parental care, loyalty, and moral choices. Set in Afghanistan before and during the war, it follows two 12-year-old boys, Amir and Hassan a master and servant whose friendship is deeply affected by social divisions. During a kite-flying tournament, Amir makes a terrible mistake that shatters their bond, and the story later follows his search for redemption.

As always, Hosseini's writing is heart-stirring and gripping. His style, unlike many contemporary writers, is both poetic and accessible. Each sentence is beautifully written, and from start to finish, I never once got bored. Moreover, the emotions and descriptions of everyday life in the book felt vivid and relatable to me. Even though I have not experienced what the characters go through, I felt as if I were in the narrator's shoes, experiencing everything firsthand. What I liked most about this novel is how flawed the main protagonist, Amir is. He is selfish, jealous, insecure, and often a coward. Yet at the same time, he can be kind, fair, and caring. I went from hating him to eventually understanding and even liking him for who he is. In him, I saw parts of myself, which made me reflect on what kind of person I truly am.

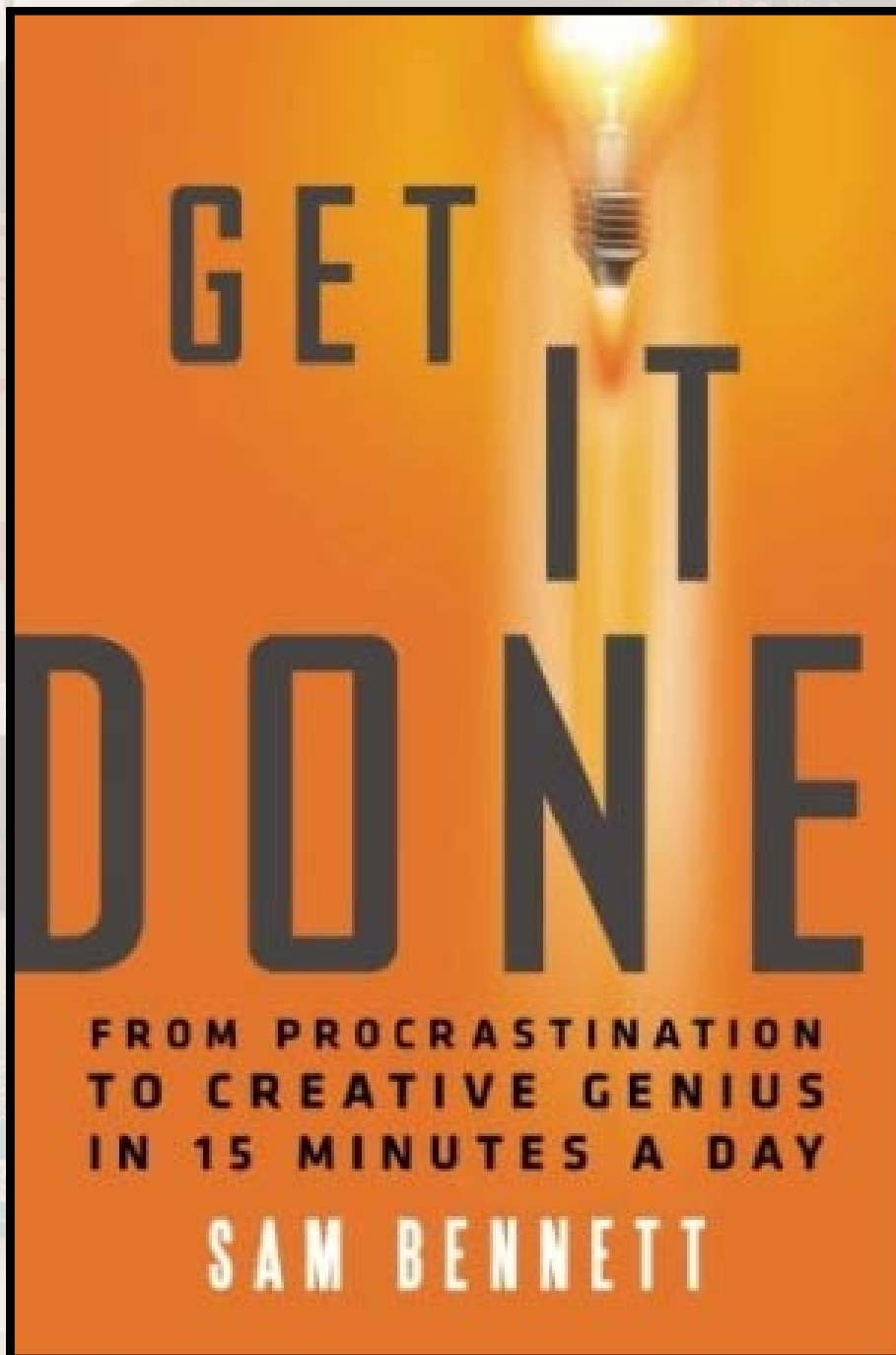
Out of five stars, I would rate this book five out of five. Although the story is deeply emotional and sometimes heavy, it never makes you feel exhausted. I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy heart-wrenching stories without romance. You may find yourself emotional even before reaching the middle, and as the story progresses, it brings both pain and a sense of peace. This is a book that can stay with you and may even change your perspective on life if the timing is right.

Reviewed by: Sangay Choezom.

123308

BA in English Studies.

Book Recommendation:



If you are looking for a helpful and practical book on **productivity**, grab a copy of **Get It Done** by **Sam Bennett**. This book provides simple and effective strategies to **overcome procrastination** and **take action on your goals**. The author explains how to **manage time**, **stay focused**, and **build positive habits** in a clear and encouraging way. It is especially useful for anyone who wants to become **more organized** and **complete their tasks with confidence**.

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