

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWS LETTER

September 2024

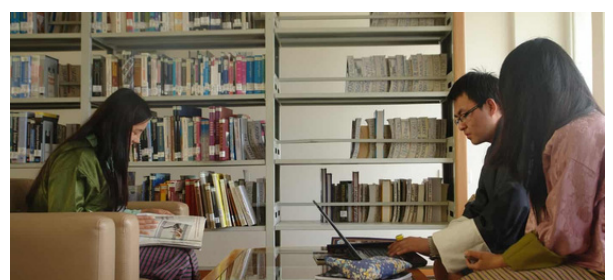


WELCOME

*To RTC Library E-Newsletter 2024
September*

ABOUT:

The library newsletter was launched in 2016 and is published monthly, excluding semester breaks. While the newsletter's focus has evolved over the years, book reviews have remained a cornerstone, providing a platform for RTC community members to discuss their reading experiences. In 2020, we introduced a new series offering information search tips, linked below.



Growing up

I don't recall the day I first opened my eyes, but they say I arrived as a regular, chubby baby on a typical day. There was nothing noteworthy about the day I was born, and there was nothing remarkable about the fact that I was born as me. What stuck out on such a day was that the people present had no idea how the baby would grow up or how her environment would influence her at every stage of her life. She wasn't a simple figure to mold.



When I was four, I wanted to go to school. I clung onto my brother's bag and pulled on my sister's dress but in vain. My mother held onto me with equanimity. 'Have some patience, dear girl,' she often said. My passion to learn never died down. As my siblings read to me every night, I was immersed in a whole new universe, the first step toward becoming a voracious reader.

When at five, I got into first grade, I had difficulty connecting with people and making new friends, a milestone, since I was monolingual but I had a responsibility. I did not dare give up. I changed schools and moved when I was in third grade, distant from home, my friends, my comfort zone, and the most prominent character in my life at the time, my mother. All of my memories and hard work in the place I called 'home' seemed to be for naught.

In fourth grade, it had been two years since I moved. I had adapted to the new place. I had made new friends and a best friend at that too. I was learning to live interdependently. I had also come to the realization that all that I left behind was not 'forever'. Yes, it's true! It was a part of my history, but it was one with which I could connect now. I felt relieved that I had remained true to my recollections and all those who I had left behind.

In grade six, I figured that I was a bibliophile. I started to spend most of my time in the library, devouring one book after another. I discovered so much within the pages of the books that discussing everything I learned would take an eternity. Adventure, honesty, love, grit, kindness, courage, humility and believe it or not—delayed gratification! All things that I was taught to grow up with. It was a bumper crop year for an eleven-year-old girl.

When I turned 12, I switched schools once more. To be completely honest, I was looking forward to being in a different setting this time. I was in a state of ecstasy. All because I was too eager, I asked too many questions and laughed like I'd never laughed before, even at something that wasn't amusing. The child in me was still there.

Those were the days when I learned to be a better leader and follower. Respect took on a new meaning, and trust was no longer a problem, but the environment questioned my self-esteem, my hard work, and my method of doing things. I had moments when I was delighted that I had grown up well and times when I cried myself to sleep because I didn't believe I deserved to be in the position I was in. This was another significant step in my transformation from a twelve-year-old girl to a sixteen-year-old.

I am nineteen now, and I could go on and on about how I got myself here. About the so many changes I walked through and as I look back at my life, there are no regrets. If necessary, I could sum up my life, qualities, and ideals in one word: 'LOVE.' I was loved, and I learnt to love. I grew up surrounded by love and with love, so much unfolded as a result; passion and purpose flourished together, and friendship became more than a word. A person does not simply become 'good' when they understand love and when they learn to love. They became 'down to earth,' in my opinion. Love encapsulates the concept of 'value.' This is, at least, how my story of growing up with values unfolds.



Sonam Lhazom
Bsc Nursing 2nd year



To the young one

To the young ones
Who look upon me and my doing
You are more than tons.
I don't know where you each are going,
But I know through the unspoken,
That you are wondering
And that you each are broken.
Yet I thank you for enduring
All that came your way.
You are a warrior.
That's the gist of all I have to say.
You may look upon me for aspiration,
But you may find me ordinary
At that very moment feel my aspiration.
I crave to let you feel my thoughts,
I can't paint my ineffable thoughts before you
In all my might.
I can show you the brightest hue
So that you can paint your life; mesmerizing.
When you see me walk a yard further,
Let your deep self know your endless miles,
For your flight is not bound to my feather.
You have to collect all the happy smiles
And complete the lacuna I may not fill
Juvenile ones you have a race run,
The trophy to claim!
I assure you, it's all fun
Just don't relax until you've hit your aim.

You are a warrior!
That's the gist of all I've got to say.

Title: After the Quake
Author: Haruki Murakami

One of the authors whose works focus on the theme of Quake is Haruki Murakami; his collection of six different short stories entitled *After the Quake* which was published in 2000 is connected with the theme of the Kobe earthquake which happened in 1995. Symbolically present more as an off-stage threat than as an active component of the main action, earthquake, nevertheless, acts symbolically as the characters, many of whom are revealed to be haunted by personal internal quakes.

On an allegorical level this seismic event is played out as Murakami's exploration of interior change – the movement of characters between different states. All of them bear the elements of magical realism with which the author practises philosophical reflection over pain, loss, and displacement as well as a quest for the self and the future in a world that has gone astray.

Probably one of the best stories in the collection, "UFO in Kushiro" reveals the life of Komura, a man left by his wife after the earthquake. It provokes in her an acute spiritual crisis after which she leaves him a note in which she writes, "Living with you is like living with a piece of air." Such emptiness is reflected in the story of Komura who begins a rather surreal journey to deliver a post of an unknown significance to another town. The need for freedom, the fear of loneliness and rejection or being alone in a large empty space are recurring themes in this story as is in most of the stories in this collection.

In the same manner, "Thailand" is about Satsuki, a doctor enjoying her holiday and participating in a conversation with a mystic who said that the woman had a stone inside of her which she needs to remove. That is an important detail showing a woman's confrontation with the past traumas and the torturous process of healing which is very characteristic of Murakami in general with the focus on symbolic burden, double load density and the problems of human soul's dealing with the load that concerns another not less important aspect of Murakami's work. Similarly, Satsuki wades through the unstirred enmity, which presents the concealed agony similar to the ones represented by fears and anxieties in the context of the film after the quake occurred.

Out of all the tales, there is “Super-Frog Saves Tokyo,” where Katagiri is an ordinary man who is befriended by a large talking frog. Hearing that an even bigger earthquake threatens Tokyo, the frog turns to Katagiri for assistance. The basic premise itself is very prominently Murakami – the surreal is real, the real is surreal, and while the two exist simultaneously, they reveal the essence of the human experience as far as fear, responsibility and courage are concerned. What Murakami achieves with this curious story is to zoom in on how there are horrific things lurking just around the corner that would otherwise blend in to the banality of ordinary life in the face of natural disasters and personal tragedies.

All of them are different, but *After the Quake* is a collection of stories connected with ideas of alienation, phenomenon of meltdown and desperation in search for something to hold in the world that is constantly shifting. As with the physical earthquake that serves as the context to Murakami’s characters, the focus shifts to change and characters that are usually detached from reality and their own feelings. He employs a style that is laconic and quite bare of any complexity which adds to the lack of intimacy that a lot of his characters feel, thus makes their revelation or moment of awakening very poignant.

All in all, *After the Quake* is a superb investigation of the concepts of trauma and metamorphosis. This is where Murakami is at his best, his ability of exploring the shades of the supernatural as well as poking deep into the psyche of his characters is seen to the best. In this sense, it is a book that stays with you, a book which gives no clear solutions, but stays with the questions.



- Ronit Thara
BA Dev Econ 2nd Year

The Virtual Library



Digital Resources
Passwords

RTC DATABASES, EJOURNALS &
DIGITAL RESOURCES

Research4Life

username: BHU523
password: 13313

Sage Knowledge

Log into Research4Life
Copy & paste URL in separate
window

ScienceDirect Scopus

Log into Research4Life
Access through Institution:
Research4Life

The Economist

username: library@rtc.bt
password: bhutan2022

library@rtc.bt

*Need help searching the
databases? Book an appointment*

Accessible through the MyRTC
Library Portal:

A-Z RTC Digital Resources &
Databases

Research4Life (direct link)

Need help in searching the
databases? Just 'Ask A Librarian'

KOHA ACCOUNT

If you are interested in having access to your koha account, please visit the library front desk to get your username and password or send us an email at library@rtc.bt

RENEWAL OF LIBRARY BOOKS - CAN BE DONE THROUGH EMAIL

Step 1: You will receive an automated email from the library when the due is near.

Step 2: If you would like to renew, Please reply to the same email.

Step 3: Library staff will renew your book and send you the new due date.