

# WELCOME TO THE RTC- LIBRARY NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2023



## COLOURLESS TSUKURU TAZAKI AND HIS YEARS OF PILGRIMAGE

Story of Tsukuru Tazaki begins with a long narrative that represents his inner feelings towards himself: An odd individual with no colorful name in a group of close-knit friends who all had names that were related to color such as Akamatsu which means a "red pine" in Japanese. Moreover, his own search for an identity and the sheer lack of a special quality which he perceived in himself was making his life difficult to live. He felt like he deserved to die because as a young adult undergoing an identity crisis and a deep trauma that he nursed from his high school's best friends, he was unable to face the world and accept himself.

He is one of those male characters in Murakami's books who are described with sparse details and and somewhat, deeply bland traits.

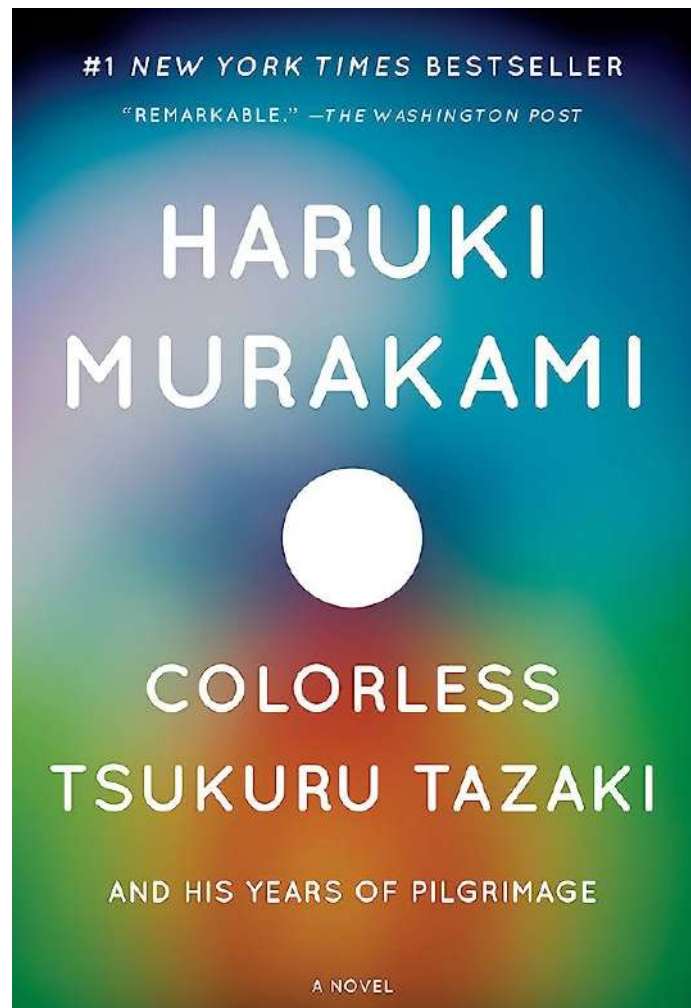
As the reader delves through the heart of the story though, a new narrative emerges.

The story belongs to his past when his seemingly perfect world comprising his perfect friends ended with him feeling deeply hurt by their abandonment. They simply leave him once he leaves for another district to begin his college life thus starting a complex cycle of self-sabotaging behaviour in him.

Then, a series of other events are unravelled that herald a new passage of his life, his future and how he finally comes to term with his own trauma.

Meeting his friends from the past and having candid conversations with them finally leads to a deep revelation within him; he was existing in a strangely comforting yet misleading Utopian life when he was a part of the group. Through them, he also understands that despite his own negative perception of himself, he was actually one of the most liked members of the group.

**BY SANGAY ZAM**  
**BA ENG STUDIES**



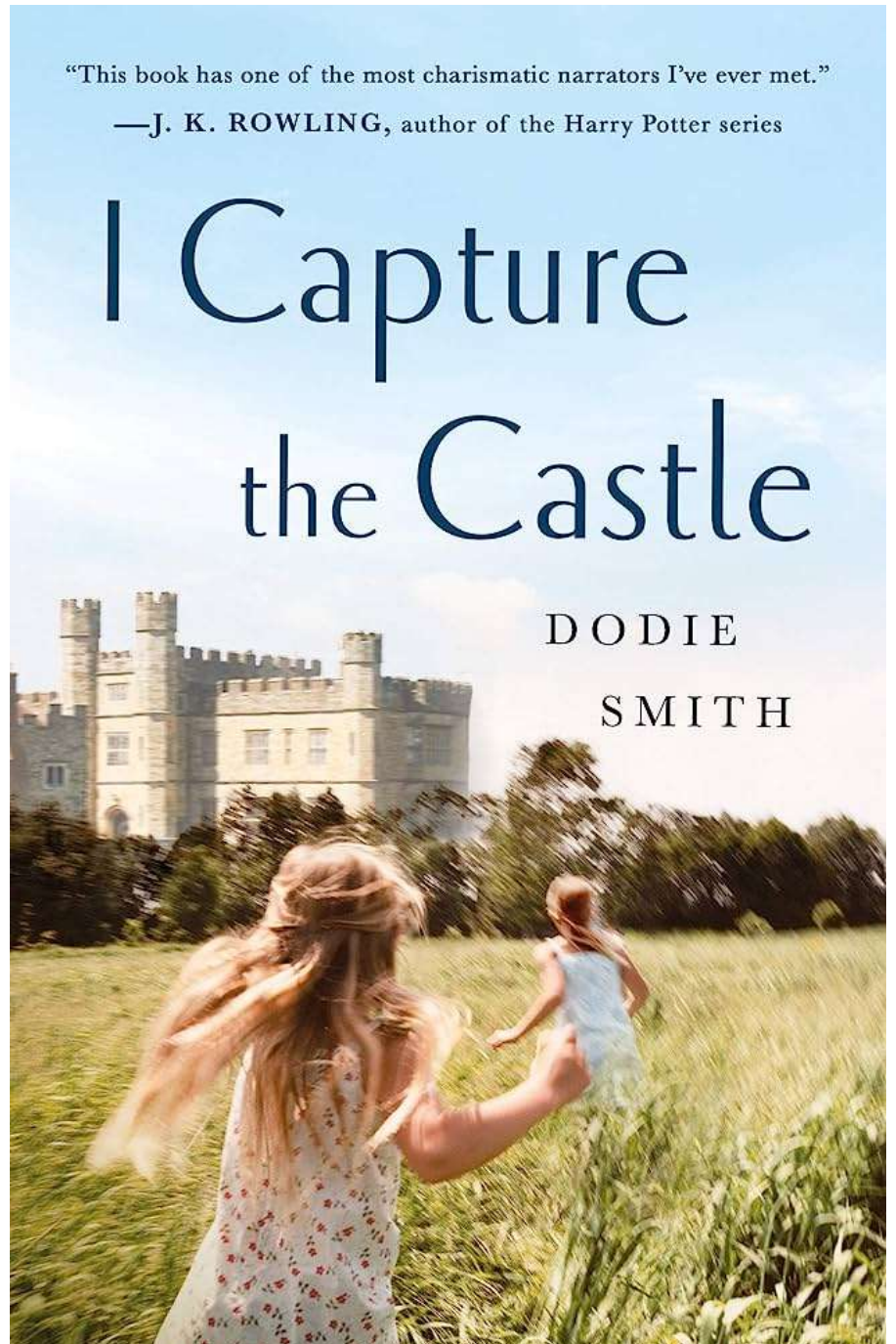
These revelations come at a hefty price though, and Tsukuru must learn to pay them before he understands and comprehends the world around them.

Especially for young adults and even for the people of other ages, this book can feel like a glimpse of their own school days and give them a poignant taste of nostalgia. Moreover, it is also like a little book of revelations that can come in handy for the graduating students such as me who are undergoing post-grad blues or identity crisis because of the shadowy futures that we must all embrace with open arms.

It is akin to the beginning of Humoresque's lovely cadence and the light of the bleak painful future that we must all accept.

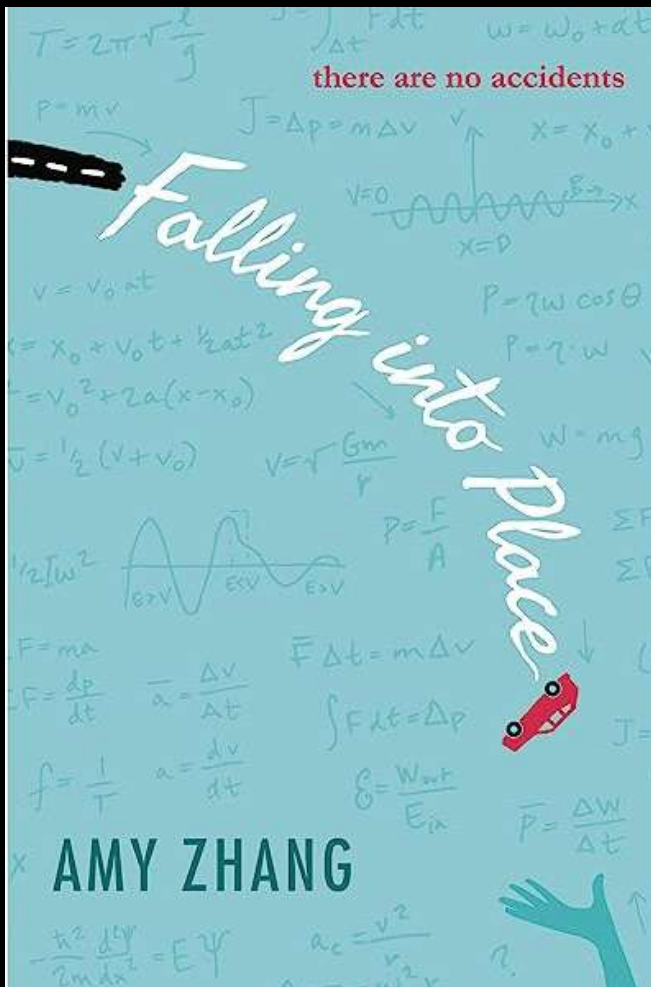
Genre: Classic, Fiction,  
Young Adult, Coming of  
age

Through six turbulent months of 1934, 17-year-old Cassandra Mortmain keeps a journal, filling three notebooks with sharply funny yet poignant entries about her home, a ruined Suffolk castle, and her eccentric and penniless family. By the time the last diary shuts, there have been great changes in the Mortmain household, not the least of which is that Cassandra is deeply, hopelessly, in love.



## FALLING INTO PLACE – AMY ZHANG

*Genre: Young adult fiction, Contemporary, Mental health*



Inertia, force, mass, gravity, velocity, acceleration... cause and effect.

Liz Emerson doesn't understand any of it.

But I do.

I understand how we fall. Where we fall. Why we fall.

I understand her sadness and loneliness and silence, her shattered heart.

It doesn't have to be this way, does it?

It wasn't always this way, was it?

Stay alive, Liz Emerson, stay alive.

On the day Liz Emerson tries to die, they had reviewed Newton's laws of motion in physics class. Then, after school, she put them into practice by running her Mercedes off the road. Why did Liz Emerson decide that the world would be better off without her? Why did she give up? The nonlinear novel pieces together the short and devastating life of Meridian High's most popular junior girl. Mass, acceleration, momentum, force—Liz didn't understand it in physics, and even as her Mercedes hurtles toward the tree, she doesn't understand it now. How do we impact one another? How do our actions reverberate? What does it mean to be a friend? To love someone? To be a daughter? Or a mother? Is life truly more than cause and effect? Amy Zhang's haunting and universal story will appeal to fans of Lauren Oliver, Gayle Forman, and Jay Asher.

## COMPANION PIECE – ALI SMITH

GENRE: LITERARY FICTION, CONTEMPORARY,  
ADULT FICTION, BRITISH LITERATURE

# Ali Smith Companion piece



A celebration of companionship in all its timeless and contemporary, legendary and unpindownable, spellbinding and shapeshifting forms

It follows the unique achievement of her Seasonal cycle of novels - Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer - written and published in as close as possible to real time, between 2016 and 2020, absorbing and reflecting the times we are living through: the 'state-of-the-nation novels which understand that the nation is you, is me, is all of us' (New Statesman).

A celebration of companionship in all its timeless and contemporary, legendary and unpindownable, spellbinding and shapeshifting forms

# The Virtual Library



Digital Resources  
Passwords

## 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

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library@rtc.bt

*Need help searching the  
databases? Book an appointment*

RTC DATABASES, EJOURNALS &  
DIGITAL RESOURCES

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](mailto: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.