

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to the November 2021 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads: [What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20](#), [Monk Chasing Monkey](#).

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

[What I Wish I Knew When I Was 20: a crash course on making your place in the world by Tina L. Seelig.](#)

Are you worried that you are getting older day by day? Do you regret not being able to chase your dreams, and now you feel you are too old to grab those dreams? Or are you just going with the flow of life with no aims and dreams?

Well, if you fall in any of these categories, then I would say that you are going in the right direction. Whether you are 60 or 20 makes no difference as long as you still have the passion and zeal to at least try fulfilling one of your dreams, and if you still feel lost, then I recommend you to read the book 'What I wish I knew when I was 20' by Tina Seeling.

Do not get disheartened by the title thinking it's only for those in 20s. The title could be misleading, as this book can be read by people of all ages. Nevertheless, if you are in your 20s this book can benefit you more in choosing your future and following your passion.

This book was recommended to me by one of my friends who is a voracious reader, and I am more than glad to say that this is also one of the books highly recommended by our King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Author

Tina Seeling, an executive director of Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program and also a professor, has so many stories and life-related advice to people of all ages. She guides her students, who are transitioning from academic to professional world, and who sometimes feel stuck in choosing what's best for them. She has authored 17 books, and is also a recipient of Gordon Prize from National Academy of Engineering. She is an inspirational figure for many.

Summary of the book

The book has a total of 10 chapters, which makes us look at problems from different perspectives. Taking every problem as an opportunity and matching your passion with your skill is one of the key concepts in this book. Moreover, one will never feel bored to read this book as it's filled with rich stories, which are relevant to all. It also tells us how we should take things one at a time to get a better-quality result at the end.

More than the success story, I am more attracted to this book as she also talks about by how one should always help others and appreciate every little thing in life, and how we should embrace problems instead of running away from them. And how being grateful to one another and to oneself can only give us success instead of disappointments. Some of my favorite lines from the book are

“Being observant, open-minded, friendly, and optimistic invites luck your way.”

“Life is a huge buffet of enticing platters of possibilities, but too much on your plate just leads to indigestion.”

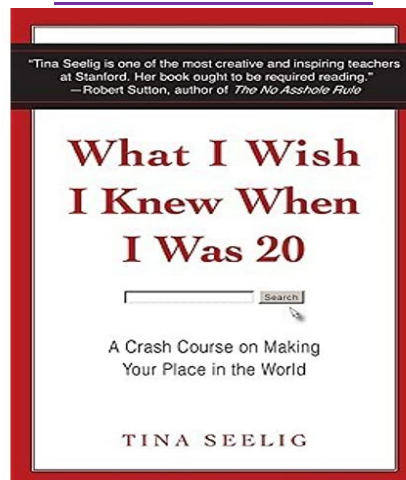
“The amount of successes you have is directly correlated with the number of failures you experience.”

Some lines from the last paragraphs are quite relatable and motivating. She emphasizes how one has to be self-aware and look at boundless possibilities that could result from pulling yourself out of your comfort zone, being willing to fail, having healthy disregard for the impossible, and seizing every opportunity to be fabulous. In short, being positive and taking every obstacle as an opportunity to achieve success can make one a successful person.

How we should create a place for our self in this world also comes from within our self. All we need is the passion and determination to go for it. I would highly recommend this book for all to read and correct yourself before it's too late.

Thank you
Palden Wangmo
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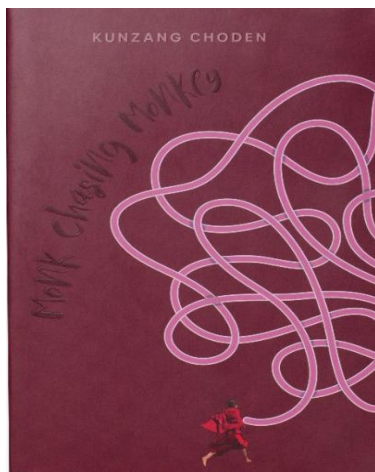
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Monk Chasing Monkey by Kunzang Choden

The very first Bhutanese novel I read was *Dawa: The Story of a Stay Dog in Bhutan* by Ashi Kunzang Choden. Very beautifully captured from the lens of a personified dog, it provides a brief tour of places and people in Bhutan. *Monk Chasing Monkey* gave me a similar experience. Granted that the point of the book was something else, it gave me a survey tour of all places (I mean all *dzongkhags*) in Bhutan. Of the twenty *dzongkhags* in Bhutan, I have either been to or passed through a total of ten *dzongkhags*. The book afforded me a familiar return of my visits to the *dzongkhags* I had visited in my last three years, while also taking me through a breezy excursion to the places I haven't been to. In doing so, the book acquainted me with some of the distinctive characteristics of each *dzongkhag*, including a few stories behind *dzongkhag* names.

But what is this book about? Or, what actually is the story? Spurred by his inquisitive mind (which he calls his 'monkey mind'), the protagonist of the novel, a monk named Rigzin, embarks on a journey to visit all the twenty *dzongkhags* in Bhutan. In pursuing his explorative journey, he is introduced to many unfamiliar particulars and way of life. Some of these new encounters excited him, but others puzzled him, or even disquieted him. Through Rigzin's expedition, the author presents to the readers what modern Bhutan looks like (or has come to look like) seen from a



tabula rasa. Furthermore, the novel also demonstrates how modern quest has the potential to not only unplug us from our roots, but also disorient us by overwhelmingly riddling us with plenty of options, aspirations, and prospects. The author shows this through Rigzin's inability to call on to his teacher for help towards the end of his journey having gone too astray. Writes the author: "There had been too many distractions and too many images, and now they competed fiercely for space in his mind" (p.

195). Until that point of time, Rigzin had an infrangible connection and ability to communicate with his teacher through his trained mind.

The book does not end in a sad note, though. Rigzin eventually finds his way back. His master comes to his rescue. And when he got back to his hermitage, he feels the existential insideness.

In addition, the mundane silence of the mountainside at once became appreciated. His temporary detachments brought perceptiveness home to him. Finally, he learnt the value of what he had all along.

Thank you
Roderick Wijunamai
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Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to gyanupradhan@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!

YOU MUST TELL YOURSELF, "NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, OR HOW HARD IT GETS, I AM GOING TO MAKE IT..."-Les Brown.