

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome to the September 2022 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads Dream Dubai, Maurice: The Book and the Movie.

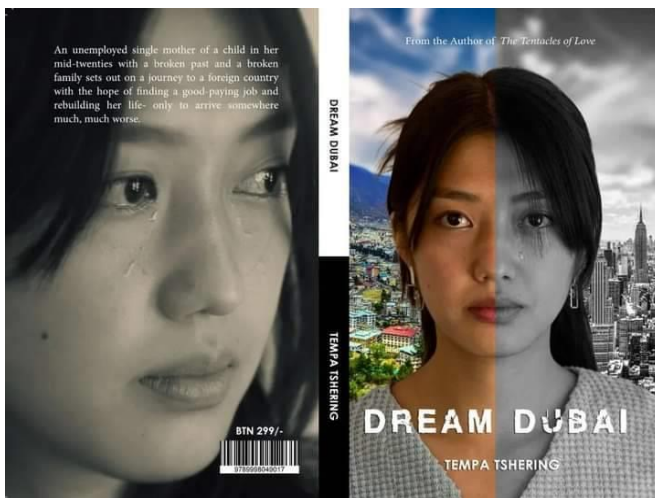
Recommended Reads from the RTC community

Dream Dubai by Tempa Tshering

“Dream Dubai” is an interesting and eye-opening novel written by young Bhutanese author, Tempa Tshering. The author is well known and popular among Bhutanese youths who are interested to write and share their writings on Facebook. His blog is Tempa Tshering Archeologist-a countryside writer and “Dream Dubai” is his second book.

First of all, let me ask, how many of us have a dream of becoming an expat in Dubai and earning amounts which triple in value when converted to Bhutanese Ngultrums? For many Dubai is a place of varieties, lots of fascinating environments as well as a place to earn. While, this may be true, have we thought of the real situation that young Bhutanese expats go through once they reach there?

“Dream Dubai” is a fictional book that covers the story of us there.



A short summary of the book:

“Dream Dubai” is a very heart-touching story of an unemployed single mother (with a sad past in her homeland) who sets off to a foreign land with a hope to live a good life, only to face the worst experiences abroad. She suffered a lot in this mysterious place where no one was there to assist her. Without her knowledge, she was being trafficked by

a woman whom she considered as a guardian angel for she provided a place to live in and basic necessities when in Dubai. Being there, she thought she would have a promising future for her daughter with the amount of money she would be able to earn there. Alas! She was instead trafficked.

Part two of the story is expected ...what does her future holds after she was trafficked?

The question here is, how can a woman do that to another woman? More importantly, can we trust anyone in life for the sake of earning money?

I would say, this book gives us a lesson on how we should not be blinded by someone else's promises especially in a foreign land. All things that glitters are not gold, just because someone is in a foreign land and is earning huge amount of money does not mean we have to jump to that place without a clear understanding of the actual situation there.

Thank You
Sarita Poudel
Learning Resource Center.



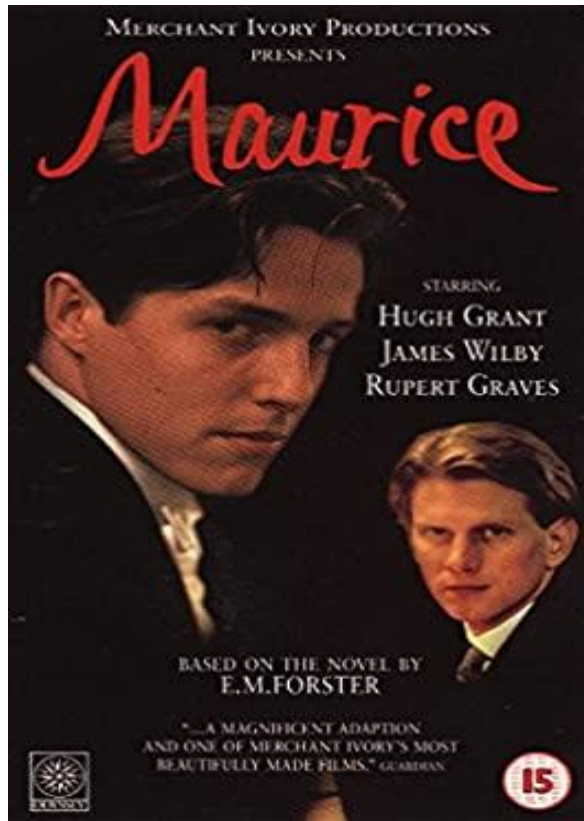
Born on 29th March 1999, Tempa Tshering was brought up in the far-flung countryside of 'Jabgang' under Mongar Dzongkhag. He is an archaeologist by profession and a writer by passion. His first book *A Drop of Nectar* was published in 2018 followed by *The Tentacles of Love* in 2020. This is his third book and second novel. He currently works as an archaeologist at the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites under the Department of Culture, MoHCA.

Maurice: The Book and the Movie

Maurice made a surprise entry in my life when I was hungrily gorging on the stories of great Greek heroes such as Heracles, Patroclus and Achilles and other great figures whose epics retained by Homeric tradition received a change in the hands of age of the Antiquity writers like Plato.

These heroic figures who inhibited the world for several centuries after the period of Antiquity ended were branded grand lovers whose love transcended the barriers of gendered expressions. I had watched Achilles portrayed by Brad Pitt and his violent duel with Hector because the latter slaughtered his nephew Patroclus. The movie showed that it was the love for his pure hearted nephew and the sense of honor which governed his actions.

However, in the interpretation of Plato, I found another meaning to their relationship- that of lovers who were buried together. The idea was further cemented by Madeline Miller's book "The Song of Achilles".



So, I began to search for more books that could provide a glimpse into queer love that existed in the past. I had already read Oscar Wilde's delightful novel and gone through a plethora of articles about his restrained sexuality including his famous 'Des Profundus', a profound book that talks of his love for his lover for whom he sacrificed his social status and even his health.

My search for an Edwardian depiction of the queer love ended when I found E. M. Forster's "Maurice".

The book is surprisingly aware of the contemporaneity of itself and has provided a rare happy ending for the homosexual character Maurice Hall when even in the present times, the idea of tragic nature of queer love or the fetishized depiction of such love attracts most

audiences.

Faced with a choice to either repress his longing forever or being happy, Maurice grabs the chances of being with his true self twice and is rewarded with a self-awareness that transcends the time frame in which he was imprisoned.

Breaking free from the classist and homophobic views of his times, he flies to his lover Scudder's arms and lives as an outlaw. While the movie has also masterfully depicted the events in the book, the end differs starkly.

In the book, his first love Durham is represented as a man who grew out of love that he had for Maurice. In some ways, it has even been suggested that for Durham, the idea of homosexuality was delightful to him because he was into the classics of the Age of Antiquity and loved the idea of platonic love as he was, like so many other youth, influenced by the novelty of the idea.

So, it was easy for him to leave Maurice as to him Maurice simply was a representation of those ideals and the sense of rebellion. Durham lived in books, not reality. Maurice, in the contrary, was a real homosexual person who from a young age had felt the stirrings of feelings towards men in his dreams and had loathed himself for it. He even feels physical longing for Durham.

At the end, when Maurice finally lets go Durham, Durham does not even realize the finality of the moment in the book with the author hinting that perhaps, even during the end of his life, Durham never fully realized that Maurice had left.

However, in the book, Durham want to leave Maurice as he is scared of being persecuted and at the end, when Maurice finally leaves, Durham thinks of their time together showing that he realizes that he loves Maurice, but has chosen the respectable life instead of his true outlawed identity times.

In the movie, both of them loved each other in the ways of the recently persecuted Oscar Wilde and that thought scared Durham.

To conclude, which is the most suitable ending for the story? Should we love the feeling Durham of the movie or hate the pedantic and shallow Durham of the book? That is a thought that encircles the reader/ viewer's mind.

Both the endings have their own implications and interpretations. However, I will always choose the ending of the movie though both the movie and the book had their flaws, one must imagine Durham to be feeling and saddened over his loss because that is his greatest source of redemption. This is a theme that encapsulates the entire novel and gives the futile existence of human lives a reason to accept the "indifference of the world" as said by Maurice himself when he reflects on the hopelessness if the situation.

Thank You
Sangay Zam
BA English Studies
Cohort 2020.

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.