

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017



Welcome to the September 2017 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

In this issue:

Recommended Reads: *The sun is also a star*; *Family wisdom*; *A house for Mr Biswas*
“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”: *The Book Thief*
Book donation from Monash University Malaysia Library
Online subscription: The Economist

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

The sun is also a star by Nicola Yoon

The *SUN IS ALSO A STAR* is the second novel by Nicola Yoon the No.1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING*, which is another young adult contemporary novel.

Her second book focuses on Natasha Kingsley, a Jamaican teenage girl who is being deported in less than 24 hours, and Daniel Bae, a Korean-American who happens to stumble upon her which he believes to be fate. Natasha is trying her best by doing everything within her ability to stop her family from having to leave America. On the other hand, Daniel is on his way to a college admissions interview with Yale just as his parents' wish. On his way, he stumbles upon Natasha who is busy jamming out to music and ends up following her around New York. As the day progresses, Daniel attempts to persuade Natasha of their instant connection. They share countless cliché romantic moments still counting down the hours until Natasha gets deported, This book is easy to understand as it is told from both Natasha and Daniel's perspectives with some short informational chapters in between.

Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. Or dreams that will never come true. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a cute boy on a crowded New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is twelve hours away from being deported to Jamaica. Falling in love with him won't be my story.

Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student, living up to my parents' high expectations. Never the poet or the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store—for both of us.

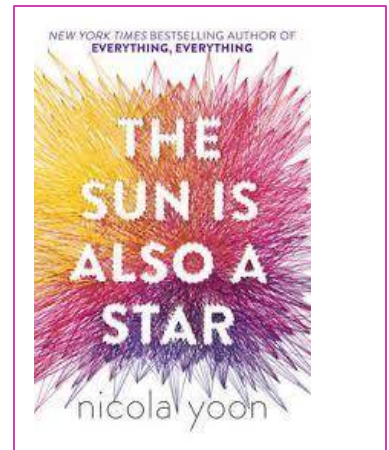
The Universe: Every moment in our lives has brought us to this single moment. A million futures lie before us. Which one will come true?

Daniel's chapters are typically a hopeless romantic. Whereas, Natasha believes in science. She uses facts to support what she may feel or may not feel while Daniel just goes with it. Nicola Yoon have done a great job by putting up the contrast between these two different views in such a beautiful way which keeps us hooked to it. What I didn't like about this book is it is based on the concept of instant love which actually doesn't seem to be realistic. Most part of this book takes place in one day, and it revolves around Daniel and Natasha falling in love after having just met. But come on, can this really happen in the real world? These types of story lines are of course cute; however, a connection that is a little more realistic is more preferable.

My favorite part of this book is the background stories of the minor characters. It is interesting knowing all about the security worker that Natasha bump into once a week and the secretary of a Yale's admissions interviewer.

Nicola Yoon had written *The Sun is also a Star* so amazingly it's hard to get over it yet. I am sure without a doubt that I would love to go about reading it over and over again. **Tashi Choden,**
Assistant Librarian

Location: FIC Y59s



Quotes:

“I didn't know you this morning, and now I don't remember not knowing you.”

“There's a Japanese phrase I like: Koi no yokan. It doesn't mean love at first sight. It's closer to love at second sight. It's the feeling when you meet someone that you're going to fall in love with them. Maybe you don't love them right away, but it's inevitable that you will.”

Family wisdom from the monk who sold his Ferrari— nurturing the leader within your child by Robin Sharma

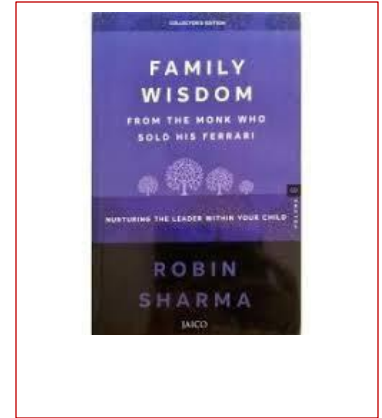
It sometimes takes ages to people to realize or discover that SUCCESS cannot be really pursued. It just ensues and flows into your life. In the due course of our life we unknowingly miss out simple things in a family like the simple hugs or your dear ones calling you by a nick name (which we find irritating) but after I read this book I realized those were beautiful moments bygone.

In his book 'Family Wisdom', Robin Sharma has plainly put up some beautiful masteries on how to live a happy family life such as:-

1. 'LEADERSHIP ":- One has to be a leader at home.
2. Shift from scolding the child to molding the leader, be gentle, kind, honest, praise your children.
3. Focus your child on greatness, not weakness .Develop strengths rather weakness. Be a real human.
4. Become the person you were meant to. Choose your likes, dreams and be you, love what you do and do what you love.
5. Gift your child immortality through the gift of legacy. Live for others, Listen to your heart and commit yourself.

It's a wonderful book where one is taught how to live a wonderful life using above masteries. It has changed my notion on how to behave and live a family life for the betterment. ***Gyanu Pradhan, Librarian***

**Location: Main
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Quotes:

*“The tougher you are with yourself, the easier life will be on you.
The stricter you are with yourself, the gentler the life will be on you.”*

A house for Mr Biswas by V. S. Naipaul

"A house for Mr. Biswas" is a tragicomic chronicle of a man's life.

He is born "in the wrong way" and with an extra finger. Both the midwife who helps at birth and the pundit who came to predict the child's future was convinced that this little boy will bring bad luck to his parents and when Mr Biswas father died he got the blame.

Mr Biswas' life is full of misfortunes. When he works as a sign painter he falls in love with a young girl and writes her a love letter and suddenly he finds himself married to her. She is from a rich and wealthy Indian family, the Tulsi clan, and after they get married they move into her family's big house where life is governed by Mrs Tulsi. The Tulsi family makes Mr Biswas' life miserable. He is in constant conflict with his in-laws. Mr Biswas tries to break away but it doesn't work. It always ends with him and his own family being back in the Tulsi mansion. He has ongoing, but futile, arguments with his wife, as well as with others in his surroundings.

He dreams of a house of his own, it symbolizes his freedom and independence. But it is a dream that never quite becomes a reality even though he tries many times.

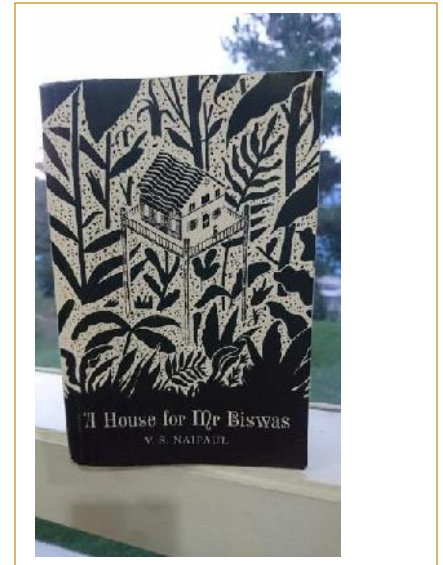
I find the story fascinating, some might find it depressing. I have read the book three times. I guess I have a love/hate relationship with Mr Biswas. He can be terribly annoying and at the same time I feel sorry for him. There is something sympathetic in his struggles and his quest for autonomy. And there's lots of humor in the book. I laugh a lot. Maybe I have a weird sense of humor.

This novel also provides an insight into the life of post-colonial Trinidad, with people from all walks of life and different religions.

Kerstin Brutte, Librarian

Location: MAIN

Call No.: 819.8 N157h

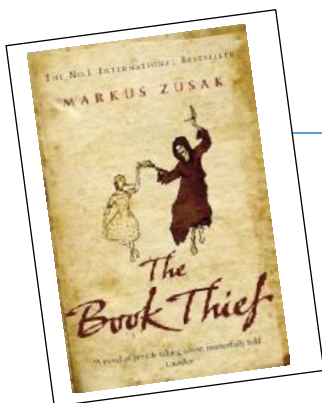


Quotes:

"He had carried on a war with Suniti ever since she was a child, but his contempt had never been able to quell her sarcasm. 'Shama', he shouted, 'tell that girl to go back and help that worthless husband of hers to look after their goats at Pokima Halt'. The goats were an invention of Mr Biswas which never failed to irritate Suniti....'Well, some people at least have goats. Which is more than I could say for some other people.'"

"The very day the house was bought they began to see flaws in it. The staircase was dangerous; the upper floor sagged; there was no back door; most of the windows didn't close; one door could not open; the celotex panels under the eaves had fallen out and left gaps between which bats could enter the attic."

Read the book, watch the movie!



The Book Thief

Book by Markus Zusak

Movie starring: Sophie Nélisse, Geoffrey Rush, Emily Watson.



“Zusak’s book, set during World War II, tells the story of a young girl just trying to survive. The girl steals what she can to live, but one day discovers books she can steal. With the help of her foster father she learns to read the books, and shares them with the people in her neighborhood—as well as the Jewish man who is hiding from the Nazi’s in her basement. Ultimately, “The Book Thief” is about the power of reading to transcend the ravages of war.”

(Source: <https://www.librarything.com/work/393681/reviews>)

“After years of having it on my to read list, I finally got around to reading *The Book Thief*. Luckily, it was an assigned reading for one of my classes, so I managed to kill two birds with one stone, and let me tell you – what a beautiful bird it turned out to be. But if the book was a peacock, then the movie version must have been a pigeon.”

(Source: <http://www.tessafoxreads.com/blog/comparing-literature-to-film-the-book-thief>)

“While I realize films and books are different mediums of art, either one should still be art, and art makes one feel something. The novel is hauntingly beautiful, told from the perspective of death, it is innovative and chilling and leaves readers staying up all night to find out what happens to the protagonist, Liesel. In contrast, the movie seemed to drag.”

(Source: http://www.dailynebraskan.com/arts_and_entertainment/poor-pacing-character-development-make-the-book-thief-film-fall/article_a46d0804-62ea-11e3-98b1-0019bb30f31a.html)

Many people who have read the book are disappointed with the movie.

Why don’t you read the book and watch the movie and see what you think. Do you agree?

Markus Zusak was one of the speakers at the Mountain Echoes Literary Festival 2017 in Thimphu. “The Book Thief” has been translated into more than 40 languages, and has been on the New York Times bestseller list 375 week.

The book:

Location: FIC Z967b

The movie:

Available on the MSS

Book donation from Monash University Malaysia Library



The RTC Library has received a book donation from the Monash University Malaysia Library. These books, in a variety of fields, is an excellent addition to the RTC collection especially in Anthropology and Communication Arts. In mid-August 45 boxes with books arrived from Malaysia. As soon as the books are cataloged they will be available for check out – one box at a time...

A sample of the donation is on display in the library.

Bridging academic excellence across the Himalayas

(published on the Monash University Malaysia Library website)



A fine collection of 971 books from the Monash University Malaysia Library (LLC) travelled a distance of 4,150 km to the eastern edge of the Himalayas to find their new home at the **Royal Thimphu College (RTC)** Library, Thimphu, Bhutan; they arrived on 24 August 2017!

The outreach initiative was part of the Library's broader objective to bring its collection up-to-date in order to remain relevant to Monash Malaysia's education and research priorities and objectives. While these weeded items may no longer meet Monash Malaysia's needs, they might be of benefit to another academic institution.



The RTC project - as we call it - was initiated by longtime friends and former colleagues, Isabelle Eula (LLC Director) and Amrita McKinney, RTC Professor and Library Advisor. Through their international experience, the two librarians developed a deep appreciation for the positive impact of cross-institutional collaborations on local communities.

From March to the end of August 2017, a total of 19 staff in the Information Resources and Information Services were involved in liaising with RTC Library, analysing, selecting, withdrawing, de-processing and packing library materials that were deemed relevant by RTC academic community.

Four months and 45 boxes later, the book shipment was picked up by DHL and flown to Bhutan. The donated books will now nestle on RTC library shelves to serve another institution of higher education which shares the same aspirations as Monash University to foster academic excellence through purposeful collaboration and partnership.

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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 kbrutte@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!