

# BOOK-REVIEW

- Title & Author:

THE KITEMAKER Stories by RUSKIN BOND

- Introduction:

I chose The Kitemaker: Stories because I have always admired Ruskin Bond's simple way of storytelling. He is one of my favourite authors from the very start. His ability to bring small-town India to life with deep emotions and memorable characters made me to select this book. I expected this collection to be a mix of nostalgia, human connections and simple joys in our life.

- Summary:

The Kitemaker: Stories is a collection of short stories by Ruskin Bond, each offering a glimpse into ordinary lives enriched with warmth and wisdom. This story, The Kitemaker, revolves around Mehmood, a Pakistani old kitemaker who is thinking about his youth, contrasting the past with the present where kites no longer hold the same charm and his grandson Ali. The stories introduce various characters - children, old men, dreamers, and wanderers—each navigating the simple but heartfelt moments of life. Ruskin Bond shows us themes of nostalgia, change, human connection, and nature's beauty. Ruskin Bond's stories are not

just stories, but they're intense emotions which were in written form.

- Analysis & Opinion:

I think Ruskin Bond's effortless storytelling worked exceptionally well captivating me to finish the book. His use of simple language and clear descriptions made me feel each story alive. The characters, especially Mehmood, in *The Kitemaker*, were deeply relatable. His longing for the past made me feel emotional, reminding me of my grandparents and how traditions slowly fade over time due to modernisation.

One of the most impactful lines from the book is when Mehmood sighs, "There was a time when people appreciated the craftsmanship of a good kite." This direct speech beautifully conveys the theme of changing times and changing people. Coming to an indirect speech - when Mehmood was younger and had fallen sick, everyone in the neighbourhood had come to ask after his health; but now, when his days were drawing to a close, no one visited. I almost cried by reading this line.

However, a few stories felt too short, leaving me for wanting more depth and a more detailed description. While Bond's exploration of human life is charming, I sometimes wished for more detailed characters, and I also wanted that this book was more pages than what it actually is. That being said, his ability to evoke emotions through everyday simple moments is unmatched.

- Personal Connection:

Reading THE KITEMAKER Stories felt like a change in generation. Mehmood's grandson Ali, reminded me of my childhood and Mehmood reminded me of my grandparents. The book made me realize how traditions, once cherished, gradually faded into non existing things. It was a wake-up call that sometimes we must go the extra mile to preserve the past before it slips through our hands. We see that Mehmood was so lonely in his old age and he deserved a better life at that time.

This book was a breath of fresh air. It made me see the beauty in simple things, reinforcing that happiness doesn't always lie in grand achievements. It truly hit home when I read about Mehmood's quiet acceptance of change - reminding me that we must learn to let go, even if we don't really like it. At the end of the day, old habits die hard, but adapting is the only way forward. Reading this collection rekindled my appreciation for nostalgia while making me cherish the present.

- Conclusion:

I would highly recommend The Kitemaker: Stories to anyone who loves simple, heartfelt storytelling. I think this is one of the best works of Ruskin Bond. Bond's writing is perfect for those who enjoy reflective, nostalgic, and meaningful short stories. If you have ever felt that your life is passing too quickly, this book will surely touch your heart. It also reminds

you of your childhood days and your grandparents, like how I felt.