

**Title & Author:**

The Origin of the World by Pierre Michon  
Translated from French by Wyatt Alexander Mason

**Introduction :**

I picked this book because I was very curious about how life began. The title caught my attention, and I thought it might explain the start of life on Earth. I expected the book to talk about science, like how small living things grew into bigger ones and how humans originated and changed the world. But it was not like that at all. The story was more about a human's deep true feelings and how we humans still have the same emotions that people had long ago. No matter what the era is, humans are still humans.

**Summary:**

The story is about a young school teacher who moves to a small village in the late 1960s. He is very quiet and calm, and the people in the village treat him as an outsider. I don't like that. He falls in love with Yvonne, a strong and beautiful woman who runs the local tobacco shop in the village. But he never tells her how he feels. He just watches her from a distance and dreams about being with her. At the same time, he visits some old caves nearby. These caves have paintings of women and animals. The teacher feels a deep connection to those paintings. They remind him of his own feelings and his love for Yvonne. The book talks about love, loneliness, and how we sometimes hide our true feelings. It also shows how the past and present are connected through human emotions.

**Analysis & Opinion:**

One thing I liked about the book was how it showed deep feelings in a very quiet way. The teacher didn't speak much, but we could still feel everything he was going through. The way he looked at the cave paintings and connected them to his own life was very interesting. It made me think about how humans haven't really changed much, we still have the same feelings deep inside. The teacher's character was the most special. Even though he didn't talk much, his true feelings for Yvonne meant a lot. He reminded me of many people I know who keep their feelings to themselves. One line that I really liked was when the teacher said, *"In this land of stone and water, she alone seemed alive."* That showed how he saw Yvonne. There was also a part where it was mentioned that he believed he would never confess his feelings. That made me feel sad for him. The book gave a deep meaningful message and that is: People should talk with others and share their feelings to each other. Otherwise, the persons who had not shared their feelings may fall into depression and end up isolating themselves. Eventually, hatred is born in order to protect love. This may seem confusing, so let me explain: if a person is in love with someone, they will do whatever it takes to protect them, they even start a war or fight against anyone who causes them trouble even if they are not even connected.

**Personal Connection:**

This book really made me think. At first, I thought I should never be like the teacher. He was too afraid to speak his heart. I saw how that fear slowly took over his life. I've seen people in real life who also love someone silently. I used to think they were just scared. But now, I understand it better. Before I came here, I used to read books a lot. Then I started to watch anime. This book helped me start reading again, and I'm happy about that. The teacher was

like someone who was walking on eggshells all the time he was always careful and scared. He had a heavy heart because he never shared his love. This story helped me realize that it's important to open up and not bottle up emotions within ourselves. If we don't share our feelings , we may feel worse later. We'll definitely regret it after that.

**Conclusion:**

I would suggest this book to people who enjoy deep and emotional love stories. It may not be for everyone. People who like bold and straight forward stories may not enjoy it. But if they read it, they will learn how quiet people feel deep inside them. The story takes you to a different place , once realize it is worth reading. I really liked the teacher's dreams and imagination. It reminded me a lot of people I know. The story is simple but full of meaning.