

--Book Review--

Name – Rupansh Chadokar

Roll No. – 24BTB0A57

Title and Author

Title - Bleachers

Author - John Grisham

Introduction

I selected Bleachers by John Grisham as this story talks about past burdens , regrets and complexities in human behaviour , from the first page itself the book establishes its purpose and hooks reader , when i first read it struck a chord with me as i can relate to protagonist having past regrets and burdens , it made me curious as what story has to offer and how can author explain how this psychology works and how a person should deal with this .

Summary

The book revolves around football , legacy and forgiveness , story takes place in town of Messina located in Mississippi ,where a group of former high school football players reunites in the home town after hearing about the critical condition of their coach , story unfolds as everyone shares past memories and experience with coach Eddie Rake , some great but not all , it focuses on Neely Crenshaw , once a star player of football team but left the town never to return , reason being the coach , story relives the past memories of protagonist about his resentment towards coach , his broken relationship with his girlfriend and legacy that was built by coach due to win-at-all-cost mentality , strict discipline nature causing shocking things in the story .

Main Characters

1. Neely Crenshaw (Protagonist)
2. Coach Eddie Rake
3. Cameron Lane (Neely's GF)
4. Scotty Reardon (Imp role for story , don't want to spoil it)
5. Paul Curry (Former Player now turned banker)
- 6 Nat Sawyer and Silo Money (Former team member)

Central Theme

- Legacy created by Coach
- Memories of former team members
- Forgiveness and Reconciling nature of protagonist that the develops and story proceeds
- Change that Neely embraces over time.
- Mistakes in past that he finally find peace with.

Analysis and Opinion

The part that works for the story which makes readers being hooked is the character development of Neely , showing us his prime time of past and how his arrogance and ego lead to his distressed relation with his gf , and his resentment with coach which feels debatable as who feels right as a reader , story ends with Neely reconciling with himself is a great ending which many people need to learn in their life from their problems, what really didn't worked for this story was addition of some side characters just to deviate from the story although it doesn't feel deviating but it really didn't resonate with me , having a good amount of side characters isn't really a problem but not developing them feels useless , After knowing about other work of John Grisham on action and legal-drama this work of Grisham feels really flat although he tried his best to make a story on teenagers and their life problems it was an below the bar work by him , the novel being so big seems like repetition of theme in a way it feels forced and boring .

Although many character are established really well , the character who stood apart was coach Eddie Rack , Rack being a complex character makes reader think if the way coach handles stuff is correct or not

, although death of Scotty Reardon does establish solid argument against coach , still his legacy being so great that many people attend his funeral , existence of coach in Neely's life is to teach him a great lesson for life . Important message that book conveys is the theme is builds itself upon which is about embracing changes in life while we mature , being able to have the ability to forgive and reconcile which is hard to develop and making peace with out past mistakes

Personal Connection

From the start of the story, we were focused into the life of a character who is riding through the memories of his choices and regrets, and conflict of choices. I deeply connected to this character and his inner conflict. It forced me to rethink how I feel about looking back at self or loved ones with regret or resentment. I never thought before reading this book that I would find hope in those feelings. Talking about feelings around personal issues is complicated enough, while also feeling alone in our own experience makes it even harder . Reading Bleachers felt like an awakening. I felt like I had been living under a rock when I was moving through my journey of overcoming the past and letting go of regret. I spent so much wasted time crying over spilled milk instead of just giving acceptance to the past, and living with those thoughts how I thought. After years of living in mixed conflict between forgiveness and mixed internal feelings, (moved through was the best I could hope for), opening this book in order to provide for me a kind of clarity and a road map for moving past those obstacles.

Conclusion

In conclusion, reading Bleachers opened my eyes, allowing me to reshape my view of regret and human experience. It focussed upon the necessity of accepting, forgiving, and getting over our conflicts from past . The book gave me some connection to the character's struggle inside, and provided clarity and a positive mindset for moving forward. I learned that allowing our emotions, rather than keeping them in, could heal and lead to growth.