

# BOOK REVIEW

**TITLE:** THE DARK ROOM.

**AUTHOR:** R.K NARAYAN.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

R.K Narayan's the dark room is an excellent and thought-provoking novel that explains the struggles of a woman trapped in a patriarchal dominance. The whole story is set in the fictional town of Malgudi, the story follows Savitri, a traditional housewife, as she struggles with her husband Ramani's harsh behaviour towards her and indifference and society's expectations. Though simple yet powerful story telling by Narayan. This book highlights the silent suffering of women in Indian society. This novel is a strong commentary on gender roles and quest for identity. I chose this book firstly because I like the writings of R.K Narayan very much. He tries to highlight everyday lives of common people and the social issues through a powerful storytelling in simple language. Very recently a film named "The great Indian kitchen" it highlights the women empowerment and equal gender roles. As I expected this book highlights the equal gender roles and women empowerment.

## **SUMMARY:**

R.K Narayan's the dark room is a powerful social novel set in the fictional south Indian town Malgudi. It tells us the story of Savitri, a traditional house wife who feels trapped in a loveless and oppressive marriage to Ramani. She married to Ramani, a self centered and authoritarian man. He used to work in an insurance company. They have got three kids Babu, Kamala and Sumathi and they are very innocent and well-mannered kids. The novel explores the Savitri's internal struggles as she silently endures her husband's emotional neglect and patriarchal dominance.

When Savitri knows about her husband's affair with a modern woman named Shantha Bai, her frustration reaches a breaking point. She leaves her home in an attempt to find independence and self-worth. However, life outside is unforgiving and she is soon confronted with the harsh realities faced by women without social or financial support. Ultimately Savitri returns home, not out of submission but with a quite sense of awareness of her limited choices in a male-dominated society.

Through the dark room, Narayan critiques the traditional roles imposed on women and highlighted the emotional and societal struggles they endure. The novel remains relevant for its subtle yet poignant portrayal of gender inequality and the need for personal agency.

## **Analysis & opinion:**

R.K Narayan is known for his outstanding powerful story telling through simple words and this book is a reference for his standards and legacy. He conveyed his message through everyday lives of common people. Though it is fictional, the characters with similar kind of mentality are seen around us in our day to day lives. He showed the struggles of women and house wife's who struggling in male dominant society. It portrayed the equal roles of men and women to lead a healthy livelihood. I really liked the character and braveness of Savitri in this novel and the way she managed things around her. Savitri is a brave and well-mannered house wife she resembles my mother at some times. And the thing that I felt little annoying about the return back of Savitri to her home instead of that if she became self-independent and successful woman by leaving her husband to his fate will be a great deal according to me. The important message the book conveys is the equal roles of men and women and women empowerment enriches the nation's strengthening. And every woman should be brave

enough as Savitri as once Savitri raised her voice against her suppression saying like this to her husband "I'm not your servant. I'm not your slave. I'm human being too." this showcases her bravery. And I didn't like the way how Ramani treated her wife that he once told her that she was behaving childishly and that she should learn to behave like a proper wife. After reading this book my respect towards women increased more than before for am thank full to author Narayan for this book.

#### **PERSONAL CONNECTION:**

R.K Narayan's the dark book shown impact on many people around the world, inspired many women around the world likewise it also showed huge impact on me too as a male before I didn't know the struggles of women after reading this book my respect towards women increased more and understand the importance of women role in nation building and family building and everyone of us should work towards women education and female birth should be celebrated as it resembles the arrival of goddess Laxmi to once home .Every women should break the glass ceiling when they are treated unequally and everyone women should rise high as Savitri rose above the limitations society placed on her. Now a days women also performing in every field equally like men. I wish every girl should stand tall in their life and men should stand up for their women make sure to create equal opportunities and resources for them.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

R.K Narayan's the dark is definitely is one of the must-read books. It enriches the social values and ethics it shows the importance of the equal roles of men and women in society. I recommend this book to both men and women as this book empowers women and inspires them to become successful and self-dependent and men will get to know the struggles of women and they may change their attitude and behaviour towards women this establishes better understanding between both and I want to thank the author of this book R.K Narayan and our Spoorthi mam for giving us this assignment ,through this assignment I got an opportunity to read this book and this activity improved book reading habit inside me.