



Technical and Business Writing

Book Review

Book: If Cats Disappeared From The World (by Genki Kawamura).

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Section: Morning (A)

Submitted To: Ma'am Rubab

Introduction

“IF CATS DISAPPEARED FROM THE WORLD” is a fiction novel set in Japan, written by Japanese author Genki Kawamura translated by Eric Selland. The title is scary but it is a piercing tale about what it means to be alive and what things we’d be willing to give up. the unnamed narrator’s days are numbered. It’s been four years since his mother died. He is living alone with his cat for company. Now that his own death is near, the narrator is faced with the ending of life. He’s been told he is at the very last stage of cancer and has only few months to live. But before he can set about tackling his bucket list, Devil appears to him with a surprisingly special offer: He can have one extra day of life, in exchange for one thing in the world to disappear. The devil, a seemingly a very patient and well-balanced character, has aesthetic and is pretty intent on sealing deals with the main character, who is his 108th client.

[Hamza Badar 18]

Main Body

It tells the story of a postman living with his cat Cabbage in his small apartment. narrator is diagnosed with stage four brain tumor and is about to die. Before he could think of doing something the Devil appears before him and he makes a pact with devil to live an extra day of life in exchange of something to disappear from the world. Mobile phone is selected as the first thing to disappear, but before that he makes a call to his ex-girlfriend and immediately following this call all mobile phones vanished from existence unnoticed. That’s how this seven-day odyssey begins. On Wednesday the devil reappeared and told him that movies should be the next thing to fade away. This makes the narrator think that its not going to be easy, and what will the world be like without movies, music, and coffee? He thinks that in exchange of his life these things are trifling in comparison. On Thursday the devil gives Cabbage the ability to speak so narrator does not feel lonely and suggests that it’s time for clocks to vanish. The thought occurred to the man that his father owns a small clock shop but regardless he went with it. on the next encounter devil proffered that cats should disappear from the world. Man gets perplexed and questioned himself, what would it be? His life or cats? It’s been four years since his mother had died and Cabbage had always been by her side. How can he erase him? What is he supposed to do? How will he get through this dilemma?

[Hamza Badar 18]

The story of this book is quite charming, cool, stylish and humorous, but at the same time heart piercing, and insightful. The concept here is not new, but it comes at a time where the question is at everyone's lips: what, in life, is truly important? and so as we read it, we feel the very real weight, stress and anxiety of the protagonist's while making choices and decisions. The story looks simple on the surface, but there is more to it than meets the eye, because that surface contains hidden depths. Genki Kawamura's prose is stylish and grabs our attention from the first sentence and doesn't let go till the last. There is not a single unnecessary sentence, there is no wasted word. I loved most of the characters in the book, but how the character of the Devil is presented is remarkable.

[Burhan 23]

Conclusion

A beautiful, comforting story despite the surprising emotional charge. It's about a man's journey towards accepting the end and making peace with it. And it's about cats. Genki Kawamura's beautiful tale of loss and reconciliation will make you question what really matters in modern life? I strongly recommend if you love cats, Japanese fiction or speculative writings about life and death.

[Abdul Wahab 09]