

Hello everyone, Today I'll be reviewing the *Book of Proper Names* by Amélie Nothomb.

This novel focuses on topics like exploration of identity, societal expectations and struggle between individuality. In the review I will also be discussing about what we can inherit from this book and what were the thoughts that filled my head when I read this book apart from the main theme, the key characters and the central conflict.

The main theme of the story is identity and destiny. The novel explores how a person's name and the expectations placed on them could shape their life. Plectrude is the protagonist of this story. She is someone who was burdened by the sense of uniqueness. This makes her isolated from others. Throughout the story you will be able to see that plectrude is always in a constant clash between individuality and conformity.

The tension of trying to be oneself and also trying to fit into social norms creates a turmoil of mess. Plectrude grew up with her aunt and uncle thinking that they are her true parents.

As I read the novel there were points that made me so uncomfortable. Moments like getting to know about the truth of her true parents and the bitterness that her aunt showed her at the very end of the novel was suffocating to bear for me as a reader. Her aunt was showcased as someone who was so lovable to plectrude and she spoiled her so much by being so.

For a character who had so much love for plectrude to turn into someone who despised her at the very end was heart breaking. Plectrude's true mother actually shot her true father to death and she hanged herself to death as well and this truth was revealed in the most bitter way possible that was by her aunt telling plectrude that she is not her daughter and this is your mother who killed your father and hanged herself to death.

The central conflict of the story is internal that focuses on plectrude struggling with self acceptance. This is from her being unable to accept her inability to become a ballerina to the inability to accept the harsh realities that surround her. As I reached to the end of the story there were thoughts that started clouding my mind. I started questioning myself whether are those decisions really mine and what really is individuality.

It's a novel that would make you question about your actions, It's a novel that would make you question about your wishes. Even if it was really your wish this novel would make you question is that really the way I wanted to pursue my wish. This is a novel that would the readers question their lives. I suggest that you guys giving this book a read if you ever get the chance. Thank you.