



Farheen Thaha
A8

Of oppression and the tenacity of human spirit

Every good and bad experience can make a good story to tell.

Nadavazhiyile Nerukal, a coming-of-age story, centred on a destitute life between streets and orphanages, is an autobiographical novel written by Kannur based writer Shemi.

The book tells an emotionally powerful story that dwelves into the unspoken tragedies that strike the lives of the Muslim poor of North Malabar. It brings to light the reality of the living conditions of some orphanages, and how few of these institutions, instead of providing a sense of security to the children, deny even the basic rights to which they are privileged. The author paints a stark picture of what it means to be a girl and a misfit in the family.

Readers cannot help but be moved by the sad fact that their fiction was the writer's reality.

This book breaks stereotypes about orphaned children. Through the writer's insatiable thirst for knowledge, her tireless intent to work hard, and her goal to be independent, it provides a remarkable insight into her journey of survival and success. Instances of unexpected love and friendship brightens the book.



It is rare to find an author who shows such promise and immense talent with her debut novel.

The author's vivid and picturesque style of writing matches that of the late Vaikom Muhammed Basheer.

The colloquial touch Shemi adds to her book makes it relevant and would lose its essence if translated to other languages.

Nadavazhiyile Nerukal ends in a cliff-hanger which seems quite rushed, causing a lot of curiosity amongst the readers for a possibility of a sequel.