

Book review**Law of Jiluk – the Trilogy****Suba Rathi Rajagopal***

“The author neither has a big brand of IIM or IIT backing him nor is he a well – known personality with credible achievements..., He neither has won any literary award nor holds some kind of PhD in creative writing either. He is just a small town boy with a very big dream of becoming a storyteller someday.”

- The Author bio, Law of Jiluk.

And this is what grabbed me in to the story of Law of Jiluk - the trilogy, commonly constructed for a common man by a prototypical common man, Inba Vignesh.

The orb of night, the window seat, the cold breeze and the longest travel would be the ever best combo to gently chew that warm childhood memories. What if you have Law of Jiluk in your hand at that bemusing moment? And that will definitely be your Jiluk moment. Furthermore, what is this Jiluk? It is not an easiest word to articulate what it is. Even Google has no answer. It is a meaningless word that the narrator and his friends used to use. Though it seems meaningless, the author has given it a soul. Briefly, it is something that we strive for. It is the unique human phenomena of “pleasure seeking” that makes you and me connected to this universe. The author states, “ Jiluk is the breathtaking moments, cherished expressions and different moods that are experienced or felt erstwhile in this beautiful journey called life”. It is that little nano seconds that you actually live in this busy growing world without the mere existence. Well, I cannot give it any shape while the author has sculpted the meaning gradually in his trio.

Reading this trilogy is like watching the movie named 96 (Original version in Tamil language) specially the slice of school. The trilogy is extending far down to the deepest of Vintages and exposing to view the the world without any tech drugs like What’s app, Facebook and Instagram. It also reminds me R.K. Narayan's “Swami and Friends” where he penned down his childhood memory lane.

The story of the trio is set in Wellington in Tamilnadu nestled in the most astonishing hill station of Nilgris. The story line has Inba Vignesh aka Kumba as the narrator, a teen studies in Kendra Vidhyala. Subin, Sarath and Gowri are his unrivalled friends. Together, they create more

footprints, “the cricketing rivalry, Sunday feasts, afternoon gupshups, porno fantasy, running after girls down the streets of Wellington, and samosa snacking”. The plot sets out when the narrator encounters a girl in the bus. He has fallen in Jiluk at the first sight and for the first time. Strange is always strange. The next day he is surprised to see her in his school. She is one of those new comers to his class. The First love generates the most amazing feel. The frequently flickering first meet in your mind, the first boundless walk date where silence words more, the first zephyr like tap of fingers, the wrapper of the first dairy milk, all that forging the first fairy tale. Relishing each of these Jiluk moment, Kumba's quest on Jiluk begins as he fades away piece by piece when she's been completely inhabiting his mind. The climax of the trilogy, particularly set on Dec 31, 2003 is distressing. His quest on Jiluk now ends. The day that drives him to the direction of writing this trilogy.

Reminiscing it after a decade, the author has nailed it. He has lived up in each word that dipped in heart. His humorous nature of writing tends us to turn page with a smirking smile. The use of regional language highly representative. The story can connect us easily as it mirrors the ‘Kumba’ in us. The essence of this trilogy is the consecutive consistency of events without scrawling. Parts of this nourishing experience may have been told before but not with this intensity. Literary realism of this trilogy breaks the preconceived bias of contemporary writing.

We live in a fast paced world where we are very counterproductive. Inba has shown us the art of slowing down in this fast paced world by looking back into the collective buried memories.

Sit for a read and snap the second to glimpse your past.

Rating 4.5/5

Bibliography

Vignesh, Inba. *Law of Jiluk Trilogy* Bandra: Leadstart Publishing Pvt Ltd, 2015-18.

*Suba Rathi Rajagopal, a research aspirant and an independent researcher who has recently completed her Master’s degree from Maduari Kamaraj University, Madurai, Tamilnadu. Being a graduate in English Literature and having the literary background, She is passionate about writing and conceptualizing.