



The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Reviewed by Devnita



Stand Alone, Fiction

Give a summary without spoilers!

“The Color Purple” follows the life of Celie, an African-American woman living in the South in the early 20th century. The story is conveyed through Celie's letters to God, where she shares her daily experiences, hopes, and dreams. Throughout the novel, Celie endures various forms of abuse and oppression, yet finds solace and strength in her community with other women, particularly her sister Nettie and the vibrant Shug Avery. As Celie navigates love, loss, and self-discovery, she is changed, ultimately reclaiming her voice and agency in a society that sought to silence her.

What drew you to this book?

When I first started this book, it was something I HAD to read. It starts out very bleak and depressing but I soon found myself waiting to see if Celie overcomes her grief, so much so that I finished the book in 3 days.

Did it remind you of something that you've previously read?

Truly a one-of-a-kind book. Or maybe I should read more. I did read “Their Eyes Were Watching God” after that, which was similar. The themes surround identity, resilience, and the journey to find yourself while dealing with all sorts of mess life throws at you. Both books are like those heartfelt chats with a friend over food, where you share your deepest thoughts and struggles. They're real, raw, and make you nod your head like, “Yeah, I've been there.”

To whom would you recommend this book?

If you're into stories that make you think and feel, even if they're a bit heavy sometimes, then read “The Color Purple”. It's like having a real heart-to-heart conversation with a book. I'd recommend it more to those who appreciate narratives that delve deep into the human experience. The way Celie communicates her thoughts and emotions through her letters to God and her sister Nettie adds an intimate touch to the narrative. It's like you're right there beside Celie, experiencing her joys and sorrows firsthand.

Overall, did you like it and would you recommend it to others?

What makes this book truly special is its raw honesty. Alice Walker doesn't hold back in shining a light on the harsh realities of racism, sexism, and abuse. Yet, amidst the darkness, there are moments of profound beauty and resilience that will leave you feeling hopeful and uplifted. It has a healthy balance of the happy and the sad.

Anything else that you would like to add to this review? What made you choose it? Did you like the cover? Was it recommended to you? Did you find it at the library?

It was a book that was on the summer reading list. My goal was to read every book on that list but I haven't reached it yet. I already knew I would like this book, I like reading about different perspectives, especially those of women, so I bought my own copy. Each rendition of the cover, by the way, has its own unique flair but I'm biased towards the new one with the actors on it(I love Taraji P. Henson) Check out the movie!