

Book review on Tuesdays With Morrie

By Chantel Leung

Tuesdays With Morrie is the heartwarming story of Mitch Albom's relationship with his college mentor Morrie Shwartz, with whom Mitch had lost touch for 16 years. Morrie, at his old age, was diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) and was dying. Upon seeing Morrie on the "Nightline" program, talking to Ted Koppel about what it was like to die from Lou Gehrig's disease, Mitch decided to visit Morrie. He was full of guilt and shame as he promised to keep in touch with Morrie. This visit soon turned into regular meetings, which were scheduled on Tuesdays. During the time they spent together, Mitch started to understand the real meaning of life. Every Tuesday was an educational seminar on life, death, love and loss. These lessons continued every week despite Morrie's inevitable decline. Morrie's wisdom did not only enlighten Mitch but also every reader. Even on his deathbed, with wizened face and haggard features, Morrie managed to teach us all about living robustly and fully!

Throughout the story, I am full of admiration for Morrie. He was a professor who loved to teach and to learn; a friend, who was kind, considerate and patient; a man, who was optimistic, determined and had no fear of death. Although as the disease progressed, Morrie lost his privacy in the most basic ways, he did not yield to the suffering so quickly. He might not be able to dress or feed himself, but he refused to be embarrassed by his physical shortcomings. He tried earnestly to enjoy "being a baby again". Morrie showed us a few things about dignity and acceptance as he turned his physical weakness into strengths of the heart, the mind and the spirit. Instead of giving up, and mourned how unfair life was, Morrie realized that he was running out of time, and he must share his wisdom on "The meaning of life" with the world. He showed Mitch how important it was to live each day and every day to the fullest, for life goes by as quick as lightning—and the only means to achieve this goal is by love.

Through the tragedy of Morrie, I realized that there are times that things do not come as one wishes. Take Mitch as an example. Before meeting Morrie, he did not understand the value of life. He simply immersed himself in his works and neglected his family and friends. However, it was due to Morrie's illness and death that gave Mitch a perspective that directly changed his life. Mitch might seem to lose his dearest friend Morrie, but what he gained was a series of inspiring lessons, his family, and his long-lost brother, Peter, whom he had not seen or talked to in many years. Sometimes, when we encounter obstacles and are not able to achieve our goals, we may be frustrated and despair. Apparently, we may seem to lose, just like Mitch. Nonetheless, hurdles are somewhat a kind of two-edged sword. Without failure and loss, how can we learn from our mistakes and start to cherish what we possess at present?

Moreover, this remarkably inspiring book also serves as a platform to demonstrate the reality of human nature. Mitch once made a promise that he would stay in touch with his sociology professor, Morrie when he graduated. However, only after 16 years and by coincidence, had he really lived out his promise. This in fact is quite ironic. Many of us may seem to be very high sounding at the beginning. But living out the promise is another story.

Other than that, the part I particularly like was the time when Morrie talked about building one's own little subculture.

"I don't mean you disregard every rule of your community. I don't go around naked, for example. I don't run through red lights. The little things I can obey. But the big things—how we think, what we value—those you must choose yourself. You can't let anyone—or any society—determine those for you."

I concur with the idea of Morrie a lot. He was a man who valued love over money, and people over tabloid gossip and superficial vanity. In today's modern society, it is full of temptations. We are easily influenced and blinded by materialism. There is a common saying, "Prosperity seeks vice, adversity virtues", which reveals the reality of life. Some people are chasing for wealth, fame and popularity, thinking that these physical possessions can enrich their lives. However, these can only feed our physical need and enjoyment but not our souls. Therefore, we should never compromise with these immoral beliefs. We ought to take time to gaze out the window instead of staring at the computer screen all day long. Admire the beautiful things of life and learn "how to give out love, and to let it come in."

Furthermore, after reading this book and learning the experience of Morrie, I have got a different perception towards life. While others are still wondering what is the most valuable thing in their materialistic life, I can immediately answer you, "LOVE." It really *is* that simple.

To conclude, I have been deeply touched by Morrie and his love for everything in life. He is so deep, rich, optimistic, yet real. Once in a while, when I am down and feel out of place, I'll remember Morrie. I'll visualize his words of wisdom and immense joy and laughter. I'll recall how much he helped me realize that a life without LOVE is no life at all!

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