

Tuesdays with Morrie

Review by Eva Leung

We encounter hundreds of different people everyday in our lives, but the chances that you stumble upon a person who shows you the greatest value of love and life are slim. Mitch Albom, the author of "Tuesdays with Morrie", was lucky to ever come across his old college professor Morrie Schwartz. He was undoubtedly a treasure, a gift brought to Mitch, as Morrie had the compassion and sincerity to open his student's eyes to see what life *really* is about.

Morrie was, in a way, an optimist who reflected all the good qualities in life. His character represented love and passion, and those two things were so often mentioned in the book that it truly is amazing that they have not become tacky by the end of the book; Mitch Albom had shrewdly portrayed his old professor just as he is, without any unnecessary refinement. Morrie was a passionate man, even after discovering his terrible illness. I believe that few people could live on as brave as he did, knowing that his body was weakening little by little, until one day he would not be able to breathe anymore. In my opinion, Morrie possessed unique courage and compassion that attracted Mitch back to him in the last days of his life; those were also the things that attracted every reader to attend his Tuesdays' lessons.

Every single line being printed in this book was a line of teaching to Mitch, and to me. There are some that I can relate to more than others – take Morrie's lesson of 'death and how love goes on' for example.

"Learn how to die, and you learn how to live."

"I don't think I will be (forgotten after I died)... Love is how you stay alive, even after you are gone."

It might be a little exaggerated to say these two quotes affected me greatly. However, they certainly helped me through the recent loss of my grandmother. The pain of losing a family member is enormous, as Morrie had said. Even after endless hours of flowing tears, it still hurts, especially when you shared many precious moments with the person you lost. Yet, these two lines struck me and got me thinking: Why do we make such a big deal out of death? Whenever somebody mentions death, it has almost become a tradition for us to turn our heads away and shut our ears. We see death as such a large, unapproachable subject even though "everybody knows they're going to die", as Morrie said, "But nobody believes it." Losing somebody isn't the greatest pain; the greatest pain is not knowing how to continue your love for the person you lose. This is one of the most valuable things I've learnt from "Tuesdays with Morrie".

"Mitch, if you're trying to show off for people at the top, forget it. They will look down at you anyhow. And if you're trying to show off for people at the bottom, forget it. They will only envy you. Status will get you nowhere. Only an open heart will allow you to float equally between everyone."

To me, the section on materials and money was the most honest and educational above all. I dare not say I am experienced at all in society, but being a fifteen-year-old, I sometimes encounter people who I see as rather hypocritical – I have been one of them, in truth. The lesson on 'money' shamelessly exposed the importance of status to most people nowadays: we all want to be at the top. Because our purposes are to beat the others, therefore lies and insincerity exist. This led me to a question: What would it be like if we face people with 'an open heart'? Morrie's wise words uncovered an ideal society, where we no longer fight for being at the top, nor do we care too

much about having 'more' instead of having what we need. I hope Morrie had successfully gotten his message around the world to every reader, hence we would all follow his example and create a better self, free from the bonds of material and status.

It is extremely difficult to express everything I feel after reading this book. This may not be the most brilliant book written in terms of language, but its depth and the messages that Mitch Albom is trying to bring to us are bright. 'Tuesdays with Morrie' doesn't only have the power to make one laugh and cry, but also makes one think about all the lessons taught in this book. We should not take 'love' for granted; instead, we should cherish it and share our love with people around us. I didn't have the chance to meet Morrie, but I was fortunate enough to have come across a record of his teaching. He was a great teacher, wasn't he?

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