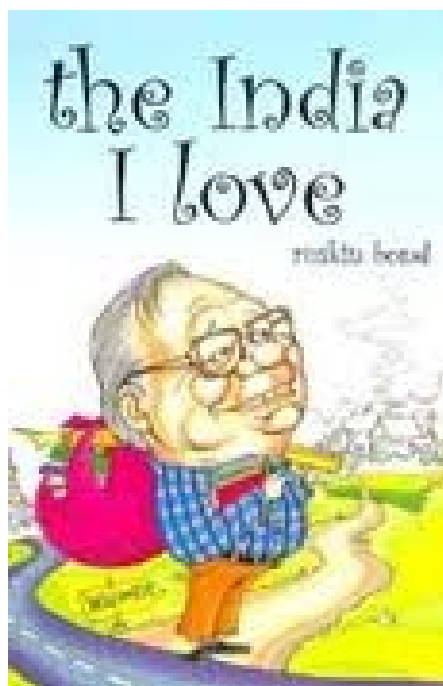




The India I Love

Ruskin Bond , Sandeep Adhwaryu (Illustrator)

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The India Ruskin Bond loves does not make the headlines. But he finds it wherever he goes - in field or forest, town or village, mountain or desert-and in the hearts and minds of people who have given him love and affection for the better part of a life-time.

In this collection of prose and poems written specially for this book, Ruskin Bond looks back on his unique relationship with the country and its people, from the time he turned his back on the West and came home, still only a boy, to take up the challenge of being a writer in a changing India.

The India I Love Details

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Author : Ruskin Bond , Sandeep Adhwaryu (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review The India I Love for online ebook

Asit Ramteke says

Lovely India

You need an eyesight and mindful curiosity and post that you should know how to narrate. Then you become Bond and admire the life and make others admire it too.

Mahendranath Ramakrishnan says

A magnificent read it was. Ruskin Bond talks about many things under the sun, from his early childhood to his current adopted Indian family to his little walks he took alone in the woods to enjoy the small pleasures that nature has to offer. In between his passages on living a happy life and his thoughts on him approaching the age of 70, we get to explore the geography of the Ganges river, the pilgrim sites of Uttarakhand and how to get through life with the satisfaction of doing what you love.

Than man loves India and its people. Even while most of the English populace left India once it attained independence from the British empire, Bond chose to stay back. His love for the simple pleasures of life that the hills of Dehradun and Mussoorie had to offer seems to be the biggest reason. He also writes at length about the various characters he encountered in his seven decades of life in that famed hill station.

Bond is a magician with words. My highlighting of about thirty-four paragraphs in this delightful small book is an evidence to that. Here are some lines from the book that I loved:

The following lines in my journal were put down for my own inspiration or encouragement, but they will do for any determined young person.

We get out of life what we bring to it. There is not a dream which may not come true if we have the energy which determines our own fate. We can always get what we want if we will it intensely enough... So few people succeed greatly because so few people conceive a great end, working towards it without giving up. We all know that the man who steadily works day and night for fame or power reaches his goal. And those who work for deeper, more spiritual achievements will find them too. It may come when we no longer have any use for it, but if we have been willing it long enough, it will come!

Era says

This review was first published on The Era I Lived In

If you're a Ruskin Bond fan you'd be well aware how his simple writing has the poignant charm of no two sentences ever being similar. The positive attitude with a gentle yet warming sense of humor makes reading his essays and poems a joyful experience.

The best part of Bond's poems is that they continue telling the story without ever being a slave of rhyming,

effortlessly flowing like a cascading stream down the mountain slopes and always leaving the reader with a wonderful perspective.

At the risk of repeating myself, I have to say that this book is another masterpiece of simplicity at its magnanimous best. Every chapter is filled with pages from author's personal life and at places also has entries from his personal diary. I couldn't stop being amazed by how enriching and inspiring it could be to savor the nuggets of life-lessons re-living author's life in his words.

There are a few chapters, about his adopted family and friends of the youth that have been shared in his other books too. Having read those recently, I was in no way tempted to skip reading them again, because every time they fill me with awe for author's compassion and power of observation, recollection and reflection.

The lucid narration makes this book a quick read but I (like always) chose to indulge in one chapter at a time, sleeping over, assimilating and cherishing the life lessons I learnt over the course of reading this book.

I could feel a particular connect with the chapter 'The India I Carried With Me'. It surprisingly gifted me many answers to the questions posed by similar choices I made not so long ago. Looking into my life in India (though I do not live on a hill station like the author) and comparing it with the choice I made, holds strong ties with the thoughts that ran through author's mind in his youth, around 50 years ago.

I share with the author in my love for nature, stopping to spend time observing nature at play and most of all the love of having a room with a window with a beautiful view. I also picked up reading recommendations from the book and loved re-visiting the rivers of India in his words.

The joy of reading about river Ganga and many other rivers and streams in Ruskin Bond's words is unparalleled because it is not limited to the details we all have read in our geography lessons. It had an insight and personal touch from a traveler's point of view who has a way of noticing some of the easily missed intricate details while pointing out the obvious in a way that'll stay with me for a long time.

However, the best part of the book is where the author shares a sneak peek into his life as a writer in the chapter 'Joyfully I Write'. I loved the way he touched upon the subject of how writers are often chided for repeating themselves. He not only acknowledges the existence of this trait in every artist, musician and also writers but beautifully elaborated as to what makes it happen and how it is nothing to be shied from. This particular chapter holds nuggets of wisdom worth their weight in gold for every writer (or an aspiring writer) seeking advice from someone who is passionate about writing. I loved the insight into why a writer's pen can never run dry because there is inspiration aplenty for everyone, waiting to be observed and etched into a memorable story.

Brief introduction to author's love for haiku writing in one of the chapters (visible in the picture above), impressed me enough to try my hand on it.

I highly recommend this book if you are a Ruskin Bond fan, are looking for a balmy, autobiographical, quick paced book or are a writer looking for inspiration from the life of a very talented, celebrated, passionate writer like Ruskin Bond. This book offers an insight into life in India from a very positive yet honest point of view inspiring the reader to go back to nature for all his needs.

Selva Subramanian says

Loved it. Ruskin Bond shares vignettes of his life in Mussoorie, his adopted family in India, some of his

notable friends, his writing in general and a bit about life. He comes across as a very lovable person. Simple but beautiful language. It is a slim book else I would rate it 4.5 stars. Highly recommend it to everyone.

Gorab Jain says

After reading his autobiography recently, I was sure most of this book would be repetitive reading. But like always, Mr Bond had another trick up his sleeve and the magical narration did not feel repeated somehow.

"Sometimes I wonder if I have written too much. One gets into the habit of serving up the same ideas over and over again; with a different sauce perhaps, but still the same ideas, themes, memories, characters. Writers are often chided for repeating themselves. Artists and musicians are given more latitude. No one criticized Turner for painting so many sunsets at sea, or Gauguin for giving us all those lovely Tahitian women; or Husain, for treating us to so many horses, or Jamini Roy for giving us so many identical stylized figures."

In fact, many of the pondering questions after reading LFoxD were brought to rest by this one written by him more than a decade back. For instance,

Why is LFD only narrates his life till 35yrs? What about the latter years?

Why not much elaboration of his adopted family which formed a crux of his life?

What I loved:

1. Yet another autobiography.
2. The lovely and lively illustrations
3. Inclusion of poems and Haikus.
4. Some unedited pages coming directly from his personal diary
5. Writings about his family, neighbors, friends and acquaintances
6. Mini mountain travelogues
7. Thoughts on approaching seventy

In retrospect, LFD is an elaborate and polished version, while this one is served raw.
Another must read for Bond fans.

Sandeep says

After reading lots of Ruskin Bond material over the last couple of years, I rate this one which came out in 2003, a little lesser than other ones', reason being, this version has more about self contemplation rather than story telling.

I do like contemplation, but I feel its dosage is a little bit on the higher side, especially with this book!

So rating of 3.5!

Cheers,

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

This collection consists of 19 write-ups of Ruskin Bond with his usual wit and thoughts of wisdom. What I liked most from this collection

Dedication part

Joyfully I write

Thoughts on approaching seventy

Shiven Jain says

How does Ruskin Bond's biggest fan judge his book? How does a person who has read over twenty-thirty books of his judge him?

Ruskin Bond is the master of post-colonial Indian literature, beloved by many, this book gives you a chance to hear him on his beloved things and people. His extended family, the scent of flowers in his room, Lush green woods and quaint chestnut trees - this book gives you a stunning insight into a writer's life. Although written almost 15 years ago, Ruskin Bond remains highly relatable and enjoyable! The master has again succeeded in a somewhat of a masterpiece. There was one part that dragged in the middle where he described a village called Guptakashi for very long, but otherwise, Ruskin Saab has authored an almost flawless, easy-to-read classic.

Khush says

Excellent book by Ruskin bond

Saurabh says

Awesome Read. It seems like Mr. Bond is personally escorting you through Dehra, Mussoorie, introducing various trees, plants, and rivers to you. As with all the books of Mr. Bond, his writing is humorous and witty and yet so simple. His books are short, but they feel even shorter because they are too good.

Harish Chandra singh says

Bond I love

Ruskin Bond as usual, is a great writer. In the end he has become a little philosophical. The words come out straight from his heart. He truly says that an artist, a writer never dies so long his faculties are intact. His message is wherever you are, whatever you are, just enjoy life. Life is a great gift and it should not be wasted.

???? ???? says

a compilation on various topics lucidly narrated. lovely perspective, wisdom and knowledge packed in 144 pages.

Pooja Banga says

It is a short book made out of his diary pages written over a long period of time .He recounts his life from his early childhood to when he was 70.Every chapter begins with a title and small poem.

His father was a teacher and travelled all his boyhood to various parts of India.His mother remarried a Punjabi from Dehradun.This explained why he always lived in Mussoorie .I haven't read many of his books in the past but now I m looking forward to reading them as he writes in a candid way.

He went to England where he grew up but returned to India.He likes the atmosphere in India where there are no restrictions and he can live his life as he wants . only thing he wanted to do was writing and he never married.

He writes about Prem's (family member) wife ,his children and grandchildren .

He recounts various acquaintances he met and formed relationships with them .He comes out as a very kind and honest person

He describes areas like Nahan and Ganges in a great detail.

This book has inspired me a lot and I will recommend you all to read it.

Thanks for reading my review

Happy Monday:)

Mukesh Tosham says

I thought that the book will give me some socio political economic glimpses of our country but as always Ruskin surprised with a completely different view points. Thought these things were mentioned but the Indian scenery was shown from Ruskin's glasses.

I'm a fan of the simple but magnificent writing style. Keeping the readers minds glued with the fascinating explanations from his own personal life is the most amazing thing about Ruskin.

Pooja Shinde says

I have a same smell n taste alike author....I wish Ruskin Bond was my grandfather. :)
