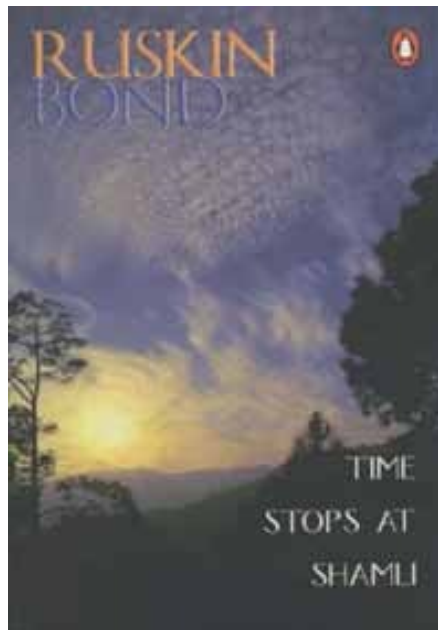




Time Stops at Shamli and Other Stories

Ruskin Bond

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Time Stops at Shamli and Other Stories Ruskin Bond

And enchanting collection of stories from the little-known heartland of India. Ruskin Bond's characters – who live for the most part in the country's small towns and villages – are not the sort who make the headlines but are, nonetheless, remarkable for their quiet heroism, their grace under pressure and the manner in which they continue to cleave to the old values: honesty, fidelity, a deep-rooted faith in God, family and their neighbour. They do have problems, of course – the sudden death of a loved parent, unfulfilled dreams, natural calamities, ghostly visitations, a respected teacher gone crooked, strangers who make a nuisance of themselves in a town or ruined in time – but these are solved with a minimum of fuss and tremendous dignity. Taken together these stories are a magnificent evocation of the real India are one of the country's foremost writers. ---- from book's back cover

Time Stops at Shamli and Other Stories Details

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Author : Ruskin Bond

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From Reader Review Time Stops at Shamli and Other Stories for online ebook

Ananya Jain says

It's getting tougher to write reviews about Ruskin Bond's. Seriously, What am I supposed to say. His books are all alike, yet different, and I can identify his writing style just like one can identify a close one's voice. His stories are like Granny's stories- They may be sad or happy, long or short, (or sometimes baseless too!) but they are almost ALWAYS enjoyable. You don't get bored except in rare situations. Time stops at Shamli has this unique flavor of supernaturalism in the characters which makes it really wonderful. The story 'The room of many colors' gets a little slow but every other story from The funeral to Tiger, Tiger, burning bright is marvelous.

Whenever you read Ruskin Bond, you take a whiff in the life of the hills and truly want to stay there for the rest of your life, you want to leave all these 'luxuries' and enjoy the freedom of the hilly villages. You want to walk or cycle around the clean roads surrounded by trees and smell the first flowers of spring, you want to take a tour to the woods where, for once, there is no stress or anxiety.

Shalini says

Fond and strong reminiscences yield beautifully touching stories that reach the heart first and then the other bodily senses! That's what happens with a Ruskin Bond book and this one is none other! Enjoy a nice and witty read!

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

This collection includes 22 writings of Ruskin Bond, some of them already published earlier. Rereading them is always a pleasure for their narrative style.

Julia says

beautifully written short stories with vibrant characters with whom I became friends. A good snapshot of small-town India.

Helly says

I have been guilty of judging Ruskin Bond by his short stories, which did not appeal to me very much. However, Time Stops at Shamli, his novella completely changed my outlook upon him. The writing style, the characters, everything has a beautiful aura about it and a reader must read such beautiful stories.

Rebecca says

One more Ruskin Bond collection with most of the stories making me falling in love with them. A few were average and one or two plain boring. Time Stops at Shamli the title story is the jewel in the crown. Next best comes Most Beautiful and He said it with Arsenic. Now an ardent admirer of Bond.. Our Trees grow in Dehra is beckoning me now but after a break so that I can savour the stories more..

Riya says

Ruskin Bond !! What a phenomenal writer deep thoughts presented in a simple manner !! touch your heart somewhere !!!

Naman Mukesh Chaudhary says

Foremost; Shamli is my mother's hometown.

There is a tinge of nostalgia in these tales.

Anyone who has lived in India, and hasn't read Ruskin Bond, is missing out on so much! Ruskin Bond is a writer of simple, beautiful stories shimmering with loss, lived experience, ghosts of the past, altered memories...

Shilpi Goel says

Anyone who has lived in Dehradun, India, and hasn't read Ruskin Bond, is missing out on so much that the beautiful Garhwal and Doon Valley have to offer. I got to know my valley intimately --- the tigers and cheetahs, the majestic eucalyptus and banyan trees, the rivers and streams, and the beautiful houses with sprawling orchards. I cherished the descriptions of small cities and villages that sometimes weren't even listed on the map, simply because I couldn't go on an exploratory journey myself.

The people in Bond's stories are so real, maybe because most of his stories are based on fact. These people are so ordinary really --- if you lived in the Doon valley in the 90s, I'm sure you knew some of them. These people live and die in the villages they were born in (unless they ran away from home), play cricket and break windows, eat out in the "dhabas", believe in ghosts, sometimes take pleasure in someone else's misfortune, are victims of unrequited love, lose a job, judge others harshly, struggle to make ends meet, enjoy trysts in the soft rains, and go to the movies to escape it all. They dream big, and are often content not to make their dreams a reality. They always welcome a guest with open arms, even if they abandon him later. They are capable of acts of unexpected cruelty and at the same time, unparalleled generosity. Simply put, they are regular people who do not pretend to be even a little bit more than what they are.

Of all the stories in this collection, "Time Stops at Shamli" makes me sentimental and all... gooey inside. There's nothing sappy about this story --- it's just so real (there's that word again). Oh well, go read Bond's stories, especially if you've been to Dehra and/or the surrounding areas. And if you're walking down the quiet part of the Mall Road in Mussoorie, you might meet Ruskin Bond --- a "pukka sahib", clad in his heavy coat, checked hat, and muffler, reading and climbing the steep slopes at the same time.

Jigar Brahmhatt says

There is a tinge of nostalgia in these tales. Ruskin Bond is a writer of simple, beautiful stories shimmering with loss, nostalgia, lived experience, ghosts of the past, altered memories... and the settings he finds for his tales - mountainous landscapes of Northern India - add to the whole experience. I feel that if you take the atmosphere away, there may not be much left to the stories, coz the narrative takes its cue from the backdrop. The unsaid dialogues linger somewhere in the fog-filled hilly roads or the stretch of the jungle around a lonely station where jackals howl at night. In the end these are tales that more often than not have a satisfying close.

I loved how 'Time stops at Shamli' begins. At one point I felt that everyone in the lodge except the narrator were ghosts. Of course, the sudden appearance of his lost lover was too much to digest, but I was happy to suspend my disbelief. Though the writer doesn't mention anywhere, it was not difficult for me to feel that the characters could have been trapped in a ghostly time-loop. I was imagining a film made by Tim Burton about a man who stumbles upon a deserted village and decides to take a look, and there is no reason why a film like that would not haunt its audience.

Gorab Jain says

3.5

One of the best assorted stories by Bond. The mixed collection includes romance, paranormal, horror, nostalgia, mystery and of course nature.

A couple of stories (Time Stops at Shamli... He Said it with Arsenic) were mind blowing good.

Most of these stories are autobiographical as mentioned in the Intro.

Recommended for an easy breezy read.

Manas Thakre says

I admire the way Ruskin gives a subtle yet roaring (literally taking the word from the last story of this book - Tiger Tiger burning bright) climax to the story. I liked most of the stories and had fun while reading them. Author's perspective on ordinary man's life and his thoughts and actions is something that is a special gift given to Mr. Bond by the god. It seems like Ruskin relives those moments while writing his story never missing on the slightest details that matter along with his wits and irony

Kashmira Gohil says

These are the collections of short stories by the Ruskin bond, who I read for the first time in form of a bound novel. I have read the mighty author often as brief articles & mini stories printed in News papers earlier & I always liked them, but it's only this time I got my hands upon his work in form of a book & what a treat it was!! The writing style is immaculate & beautiful. It's more like -'a journey matters more than destination'. The beginning or end of the story doesn't matter but the powerful content that make you feel like eating a tasty chocolate, savouring piece by piece. One of the few authors, where you wish you can write as

beautifully as him. After reading few novels of authors of current Indian generations, back to back last few days, this one I had a chance to feast my mind upon & it almost felt like a first rain on parched land. You can't help but realize that 'Now, this is what you call a writing of a veteran!!' I would get few more of his book to read?

Jaydeep Chauhan says

Many agree that Time Stops at Shamli is a short story by Ruskin Bond. Well it looks like a novella. Shamli is a small-village kind of place in the foothills of the Himalayas. Whenever the narrator (Ruskin) travels to Delhi from Dehradun or vice versa, train stops at Shamli exactly for five minutes. Strange is that no one gets down or boards the train. Then, why does it stop there? He is inquisitive about this place. He wants to know what lies behind the station walls, behind the forest that starts immediately after the station platform. Several times he wished to get down to seek answers arising out of curiosity, but he could never muster up that courage.

One night while returning from Delhi, travelling in a packed third-class compartment, the train stops at the Shamli station in the morning. But this time the train has been there for more than five minutes, soon it becomes fifteen minutes. The guard informs that due to some problem in the line clearance, train will halt there for more than an hour. Ruskin becomes impatient. And he gets out. His plan is to explore Shamli all day and to catch up the train in the evening for Dehradun.

When he comes out, the only human soul in the sight is of a young man with Tonga. Upon enquiring, Ruskin comes to know about a hotel, so he wishes to spend the day there. At the hotel Ruskin says that the reason behind being in Shamli is to search the whereabouts of Major Robert who was last seen in Shamli three years ago. Next, one-by-one, he meets interesting characters at the hotel such as Miss Deeds, a drunkard who upon inciting begins breaking the commodities; Mr. Lin claims that he is from Singapore and always plays funeral march on the piano. Lin says that he had met Robert some years ago but it was a lie because Ruskin had lied and invented a fictional character to stay in the hotel.

The owner of the hotel is Satish Dayal - he is obsessed with killing a leopard that has taken someone's dog one night. Other characters are the servant Dayaram and a ten-year old girl called Kiran who lives nearby. Kiran and Dayaram are both good friends and share a humble understanding. By late afternoon, Ruskin stumbles upon a beautiful lady. She is the wife of Satish Dayal. Well, for him it is a lost love found. The woman is Koki: though aged but still graciously beautiful. Once Ruskin and Koki were in love, they were lovers, but Koki had to retreat because of her parents' wish of marrying her to a wealthy man. They walk in the forest, lie down on the soft grass, remember early days, sit by a stream, and dance in the rain. It is evening and Ruskin chooses to stay for the night because of her. Koki promises to be at the railway station to see him next day.

In the night the torrential rain and thundering storm brings down half of the hotel down. In a rush, he rushes to the lounge to wait till morning with others. Ruskin feels that time stops at Shamli and there are the people who have been tied up with this place. They try to leave it but couldn't.

There is something mysterious about this place called Shamli. He recollects the wording of the Tonga man: if you stay here one more day, you will not be able to leave this place forever. Ruskin reaches the railway station but there is no Koki to meet him. He feels disappointed but that is now all right with him. Probably, he has learnt to walk away silently from disappointments. One needs to move on in life...

Muthuvel says

Pretty descent writing about the kind of lives people have had, in and around the author's hometown. Drunk off nostalgic reminiscences.

????? ?????? says

Loved the stories in the collection:

Funeral 3.5/5
The room of many colours 3.5/5
Time stops at shamli 4.5/5
Most Beautiful 3.5/5
The last truck ride 3/5
The fight 5/5
The tunnel 3/5
The Summer season 3/5
Going Home 3/5
Masterji 3/5
Listen to the wind 3.5/5
The Haunted Bicycle 4/5
Dead Man's gift 3.5/5
Whispering in the Dark 3/5
He said it with Arsenic 4/5
The most potent medicine of all 3/5
Hanging at the mango tope 3/5
Eyes of the cat 5/5
A crow for all seasons 3/5
A tiger in the house 3.5/5
Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright 4.5/5

I have written about the stories in my blog. You can read more about them by clicking the following link:
[Time Stops at Shamli](#)

Apratim Dey says

Thing is, when you read Ruskin Bond, you want to kick yourself. You glance in disdain at the artificial walls surrounding you, and your heart yearns to be amidst the lofty mountains, in the lush forests, as free as the gurgling streams, that have so prominently found a place in Bond's tales. Ruskin Bond, in my opinion, is a master storyteller when it comes to children's stories and describing the beauty of nature. This book is one of his best products, at least. A large part of my childhood writing skills have matured owing to the simple yet spellbinding narratives of this man.

Neeraja Vaidya says

A few more gems from the beloved Ruskin Bond...

My favourite story in this collection is Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright.

Before I read this story if anybody asked me to summarize Ruskin Bond's works I would say that the author writes very insightful stories about different human characters and nature.

However in this story, the author drives home a very important point that man is a part and parcel of nature, and not a counterpart of nature.

The story toggles seamlessly between a tiger and the village people. Though a third person narrative, it very well captures the thoughts and circumstances of both tiger and man.

Other few well written stories- Times stops at Shamli, A tiger in the house, The tunnel, Most Beautiful...

Matthewz Philip says

The curiosity from Ruskin's 'The Night train at Deoli' drove me towards this masterpiece from the writer. An imaginative piece which takes you along with it; through the place, people, characters, emotions, etc.. As the story is not that long, could not think of leaving it in the middle. A mysterious piece;-)

Rupsha Ghosh says

A book very light hearted. Enjoyable if you do not seek heavy intellectual enrichment but does open your mind to the importance of "insignificant" things in life.

Meant for children from ages 12-15.(in my opinion)
