

JU'S STORY

Ju's Story is a sensitive and touching tale of the young daughter of a widowed domestic worker.

What for most people would be a drab and dreary world, Ju succeeds in transforming into a joyous experience by enjoying the simple pleasures in her life. Her sense of happiness and equanimity pervades throughout the story, even when the books and clothes she receives are only hand-me-downs. "They were entering her life for the first time and therefore were brand new as far as she was concerned."

The narrative beautifully crafts the sense of anticipation when Ju discovers a letter in a book, a letter that had not been posted. She had never ever held a letter in her hand before, and so this mundane object becomes a great source of speculation and anticipation for her.

Ju's character is well developed and our hearts warm to this lovely young lady, so much so that one finds oneself ardently wishing that her simple desire to receive a letter gets fulfilled, but alas!

The author has succeeded in subtly highlighting the trials and pressures of those invisible people around us – domestic workers.

VOCABULARY

Tragic: very sad, often involving death and suffering

Domestic help: someone paid to do work, such as cleaning and cooking, in someone else's house

Brand new: completely new, especially not yet used

Rationed: a limited amount of something that one person is allowed to have, especially when there is not much of it available

Alter: to change something, usually slightly

Mistaken: wrong in what you believe, or based on a belief that is wrong

Gazed: to look at something or someone for a long time, especially in surprise or admiration, or because you are thinking about something else

Peering: to look carefully or with difficulty

Passer-by: someone who is going past a particular place, especially when something unusual happens

Wondering: to ask yourself questions or express a wish to know about something

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