????? ???????? [kaval kottam]

S. Venkatesan

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English Description:

The novel begins with Malik Kafur’s southern campaign, the subsequent take over of the city by Vijayanagar kings and finally the British.

The novel deals with the unique security system prevailed in Madurai Fort before it was demolished by the British for the purpose of expanding the city.

The British defeated the security guards and lodged them in a camp in Gudalur - Cumbum Valley after declaring them as Notified Community.

After independence, they were denotified. The novel is also known for its strong women characters.

????? ??????? [kaval kottam] Details

Date	:	Published December 2009 by Tamizhini
ISBN	:	
Author	:	S. Venkatesan
Format	:	Hardcover 1054 pages
Genre	:	Fiction

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From Reader Review ????? ??????? [kaval kottam] for online ebook

Lena Palaniyappan says

????????? ??????? ?????? ????? ?.??????????? ????? ???????? ????????? ???? ?????????? ????????? ??????? ??????????. ????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????????????? ??????????????. 1000 ????????? ?????????? ????? ???????? ???? ????. ??????? ???????? ??? ????? ????????? ????? ??????????? ???????????? ??? ????? ?????????.

Sugan says

This book is a roller coaster of sorts. There are chapters which I felt like I want to be just done with it and there are chapters which gave me goosebumps. Probably making the book a few chapters less would have made the book even better. That being said the book is still a masterpiece.

This is not the first history book I am reading. But this book is unique in the way that the author decided to present the facts. Its a work of fiction with history sprinkled in. So it's up to you to believe in what you want. That's a nice move from the author especially with authors like Perumal Murugan getting into trouble for their books.

The author made me fall in love with Madurai. How much it has changed in all these centuries. The best thing I loved about this book is how history is mostly not about the rulers of the place but about the people of the place. I can't stop comparing it with Ivory Throne the last history I book I had read which speaks all about the rulers of Travancore but very rarely about their subjects.

This book gives a lot of things to ponder upon. For instance, there is a scene where an old lady narrates to the youngsters of her village how she had asked for what's called a modern-day divorce because of her husbands impotency and how she had married thrice and found the love of her life. I don't think in today's Indian society its possible to marry thrice and live life without being looked down by others.

Be it the cover image, be it the scene where the Madurai fort is broken down the author was done some extensive research. After reading this book my look on South Tamil society is never going to be the same.

The book mentions a lot of small villages and places in and around Madurai. It would be better to arrange a Kaval Kottam tour like the already existing Ponninyin Selvan tour. Would love to know the places.

There were some words which I didn't understand. For instance the word mallu vetti. Google still is not so good in vernacular languages to give the right response to these words. So I had to move with my assumptions of meanings for that word. Have to buy a Tamil dictionary soon.

Overall the book is a must read if you want to understand the life of Mukulathor folks around Madurai. I am not from this caste and my respect for them has increased multifold after reading this book.

Harish says

An excellent work.

Balakumar says

Before starting to read this book, I had an idea about this book that it is a novel by S.Venkatesan that has been awarded the Sahitya Academy Award, and that it describes the history of Piramalai Kallars, a warrior tribe based in Southern districts of Tamilnadu, especially around Madurai. But on reading the book, I lost myself the idea that it was a fictitious novel, but that it is the record of the history of Madurai and its suburbs. As a native of Madurai, I had a natural inclination towards its history. I had already read the book by A.Ki.Paranthamanar named 'Madurai Nayakkar Varalaru' which was written in a style of History. First half of this novel has inherited the history of Madurai, from the fall of Pandiya dynasty, to the invasion of muslim rulers, then the retrieval of the city kingdom by the Vijayanagar chieftain, Viswanatha Nayakkar, from the book 'Madhurai Nayakkar Varalaru'. But this novel has dramatized the historical events and made the reading a pleasure and to complete the first half at a galloping speed. The events leading to the accession of Viswanatha Nayak to the throne of Madurai Kingdom is elaborated in a fitting manner, explaining the loyalty of Viswanatha to Krishna Devaraya, the monarch of Vijayanagara. The incidents at the war fields during the Nayak dynasty in Madurai with the help of Poligars (palaykkaarar) is explained beautifully.

The second part explains the downfall of Nayak rule after Thirumalai Nayak, another famous Nayak, who awarded the rights of guarding Madurai and suburbs to a tribe called Piramalai Kallars, living in Thadhatnur, a fictitious village created in the imaginations of the author. Though the name of the village was fictitious, the incidents that are explained by the author from the raise to fall of the tribe are supported by documentary evidences collected by the author painstakingly for a period of about ten years. The records collected are evidenced at suitable places in the novel as letters shot from one officer to the other of the East India Company administratos and during the British Rule. The excesses committed by the Kallars in collecting the Kaval coolie (Fee for guarding), and in case somebody refuses to pay it, how they venged them fearfully by committing murders and resorting to robbery. The author has opined that the tribe is not the people of Tamilnadu, but the descendants of the ruthless Kalbhras, who ruled Tamilnadu during 2-3 centuries BC.

The actions taken by the British Raj to curtail the activities of the Kallars is explained at the last chapters and in this attempt all the persons belonging to that community were either killed or were removed to the reformation camps. The novel ends with the destruction or disappearance of the community from the scenario.

The historical events and the story-telling style of the author makes it easier for a reader to complete the book containing about 1050 pages of smaller fonts in a shorter period. It took hardly ten days for me to complete the entire book. It is sad that the author has not brought any other book so far.

Karthick says

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Arjun Subramanian says

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Mayil Vaganan says

Highlights the effects and inhumane of colonialism in a rustic manner. An intensive research and brief on the people of madurai city and it's surroundings. I can easily relate to the villages, people's life, love, beliefs and Highlights the effects of colonialism in a rustic manner. An intensive research and brief on the people of madurai city and it's surroundings. I can easily relate to the villages, people's life, love, beliefs and treachery since I am also one among them who evolved among these.

Niranjanah says

Kaaval Kottam - Why it deserves the likes of a Man Booker.

A must read book for anyone interested in knowing the rich history of beautiful Madurai, and the past of caste system in Tamil Nadu.
This novel runs through the period starting from the Nayakar occupation of Madurai, till it falls in to the hands of British and in to the 1930's.
It has a shocking narrative of the oppression of a particular community in TN, and also clearly depicts the social standing of every other community occupying today's TN.
This novel particularly shook me and changed the way i look at Madurai forever. Its particularly more appealing when someone from Madurai reads it. Imagine how it is when the origin of the place where you reside, or work, or the little restaurant you usually eat is accurately detailed to end in a book like this. I found most places mentioned in the book, which are now tucked away in nooks and corners in the old city., found the factual place of the old fort walls, the ramayanam chavadi, and much more...planning an expedition along the madakulam kanmai soon.
How far someone from elsewhere could understand the places and other historical people mentioned in the book, is up to the person themselves.
The book has become kind of a comforter to me...i read a few random pages when i feel bad or happy, or whenever i feel like reading it.
Thank you Venkatesan, for writing such a wonderful novel, and for shedding so much light and life in to the history of Madurai which i love so much. How far people have gone to underestimate and under depict and treat certain communities shows the crookedness of human minds, through the centuries. This could certainly be understood in this book.
I will say that this book surely deserves even a Man Booker if it had been in English. I'll say this because I've been reading all the Booker winners every year. Anyone who have read this will acknowledge this fact.

Malini says

this book tells about the madurai peoples culture at the year of 1310-1910.... 600 years old... amazing....

Arun A says

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Sabari says

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‘????? ???????’ ????????????? ????????? ‘??.??????????’.

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Kathir Rath says

"??? ???? ????? ???? ????????? ???????? ??????????? ??????? ??????? ??? ???? ????? ????????? ??????? ?? ????????"

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????????? ????? ????????? ???? ??????? ???? ?????????????????? ?????? ??????? ??????????????.

1. ???? ????? ??????????? ?????? ???????? ????

2. ????????? ??????? ??????????? ???? ????????? ???????? ??????? ????

3. ?????? ????? ?????? ?????? ??????????? ????? ???? ??????? ????

???, ??????? ?????? ???? ???????????. ?????? ??????????? ????? ?????????. ??????? ??????? ????? ????? ????????? ????? ??????????? ?????? ??????????????.

??????? ??????? ?????? ???????????, ????????????, ???????????, ??????????. ????? ????? ???????? ????????? ????????? ?????? ??????? ?????????????? ?????????????. ??????? ??????????? ???? ????? ????????? ????? ?????????????? ????? ?????????????? ?????? ???????? ????????? ????? ?????? ??????? ????????.

????? ????????? ??????????? ?????? _____, ????? ???????? ??????????? ??????????? ??????? ??????????. ??????????? ???? ?????? ?????? ??????, ?????? ?????? ????????... ???????? ?????? ????????? ???? ?????? _____ ??????????? ?????????????. ??? ??????? ????????? ??????????? ???????? ??????????? ???????, ???? _____, ???? ??? ???????, ???? ??????? ?????????????? 4 ?????? ????? ??????????. ???????? ????????, ?????? ????????? ????? ?????? 4 ?????? ??????????? ?????????????????????? ??????? ??????? ????? ????????? ??????????? ????????? ?????? ??????? ???? ???????????? ?????????????????? ????????

??????????? ?????? ?????????????? ???????, ????????? ?????? ?????????????????? ??????????? ????? ????????? ??????? ????????, ???? ?????????????? ??????????? ???????????? ?????? ??????????????. ?????????????? ??????????? ????????? ???????????? ????????. ??????? ????????? ??? ?????? ????? ?????? ????????, ?????? ?????? ???????? ?? ?????? ???? ????????? ??????????????.

???? ???????????????? ???? ??????????? ???????? ?????????????. ??????? ??????? ?????? ???????. ??? ??????? ???? ????? ????? ????? ??????? ???????? ??????????? ???????? ????????????. ??????? ??????????? ??? ???????? ??????????????, ????????? ?????? ??????????? ?????? ???? ??????? ????? ???? ?????????..!. ?????????????? ?????????????? ???????? ??? ????? ???????, ???????????? ?????????????????????? ??????? ?? ????????? ??????? ??????, ?????????????? ????????? ????????? ?????????????????? ????????? ???????? ???????????. ??????????? ??????? ???????????, ???????? ??????? ????? ????? ???????? _____.

?????????????? ????????? ????????? ?????? ??????. ??????? ????????? ??????????? ?? ????????????????. ?????????????? ????? ??????? ??????? ??????, ???? ??????? ???????? ????????? ????? ?????? ?? ??????? ???????????. ?????? ?????????????. ??????????? 100 ?????? ?????? ???????????????? ?? ???? ???? ????? ??????? ????????????? ????????? ????????? ????? ????????????? ????????? ????????????????????.

???????? ??????????????? ????????? ??????? ????? ???????? ?????????? ??????????. ??????? ??????? ???????? ??????? ????????? ?????? ?? ??????????. ??????? ???? ???????? ??????????????????? ???? ??????????????????.

??????? ????????????????? ????? ???? ????? ??????? ??? ??????????. ??????????????? ???????? ???????? ????? ??????? 500 ????????? ?????? ??????????. ?????????? ????????. ??????? ??????????????????? ???????? ????????? ?????? ????????????????? ????????????????? ???????? ??????? ???????? ??????? ???????? ????????? ????????? ??????? ????????? ??????? ???????? ?????? ????? ???????? ??? ?????????? ??? ??????? ??????? ??? ??????, ?????? ???? ????????? ??????????????????? ???????? ????????????????? ???? ???????? ??????? ??????? ???????? ??????????????? ??????? ????? ??????????.

??????????? ??????? ?????????? ?????????? ????? ?????? ??????????. ??? ???? ???? ??????? ??? ??????? ????? ??????? ????????? ??????????. ????????????????? ???????? ????????? ???? ?????? ???????? ?????? ????? ???? ?????????? ?????. ????? ??????????????? ???????? ????????? ?????. ????? ??????? ???????? ???? ?????? ??????????????? ????? ????? ????????? ?????? ??????????.

??????????? ?????? 10 ????????? ??? ????????????. ?????????? ??????? ??????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ??????????????? ???????? ??????? ?????, ?????? ???????? ???? ????? ?????? ????? ??????? ????? ????????? ????? ???????.

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https://amzn.to/2uACIH1

Sami Nathan says

It is wonderful historic novel about Madurai region of Tamilnadu. The Novel simply narrating life of the Kallar community and other people around Madurai district. While reading this novel I some time felt reading a History text book but that was not a negative aspect about the novel in fact it was very interesting. Great Salute to Su. Venkatesan for his wonderful novel for bringing last 400 years in front of our eyes. I could also understand the magnitude of work put by Su. Venkatesan to write this wonderful novel and this work is like building a temple by a single man and Su. Venkatesan has succeeded it.

Arjun says

What can I say about this book.! Surely one of the best ever Tamil books. Story of Madurai told with respect to the security system of the city. Simply the best. I rate this book below only to the legendary Ponniyin

Selvan.

Sivasailam says

Madurai 600 years history.