

The Great Passage: A Literary Masterpiece Exploring the Enigmatic World of Dictionaries

In the realm of literature, where words dance upon the page, Shion Miura's "The Great Passage" emerges as a captivating masterpiece that delves into the intricate and fascinating world of lexicography, the art and science of dictionary-making.

Through the eyes of Mitsuya Majime, a young and meticulous editor, we embark on a linguistic odyssey that spans decades. Majime's life becomes intertwined with the creation of the "Daijisen," a monumental dictionary project that sets out to capture the vast and ever-evolving universe of Japanese language.



The Great Passage by Shion Miura

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4373 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 224 pages



The Beauty of Words

"The Great Passage" is a love letter to the beauty and power of words. Miura's prose is rich with linguistic insights, revealing the subtle nuances,

hidden meanings, and interconnections between words. She invites us to contemplate the significance of each word, its history, and its role in shaping our understanding of the world.

As the editors of the Daijisen meticulously define and refine each entry, we witness the transformative power of language. Words become tools for expressing ideas, conveying emotions, and connecting people across time and cultures.

The Challenges of Definition

While "The Great Passage" celebrates the beauty of words, it also acknowledges the inherent challenges of defining them. Miura explores the complexities of language, where meanings are often fluid and contested. The editors of the Daijisen struggle to capture the elusive essence of words, grappling with questions of precision, accuracy, and subjectivity.

Through the characters' experiences, we learn about the limitations of language and the ways in which it can both unite and divide us. Miura invites us to reflect on the nature of meaning and the role of dictionaries in shaping our understanding of the world.

A Tapestry of Lives

Beyond the linguistic explorations, "The Great Passage" is a poignant and deeply human story. Miura paints a vivid tapestry of characters, each with their own motivations, dreams, and struggles. From the driven Majime to the enigmatic editor-in-chief, Masashi Nishioka, we witness the personal journeys of those involved in the creation of the Daijisen.

Through their interactions, Miura examines themes of ambition, perseverance, and the search for meaning in life. The characters' passions and sacrifices illuminate the human dimension of the dictionary project, reminding us that behind every word lies a story.

A Timeless Masterpiece

"The Great Passage" transcends its literary genre and becomes a timeless masterpiece that resonates with readers on multiple levels. It is a celebration of language, a meditation on meaning, and a poignant exploration of the human condition. Miura's ability to weave together linguistic insights with psychological depth creates a truly immersive and unforgettable reading experience.

Whether you are a lover of language, a curious reader, or simply seeking a transformative literary journey, "The Great Passage" by Shion Miura is a must-read. Prepare to be captivated by its rich prose, insightful characters, and profound themes. Immerse yourself in the enigmatic world of dictionaries and discover the beauty, challenges, and enduring power of words.

Additional Information

- Original title: 舟を編む (Fune o Amu)
- Author: Shion Miura
- Genre: Literary fiction
- Year of publication: 2006 (original Japanese); 2018 (English translation)

- Awards: Akutagawa Prize (2006),Kenzaburo Oe Prize (2006),Booksellers Award (2006)

About the Author

Shion Miura is an acclaimed Japanese writer known for her meticulous research and insightful exploration of social issues. Born in Tokyo in 1976, Miura studied literature at Waseda University and worked as a librarian before becoming a full-time writer.

Miura's works have received numerous awards and have been translated into over 20 languages. Her other notable novels include "Convenience Store Woman" (2016) and "Calling for Kafka" (2017).



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