

## **BOOK REVIEW OF LET IT SNOW**

**WRITTEN BY JOHN GREEN, LAUREN MYRACLE, And MAUREEN JOHNSON**

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### **ABSTRAK**

Novel adalah salah satu bentuk karya sastra yang digunakan seseorang untuk menuangkan ekspresi dan pikirannya. Dalam Tugas Akhir ini, penulis memilih novel *Let It Snow* sebagai bahan kajian yang digunakan karena *Let It Snow* ditulis oleh kolaborasi tiga penulis cerita romantis populer saat ini yaitu John Green, Lauren Myrcle, dan Maureen Johnson. Novel ini terdiri atas tiga cerita berbeda yang berhubungan satu dengan yang lain. Novel ini menceritakan tentang tiga cerita cinta saat badai salju menyerang Gracetown dan semua tokohnya mengalami pengalaman cinta yang berbeda di malam Natal. Penulis akan menulis review serta memaparkan kelebihan dan kekurangannya. Alasan penulis memilih novel ini karena novel ini merupakan perpaduan yang manis dari tiga novelis besar yang menuangkan emosi cinta mereka dalam satu karya sastra dengan gaya dan penyampaian yang berbeda.

### **I. Introduction**

Literary works exist because it expresses events, thoughts, and human feeling that get someone interested. It can be found that the element of the human feeling are described appropriately and applied into literary works and one of them may be realized into novel. One of the most widely discussed themes in the novel is love. Almost all people in this world must have

ever dreamed about love and they have their own way to describe the feeling itself in the novel. According to Nurgiyantoro (2009:68), theme is a meaning existing in a story. Theme is a general and basic idea in a literary work, theme becomes the basic development for the whole story. *Let It Snow* is a unique novel because it consists of three separate stories from three authors that linked to one to another. The stories are *Jubilee Express*, *A Cheertastic Christmas Miracle*, and *The Patron Saint of Pigs*. *Let It Snow* describes a story about love in Gracetown on Christmas Eve. Even the authors choose the same theme and setting of time, they pour the energy of love into different ways in each story. *Let It Snow* is interesting to be reviewed because in this novel one can feel the different atmosphere of love described by each author.

The writer is trying to analyze the strength and weakness of the novel based on how the author delivered each story in this novel.

This book review is aimed at giving a brief summary about *Let It Snow* and to present the strength and weakness of *Let It Snow*. The strength and weakness of each story in this novel are very interesting to be reviewed and as a consideration of the reader in determining whether they should read this novel or not.

## **II. The Strength and Weakness**

### **II.1.1 The Strength of *The Jubilee Express***

Maureen Johnson writes the story in great details. She describes where the events took place and the character involved in details. Therefore, the readers find it easy to figure out the places and the characters in this book.

*"I have never, ever been so happy to see a house. It was entirely outlined by a faint greenish glow, interspersed with tiny dots of red. The back door was unlocked. It was a simply house.*

*With a yard in front of the house, with warmth, and a residual smell of cooked turkey and cookies and tree” (Johnson:59)*

The characterization of this story is clearly illustrated so that we can imagine the appearance clearly. For example, the description of Jubilee Dougal, it can be seen in the sentences below:

*“I have a little black bob. I wear glasses half the time, and contacts the other half. I’m sixteen, I sing choir, I attend Mathletes event. I play field hockey, which lacks the undulating-baby-oiled grace that is the stripper’s stock-in-trade” (Johnson:4)*

In this novel Johnson also tells the reader that loving each other is a must thing to do in a relationship. In the last chapter, Jubilee realized that Noah was not a good boyfriend when Stuart talked to Jubilee about Noah:

*“Yeah, well if I had a girlfriend, and her parents had been arrested on Christmas Eve, and she had to take a long train ride through a storm... I’d have my phone in my hand all night. And I would answer it. On the first ring. Every time. I’d be calling her to check on her” (Johnson:98)*

### **II.1.2 The Strength of A Cherrtastic Christmas Miracle**

The language used by the author applies slang and black English in a daily conversation, it makes this story fresh and different from other stories in this novel. For example, the author choose the words “dig” “gotta” “ex” “hangout” “dunno” “chill out” in her story. This is also shown by the following quotation... “What’ll ya have? And the guy says, “**Whaddyagot?** And the bartender says, “**I dunno** what I got.” (Green:124)

This story also talks about another theme when the author added a value and intrigue of friendship, it makes some strong points in this story because it is not just a relationship between two people like the other stories. In the beginning of the story, John Green described the warmth relationship of Tobin and his friends. "...And why don't you come over to my house for Christmas?" JP asked" (Green: 125). The strong friendship is also shown in this sentence "...being in a bad mood with your friends beats being in a bad mood without them" (Green:212). Friendship value in this story appears when Tobin feels confused about how to spend night on Christmas Eve without family because his family has to attend doctor conferences in Boston. Then, one of his friends, named JP asked him to celebrate Christmas together with his family.

### **II.1.3The Strength of The Patron Saint of Pigs**

There are many moral (love) lessons that the reader can get after reading this story. The first is sacrifice. Sacrifice is doing everything for the beloved ones. Sacrifice can happen in a family, friend, or beloved. In the *The Patron Saint of Pigs* Jeb has done sacrifice. Jeb sacrifices for Addie to get Addie on Christmas Eve with him and rebuild their relationship but he got stuck in Waffle House. Jeb spent a night in a snow storm searching for the telephone to make a call with Addie and made sure that he would come soon. "...And I tried to use the Waffle House phone, but the manager was like, 'Sorry, no can do. Crisis mode.'" (Myracle: 351). It teaches us that someone has to struggle for getting and sacrificing what she/he wants.

The author gives a lesson to the reader about relationship by showing that we need to think twice before making a decision. In this story, Addie break up with Jeb just because a silly reason, Jeb can't give her what she wants in their six month anniversary. Addie becomes so sad because she loves Jeb so much, Jeb is a part of her life but she could not control herself to think

twice and accepted the reason from Jeb. "...I lop my hair off and dye what was left of it pink. I was brokenhearted, self-loathing, plucked pink chicken." (Myracle: 218). Based on the quotation, Addie's personality changes because she regretted that she ended her relationship with Jeb. This situation help the reader to take a lesson from the events that have been occurred and to keep control the emotion in every circumstances.

Myracle also provides her story with wise wording "...Any sentence that combined "I love you" and "but" could not be good" (Myracle: 324). Myracle wants to show us that love should be linked one to another without any doubt.

## **II.2 The Weaknesses of *Let It Snow***

After reading this novel, the writer found a lot of strong points contained in this story. But it is not fair only to discuss the strong points without seeing the weaknesses

### **II.2.1 The Weaknesses of *Jubilee Express***

Too many characters are things that make this story confusing for the reader. Jubilee has 27 characters, there are Jubilee Express, Noah, Stuart, Jeb, Sam, Chloe, Rachel, Debby, Tinfoil Guy, Jubilee's mom and dad, Jubilee's grandparents, and 14 cheerleaders. There are only three characters who become the main characters and dominated the story from the beginning until the end of the story. The other characters are the additional elements building the entire story of *Jubilee Express*. Thus, a lot of additional characters in this story confuses the readers. Here, the reader has to pointed their attention only to the main character because the author does not explaining about the character descriptively. The additional character in this story only has a little conversation and do not give impact to the plot of the story. This make the reader can easily forget them because there are no tendencies as expressed in speech and action. For example, the

conversation between Jubilee and Rachel (Noah's sister) which happened only once in a whole story. "...Who are you? She said exactly. "I am Rachel!" (Johnson:75)

The next weakness is that there is no dialogue of Jubilee's parents in this story. Her parents are only narrated by the narrator. It feels like there is no big correlation between the problems happened with Jubilee's parents and Jubilee on that Christmas Eve. The one who gives information about her parents only her family's lawyer, Sam. "They have been taken into custody," he said. "They're in jail." (Johnson:11). The conversation of Jubilee and her parents should appear since the problem is Jubilee must go to Florida and absent to attend Noah's party because of her parents was sent to jail. The writer should add the conversation to support the story so the reader will understand better about the author's purpose.

### **II.2.2 The Weakness of Cheerrtastic Christmas Miracle**

There are two weaknesses that the writer found in Green's story. The settings of the story are unclearly described because there are many locations in this story. The story starts to be confusing when Tobin and his friends are trying really hard to get to the Waffle House driving car because the author almost repeated the situation and the setting in the same way. They found so many obstacles to get a Waffle House like the storm made it almost impossible, their car got stuck and the bumper was broke. "Carla, get your fat gas-guzzling ass to the top of the hill!" (Green: 148). "...I kicked Carla's bumper, as the snow fell wet onto my face." (Johnson: 174)

### **II.2.3 The Weaknesses of *The Patron Saint of Pigs***

The first weaknesses of this story can be seen by the single character who experienced a broken hearted in which she decided to adopt pigs and after that the story is become flat. The

author only shows that Addie broke up with her boyfriend, she regretted and decided to cut her hair. As a result, the readers will feel reluctant to continue reading the story until the end.

The next weakness is the author did not mention the characterization of Addie character descriptively. Main character makes the story interesting since it becomes the most important character in a story. The author just expresses that Addie is a desperate young girl in her Mom speech. This is the words from Addie's mother because she saw that Addie was crying all night "...well, sweetie, you've cried yourself to sleep almost every night."

Myracle also misses some points in the story. The readers expect to see the *Saint of Pigs* is, but the author does not elaborate the story. The title is too sophisticated because the ending of this story is too flat and did not represent the title itself.

### **III. Conclusion**

This is an interesting novel written by three authors. According to wikipediaa.com, this novel is one of bestseller books which wins many awards and become New York Time Bestseller. The additional sentences on the top of the cover also give advantage for the novel.

There are many strengths and weaknesses of this novel. Each story provides the different atmosphere based on its author. The writer believes that the novel background is writing descriptively in each story so the reader could easily imagine the portrait of the snowstorm. The three authors also present the reader a lesson of love by adding a quotation to communicate the message of love. They tell the reader that love is not only looking for whom you will spend your life with but also about grabbing a chance to pursue our dreams which will not appear twice. This novel also has some weaknesses. In the story *Cheerrtastic Christmas Miracle*, the reader get

bored because it becomes confusing in the middle of the story. In the story *The Patron Saint of Pigs* the author did not explain the characterization of each character descriptively. The writer gives the 1<sup>st</sup> rank towards *The Jubilee Express* by Maureen Johnson.

Overall, this novel is a good story and could be a recommendation for the readers because it has an amazing story provide by each authors.

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