



Getting Granny's Glasses

Ruskin Bond

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Mani's Granny is seventy and can barely see through her old, scratched glasses. With only a hundred and fifty rupees in their pockets and a thirst for adventure, Mani and Granny set off to buy a new pair. On the way, they get drenched in the rain, run into mules and encounter a terrible landslide. Will Granny ever be able to reach the town and get herself a new pair of glasses?

Getting Granny's Glasses Details

Date : Published November 22nd 2012 by Penguin Books India (first published March 21st 1985)

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Author : Ruskin Bond

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From Reader Review Getting Granny's Glasses for online ebook

Saisudha Acharya says

Every summer we migrate north, like a tiny little flock of birds. We pack our bags with our baggiest pants, flimsiest cottons, a bottle of sunscreen, a tube of Odomos, our laptops, and a couple of light summer reads. We landed at the Delhi airport, greeted by my loving in laws. Our first couple of days were spent laughing over lunches and dinners, and vegetating in my father-in-law's TV room. When we got bored, we retired to our room to pull out our books and catch up with all the lost reading time. And so, on the very first night, as Little P nestled into the gap between his Dadaji's back and the bed and listened to his bedtime story, Big P and I pulled out our books, switched on the AC, gave each other a grateful, happy grin and spread ourselves out on our bed ready to sink into our fictional worlds. Except, I had chosen wrong. A book about the nature of my soul wasn't exactly what this moment needed. I was dissatisfied and after a while of tossing and turning and then trying to irritate Big P, I looked at a pile of books my niece had left from her last visit here. This is how I came across a shiny new Ruskin Bond.

According to the blurb on the top of the book 'His stories are an essential part of any Indian childhood'. And yet, somehow I seemed to have grown up without this essential childhood experience. In my late teens I did read *The Room on The Roof* but I cannot really remember it. In fact, at a writer's workshop I once attended, I remember hearing a woman go on about Ruskin Bond, and I could not understand her point of view. Since then, I believed him to be an oversell. We tend to make much of the few international literary successes we have in our country, and somehow I felt he either fell in that category of uber-intellectual, serious Indian writers who seem to get so touted about nowadays. Or alternatively, I thought he might be a Chetan-Bhagat-like-writer who proves that success as a writer is one part skill and three parts marketing.

But now in this moment of craven desperation for a book fix I grabbed a tiny little book, *Getting Granny's Glasses* that completely altered my opinion of Ruskin Bond. In the short story, Mani's old Granny can't see any more. Her scratchy old glasses simply won't do, and Mani's father thinks it is time that Granny makes the two day journey down from their village to Mussorie's eye hospital to get a new pair of glasses. Granny can't go alone and she won't tolerate Mani being left alone at home to keep an eye on things, so Mani happily volunteers to accompany his spirited Granny to Mussorie. Off they go with a roll of bedding, a tattered umbrella to guard them from sun and rain, and a cloth shopping bag. Their journey down to Mussorie is hardly uneventful. They are met by boisterous mules, a landslide and pouring rain, but happily they reach their destination and finally Granny can see Mani's cheerful "blackberry" eyes, fuzzy hair and delight in what a good looking boy she has brought up.

I finished the book in about 15 minutes flat and it left me so utterly satisfied, I was able to sleep a wonderful sleep as one must on a summer vacation. Since then I have read several of Bond's short stories and all of them leave me feeling warm and happy. I think it is because it is such a relief to read such gentle writing. While my husband lies beside me, devouring an old and much read copy of Harry Potter, so full of excitement and adventure, Ruskin Bond shows that stories don't always need fast pace, magic and spells, archetypical characters like a villain or a hero, and violence to hold the reader rapt. He makes you long for simplicity. He makes you ache for a place where you can be so in touch with nature that is merely an extension of your being, as he did in his short story *The Blue Umbrella*.

I am sure that there are some detractors who think Ruskin Bond is talking about an old India, or an India that no longer is. And perhaps that is true. I don't know very much of the country I live in. These holidays when we went to Vrindavan and Mathura, I witnessed such extreme squalor and apathy, that I understand why one would not understand Bond and his soft and loving descriptions of the hills and meadows, springs, streams and rivers. But the truth is that India is not just one kind of place. It is not just poor. It is not just filthy. It does have beauty. It does have kindness, and gentility. We don't see it in our cities so much. We can't imagine it when we read about honour killings and some of the awful things that happen in our villages. But

it is there. I have seen glimpses of it in my short myopic life.

Ruskin Bond does not ignore these essential problems of living in these different times. He does write about deforestation, conservation, urban migration, climate change, greed, poverty and all those topics which matter in the modern world. Yet he is a compassionate writer and his characters always seem to emerge the victorious. If a child is patient enough, and sensitive enough, then Ruskin Bond will transport them to this magical world of beauty and humanity; where poverty is not something to curl your lip up at, or feel sorry about, but something you very nearly envy for its simplicity.

So in the end, I had to agree with that little blurb. If you have an 8 or 9 year old, get them reading Ruskin Bond's short stories, especially before a trip to the hills. I found this little anthology by Rupa on my father in law's shelf and think it is a useful and evergreen book to have on your shelf, because you can read his stories anytime, anywhere, no matter how old you get.

<http://jollylittlechatterbugs.blogspot.com/2013/07/wonderful-world-of-ruskin-bond.html>

Manan Sheel says

What a simple, beautiful, little story.

If you have ever been to the Himalayas,
then you relive all your mountain memories,
after reading this book.

Your memories become so clear,
the description of the mountains by
Ruskin Bond is so good.

And every story by him teaches life
to the readers, in such a playful way.

You begin to become compassionate again,
and have the soft compassion that you
had forgotten somewhere in the hubbub of life,
Such is the simple magic of Wondru,
Pyaaru Bond...

Ambareen Ambar says

This is an amazing short story for children ...loved reading it as an adult though :D

Loved it ... it's a sweet story n recommend it to all children to read...sure they will love it ?

Somdutta says

A good read for children. One of Ruskin Bond's simple tales set in a village near Mussoorie . Mani and his grandmother (maternal) , take a long trip to Mussorie, overcoming few obstacles . His grandmother though

very old, is more enthusiastic and more hardy than Mani, as she is able to take a long and arduous hike about and around the mountain when the bus- which was taking them to Mussoorie, is no longer able to go forward because of a landslide. The visit to the doctor is successful and granny gets a new pair of glasses and she can see things clearly. She sees that her grandson has grown more than she had thought. On the journey back to her home , in the bus Granny admires the view outside. Things which are mundane to the rest of the travellers, are not the same to her. Her pair of new glasses have made her appreciate more of nature's gifts.

Shaloo Walia says

A simple, heartwarming story. It's beauty lies in it's simplicity.

Aruna Kumar Gadepalli says

Easy and Good read. Storyline is interesting as well.

Sachin Kamboj says

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Pallavi Kamat says

I know I may not be the appropriate person to read this book. But I did not have access to Ruskin Bond's books when I was growing up. And now when I do, I thought I should not pass up this opportunity. I bought this book as a gift for my niece and ended up reading it myself :) After all, if adults can read YA books, why not children's books? The book is Bond at its best - detailed, visual descriptions of life in the hills & relationships. Additionally, the book has some great illustrations on almost every page. I loved reading the book; it felt as if I was hiking up & down Mussoorie.

Ranit Dey says

Good

Lyn says

Nice simple story, set in India, about a grandson and his grandmother.

Sanket says

Beautiful story written in a wonderful manner. He is simply superb.

Mentes Jose says

It is a small story of a Boy and his old granny. As usual Ruskin bond in his full strength. A good story for kids as well as adults those who like their childhood. One can read it in one go.

Ankan Paul says

Simple and beautiful!
