

हंसराज महाविद्यालय

दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

महात्मा हंसराज मार्ग,

मलकागंज, दिल्ली - 110007

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UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

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NAAC ACCREDITED 'A++' GRADE COLLEGE

2023-2024

Name of the Event: Book club meet on Things have gotten worse since

Organised by: The English society

Date of the Event: 30th September, 2023

Name of Convener: Dr. Maitri Baruah, Dr. Meenakshi Malhotra

Event Description (About 250 Words)

On 30th September, the Book Club of the English Society, Hansraj College held its online discussion on Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke by Eric LaRocca and we not so much discussed as we devoured the book. By devour, we mean we tore it apart and in the process made sense of our own opinions.

First we picked up the theme of sadomasochism which is present in a huge amount in the book. People were as keen to discuss and deploy this theme based on their understanding of it. Something similar was also brought up, which is the way obsession is presented in the book. The main characters, Zoey and Agnes don't just know each other, they get under each other's skins, quite literally and that theme was meticulously ripped apart in the meet. The type of emotionally charged relationship they go on to have, which is depraved and twisted in the truest senses of the words, really piqued the interest of everyone.

The book is also a careful examination of online friendships and relationships and how such connections can be just as destructive as they're fulfilling. Since it is a relatively new phenomenon in our realm, students loved discussing it.

Another thing that really fascinated the readers, no matter their overall opinions on the book, was the amount of limits Zoey and Agnes were ready to transgress for

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each other. People also pointed out that since it was an online relationship, this transgression was more a reflection of their innermost desires than their feelings for each other.

By the end, it was obvious that everyone had multifaceted, mixed reviews on the book and the ending and the ambiguity surrounding it was taken in many different ways by different readers. Most readers that were present in the meet actually professed to dislike the book but there were just as many people who loved it. The ambiguity, depravity, twisted plotline and the narratorial voice was received with mixed emotions but it was sure an interesting read for everyone.

Five Geo-tagged Pictures:



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Attach Attendance Sheet

1. Karma - B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
2. Arshia Mathur - B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
3. Mehwish- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
4. Kavyansh- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
5. Aryaman- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
6. Sainik- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year

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7. Ragini Sharma- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year
8. Anupriya Sharma- B.A. English (hons.) 3rd year
9. Himangi Dayal- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
10. Srishti Garg- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
11. Aanchal- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
12. Sanyam Gupta- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
13. Ginni- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
14. Lakshay- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year
15. Kabyashree- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
16. Arohi- B.A. English (hons.) 1st year
17. Prateek Arsh- B.A. English (hons.) 2nd year