Tecovich Cristina

5ALS

EXIT WEST – CRITICAL APPRECIATION

In the following text I am going to explain Andrew Motion’s point of view and considerations about the novel,”Exit West” written by Mohsin Hamid in order to highlight the thoughts about my personal reading experience.

In his title, Motion uses two different words to refer to the novel: tale and parabola. A tale is a story full of adventure created using the immagination, while a parabola teaches a moral. And that’s exactly what “Exit West” has: a plot full of action which talks about current matters using linearity and semplicity. Motion organizes the text into different pharagraphs because he wants to express various opinions about different parts of the novel.

“Hamid has used a heavely inflected narrative voice” according to Motion because he never steps in between the two protagonists’ points of view and dialogues. “He uses a tone of radical simplicity” which “borders on brutality”: Hamid talks about violence, war and death using simple sentences and words, and he makes it seem like they’re day-to-day stuff. Furthermore, Motion describes Hamid as a “brillant ventriloquist”, indeed he lets his characters speak and express their opinions in order to shed light on some important issues. He is a ventriloquist because he is letting other people know about his opinion behind Saeed and Nadia’s experience. The conlusion is “too quiet to a book that began with fire and blood”, and sometimes Hamid seems a little too “thin” compared to the itinia part of the novel. But the “clarity and restraint” used by Hamid is “very impressive”, and confirms his reputation earned from his previous writings *“The Reclutant Fundamentalist*” and *“How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia”.*

I really enjoyed reading the novel, because it talks about current issues like war and immigration, while it tells about the love story between “a young man” and “a young woman” who apparently are too different to be together. Hamid doesn’t say much about them or the place where they are which conveys the image of two guys who could be anyone in this world in an undefined space, at an undefined time. From this moment the reader kind of gets involved with the story on the emotional level, he doesn’t know what will happen but he wants to go on with the reading. Furthermore, Hamid uses an extremely simple tone to talk about real life problems you could have while being or being not in a relationship with could be a man, a woman or a relative. This entire scenario is surrounded by a bigger one in which war and death don’t spare anyone. Hamid highlights questions of nationalhood and integration, which is very difficult to achieve especially if you’re moving to a place which is the clear opposit of what you’re used to. Saeed and Nadia, like many other immigrants, use magic black doors to escape their life conditions. I liked this magical element of the story, because it gave motion to the novel’s apparent straightness of the beginning. If we really had these doors these days, it would be easier to choose to leave our issues behind and just go for it.

The reading was pretty flowing, even if sometimes the sentences were too long and the plot a little bit heavy. Motion’s review is well written and it highlights the major points of the novel which made me think about what I learned from the story of hope and “research of belonging” as Motion says, which *“Exit West”* is.