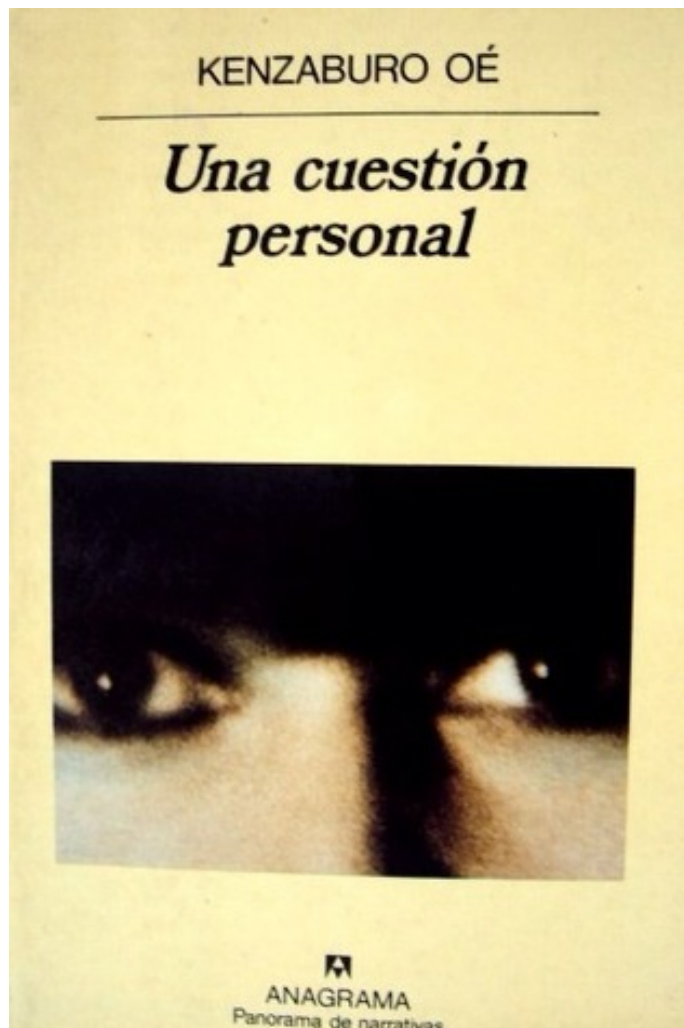

Kenzaburo Ōe

Una cuestión personal



Title: Una cuestión personal

Author: Kenzaburo Ōe

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Description

Una cuestión personal narra la terrible odisea de Bird, un joven profesor de inglés abrumado por una cenagosa existencia cotidiana en el Japón contemporáneo. Su anhelo secreto es redimirse a través de un mítico viaje por África, donde, según cree, su vida renacerá plena de sentido. Pero tales proyectos sufren un vuelco de ciento ochenta grados: su esposa da a luz un monstruoso bebé, condenado a una muerte inminente o, en el mejor de los casos, a una vida de vegetal. Este hecho convulsiona el lánguido e indolente existir de Bird y, durante tres días y tres noches, se arrastra por un implacable recorrido hacia lo más profundo de su abismo interior. Descenso a los infiernos en el que le acompañará Himiko, una vieja compañera de estudios. Bird buscará refugio en el alcohol, en los brazos de Himiko y, principalmente, en su propia vergüenza y humillación: ¿debe aceptar la fatalidad, cargar para siempre con un hijo anormal y renunciar a sus planes de una vida mejor o, por el contrario, debe desembarazarse del bebé provocando un desenlace fatal?

Revelación literaria en los años cincuenta, Kenzaburo Oé quedó consagrado como el mejor novelista japonés de la generación posterior a Yukio Mishima desde los años sesenta y se ha afirmado que recuerda a Dante, William Blake y Malcom Lowry.

Insightful reviews

Jordi Via: Una de esas lecturas que por mucho tiempo que pase deja un recuerdo indeleble. Bird, el personaje principal, la voz del autor, es un irresponsable al que no querrías como amigo, ni siquiera como vecino, aunque es profesor de inglés y acaba de ser padre. A veces, la mayoría de ellas, te enfureces con él y le darías con ganas una buena colleja; otras sientes lástima, pero llegar a comprender sus reacciones se hace muy difícil por no decir imposible.

Una novela escrita sin tapujos, sin rodeos, va directamente donde más duele.

Yossi: He sufrido leyendo este libro, un espejo al abismo de lo más oscuro del ser humano, un personaje despreciable, de principio a final que a mi modo de ver no logra redimirse pero ese lado existe y volver la cara es de necios. ¿Recomendarla? Sí, pero con muchas reservas.

Amantha: What a disappointing read. We are immediately introduced to the protagonist, Bird, and his internal struggles: his wife is at this very moment giving birth to their first child. While this may seem to be a joyous occasion, Bird feels it is a symbol of his loss of youth and freedom. Bird wants nothing more than to travel to Africa one day, but starting a family will be expensive, plus Bird seems to have trouble holding onto his money for more than five minutes. He spends it frequently throughout the night while waiting to hear news about his wife and child, mostly on frivolous things like video games and taxis where a bus would serve just as well and much cheaper.

Sounds interesting? Unfortunately the execution of the plot is tedious at best. There are thirteen chapters, each approximately thirteen pages long. And the writing itself seems to plod along,

although if this is a fault in translation or the original text is difficult to determine. Additionally, the characters other than Bird come across as flat and repetitive. They seem to serve no purpose whatsoever except to question Bird and force him to come to one realization or another. Most of them, including Bird's wife, do not even have names, which in and of itself doesn't mean much (take, for example, *The Road*, where none of the characters have names yet come across as lively and multi-faceted), but it adds to their two-dimensional feel. Bird, on the other hand, is overly flawed, as though to make up for the flatness of the other characters. I am not opposed to having flawed protagonist, but Bird is so hapless he becomes all but useless.

Still, the plot was intriguing enough to keep me interested once things started to heat up a bit. We, along with Bird, learn that the child is born with a severe birth defect, and Bird must decide the proper course to take: either to go into debt letting the doctors operate and even then his son might spend his whole life as a vegetable, or let the child weaken and die. It is a haunting and riveting dilemma, but just as we seemed to be approaching a truly devastating and emotional conclusion, the author does a complete about-face that left me unsatisfied and wondering why I bothered struggling with this book for over a week.

umberto: examining this novel via Kenzaburo Oe was once approximately a challenge very unlikely to me. On August eleven final year, i began examining it, reached bankruptcy four and quitted there. i did not locate it readable adequate to discover any rationale to learn any farther, it used to be probably hopeless to learn extra until eventually i may make it together with his 13-chapter "The Silent Cry". Then i presumed Oe's attempted to show his message through his novels written out of his bitter, tormented and enigmatic mind. strangely this novel additionally has thirteen chapters and that i do not know why, i feel this comment may be clarified by means of the writer himself somewhere. Why has his brain been in trouble? we will be able to locate this from a variety of sources, please permit me quote one from Wikipedia, "the author describes the discomfort taken with accepting his brain-damaged son into his life."

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenzaburo...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenzaburo_Oe)) during this globalized global nowadays, we have now learn or heard much approximately 'crisis' vs. 'opportunity' and we will see how Oe's printed his services by way of writing his novels subtly depicting his quandary in his characters in addition to how through the years the textual content and the writing strategy can progressively remodel one in every of his weaknesses into one among his strengths, that is, his opportunity. this is often awesome when you consider that few authors around the world can hold doing like him until he used to be provided probably the most prestigious literary prizes on the planet and his admirers, I think, have lengthy seeing that been thrilled simply because he merits the Nobel Prize because of his literary commitment and designated works.

David: Pull as much as the bumper baby! Anal intercourse aside, we are completely in Japan for this one. "Do you think that you've gotten made a person else as afraid as you have been on your life?" asks Himiko of Bird. and i am screaming "Yes, his fucking wife. Can an individual please inform her what the fuck is happening with the kid she gave beginning to?" yet it truly is Japan within the 1960s, so she tearfully pleads for info at the few events her husband visits her in hospital. He lies to her particularly badly, so she's by no means in any doubt that he is thoroughly bullshitting her. It ends with an effeminate gay reminding our hero that existence is not that bad; not less than he isn't an effeminate homosexual. I would like to understand what Mrs Oe makes of those books.

Irene: Now... 3.5 stars as a result of the surprising plot twist within the final pages This was once a special e-book from these i've got turn into accustomed with, concerning eastern literature- as a rule as a result absolutely unpredictable plot twist at the ultimate pages. What made me smirk on the first pages was once that Oe makes use of metaphors always and that is different from Tanizaki's or Ogawa's or Murakami's method of writing. So it was once an engaging and enjoyable swap i may say. The well-known depression and melancholy used to be there in the course of the publication however it was once admirable since it was once all in regards to the own drama of a man-yet-to-become-mature approximately parenthood and how he made it through. i cannot say needless to say that i might learn this novel back -and most likely I won't- however it certainly stirred my strategies at the topic it discusses. What may somebody nonetheless immature for being a father do whilst his baby has been born abnormal? How might an individual react in this kind of situation? I do not remorse examining this book, it used to be a literature-shot of alcohol down my throat.

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