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Booklover--Voices

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In my world, there is great anticipation every autumn waiting for the naming of the Nobel Laureates. Once the Literature Laureate is named, the process of exploring their literary works, discovering a little something about them and then — most important — the decision about which work to read begins. This year’s Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Svetlana Alexievich “for her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time.” The daughter of a Belarusian father and a Ukrainian mother who writes about suffering, this will make for choice Christmas reading.

As this process was taking place, an article appeared below the fold of the Wall Street Journal in the place where the often quirky, sometimes unknown, random fact, and sure-to-entertain feature always appears. This particular feature was entitled: “High in the Himalayas, Bhutan Finds Money can be a Downer—Gross National Happiness Index Trumps GDP; ‘extensively’ vs. ‘deeply’ content.” Sound familiar? In 2013 Happiness Index Trumps GDP; ‘extensively’ vs. ‘deeply’ content.”

The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded to Svetlana Alexievich.

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