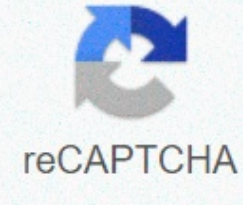




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Housekeeper and the professor

Roman by Yōko Ogawa This article needs additional quotes for verification. Please help improve this article by adding quotes to trusted sources. Non-source material can be challenged and removed. Here you will find sources: Housekeeper and professor – news · Newspapers · Books · erudite · JSTOR (March 2013) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) The housekeeper and the professor (Avg愛数. hakase no ai shita suushiki) (literally The Professor's Beloved Equation) is a novel by Yōko Ogawa set in modern-day Japan. It was released in Japan in August 2003, by Shinchosha. In 2009, the English translation of Stephen Snyder was published. [1] The story revolves around a mathematician, the professor, who suffered brain damage in a traffic accident in 1975, and since then can produce only 80 minutes of memories, and his interactions with a housekeeper (the narrator) and her son Root as the professor share the beauty of equations with them. The novel's bibliography shows the book The Man Who Loved Only Numbers, a biography of mathematician Paul Erdős. It has been said that Erdős was used as a model for the professor. The novel received the Hon'ya Taisho Prize, was adapted for a film version in January 2006, and after being published in paperback in December 2005, sold a million copies in two months, faster than any other Shinchosha paperback. [2] [3] [4] Plot summary The narrator's cleaning agency sends her to the house of the professor, a former mathematician who can remember new memories in just 80 minutes. She is more than a little frustrated to find out that he loves just mathematics and shows no interest whatsoever in anything or anyone else. One day, after learning that she has a 10-year-old son waiting at home alone until late at night every day, the professor flies into a rage and tells the narrator to get her son to come home directly from school from that day. The next day, her son and the professor call him Root. From then on, their days begin to be filled with warmth. Grades Professor 64 years old. A former university professor specializing in number theory. He loves mathematics, kids and The Hanshin Tigers (especially Yutaka Enatsu, who was playing for the Tigers at the time of the professor's accident and whose uniform number was 28, the second smallest perfect number). Having been in a car accident at the age of 47, he can keep new memories for just 80 minutes. He has important information about notes that are attached all over his suits. He keeps baseball cards and other important memories in a cake box. He has trouble interacting with other people and a habit of talking about numbers when he doesn't know what else to say. He has a talent for reading things backwards and finding the first star in the sky. His 80 minutes of memory begins to fail, and thus he is moved to a nursing home where he spends the rest of his remaining days. But the housekeeper, her son Root and her sister-in-law continue to visit him. While the housekeeper works for him; He teaches her and Root about many of the maths skills he knows and loves. The narrator/housekeeper Professor's housekeeper and a single mother. She was hired by the professor's sister-in-law through the cleaning agency and is the tenth housekeeper the professor has gone through. She initially feels frustration with the professor, who shows interest only in mathematics, but by observing the professor's kindness and his passion for mathematics, comes to feel respect and affection for him. She first manages to connect with the professor when he discovers that her birthday is February 20 (220), which is an amicable number with number 284, which is printed on the underside of his watch, which he received as the university president's award for a thesis he wrote at the university on transcendental number theory. She can't pronounce the title of the Journal of Mathematics (which the professor sends competition entries) very well, so she refers to it as Jaanaru obu. Towards the end of the novel and at a central point in the story, she and Root give the professor a rare baseball card by Yutaka Enatsu as a congratulatory note present. Root Ten years old. The housekeeper's son. The professor refers to him as Root because the top of the head is flat as a square root (

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) symbol. He is the only character given something close to a name. He is an avid fan of baseball as well as the Hanshin Tigers just like the professor, and gets the professor to repair his old radio so they can listen to baseball broadcasts together. His relationship with the professor is close to a father and son, for the professor is the first paternal figure of his life. He eventually grows up to become a junior high school math teacher. The widow/sister-in-law of the professor (wife of the professor's brother). Initially, she fired the housekeeper for ignoring the employment contract rules (bringing the child into a client's home, staying past her allotted hours) and accused housekeepers of trying to extort money from the professor. But after the professor writes down Euler's formula during this confrontation, the widow immediately comes to accept the housekeeper and clutter. She can not go well, as the housekeeper later discovers was the result of her being in the same car accident as the professor. As he scrolls through the professor's baseball card collection in the cake tin, the housekeeper discovers an old picture of a younger professor and his sister-in-law. It is suggested that perhaps long ago the professor and his once had romantic feelings for each other. Mathematical terminology that arises in the story root imaginary factorial amicable number twin prime perfect number abundant number of deficient number triangular number Ruth-Aaron pair Mersenne prime Napier constant Euler formula Fermat's Last Theorem Artin's conjecture Film Main Article: The Professor's Beloved Equation (film) A film based on the novel was released on January 21, 2006. It was directed by Takashi Koizumi. Unlike the original work, which is told from the narrator's perspective, the film is shown from the perspective of 29-year-old Root as he recounts his memories of the professor to a group of new students. Although there are some differences between the film and the original work (for example, the film touches on the relationship between the professor and the widow, while the book does not give much detail), the film is generally faithful to the original. Notes and references ^ Housekeeper and Professor, translated by Stephen Snyder, New York : Picador, 2008. ISBN 0-312-42780-8 ^ (in Japanese) ^ (in Japanese) ^ (in English) J'Lit | Awards : Bookshops Award | Books from Japan Taken from A novel translated from the Japanese, in which nothing happens and prime numbers play a central role, may not sound like the most relaxing summer reading, but Yoko Ogawa's latest work is a joy: a gentle, unpretentious and thought-provoking book. Those who know nothing about number theory may have to stop and read one of the nearly two hundred pages, to appreciate the explanation of natural logarithms. But those who think they know their things will probably stop and read ten times as many different passages, stopped in their tracks by startlingly poetic and visual descriptions of mathematics they have never considered. From the very beginning of this book, we feel that the professor of the title - who, like the housekeeper, never gets another name - is a stereotypical mater. His study smells of books and his desk is hidden in dust. He is not interested in what other people are wearing, let alone in his own appearance. He follows baseball by analyzing the stats, but he's never seen a game. And his only friends as a child were the numbers in his head. But when he suffers irreversible brain damage after a truck careers head-first into the car he drives, there are numbers that help him live on. Stuck with a brain that stopped forming new memories seventeen years earlier, the professor is only ever able to remember the last eighty minutes. He does not know how to operate the microwave, he mistakenly believes that his hero still for a top team, and he forgets everyone who leaves the room for an hour and a half. He copes with this situation by cocooning himself in reminder notes attached to his well-worn suit, and by using numbers to structure the unknown world and the people around him. When the housekeeper comes to the door for the first time, he asks her shoe size and phone number, drawing mathematical significance from each. Of course, he doesn't remember asking her the same questions the day before, and the day before that. For the professor, numbers and the relationship between them are a comfort, continuing as they always had, regardless of changes in the world. In fact, his own relationship with mathematics is deeply personal. He berates the housekeeper who disturbs him at his desk, shocked she doesn't appreciate that barging here when I'm with my numbers is as rude as interrupting someone in the bathroom. He corrects her son's suggestion that there is no such number as the square root of minus one, by pointing to his chest and explaining: Yes it is. It's in here. And when the housekeeper and her son want to make up for disturbing him, they feel the only way to do it is through numbers. It is this passion for numbers, and to share their beauty and poetry with others, that helps the professor build a surprising but lasting friendship with the housekeeper and her son. The mathematics beginners quickly become interested in prime numbers and mathematical puzzles, so much so that housekeepers are distracted from her duties by the noble prime serial number she finds on the fridge and deceptively pseudo-prime printed on a discarded tax form. She even builds number images in her head, such as the two primes who wore matching outfits and stood and held hands while they waited in the number line. As the story progresses, we meet the full range of supporting stars in this number-heavy narrative: prime numbers, divisible only by themselves and 1; perfect numbers, if divisors add up to the actual number; amicable pairs, if divisors add up to each other; and triangular numbers that line up in three-sided shapes. We come across the concept of zero and a practical formula to find the sum of all numbers up to, derived from housekeepers who, but more commonly represented as And in the most moving scene in the book, we find the professor stop a painful argument by quietly writing one of the most beautiful equations in mathematics on a piece of paper, placing it on the table and leaving the room. The housekeeper is left to examine the importance of in the neglected mathematics section of the local library. There may be no side-turning plot to keep you reading, but the book's portrayal of the true nature and attraction of number-crunching is captivating. The truth, we are told, waiting somewhere out there in a place no one knows, all and it is not always at the top of the mountain. It can be in a crack on the smoothest cliff or somewhere deep in the valley. The description of searching for primes through the desert wastelands of millions of numbers is even more evocative. And while many schoolchildren will be disappointed - just like the housekeeper's son - by the professor's claim that a problem is not finished just because you have found the right answer, this reflects - just like the descriptions of intuitive thinking, pattern-spotting, trial and error methods and uncertainty - the reality of mathematical problem solving in practice. This, of course, can all be seen as a giant metaphor for the reality of human relationships in practice. And the professor's unique situation certainly raises questions about how we form relationships here and now, with no history to build on. But Yoko Ogawa and Stephen Snyder's light touch means that none of this is overworked, and you are left to draw your own conclusions, focusing on or ignoring the problems that you desire. One thing is for sure: no matter what level you engage with the housekeeper and the professor, you are in for a charming reading. Book details: Housekeeper and professor Yoko Ogawa, translated by Stephen Snyder paperback - 192 pages (2009) Harvill Secker ISBN-10: 1846552508 ISBN-13: 978-1846552502 About

the author Anna Faherty read physics at Cambridge before working in publishing for fifteen years. She commissioned the Modular Mathematics Series and recently worked on 50 mathematical ideas you really need to know. Anna is now a freelance writer and consultant who works with a diverse range of clients, including the Science Museum, the National Maritime Museum and Time Out London Guides. Guides.

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