

Juyan Woo

Professor Stubbs

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Exit West: The Impact of Migration

How far do the currents of information travel until the source makes its way to shore? Migration is used as a key method for the transfer of information, people, and the experience that travels with them. In an un-named war-torn city of the book, "Exit West" our Protagonists Saeed and Nadia, become the worker bees for the pollen of information that spreads through out the story. The rumors of magical doors opening to refugees became the mode of travel for people living to survive in the war-torn city. The obstacles and struggles experienced by the bond of two people are affected by the Migration to a New Place. The author utilizes different stories or moments from different geographical locations on the planet. Not only were Saeed and Nadia's experiences and lessons foreshadowed or setup by minor plot lines, but all of these strangers became interwoven into a network of information. Migration serves as a key method for the integration of multiple stories that occur over a set period of time, through cohesion with the main plot of Exit West.

The magical doors that open up to refugees in a war-torn city become the safest mode of travel for people in Exit West. In Chapter 6 of Exit West, Saeed and Nadia travel to the Greek island of Mykonos, after paying off an Agent to guide them to the Magical Door. The couple learns of heavily armed guards securing the Magical Doors that lead to Wealthier Areas. During, their time in Mykonos, Saeed and Nadia walk by a camp that resembles a trading post from the

Gold Rush Era. Hustlers, Up-Standing Citizens, Criminals and Loving Parents are a few types of people that all came to seek shelter on the island. The good people outweighing the bad, still suggests that one should stay inside the camp around others at night. New Information is always gathered, before or after, an arrival to a new location.

The Impact of Migration on a relationship can take many shapes and forms throughout a series of events. The eb and flow of the emotional contents begin to reveal themselves and can be identified by the reader while the story progresses. The war represents the background information and setting of the story. Tensions begin to rise forcing many people to flee to safety. The escalating violence surrounding the story begins to influence how our Protagonist's migrate and experience their travels, beside one another. The reader begins to understand the parallel of the external forces outside, influencing the inner conflict of both character's thoughts and emotions toward each other in the relationship. Towards the end of Chapter 6, Nadia and Saeed are chased off the beach on Mykonos. Leading to Nadia sustaining an injury from their escape, eventually leading to an exchange of phone numbers between Nadia and the Teenage Girl. The two spend evenings together joyfully talking, over coffee or sharing a joint. The Teenage Girl eventually agrees to help the two of them leave from Mykonos. This eventually leads to Saeed and Nadia, following the Teenager to a new Magical Door. The Girl shares a tearful goodbye with Nadia, before the Saeed and Nadia walk through the magical door. At the beginning of Chapter 7, Saeed and Nadia find themselves emerging into a Wealthy Mansion, located in London. The home becomes filled with Nigerian Immigrants who were all seeking shelter.

The Beginning of the Rift in a Relationship starts off like a lined crack in a windshield. The issue at hand must be discussed between the two, in order to place the sealing adhesive on the crack. If the topic is left undiscussed, then the lined crack will begin to spread outward like a

spider-web of different reasons for why the relationship failed. Never knowing where the problem all started, before it becomes evident with both partners. Saeed does not feel safe in their new home, while Nadia is splendid that the new home resembles her University Dorm. Saeed opens up about his disagreement with Nadia's decision to wash her clothes in the bathroom. Saeed's viewpoint is to keep her safe from the other refugees that live in the house with them, while Nadia paces the room in nothing but a towel. It will not be the first time the two share the same bed, but will be the first time both are not touching. The refugees in the home begin to grow restless in their new home and have all decided on looting the home of all her possessions. Saeed witnessing the event take shape, decides to intervene and attempts to prevent the looters from stealing. Nadia worried for Saeed's safety prompts her to insult him, because she would be hurt if something were to happen to him. The situation began with a corollary understanding, but evolve into a deeper look through Saeed's perspective. The two of them are beginning to speak unkindly to each other and he does not realize that he should have questioned Nadia, besides analyzing the situation. The scene set up by the British Volunteers, they can be seen bringing food and medicine, symbolizing the Recovery and Support for the Refugees. Saeed and Nadia, promise to be kinder to one another, however, the both of them can sense the tension rising between them. The obvious is lightly concealed by the overall calm set by the environment.

Exit West utilizes, foreshadowing, to setup a correlation with Saeed or Nadia. Whether, it be emotional, visual, or even relatable context clues for the reader to discover on their own. Immigration and Emigration play a big role in the entire story of Exit West. The Magical doors serve as an instrument for the next few stories that occur around multiple, geographical locations. In Chapter 1, Saeed's 5-minute workmanship on an assignment for a Billboard Company would

be utilized for the interconnection of a story involving a woman in Australia. The hidden meaning in the description of the Woman who lives on Surly Road, involves the Husband who is away on Business in Perth, Australia.

In Chapter 2, located in the Shinjuku District of Tokyo, a man sitting at the bar drinking Irish Whiskey, gives off a violent energy about himself. People at the bar stay far away from him, almost as if they can all sense that he is belligerent. Two Filipina Girls walk out of the always locked door behind the bar. The man dislikes, Filipinos, recollecting his story about how he almost beat a man to death, in public school. The two girls leave the bar through the back and the man “fingers the metal” in his pocket...he was reaching for his knife while walking out the bar. The dangers of this specific story, parallel, everyday life in the un-named, war-torn city of Exit West. Much like the reader looking away from the previous story, Nadia has lost a sense of security, after hearing about her cousin being killed in a truck bomb blast.

In Chapter 7, the British Accountant who the author vaguely suggests, lives in the neighborhood between Westminster and Hammersmith, has been considering suicide as a way to escape his immediate reality. However, through the method of Deus Ex Machina, a magical door appears inside his room. He reluctantly reaches for the phone, but decides not to call the police. Through his own realization comparing his immediate reality, he understands the opportunity of leaving his old life behind and starting fresh. The British Accountant leaves a note for his daughter and best friend, stating that he will never return home and steps through the door into Namibia. Migrating through the magical door offered salvation to a man in dire, need of escape, from the onset depression created by his previous environment.

In Chapter 9, the Brazilian Man has been walking through a door to Amsterdam and back to Brazil. To frequent a visit to the Dutchman, who always sits on his apartment balcony and

looks out at the view. The wrinkled Brazilian Man, arrives in Amsterdam through a tool shed, and invites the Elderly Dutch Man to come back with him. The wrinkled man shows his paintings to the elderly man back in Brazil. When the Dutchman offers to buy his painting, the Brazilian Man declines the payment and gifts it to him instead. The two old men become a couple. The two characters in Chapter 9 of the story, have found love, all because the magical doors made that intertwining of their stories possible. This creates the next sequence of events for Nadia and Saeed, after Nadia suggests to Saeed that they move to Marin, on the coast and nearby San Francisco. Saeed doesn't stir up a verbal conflict as Nadia would have thought, instead, he agrees to rekindle their relationship.

In Chapter 11, a Mute Maid, who serves a Grand House in Marrakesh, Morocco, has remained where she lives, even though all her family members, including her Husband, have left. Her mother blames her mutism, for affecting her psychologically, because the maid believes she is unwanted anywhere else. The maid is aware that people are tolerant and know of her, realizing she would have to start all over again with strangers. Her daughter visits from time to time, and stops by to ask her mother if she is ready to leave. The Maid from Morocco is not ready to leave the comfort and safety of her home. This story parallels a phase in Saeed's and Nadia's relationship where the two have been living separately. Much like the Maid recollecting how life was easier for her when she was younger, the same goes for Saeed and Nadia re-adjusting to living on their own without one another.

The Impact of Migration on people's lives, are greatly affected, especially, when Magical Doors are implemented into a story. The overall, picture conveyed by the author, reminds me of a time piece with different gears turning each other at a different rate. The purpose of the stories outside the main plot, foreshadow imagery, when comparing Saeed or Nadia's current

experience. The connection of stories in a vast network of people, help the reader visualize danger, romance, and either a safe haven or escape from their immediate reality. People migrate for their own purpose within Exit West. Nadia and Saeed traveled to escape danger, moving locations to rekindle a relationship, and even separating from one another, whilst, experiencing a new place on their own. Exit West is a Romantic Novel, that reflects the imagery of other's stories to the Main Protagonists: Saeed and Nadia. The experience of a relationship while attempting to find a new home brings many different challenges for refugees, as observed in Exit West.

Cited Work

Mohsin, Hamid. *Exit West*.

Riverhead Books. New York, 2017.