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### The Invisible Heart

The Invisible Heart shows us an interesting take on business and economic systems. The author of the book, *The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance*, Russell Roberts, attempts to make economics more understandable by framing his theories in a romance novel, through the viewpoints of Sam Gordon and Laura Silver, who are both teachers at Edwards School, an institution for the wealthy elite. Russell Roberts allows us to compare and contrast these two different perspectives on economics by demonstrating examples of capitalism and other forms of economic systems. After reading *The Invisible Heart*, I was fascinated by the way Russell Roberts combines a romance novel with an economics text. This method got me hooked into diving deeper into the author and how he demonstrates the difference between free market economic theory and liberalism through a love story. The "invisible heart," from my perspective, reflects the love for business and economics that we can all resonate with, even if we don't always agree on the same policies or how they affect our daily lives, and after reading the book, I personally do not think that "the invisible heart can break," since we can see a perfect example of it through Sam and Laura's ongoing romantic conflict, showing us that the passion will continue to be there, even if you are not on the same page.

One of the individuals we meet is named Sam. He is an economics teacher and also the embodiment of capitalism throughout the book. Sam is more conservative when it comes to economics when compared to Laura, since he believes that certain government regulations are either useless or counterproductive. He considers financial success to be a merit and believes that economic freedom empowers our society to thrive. A quote that really resonated with me by Sam Gordon stated, "Capitalism involves struggle, but it has an invisible heart beating at its core that transforms people's lives." (Roberts). This quote struck me because, while there are many views on capitalism, including that it is an abusive system that exploits the poor while enriching the wealthy, this quote helps to explain to me that capitalism is bred from these struggles, and that it provides everyone with an equal opportunity to achieve greatness, regardless of their circumstances, which is often overlooked when analyzing capitalism.

On the other hand, we are also introduced to Laura Silver, who teaches literature at Edwards, but she differs from Sam Gordon because she is more left-leaning when it comes to economic and political ideologies. Laura Silver serves to portray socialism throughout the book, and we can see her stance on this through the discussion of minimum salaries, unions, a standard of living, inflation, charity, and pollution, all throughout the book. Laura believes that the government should develop regulations to protect workers and consumers from the harmful influence of the free market.

Ultimately, I enjoyed *The Invisible Heart: An Economic Romance* because the author developed two characters with opposing viewpoints. Which allowed me to see both sides of the political spectrum and form my own personal opinions on the main points. In my opinion, the "invisible heart" represents the passion for economics and business that we can all identify with, even if we don't always agree on the same policies, or how they have a significant impact on our everyday

lives. I personally do not believe that the "invisible heart" can break, because the ongoing romance between Sam Gordon and Laura Silvers is a good illustration of it.