



Das Museum der gestohlenen Erinnerungen

Ralf Isau

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Seltsame Dinge gehen in Berlin vor. Als die Zwillinge Jessica und Oliver aus den Ferien zurückkehren, haben sie ihren Vater vergessen. Nur ein beunruhigendes Gefühl der Leere ist zurückgeblieben. Aus den Aufzeichnungen des Vaters erfahren sie von Quassinja, dem Reich der verlorenen Erinnerungen, und von Xexano, dem altbabylonischen Gott dieser geheimnisvollen Welt. Um ihren Vater wiederzufinden, beschließen die Geschwister einen kühnen Plan.

Das Museum der gestohlenen Erinnerungen Details

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Author : Ralf Isau

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Oniros says

3,5.

sander fuchs says

this book is really nice! though it has a story some might think of as childish, i think it is "fantastic" in both meanings!

Caroline says

This is a quite good book, which sadly suffers from a severe identity crisis. The tale itself is thoroughly original even if it is executed in a childish sort of way...

Two highly talented twins 'lose' their father - that is, they have forgotten all about him ever existing. (Key: forgotten - this is a book about memory). In order to find out what is going on they visit their father's old workplace: the Pergamon Museum.

This is where the plot really takes a turn for the fantastic, and the reader is introduced to two-faced gods with a lust for power, museum workers who are not what they seem and an entire hidden universe of all things ever forgotten.

It is a race against time: the twins have to figure out the true name of the god of forgotten memories before new year's in order to banish him and get back their father. If they fail, the memories of all people will be stolen by the god, which will in turn give him enough strength to take over the world.

A generally well-executed plot, **but** Isau sometimes leaves the reader confused as to what target audience the book is aimed for. On one hand, we've protagonists at the age of 14, which gives the book an air of childishness as it is told in their point of view, but also a lightness which is emphasized through the language, and truly needed at times... Because on the other hand, this book can be quite heavy reading! However interesting the research on the name of Xexano is, it gets quite scientific at times, making it hard to follow for young readers. This research takes up a huge chunk of the book as it is vital to the story!

Furthermore, Isau has left quite a few loose ends in this book, which is really frustrating and impacts the over-all impression of the book negatively.

Sullen rambling aside, it is a quite good read and the story is highly original. I wouldn't recommend it, though, if you're very picky about what you read. You don't really take anything with you from it, but a slight paranoia about all things memory-related.

Annemie says

Probably the book I always wanted to write. Truly a phantastic novel.

Lisbeth Birkmose says

På dansk Den stjålne hukommelses museum

Lara Mi says

Das Museum der gestohlenen Erinnerungen – The Museum of stolen memories – has accompanied me for the last couple of months. And I am truly sorry to say that I have finally decided to give up on it.

I found myself reading on for the sake of finishing it rather than because the story was particularly captivating. I have such mixed feelings about this book. Firstly – in this specific case – it suffers from the fact that it is in German. I have never enjoyed reading German novels and I am afraid I never will (not to say I do not enjoy the language – just not in the form of novels.). With it being German – the sentences and descriptions are already longer than they would be in English. But the author has a way of describing things that make them seem all the longer. So while this is not necessarily a bad book – it was an extremely slow read and it was taking up so much of my time – time I needed for other things.

I chose to read this book because I needed a German novel for an assignment and the description seemed to give a Harry Potter-like vibe; I do love fantasy/adventure stories with children or teenagers as protagonists. Personally, I never felt that these books were too focused on younger readers – if written well enough it can appeal to older readers as well. I was not too wrong in thinking that it has a similar atmosphere to Harry Potter. We have the twins, Oliver and Jessica, who are trying to fend off evil and discover the mysteries of disappearing objects from the museum their father works for.

The first chapter is great – you are thrown into the story and you can feel the twins' helplessness of them being interrogated by the police over the stolen objects. Once the twins realize that the missing objects have disappeared to the magical world of forgotten memories, the book takes two paths – one following Oliver who has found himself in the said magical world, and one following Jessica who is trying to solve the mystery from the real world.

Every chapter switches the perspective between the two – an element of story writing that I would usually very much enjoy. But in this case, I felt rather unhappy as the focus was much more on Oliver who I sadly did not like very much at all. Another issue was the fact that this book required you to have a lot of pre-knowledge of history. Now I love reading and learning about history and I would have loved if this book would have taught me some more – but because the book assumes that you already knew everything, there were many paragraphs that ended up being very tiring to read – and one did not even benefit much from it.

But the worst part was the element of horror. Not that I would call this a horror novel but it sure had some utterly creepy, bizarre and horrifying creatures that gave me the shivers. While novels such as Harry Potter

also produced some scary scenes – it was not quite the same. In this book, I was really left baffled at times having to remind myself that this is a book for children – yet there were some truly nightmare worthy things going on: I think the walking and talking embryo must have been the worst but there were many other strange disembodied limbs floating and walking about. Not quite so scary was the deer fawn, but still – Bambi is not meant to have bloodshot eyes and exhale frost!

Another thing that was not handled well was the foreshadowing. I love foreshadowing but the author added so many unnecessary details and descriptions (e.g. “She moved her mouse to the top of the screen to use her index finger to click the X to close the program”) that it made you think that it MUST be relevant in one way or another – but unless they were things he wanted to add during the last pages, which I doubt, there was no sign of them being significant in any way. On the contrary, the author often picked up things I had long forgotten. Not even after they picked it up again did I recall reading about it earlier in the book – but perhaps that was just because the reading was so darn slow for me.

While this book certainly has its merits – quite a unique and complex fantasy world, a large variety of characters, switching perspectives – I just could not get the positive aspects to outweigh the negative ones. Hence why I decided to drop it. Nonetheless, I have to say that Miriam, an Irish archaeologist who Jessica befriends, was an incredibly likeable character.

Laura Fantasyliterature says

Really good and intense book. One of my favourites ever. It introduces you in a wonderful world where you want to go and help everyone. The characters are normal people, not like in other books where you can not identify yourself with them at all. Searching for the truth and what's more important: the memories. Amazing.
