



Heaven Eyes

David Almond

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Erin Law and her friends are Damaged Children. At least that is the label given to them by Maureen, the woman who runs the orphanage that they live in. Damaged, Beyond Repair because they have no parents to take care of them. But Erin knows that if they care for each other they can put up with the psychologists, the social workers, the therapists -- at least most of the time. Sometimes there is nothing left but to run away, to run for freedom. And that is what Erin and two friends do, run away one night downriver on a raft. What they find on their journey is stranger than you can imagine, maybe, and you might not think it's true. But Erin will tell you it is all true. And the proof is a girl named Heaven Eyes, who sees through all the darkness in the world to the joy that lies beneath.

From the Hardcover edition.

Heaven Eyes Details

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From Reader Review Heaven Eyes for online ebook

Anneja says

Ja, dieses Buch musste ich leider abbrechen. Es tut mir immer in der Seele weh dies zutun, aber manchmal kann man nix dagegen tun.

Nach der Kurzbeschreibung freute ich mich sehr auf das Buch, da es doch so einiges mystisches geben sollte. Doch nach der Hälfte des Buches gab ich auf die Geschichte verstehen zu wollen. Die drei Kinder sind Waisen und leben in einem Heim, welches zwar sehr friedlich wirkte, aber trotzdem etwas unheimliches hatte, was wohl an der fragilen Leiterin lag.

Kurz um wir begleiten die Kinder auf ihrer Flucht und werden dabei zu wirklich fragwürdigen Gestalten gebracht. Das sie auf einem verlassenen Gelände lebten, war ja noch ok, aber ihr Verhalten war so verwirrend, das ich mit ihnen nix anfangen konnte.

Auch wenn es am Ende des Buches eine Auflösung geben sollte, so war ich nach einer gewissen Seitenzahl einfach nicht mehr neugierig genug um dies wissen zu wollen. Tatsächlich war ich über die mehr als merkwürdige Art von allem, sehr genervt, da es für mich einfach keinen Sinn ergab.

Auch die Schreibweise wirkte für mich zu abgehackt und irgendwie nicht stimmig. So kam ich neben der Verwirrung auch noch beim Lesen ins stocken, da ich nun mal jemand bin, der sich die dargestellte Umgebung gerne vorstellt, aber dies war nur wenig möglich.

Trotz allem hat das Buch gute Bewertungen, weshalb sich ein Blick trotzdem lohnt. Denn dies ist ja nur mein Empfinden.

Linda Hartlaub says

A charming young adult book that takes three "damaged" children from their group home on an adventure of their lives. Set in England, the three friends set out for freedom from their home, the aides and headmistress. Lack of communication between the authority figures and the kids makes it a believable scenario.

The dialect of Heaven Eyes makes it a little hard to focus on the conversations, but if you can get beyond that, it is a sweet book of friendship, loyalty and love.

Sine says

Fazit:

Ein Buch, welches mich nicht so in seinen Bann schlagen konnte. Die Geschichte ist interessant und berührt mich auch auf eine Art, aber der Funke springt einfach nicht über, leider. Denn ich finde, die Geschichte hatte durchaus Potenzial.

Bewertung:

Erin, Januar und Mouse wohnen im Waisenhaus und fliehen. Dieses Mal geht es weiter fort und sie treffen ein Mädchen, welches sehr geheimnisvoll ist. Auch nach ihrer Rückkehr ist alles ziemlich verquer, denn es soll alles nur ein Traum sein, das eben Mal drei. Aber sie haben auch unglaublich erlebt und auch Heaven wird nicht als diese wahrgenommen.

Das Waisenhaus Whitegate ist ein dreistöckiges Gebäude, um dessen ein Zaun gezogen worden ist. Maureen die Leiterin des Heimes hat ein gutes Herz und hegt Hoffnung für die Kinder. Sie hat es nicht immer leicht dort. Außerdem hat sie wohl vieles geprägt, eine Mischung aus Liebe und Bitterkeit. Sie wollte den Kindern vertrauen und lieben, aber sie sah oft nur Kinder, die nie mehr genesen, weil sie Waisen sind.

Auch haben die Kinder viel Fantasie und leben auch in dieser, jedenfalls manchmal. Es ist eine Art Rückzug und Zuflucht aus dem Alltag, dem Waisenhaus. Ein Stück Glück und Hoffnung, die sie mit sich tragen. Es ist manchmal auch ein schmaler Grad zwischen Realität und Fantasie.

Der Schreibstil an sich ist ok, Für mich ist er nicht sonderlich spannend und daher habe ich auch einige Probleme beim Lesen. Die Geschichte an sich hätte Potenzial für spannende Aspekte, die für mich aber nicht so gut erzählt worden sind.

Charaktere

Erin ist eine Waise, sowie Januar und Mouse. Ihre Mutter ist gestorben. Sie mag nicht gerne im Waisenhaus sein, besonders bei Maureen, sie ist ihr gegenüber sehr verschlossen und will eben nicht viel reden.

Januar wurde im Januar auf den Treppen eines Krankenhauses abgelegt und hat so seinen Namen erhalten. Er ist so eine Art Anführer und gibt gerne den Ton an. Er scheint auch ziemlich selbstbewusst und kämpft gerne gegen an. Ich kann mir hier auch gut vorstellen, dass es eine Schutzhülle ist, wie jeder sie hat.

Mouse Mutter ist gestorben und sein Vater verschwunden. Er ist sanft und scheu und möchte es am liebsten allen recht machen. Er spielt gerne beim Fantasiespiel über seine Familie mit und hofft auf was besseres. Er ist sehr ängstlich und eher anhänglich, daher manchmal auch etwas anstrengend. Er ist ein Junge voller Gefühle, der auch öfter mal heult

?glis says

The book is so beautifully written it's almost magical, and yet I found the story it tries to tell disturbingly boring and pointless.

I probably fail to understand this book as a whole. How can it start so powerfully, with such a magnificent prose it reads almost as poetry, and yet I read it while virtually banging my head into my desk and internally screaming, why oh why oh why am I reading this and why am I supposed to care about this story, or the lack of it. At least I enjoyed the prose.

What makes me sad the most is the fact that I knew it's a strange book, and I usually like strange books. Or at least I think I like strange books. And therefore I thought I am going to enjoy this one a lot. But it seems like there's quite a few kinds of strange, and not every kind of strange fits your own strangeness. Sometimes the book is written for a very special kind of reader, and you, unfortunately, are of a different kind.

Also, I have read the translation to Lithuanian, but I have skimmed through the English version, too, and compared some parts. I can honestly say that the translation is really well done, it is rich, it is flowing and very creative - just as the original text is. But I hated with all my little black heart what it did to poor Heaven Eyes - a character who sounds so cute, childish and innocent in the original with all her self-invented phrases and all, and who sounds sooo pretentious in Lithuanian, she sounds like some 100 years old literature teacher at best. And she should sound like a kid with zero education, totally excluded from the world for all her life!

Look, look:

[i]‘This is your treasures, Erin, isn’t it?’

‘Yes.’

‘Lovely lovely. My treasures is waiting in the Middens says Grampa. He will dig them out afore he is still as still.’

‘Still as still?’

‘Still as still. Not mind, Erin. Show, show.’

– ?ia tavo lobiai, Erina?

– Taip.

– Žav?tinai žav?tiniausi. Mano lobiai man?s laukia S?našynuose, sako senolis. Jis juos iškas, paskui taps stingi? stingiausias.

– Stingi? stingiausias?

– Stingi? stingiausias. Nesir?pink, Erina. Parodyk, parodyk.[/i]

Do you see my horror? But still, I think the translator did an amazing work and I won’t be surprised if she gets some award for translating Heaven Eyes.

Do I recommend this book? Yes, if you like beautiful prose. No, if you like good stories that draw you in. Maybe, if you like strange books. Maybe this can be just the right kind of strange for you, who knows.

Teanna Parker says

Heaven Eyes by David Almond is about three “damaged” kids Erin, Jan, and Mouse trying to get away and be free. They leave their orphanage and sail to soon discover their treasures. The main characters in the story are Erin, Jan, Mouse, grandpa and heaven eyes. With a few others including the caretaker of the orphanage Maureen. The main characters left their “home” and sailed to the Middens. They found new discoveries and explored the Middens. They had a lot of problems with trusting themselves and trusting the people they found. The whole book was an adventure. Leaving their home and meeting heaven eyes and grandpa. My favorite character had to be heaven eyes. She always saw the brighter side in everyone. No matter who or what you were.

I can’t say that I really relate to any of the characters. I mean sometimes we almost all feel alone but then you read stories like this about children having nothing and then you start to realize that you are not alone. Not like the characters in the book. All the characters in this book have been damaged. These kids dealt with Parents leaving or just coming from nothing. All they basically have is each other they have no adult role model. They talk a lot about being broken damaged kids and never being able to succeed. So I feel as if a bunch of people can relate to Erin. Maureen would always tell them they were going to be nothing when they grow old. That they were left for a reason. Erin could care less what she said though. She was a tough

independent kid.

This book was amazing. I couldn't get my nose out of it. It never got boring and it always had a twist to the story. My favorite part of the book is when heaven eyes final gets to discover her treasure and finds out what it is. It makes you feel uplifted. This child who has been living with this old man who didnt know she even came from a family. Then she finally gets showed where she actually came from. Her real name and to discover her treasure is her family. The author could have made things a bit more clear. Sometimes I had to re read a few parts to understand what he was trying to say. The author also though explained and gave so much detail. He explained the kids past and the little details that dont really matter but help enhanced the story.

I would strongly recommend this book to other people. I feel as if a lot of kids or even adults could relate to most of the characters in this book. Maybe not the decisions they make but the way they feel. They show a lot of passion and deeply describe sometimes what they truly feel. I feel like any type or basically any age middle school age kids to adult age would enjoy this book.

Sas astro says

Sometimes you just want a book that you know will be captivating and easy to read, that's when I turn to YA novels. David Almond's writing is almost luminous, he has a vert descriptive way with words and aso always manages to capture my imagination

Emma Long says

'Heaven Eyes' tells the story of a young orphan, Erin, who runs away from Whitegates with her friend January Carr, and their uninvited guest, Mouse. Their journey begins on a makeshift raft along a river. Going with the ebbs and flows of the current they are soon marooned on the dark mud bank of the Black Middens. Guided by the spiritual comfort and voice of her mother, Erin pulls the raft to safety. Here the three orphans meet a strange web fingered girl with bright eyes and blonde hair, Heaven Eyes. As the story progresses we meet an old man with black dust in the creases of his skin, Grampa.

For a few days the Orphans live with Heaven Eyes and Grampa in the derelict printing press, living off Cadbury's Milk Tray and Fray Bento's Corn Beef. Grampa is forever patrolling the grounds and digging for treasures for Heaven Eyes. January, the sharp witted young boy is reluctant to trust the two new beings they have met and is determined to find out what Grampa keeps in the boxes on the very top shelf and the locked drawer of his desk. Inside lies the truth behind Heaven Eyes and her past. Is she a 'fishy, froggy thing' or a ghost? Could this quite possibly be the end for Erin, January and Mouse?

The books of David Almond are laced with mystery, and some of that mystery remains unresolved. There is a consistent theme of belonging that runs through Almonds books. Stemming from familiar backgrounds, Almond uncovers the concept of the "damaged" child in this story and their quest for a journey away from their humdrum life in the orphanage.

The novel is delicate and Almond's prose has a poetic nature to it. The disjointed structure of sentences adds life to the characters and allows the reader to empathise with their struggle. Similar to 'Skellig' and 'The

'Savage' the themes of this story can be used in a KS2 PSHCE lesson to discuss the need to belong, bullying and highlight the need for social interaction. Furthermore, science experiments testing the buoyancy of makeshift rafts can be carried out in class. 'Heaven Eyes' can also be used to research the journey of rivers from spring to sea.

I found the mystery, friendship and journey covered in the book to be very endearing. I believe 'Heaven Eyes' to be most suitable for a Year 6 class as the content covered may need the maturity and understanding of an older child.

Eileen says

For some reason I was having dim flashbacks of a very strange book I read years and years ago about orphans adrift in a wasteland of dirty rivers, concrete, and crumbling warehouses. A few keyword searches later, I found it. *Heaven Eyes* is every bit as bleak and beautiful as I remembered. Tried reading it on my phone during downtime at work. That was a bad idea. *sits at desk crying at spreadsheets*

I've often found urban decay to have a haunting allure (one of the reasons I loved Havana so much - I know, I know, First World privilege and romanticism) and Almond does a fantastic job unearthing it, like a saint out of muddy shores. The ending is arguably pretty *deus ex machina*, but this *is* juvenile fiction, so I'll allow it.

Heaven Eyes has been classified as YA but the protagonist is only twelve, so I would say it's more middle-grade. Some of the one-star reviews allege that the imagery is too disturbing for young readers, but I think kids are tougher and more insightful than we sometimes give them credit for.

Paula Patterson says

I'm not really sure how I feel about this book. It was so strange. I did feel compelled to continue reading it. It was above average but just so strange.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Heaven Eyes, David Almond

Heaven Eyes is a young adult novel by award-winning author David Almond. It was published in Great Britain by Hodder Children's Books in 2000 and by Delacorte Press in the United States in 2001. The story focuses on three children who run away from their orphanage and are rescued by Heaven Eyes, a strange, innocent child with webbed hands and feet. Heaven Eyes should have drowned at sea, but was rescued from the mud, and only Grampa knows the secret to her history. He isn't telling. They find themselves investigating the mysteries surrounding the old printing press and storage building where Heaven Eyes lives. During the time they spend with Heaven Eyes and Grampa, they begin to see the outside world as a land of "ghosts". The children have to choose to stay in that eccentric, mysterious and possibly sinister world or to flee back to safety in the mundane world and perhaps lose the hopes of spiritual healing they discovered in Heaven Eye's world.

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Cynthia Egbert says

I am going to offer a quote from the book as my review.

"My story could have been a sad, sad tale. All stories could be sad, sad tales: the stories of my friends and of all the others. But they are not sad tales. We have each other, and our stories mix and mingle like the twisting currents of a river. We hold each other tight as we spin and lurch across our lives. There are moments of great joy and magic. The most astounding things can lie waiting as each day dawns, as each page turns...Like all stories, there is no end. It goes on and on and mingles with all the other stories in the world."

I love this book. I want to have a long conversation with David Almond. I wonder if he ever takes walks...

Kendra says

I've decided Almond just has a strange way to tell stories. His style doesn't really appeal to me, but I can see where others might enjoy.

Mikayla says

I remember reading this when I was 11 years old when I was in Primary school.

I loved this book the first time I read it, and although I read my childhood books a little differently to how I used to, I still loved this book. It's still as good as I remember it.

This is a great book and can recommend it all children under 12, and all those re-reading. It's still just as magical.

Melika Khoshnezhad says

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aris ? says

i very much like this book, kinda creepy and kinda weird. felt a little slow at times. but overall the characters were so so complex and diverse, the plot was original and creepy and mystical, the writing style was extremely magical (i love david almond), and the cover is beautiful. heaven eyes will stay with me for a while. :)

Just? Latauskien? says

SU SPOILERIAIS

Kokia yra tikslin? šios knygos auditorija?

Ilgai m?s?iau k? b?t? galima pasakyti apie ši? knyg?. Manau tai yra viena t? knyg?, kurias išrenka mamos savo vaikams, bet iš ties? tai jos yra skirtos t??iams. Šiame k?rinyje pagrindinis personažas yra našlait?, kurios motina mir? nuo v?žio. Skaitydama b?tent toki? mirt? vertinau kaip labai simbolišk?, nes j? nužud? nekontroliuojama ir mirti atsisakanti gyvyb? kilusi jos pa?ios viduje. Piktoji našlait? nešiojasi kitokios gyvyb?s, buvusios jos viduje, nuutrauk? – savo pa?ios, dar ?s?iose ultragarso vaizd?. Heroj? taip pat turi motinos kvepal?, nag? lako. Šiek tiek pasikv?pina, nusidažo viena nagel?, taip labai taupydama kas liko iš jos mamos ir tuo pat metu suformuodama ritual? padedant? jai pasikalb?ti su savo mama, pajustis artum? ir tapatum? su ja.

Heroj? gyvena vaik? globos ?staigoje, kurioje jos glob?ja, pati netekusi dukters, stengiasi su heroje susidraugauti, tapti jai motina, bet heroj? negali priimti naujo asmens, nes n?ra išged?jusi pilnai savo mamos ir vargu ar kada išged?s. Drauge su dar dviem našlai?iais jie pab?ga ant savadarbio plausto ir juos up? nuneša ? kažkok? pelkyn?-pliurzyn?-griuvesyn?.

Ten realyb? susimaišo su pramanybe ir vaikai sutinka dar vien? paugliuk? – tarsi undin?l?, su pl?v?m tarp piršt? ir primityvia vaikiška kalba. Internetai rašo, kad lietuviškas vertimas ?ia prastas, nes nepavyko išversti b?tent primityvumo kalbos, gavosi daugiau kažkokia nimfos-dvasios kalba. Kas gal mažiau tragediška, nes ta mergait? (Dangaus Akys) tada atrodo mažiau žmogiška. Ji pati galvoja, kad jinai buvo iškasta iš žem?s, kad jos motina ir yra ta gaivališka dr?gm?, ji nei tai driežiukas, nei tai varliukas, bet nori ses?s ir pati ?sisesina knygos heroj? ir ?sibrolina kitus du našlai?ius.

Knygoje n?ra labai daug nuotyki?, tik paaišk?ja, kad Dangaus Akys visai ne kokia undin?l?, o vienintel? išlikusi gyva mergait? iš sudužusio laivo, kuri? rado ir augino pamiš?s benamis. Taip gaunasi, kad abi mergait?s kildina save iš tamos (viena iš mamos ?s?i? juodoje nuotraukoje, kita iš juodo purvo), abi neteko mamos d?l gamtos j?g? (viena v?žio, kita audros), tik pirmosios motina gyva jos atsiminimuose, t.y. viduje, o antrosios gyva kažkur išor?je, t.y. jinai vis dar jos ieško, kas gal?t? j? pakeisti ir randa – t? pa?i? t? pa?i? globos nam? glob?j?.

Paprastai vaikiškos knygos b?na apie tapim? suaugusi, o ?ia yra apie vaikyst?s apsaug?, per tai, kad buvimas vaiku duoda imlum?, atvirum?, duoda galimyb? VISK? pataisyti. Kai našlai?iai gr?žta ir parsiveda namo mergait? undin?l?, tai jie j? saugo nuo kit? suaugusi?j?, liepia jiems jos neklausin?ti, nieko jai

nepasakoti – kad jinai nesusidurt? tuom, kas neišvengiamai duot? jai suaugti, nes, kol dar nesusid?r?, tol ji gali susp?ti ?gyti naujos brolius ir seseris (juos) ir mam?. Na o patys jie išeina iš paauglyst?s per tai, neb?ra "broken", nes nebegali b?ti, kadangi dabar jie globoja vienas kit? iš ties?, o ne tik šliejasi vienas prie kito. Tai, skaitydama ši? knyg?, galvojau, kad ji tokia menkai komerciškai propagandin?, nešlovininti nei teisyb?s, nei j?gos. Kalbanti apie tai, kad mergait?s turi motinas ir pa?ios gali tapti motinomis, klausianti ar tam b?tina nebeb?ti dukra ar kažkieno seserimi, nejau žmogus turi tik vien? galim? identitet?? N?ra ?ia joki? kov? knygoje, jokio smurto d?l hierachijos, tiesiog "taip kartais b?na" – pab?gi iš nam?, atsiduri šiukšlyne, randi kažk?, kas jame gyvena netur?damas net ir toki? nam?, kokius tu turi ir perm?stai nuo ko ?ia ir kur b?gi. Jei nežinai ko nori ir kur eini, tai kaip nesisteb?si, kad nieko neturi ir niekur nenueini.

Joseph says

I'm still trying to figure this one out. I hesitate to give it more than three stars, because I think the truth is I'm not caught up with Almond. I certainly recommend Kit's Wilderness before I recommend this book, but there is something awfully fascinating about this story. Heaven Eyes is the name of a girl who lives a mysterious life alone with her "grandpa," who spends his days caretaking an abandoned warehouse and his nights digging in the "dark Dark Middens." There is treasure in the Middens, and I think it's the treasure that makes this book so fascinating. I'll have to read it again sometime.

Pumsish says

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Athena says

Wow. I stumbled onto *Heaven Eyes* at the library used bookstore where I volunteer, totally ignoring the 50-some books I know I want to read & gobbling this up almost in one sitting after reading the first few pages. It's that most unusual of books, a small novel (both in length & scope of story) that is equally accessible to older kids, teens, and "grown-ups."

David Almond is an alleged grown-up but his ability to write first person as a 12(?) year old girl is uncanny: every word from Erin Law, the main character and our guide, resonates as right and true. She has the unusual trait of many kids who've been through Kid Hell, simultaneously older & younger than her years. She has her own magic, although she doesn't realize it as such, and yet retains the child's ability to knowingly inflict casual emotional harm on those trying to care for her. Kids can be very binary and very selfish and that's a good thing, it's one way the human race has survived and ultimately evolves past selfishness. You can't evolve past a thing without having had some taste of it, sometime in one's life. Erin evolves, a bit, as much as she can in the limits of the book.

Her orphaned companions are less well-defined, obviously, but Heaven Eyes, the little girl they meet on their adventure, is nearly the incarnation of love. Heaven Eyes' peculiar speech pattern, her lack of any education from which the kids can create their usual interkid-relations, forcing them to relate to her on her own strange,

unfamiliar level, and her utterly peculiar life all combine to create something magically real, and to gently transport Erin out of her own comfort zone and into the next step of her own growing-up.

This is an amazing, poignant, odd little book. Magic is as real as the love in a human heart, where it abides for us all. Maybe that was the whole point of the story.

Maddalenah says

For a time I feared that I already read all the good Almond books, and that I would have to hope for future ones to have the same impact that Skellig or The Tightrope Walkers had on me, but I was wrong and I'm so glad.

Coming from three Sheffield books (which were very plot driven with no particular literary merit or character ambiguity), I found Almond's writing almost musical, and his characters complex in a very fascinating way (though he doesn't explicitly tell much about them, you can feel the depth present in each of them: you feel them almost as they were persons more than characters).

I find the way that Almond has of walking on a very thin line between reality and the fantastic enchanting. I also think that this book was kind of the perfect length: enough to paint a solid enough picture that still left you space to add your own details and consideration. No easy lesson and no need for sequels, and that can really be a blessing.
