



The Book of Everything

Guus Kuijer , John Nieuwenhuizen (translator)

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Faith is joy is love is hope in this novel of exquisite power and everyday miracles, reminiscent of Barbara Kingsolver's THE POISONWOOD BIBLE.

Thomas can see things no one else can see. Tropical fish swimming in the canals. The magic of Mrs. Van Amersfoort, the Beethoven-loving witch next door. The fierce beauty of Eliza with her artificial leg. And the Lord Jesus, who tells him, "Just call me Jesus."

Thomas records these visions in his "Book of Everything." They comfort him when his father beats him, when the angels weep for his mother's black eyes. And they give him the strength to finally confront his father and become what he wants to be when he grows up:

"Happy."

The Book of Everything Details

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Author : Guus Kuijer , John Nieuwenhuizen (translator)

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From Reader Review The Book of Everything for online ebook

Bistra Ivanova says

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Bronislava Sencakova says

Každú chvíľu som tŕpla v hrôze, že to nemôže byť až také dobré a že sa autor v ďalšej vete už naozaj strápní pátosom alebo moralizáciou alebo všepравdami à la Malý princ Coelho. Nestrápnil! (Podobne ako sa nestrápuje Backman.) A ja som do seba vpíjala riadky a stránky a ilustrácie a tak sa tešila z čítania, až mi úplne vychladla voda vo vani.

Krásna knižka, len neviem, či hlavne pre deti. (Dospelý určite postrehne dospelácku rovinu.) Autor navzdory svojmu úvodnému varovaniu naozaj napísal dojemnú a vtipnú knihu, a to aj keď je o smutných veciach.

Nenechala som sa odradiť náboženskou líniou. Je to podstatný prvok príbehu, ale nie je bigotná, ani militantná - povedala by som, že aj o nej autor dojemne vtipkuje. To je obdivuhodné, lebo vraj zažil v detstve niečo podobné.

Smiala som sa na snových dialógoch malého Tomáša (9 r.) s Ježišom (±1951 r.), na Tomášových úvahách a skutkoch celkovo. Napríklad keď písal list Eliške (16 r.), keď opisoval svoju sestru Markétu (16 r.) alebo keď si robil zápisky do svojho zošita *Všehokniha*. Alebo keď spieval na nedeľnej omši *Nedojez je?né plynné skupenství jeho*, čo malo byť *Nebo jest v?né milosrdenství jeho*, ako sme sa dozvedeli v nedeľu večer, keď Tomáš (view spoiler).

Ilustrácie:

Vyskytujú sa tu krásne dvojfarebné ilustrácie. Farebná časť ilustruje realitu a pauzáciová čiernobiela na prísadenej stránke pokrýva realitu doplnenými snovými prvkami.

Knižné tipy:

Sú tam aj zbrane básníčky od holandskej autorky Annie M. G. Schmitdovej, od ktorej som pred pár dňami dočítala (nebásníčkovú) Špinušku. P. Terezińska dávala malému Tomášovi čítať knižky: Emil a detektívové od Ericha Kästnera (napísal aj Lujzu a Lotku) a tiež Bez domova od Hectora Malota. Asi sa poobzerám aj po nich. A v januári 2018 vyšla autorovi v češtine Polka.

Obľúbený citát (s. 29):

Tomáš se lekl slova "safraportsky". S kamarády kľel o sto šest, pretože chodil do píšň protestantské školy, ale dospěláka slyšel klít poprvé.

Vám to klidn? m?žu sv??ít: ten p?ípad s Tomášem zasko?il i m?. Vlastn? jsem cht?l napsat úpln? jinou knihu. Dojemnou, ale i vtipnou.

To and?l?m vyrazilo dech. Byli všichni p?ekrásní, ale koženou nohu nem?li. ?lov?k (ani and?l) taky nem?že mít všechno.

47. do?ítaná kniha

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Cheryl Klein says

I edited this book, so I'm completely biased here, but it is amazing. The facts are that it is a magic-realist atheistic translated novel set in the Netherlands post-World War II, featuring domestic violence, a protagonist who has visions, the disappearance of God, and Jesus Christ as a minor character (he's judged to be fairly useless). The truth is that it is the story of Thomas Klopper learning to be happy. It is certainly not for everyone, but it is fearless and marvelous, and its happy ending almost makes me cry every time I read it. I am so, so proud to have been involved with publishing it.

Sisi Slavova says

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Manny says

"Have you read *The Book of Everything*?" asked Sarah. "You might like it."

Manny said that he didn't usually read translated books. But he politely opened it and read the first page, and then the second page. Pretty soon he had read a whole lot of pages. He tried to imagine what it sounded like in Dutch, and he could almost hear the words.

"Shouldn't you be working?" asked someone.

"I've almost finished," said Manny without looking up. He wanted to find out if Jesus would stop Thomas's father from hitting his mother. It didn't look too good, but sometimes Jesus can surprise you. He is a very tricky person.

?????? ??????? says

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La historia me gusto mucho pero el final no me termino de convencer.

Elizabeth Alger says

I went out and bought 'The Book of Everything' after reading a review in which it was described as virtually the most perfect little book ever written.

Amazingly, I wasn't disappointed. It is an exquisite little miracle. It might be written for children but I defy any adult not to be moved and uplifted by it. I've read it several times now and have fallen in love each time. It is astonishing that such a slim volume (it probably doesn't take much more than an hour to read) can contain so much - marvellously drawn, fully rounded characters and a complete, profound message about what it is to be alive and human.

Demet says

Children are sacred. They are innocence, beauty and wonder. Thomas is all of these things and more. He sees things no one else can, like the angels crying for his mother every time his father beats her. His heart is so big it leaps off the page and becomes a part of yours. A beautiful, heartbreaking and magical book.

Detski Knigi says

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Poupee says

Es un libro maravilloso, lloré de principio a fin, me enamoré de Tomás. Cada uno de sus diez capítulos son una bella ventana al mundo y nos muestran que realmente lo esencial es invisible para los ojos. Tal vez pueda ser un libro irreverente, como dijo el señor Golpeter, irrespetuoso e irreverente... Tal vez lo sea para algunos, para aquellos que piensan que llevar un vestido sin mangas al templo te quita el derecho de leer las lecturas, puesto que es una falta de respeto. Pero claro, su mirada es tan corta, tan estrecha, que agradezco a Dios que no sean ellos quienes puedan impedir que salgan estos tesoros impresos para compartir las cosas que verdaderamente valen la pena.

Ha pasado a ser de mis libros favoritos y no es tan fácil entrar mi VIB (Very Important Book)

Ellea says

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Nicholas Whyte says

<http://nwhyte.livejournal.com/1869271...>

It's quite a fascinating package, and very short at only 100 pages; Kuijper gives a very strong sense of a repressed Dutch society of the early 1950s, still coming to terms with the recent war and occupation (Thomas, the central character, is 9 so would have been born in 1942), combined with some startling magical realism as Thomas and the slightly sorcerous neighbour call down the plagues of Egypt on his wife-beating father. The line that sticks with me is from quite near the beginning (repeated again at the end) when Thomas first talks with the witch next door:

“Wat wil je later worden eigenlijk?” vroeg ze.

“Gelukkig”, zei Thomas. “Ik word later gelukkig.”

(“What do you want to be when you are older?” she asked.

“Happy”, said Thomas. “I want to be happy.”)

Anyway, definitely impressive enough for me to look out for more of Kuijer's work.

Mia says

ah thomas is so cute !

i aspire to be like margot when i grow up :0

?????? ?????????-????????? says

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Manny says

Manny had liked *The Book of Everything* so much that he decided he would read it in the original. He ordered a copy.

"But you don't know Dutch," said his friend.

"I don't care," said Manny.

"It'll be like when we went to to Ireland," said his friend. "Or when we went to Turkey. You bought an Irish grammar and a Turkish grammar, and after we came home you never looked at them again."

"We'll see what happens this time," said Manny.

The book arrived. Manny opened it and started reading. It was very difficult. Sometimes there was a word that looked like Swedish, and sometimes there was a word that looked like German, but mostly it looked like Dutch.

"Shouldn't you be using a dictionary?" asked his friend.

"I don't believe in dictionaries," said Manny. He carried on reading. After a while, he noticed that a lot more of the words were like Swedish or German. You had to squint at them in the right way.

"I'm starting to enjoy it," said Manny. "There's often a sentence or two I can understand."

His friend opened the book. "What does that mean then?" she asked, pointing to the words at the top of the page. She was quite surprised when Manny told her.

Now Manny could sometimes understand whole paragraphs. He wondered why it had seemed so hard at first. It was just a strange mixture of Swedish and German spoken with a Dutch accent. He could hear the author's voice, and it was a beautiful voice.

"You seem to be having fun," said his friend.

"I am," said Manny. "This is a very good book. It makes my head hurt a little, but it's worth it."
