



## The Book of Everything

*Guus Kuijjer, John Nieuwenhuizen (translator)*

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# The Book of Everything

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**The Book of Everything** Guus Kuijер , John Nieuwenhuizen (translator)

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

Date : Published April 1st 2006 by Arthur A. Levine Books (first published 2004)

ISBN : 9780439749183

Author : Guus Kuijер , John Nieuwenhuizen (translator)

Format : Hardcover 112 pages

Genre : Fiction, Childrens, Young Adult

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## From Reader Review The Book of Everything for online ebook

## **Bistra Ivanova says**

## **Bronislava Sencakova says**

Každú chvíľu som tľala v hrôze, že to nemôže byť až také dobré a že sa autor v ľalšej vete už naozaj strápni pátosom alebo moralizáciou alebo všepravdami à la Malý princ Coelho. Nestrápnil! (Podobne ako sa nestrápil už 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, ?i hlavne pre deti. (Dospelý ur?ite postrehne dospelácku rovinu.) Autor navzdory svojmu úvodnému varovaniu naozaj napísal dojemnú a vtipnú knihu, a to aj ke? je o smutných veciach.

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

Smiala som sa na snových dialógoch malého Tomáša (9 r.) s Ježišom (±1951 r.), na Tomášových úvahách a skutkoch celkovo. Napríklad ke? písal list Eliške (16 r.), ke? opisoval svoju sestru Markétu (16 r.) alebo ke? si robil zápisky do svojho zošita *Všechniha*. Alebo ke? spieval na nede?nej omši *Nedojez je?né plynne skupenství jeho*, ?o malo by? *Nebo jest v??né milosrdensví jeho*, ako sme sa dozvedeli v nede?u ve?er, ke? Tomáš (view spoiler).

## Ilustrácie:

Vyskytujú sa tu krásne dvojfázové ilustrácie. Farebná ?as? ilustruje realitu a pauzáková ?iernobiela na predsedenej stránke prekrýva realitu doplnenými snovými prvkami.

## Knižné tipy:

Sú tam aj zodve básni?ky od holandskej autorky Annie M. G. Schmidtovej, od ktorej som pred párom d?ami do?íta (nebásni?kovú) Špinušku. P. Terezínská dávala malému Tomášovi ?íta? knižky: Emil a detektívové od Ericha Kästnera (napísal aj Lujzu a Lotku) a tiež Bez domova od Hectora Malota. Asi sa poobzeraím aj po nich. A v januári 2018 vyšla autorovi v ?eštine Pol?a.

### Ob?úbený citát (s. 29):

Tomáš se lekl slova "safraportsky". S kamarády klel o sto šest, protože chodil do písní protestantské školy, ale dospěláka slyšel klíč poprvé.

## Prvá (troj)veta:

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

### Posledná (troj)veta:

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.

## Goodreads výzva 2018:

## 47. do?ítaná kniha

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**Neva says**

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\* \* \*

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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.

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### **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.

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### **????? ?????? says**

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**Bregje (B a Reader) says**

I read this for the first time when I was around ten. I remember liking it, but this impacted me a lot more when I read it again when I was 20. The writing is pretty simple and yet it tells such a powerful story. I know for sure that I will reread this many times.

**juan carlos says**

Un libro que te muestra una sociedad de guerra, historia que marca a través de un narrador pequeño los disturbios de un hogar fragmentado por la violencia y la excesiva creencia religiosa.

Un libro que te muestra que para vivir y ser feliz debes tumbar todos tus miedos.

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, heartbreakingly 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; Kuijer 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.

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## Mia says

ah thomas is so cute !

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

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## ????? ??????-?????? 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 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."

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