



Children and the Tundra

Doris Haggis-on-Whey , Benny Haggis-on-Whey

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For years, Dave Eggers and his brother, Toph, have moonlighted as the not-so-secret authors of the *HOW* series of faux-scientific texts for children. In each book, elderly scientist Dr. Doris Haggis-on-Whey takes on a subject and rearranges all previous assumptions. She is joined by her husband, Benny, who is pretty much useless. The series started with the cult classic *Giraffes? Giraffes!*, developed through *Your Disgusting Head*, and peaked with *Animals of the Ocean (in Particular the Giant Squid)* and *Cold Fusion*. To the naked eye, all of the books look like '50s-era grade school reference books, but inside they're strange, deranged, and hilarious. This fifth volume is actually two books in one, as Dr. Doris, due to space constraints, is forced to explain both the concept of children — a species she doesn't trust for a second — and the tundra, in one book.

Children and the Tundra Details

Date : Published October 16th 2012 by McSweeney's (first published November 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9781934781890

Author : Doris Haggis-on-Whey , Benny Haggis-on-Whey

Format : Leather Bound 64 pages

Genre : Humor, Art

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From Reader Review Children and the Tundra for online ebook

Darlene says

I won a copy of Children and the Tundra in a Goodreads giveaway. I think its supposed to be comedy but I honestly did not get it. The book is very random. It is well illustrated and apparently part of a series, which I have no interest in.

Emily says

Different. Not what I was expecting.

Jackie Rogers says

This book is a satire on children. Is a negative outlook and funny in spots. Otherwise is weird. The authors are also weird. Am not interested in any more of their books.

Sandra says

Meet Doris.

That is Dr. Doris Haggis-On-Whey for you.

Next to Doris is Benny, who is her sidekick. He is mostly useless though.

Dr. Doris is a know-it-all. Name it and she'll come up with facts and figures. And especially if it is about children, which she is very keen to avoid.

Children and the Tundra is a ridiculous, nonsensical book. Part of a series reference books with misinformation, this edition deals with two concepts, children...and the tundra.

There is some humor in there, especially the parts about children, with clever jokes and nice illustrations. The bits about the tundra, however, were mostly bland. Mixing both topics throughout the book made it a confusing read. Doris tells us that the publishers decided on combining both because of budget cuts. If that is actually true, I personally would've liked them separate.

I do like the concept of a book with misinformation, and I had expected more actual facts with a mocking undertone than this absurd-ish content.

This is mostly for the die-hard fans who are out for their Eggers brothers' fix.

Review copy supplied by publisher through Edelweiss in exchange for a rating and/or review.

Pop Bop says

It Has Its Moments

This is the fifth of the Haggis-on-Whey, ("HOW"), parody textbooks to be issued by Dave and Toph Eggers through McSweeney's. The HOW books are wildly exaggerated and incorrect texts supposedly written by two barmy know-it-alls, (well, one barmy know-it-all and one dope). In this book, by reason of space constraints, two topics - children and/or the tundra - have been lumped together.

The authors hop about, with no bit covering more than two pages and most bits confined to a sidebar or factoid or graph or photo. The tundra stuff is heavy on photo jokes. The children bits consist mostly of the author explaining why children are detestable. The humor is deadpan and is often a bit heavyhanded.

I would expect the book to be welcomed by die-hard fans. I enjoyed skimming it, but must admit that but for a few clever lines here and there the book did not strike me as terribly original or appealing. There was no particular edge and the overall feel was a bit old-fashioned. But, as I say, it had its moments.

(Please note that I received a free advance will-self-destruct-in-x-days Adobe Digital copy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.)

Tom says

Sort of like the Hackenthorpe Book of Lies for children.

Michael Earp says

I am DOWN with this sense of humour!

Jenny says

The latest by the Haggis-on-Wheys is delightful and demented. Their field notes on children are hilarious. Grab this book and a large bottle of alcohol for the stressed parents in your life or the happily, smugly childless friends in your life.
