



Fish in the Sky

Fridrik Erlings , Friðrik Erlingsson

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With passion and humor, an Icelandic author tells the coming-of-age tale of a boy navigating life's changes in all their angst and ecstasy.

Josh Stephenson's thirteenth year starts with a baffling sequence of events. His estranged father has just sent him a taxidermied falcon for his birthday. His flirty seventeen-year-old girl cousin has moved into his house, using his bedroom as a passageway and taking bubble baths in the unlockable bathroom. And now he's gone AWOL from school to escape the locker-room teasing about certain embarrassing anatomical changes. On top of all that, he's in love, but wondering if dreams of love can ever come true. Hiding out in his secret hollow in a big rock by the sea, Josh tries to figure out once and for all: is his life being sucked into a black hole, or is this just being thirteen?

Fish in the Sky Details

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From Reader Review Fish in the Sky for online ebook

Miriam says

By inviting us into the mind of Josh Stephenson, Fridrik Erlings brings the confusions and difficulties of being a thirteen-year-old boy vividly to life. Josh is wrapped in his personal turmoils, but not insensitive to the agonies of others around him: his hard-working single mother, his rebellious cousin, his best friend whose life may not be as idyllic as Josh had always supposed. Then, too, Josh is tormented by his burgeoning feelings for his classmate Clara, misses his nearly-totally-absent father acutely, and loathes almost everything about his school. Makes for good reading! Translated from the original Icelandic by the author, himself, whose philosophical yearnings tend toward the poetic...an apt expression of adolescent explosive emotion...

Calista Dinges says

"Fish in the Sky" is about a thirteen-year-old boy who has a sixteen-year-old girl cousin move into his house. He has a lot of embarrassment in school and skips school and his mother does not know. His father is away and is on boats out at sea all the time. For his thirteenth birthday, his dad sends him a stuffed falcon. In this book, I like the fact that the book is interesting at some times. It also tells us all of his problems and what he is thinking throughout the story. I do not like the fact that the story drags out and sometimes gets boring to read for a long period of time.

I recommend this book. I recommend this book to readers that don't mind long stories within the book. It is a pretty good book overall. If you like books that show personal problems and how they get resolved then I would recommend you read this book. It's a good book!

Kelly says

I feel like something was lost in translation, assuming this was translated (the author is Icelandic). I wanted to like this book - it was even written by the cofounder of the Sugarcubes - but it just couldn't hold my attention.

I gave up on this book about 60 pages in so all I really know about it is that it's about a smart 13 year old boy who is a bit confused by social relationships, is getting interested in girls, and who misses his dad, from whom his mom is divorced. Also, his 17 year old cousin moves in with his family, further disrupting his sense of home (but probably changing him for the better in the long run... I don't know, I didn't get that far).

Perhaps I'll pick it up another day - it wasn't bad, just didn't grab me - but it will go back to the library before that day.

Marika says

When Josh turns thirteen, his father sends him a stuffed falcon. Besides his aunt's pear tart, it is the only good thing that happens. His seventeen-year-old female cousin moves into the storage room connected to his room, he thinks he's in love, his best friend seems babyish, and his body begins changing-- making school unbearable. So Josh stops going to school. He wanders, trying to figure out who this terrible person is that he's becoming. Erling portrays Josh's emotions with brutal honesty, capturing the confusion of becoming a teen with realistic detail. Young teens will see a reflection of themselves in Josh while their parents (who should be required to read the book) will be reminded of the difficulties of coming-of-age.

Angela says

I won this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

I appreciate getting a free book. But this book wasn't for me. I liked the idea of an adolescent boy coming to terms with his life and becoming a teenager. But when he started talking to himself and having visions of the Shower Lady trying to eat him....you lost me. Those thing made it strange. And it was a little drawn out. It wasn't terrible, don't get me wrongit just went in odd directions at odd times.

Thank you for the opportunity to read it. I hope it does well.

Kera Lena says

There was some fabulous writing in this book. Some of the metaphors were beautiful and the language was beautiful. I don't know if this is because the book was translated from Icelandic and that language is different or if the author just writes like this all the time. Either way sometimes I just wanted to read quotes over and over again. Take the beginning, "I am a star, a twinkling star. I'm an infant on the edge of a grave and an old man in a cradle, both a fish in the sky and a bird in the sea." I can't even think of a better way to begin this book.

This book was very philosophical. There are a lot of times when I was reading and thought, when I would think, huh if I think more on that it could be very philosophical (for instance I talk about the daydreams below and I think these were meant to be philosophical). Sometimes I don't want to think about the deeper meaning in books; I just want to read and enjoy it. This one forced you to think beyond the written meaning because if you didn't the book was confusing and not very good. This is one of the first times I have read a philosophical book like this and it was a new experience.

Some of the experiences Josh has are very relatable and I could empathize with how he was feeling. But it was even better to read about these experiences because I was getting them from a boy's point of view. It was fascinating to see things from the other side. When Josh was getting teased for his new developments, I could relate because I had seen that happening before. I didn't know that boys teased as much as girls though; I figured it was a mean girl thing. Who knew that boys get teased too (not me!).

I found a couple of things that were disappointing to me.

Sometimes I like the coming-of-age novels. I can relate and it is interesting to see other people's experiences. However there are some things I don't want to hear about. I went through puberty; I know what happens. I don't want a vivid description of how Josh feels when he peeps on his 17 year old cousin. I don't want to know what he feels when his cousin tackles him trying to get something back. It may happen, but that doesn't mean I want to read about it. There were points in this book like I described where I just wanted to stop reading because I didn't want to read it (I did shoulder through though). I think it just went too in depth sometimes with things that are not enjoyable to read.

There were some times where I was really confused too. Josh would go off in daydream tangents that I didn't understand and didn't think were really important. They weren't little daydreams either; they went on for pages and pages. I usually got bored after the first page or so and skipped to the end of the daydream. The description in the daydreams were gorgeous, don't me wrong, but I what was the point?

Also, for a kid who is just coming of age, Josh is exceptionally perceptive. When I was 13, I did not think that I was on the brink of adulthood. I just felt awkward. He is thinking of philosophical things, realizing how much he is growing up, and seeing the emotional and physical changes in the boys and girls around him. He seems awfully perceptive for his age and his original emotional state at the start of the book. The whole tone of the voice seemed more like an older narrator; not a 13 year old boy. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it did make me question how realistic the book really was.

Sky says

<http://www.facebook.com/TheBooknatics>
<http://thebooknatic.wordpress.com/>

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads.

This is a wonderful and in-depth story of becoming of age. A young boy, who is turning 13, struggles with the changes of becoming a young adult. His emotions are stirred, he's more curious about girls, and that only makes him more confused. I really enjoyed this book, as it made me remember what it was like to be a young child and all the changes in our thought process which we experienced, and grew aware of love, responsibility, and selflessness.

I adore how the author really spills his emotions into this book, such a realistic and humoring tale of the experiences of our young lives.

A great book for 13+ (with parental guidance)

Heather Noble says

A wry understated insight into the life of a 13 year old Icelandic boy with the inevitable dysfunctional family but imagination, intuition and poetry in his soul.

Lilly says

Ήνα μυθιστορημα ενηλικώσεως; Ήχι ακριβώς... Ήνα μυθιστορημα-στοιχη στην εσοδο της εφηβείας. Ο συγγραφέας πατρεί το pause στο μεταχμιο της αλλαγής και η ιστορία μοιζει να αιωρεται νωχελικ? πνω απ? τους ρωες. Και βλ?πεις ?λα αυτ? τα μικρ?, τις λεπτομ?ρειες που ?χεις απωθ?σει ? ?χεις διαγραφει ? ?χεις ξεχ?σει καν ?τι υπ?ρχαν την εποχ? που ?σουν δεκατρι?ν χρον?ν.

Ο Τζος Στ?βενσον δε δε?χνει να πολυκαταλαβαίνει κ?ποια διαφορ?. Είναι τα μικρ? και καθημεριν? περιστατικ? που τον ταρακουν?νε και τον κ?νουν να συνειδητοποιε? ?τι μ?λλον τ?λειωσε η παιδικ? ηλικία. Κυρι?τερο χαρακτηριστικ?, η ερωτικ? αφ?πνιση. Πρ?μα που του φα?νεται τρομακτικ?, σιχαμερ?, β?αιο. Δεν το καταλαβαίνει και δεν μπορε? να το χειριστε?. Ερωτε?εται την Κλ?ρα τη συμμαθ?τρι? του, αποφε?γει τον Τ?μμι που βρ?σκει κ?θε ευκαιρία να κορο?δ?ψει τους π?ντες, αγαπ?ει τη μητ?ρα του, τη λυπ?ται και τη μισε? μερικ?ς φορ?ς ταυτ?χρονα, κι ?να σωρ? ?λλα, αν?μικτα γεγον?τα και αισθ?ματα. Το κερασ?κι στην το?ρτα ε?ναι η ξαδ?ρφη του, η Τρο?ντυ. Εισβ?λει στο δωμ?τι? του, στο μπ?νιο του, κυκλοφορε? ρες που δεν πρ?πει και δε?χνει να ?χει αγαπημ?νη της ασχολ?α να τον πειρ?ζει. Ο Τζος δεν μπορε? να τα σηκ?σει ?λα αυτ?. Χρει?ζεται ?να δι?λειμμα. Και το πα?ρνει μ?νος του: β?ζει τη μητ?ρα του να υπογρ?ψει μια ?δεια για να λε?ψει απ? το σχολε?ο επ' αορ?στου, εν αγνο?α της, και απλ?ς... απ?χει.

Το μυθιστορημα καταφ?ρνει να μιλ?σει τη γλ?σσα των εφ?βων, την εσ?τερ? τους γλ?σσα. Ο συγγραφέας ?χει ?ναν τρ?πο να διυλ?ζει τον τρ?πο σκ?ψης εν?ς δεκατρι?χρονου, σαν να μην π?ρασε ο χρ?νος απ? πνω του, κι ?χει με?νει κι εκε?νος εκε?, σ' αυτ? την ?χαρη και τρομακτικ? ηλικία. Ο τρ?πος που αντιδρ? ο κ?θε ρωας, ο τρ?πος που σκ?φτεται και κυρ?ως ο τρ?πος που υπ?ρχει σαν ολ?τητα, καθιστ? το μυθιστορημα ψυχολογικ?.

Οι σχ?σεις μεταξ? των ηρ?ων ε?ναι ?λη η ισορροπία του μυθιστορ?ματος. Μεταβαλλ?μενες διαρκ?ς, ?τσι ?στε να μην ξ?ρεις τι ε?ναι σταθερ? και τι ?χι. Ξ?ρεις μ?νο τον Τζος, κι αυτ?ν δεν ε?σαι σ?γουρος για το π?σο καλ?. Εδ? ο ?διος δεν ξ?ρει πλ?ον ποιος ε?ναι. Η σχ?ση πατ?ρα-γιου, μια σχ?ση που στο παιδικ? μυαλ? ο πατ?ρας ?χει εξιδανικευτε? και ξαφνικ? καταρρ?ει, η σχ?ση μητ?ρας-γιου, ευμετ?βλητη κι αυτ?, χωρ?ς ?μως ποτ? να αμφισβητε? την αγ?πη μεταξ? τους, ο πρ?τος ρωτας, η σχ?ση με το ?λλο φ?λο, η σχ?ση με το ?διο φ?λο.

Ο Φρ?ντριχ ?ρλινγκς ε?ναι εντυπωσιακ?ς τ?πος. Για αρχ?, ?δρυσε μαζ? με τη Μπιγορκ το συγκρ?τημα «The Sugar-Cubes». ?χει γρ?ψει επ?σης σεν?ρια, ?χει αρθρογραφ?σει, ?χει βραβευτε?. Κι ?μως, κινε? τα γραν?ζια του μυαλου? του σαν να μπα?νει μ?λις στην εφηβεία και γρ?φει ?να μυθιστορημα-καθρ?φτη. Μ?λιστα, γρ?φει με τ?τοιο τρ?πο που η ιστορία μπορε? να διαβαστε? και απ? εν?λικες. ?σως και με καλ?τερο τρ?πο απ? τους εν?λικες.

Σ?γουρα ε?ναι ?να μυθιστορημα που υπερτερε? σε σχ?ση με την σ?γχρονη τ?ση των βρικολ?κων και τν υπερδ?ναμων, φανταστικ?ν πλασμ?των που ζουν αν?μεσ? μας. Δε?χνει μυθιστορημα διαχρονικ?, σχεδ?ν κλασικ?. Κ?θε αναγν?στης, ε?ναι δυνατ?, την ?ρα που διαβ?ζει να σκεφτε? ?τι «?νετα θα μπορο?σε να το ?χει διαβ?σει στα δεκατρ?α». Γιατ? αυτ? το μυθιστορημα δεν προσδοκ? το εφ?μερο και τον ?ντονο εντυπωσιασμ?. Είναι μ?α ιστορία που παγ?νει στο χρ?νο, γ?νεται σαν καθρ?φτης, και βλ?πει ο κ?θε αναγν?στης τον εαυτ? του. Το μυθιστορημα αυτ? ακριβ?ς επειδ?

μοι?ζει με στιγμα?τυπο, εστι?ζει στη λεπτομ?ρεια, στο παραμικρ? που μπορε?ς με τη φαντασ?α σου να το φτι?ξεις τερατ?δες μεγ?λο. ?πως κ?θε ?φηβος.

Ο Φρ?ντριχ ?ρλινγκς δεν ε?ναι παραμυθ?ς, ε?ναι συγγραφ?ας που αντιμετωπ?ζει κατ?ματα την πραγματικ?τητα και φτι?χνει το πορτρ?το της με μερ?κι. Εκε?νος ?μως θα διαλ?ξει την οπτικ? γων?α που θ?λει να την αποθανατ?σει, εκε?νος διαλ?γει το φως, τη στ?ση, το ?φος. ?να μυθιστ?ρημα νεανικ?, ?πως χαρακτηρ?ζονται πλ?ον.

Η κριτικ? δημοσιε?τηκε στο: <http://www.critique.gr/index.php?&>...

Ericafoferica says

This book was good, it just wasn't that good. I can appreciate the meaning of the story about a thirteen year old boy, Joshua, who is coming of age. Josh struggles to figure out the facts of life and where everything leads after the age of thirteen. We've all been there as we've slowly grown into adults and this book was a simple reminder of those times. I must say, however, that there were parts where I cringed a little. For instance, Josh was becoming sexually aroused when his cousin, Trudy, pinned him to the ground and began to tease him. I understand hormones, but really? Other than that, the story was simple, but there were sections that were quite "dry" to read.

Kim Heimbuch says

Reviewed by Janessa, Age 15

This book was a lot like the movie "Moonrise Kingdom" and was pretty good. Josh just turned thirteen and is starting to think more about life and where he fits. His parents are divorced and he lives with his mom, though he misses his dad a lot and is jealous of his friend Peter, who has a dad and spends a lot of time with him. He is changing a lot and the boys at school are bullying him about it so he stops going, and his teenage girl cousin moves into the room connected to his and has to go through his room to get to the bathroom that she spends a lot of time in. So life for him is just too much sometimes, so he spends most of his time in his secret place in a big rock by the ocean, trying to figure out who he is and if it is normal.

Read Full Review at <http://www.musingwithcrayolakym.com/3...>

Emily says

This book is great even though I only read 180 pages of it. The book made me laugh and made me think a lot about what will happen in the next chapter. It also made me think more about Josh Stephenson's life and thoughts. The book explains a lot about life as a teenager and dreams, wondering if they'll ever come true.

Josh's life is filled with unbelievable events that you'll want to read over and over again.

One thing I don't get about this book is when his mom tells him that his cousin Gertrude then he makes a big deal about it. I get the fact that his friend Peter has a lot of sisters and they're annoying, but how can Josh not like someone before you meet them? Now that he knows her now, I know that she is annoying and I know that he had a correct thought about how she may be like. Although, to me it sounds like he's sort of calling all girls annoying. Just because your friend has a lot of sisters and they all get on his nerves doesn't mean all females will get on your nerves.

Mimi Jazman says

The only reason I picked up this book at a book fair is because of the cover. It has this blue and simple cover with some fancy-childish font on the front and stars are sparkling all over the background. It is one pretty book and since the summary is not that interesting, the cover actually makes a good attraction factor for people to buy this book.

It takes me a long time to finish this book. Probably the next book after this one will take even a longer time to be finished. But I still need to read, no excuse in that.

Towards the end of the book, I've regretted that I have not finished reading this book earlier. Most of the time, I read this book and fall asleep. The book is obviously monotonous. But, at this point also I realized how GOOD the book is and yes, I think it made up to my favorite list.

I recommend this book to practically EVERYONE because this book worth everyone's time. I supposed to pick up "The Sky is Everywhere" by Jandy Nelson but suddenly, my heart thinks otherwise and I picked up "Fish in The Sky" instead. But, I am telling you right now, I'm not regretting my choice at all.

This is surely a good book. Everyone needs to read it and I probably keep it for my future kids because this book explains things young teenagers need to know. Parents are also very much welcomed to read this book because it will let you understand your kids so much better. And even you can relate to the characters in the book.

You will find it sad at first to see how Josh struggled with puberty and towards the end, you will be so proud of him when he stopped everyone from insulting him freely. He made COMEBACKS and all of those comebacks usually succeed in shutting all those bullies.

Throughout my reading experience with this book, I realized that this book really has the ability to warm the readers' hearts. I can literally feel the warmth it gives out from its beautiful pages. All those beautiful words about love and sweet dreams and how reality is the real home for our souls touched my heart softly. Fridrik Erlings is one great author. He knows how to make me fall in love with Josh and how I can exactly relate to all the characters in his book. It is so great. I hope to read more of it in the future.

Ade says

buku bagus...

"You must promise me never to shirk your duties. Sometimes we feel life is not fair, but then we shouldn't run away, but face our problems and hope for the best. That's how you become a grown-up"

Katie says

This book was clearly translated from Icelandic, the language of the saga. Josh is dramatic but not melodramatic. He's 13. He makes grandiose, sweeping statements about himself and his place in the world, but the drama in his narrative ("I'm a twinkling star, far away in space, on a billion-light-year starch for another star so the two of us can twinkle together, aside by side, rotating around each other") is precisely as dramatic as life. He loves clara, he kisses his cousin trudy, he throws his schoolbag into the ocean, he misses his wandering sailor dad, he steals a porn magazine, he has a stuffed falcon on his desk. And the whole time, he's in Iceland; a place as vast and mysterious as all the teenagers in all the world.
