



The Big Trip up Yonder/2BR02B

Kurt Vonnegut

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Kurt Vonnegut's 2 B R 0 2 B is a satiric short story that imagines life (and death) in a future world where aging has been "cured" and population control is mandated and administered by the government.

The Big Trip Up Yonder is the story of Gramps Ford, 172 years old in this year 2185 AD, & his large acrimonious clan that shares a 3 room apartment.

If it was good enough for your grandfather, forget it ... it is much too good for anyone else!

Gramps Ford, his chin resting on his hands, his hands on the crook of his cane, was staring irascibly at the five-foot television screen that dominated the room. On the screen, a news commentator was summarizing the day's happenings. Every thirty seconds or so, Gramps would jab the floor with his cane-tip and shout, "Hell, we did that a hundred years ago!"

The Big Trip up Yonder/2BR02B Details

Date : Published 2010 by Spastic Cat Press (first published 1962)

ISBN :

Author : Kurt Vonnegut

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Fiction, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Dystopia

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From Reader Review The Big Trip up Yonder/2BR02B for online ebook

Kat Hooper says

Originally posted at FanLit.

<http://www.fantasyliterature.com/reviews/the-big-trip-up-yonder-2br02b>

Brilliance Audio is now producing some science fiction story collections on audio, and recently they sent me a few of them to review. The first one that caught my eye was this one by Kurt Vonnegut Jr. It contains two related stories: “The Big Trip Up Yonder” narrated by Emmett Casey and “2BR02B” narrated by Kevin Killavey. I recognized both as stories that were produced on audio by Jincin Recordings and have been available at Audible.com for a couple of years. In case you didn’t know (and in case you’re interested), Brilliance Audio has a relationship with Audible and often produces CD versions of Audible titles a couple of years after the original release. In fact, it occasionally happens that Brilliance Audio sends me a review copy of a book I’ve already read at Audible.

These two Vonnegut stories happen to be on my wishlist at Audible, so I was happy to receive and review them. This particular collection is only 45 minutes long, so it was the perfect length for my daily commute. (By the way, the package says in one place that the CD is 2 hours long and in another place that it’s 1 hour and 45 minutes — this is wrong. It’s 45 minutes. Somebody on their staff made a big mistake!)

Anyway, I loved the stories. “The Big Trip Up Yonder” (25 minutes, originally published in 1954 in Galaxy Science Fiction) is about a future (2158 A.D.) America in which aging has been stopped, the earth is overpopulated, and families are forced to live together in small apartments, eating seaweed and sawdust. Nothing new here for those who read science fiction, but Kurt Vonnegut’s take on it is hilarious as he details the life of one family who can’t wait for its patriarch to die and who might even be willing to help him along. There’s a terrific twist at the end.

“2BR02B” (19 minutes, pronounced “To be or naught to be,” originally published in 1962 in *Worlds of If*) is also set in an over-crowded world where life is cheap. The title, 2BR02B, is the phone number of the Municipal Gas Chambers of the Federal Bureau of Termination where people can make an appointment when they’re ready to die. The story takes place in a hospital waiting room where a man waits for his wife to deliver a baby. When he finds out that she has delivered triplets, he’s got a real problem. If he wants his babies to survive, he has to find three people who will volunteer to be terminated.

“The Big Trip Up Yonder” and “2BR02B” feature Kurt Vonnegut’s absurd sense of black humor. This is great entertainment, but these stories also vividly point out the problems we’ll have if we ever conquer the aging process, something that seems so much more possible today than it did when Kurt Vonnegut wrote these stories. I enjoyed both Emmett Casey’s and Kevin Killavey’s narration.

OK, here’s where I feel a little guilty. Brilliance Audio was nice to send me this collection and I’m going to link it in this review so if you click on that pretty cover up there you’ll be taken to Amazon where you can purchase it for \$9.99 and FanLit will get a 6% referral fee, which is nice. But, I’m compelled to also let you know that you can purchase the downloadable version of “The Big Trip Up Yonder” at Audible.com for 95¢ (\$2.43 if you’re not a member) and “2BR02B” for \$1.95 (\$3.47 for non-members). Sorry, Brilliance Audio, but as good as these stories are, 45 minutes for \$10 just isn’t a good deal. These stories are, however, definitely worth the cost for members at Audible.

David says

This book was pretty interesting, but didn't grab my attention as much as other books have. I think the stories could have been more captivating with a little more back story to draw in the reader into the plot.

Kathryn says

One of Vonnegut's themes for the 60s was glimpses into the world's future, as it might be, if the world's population continues to explode. Maybe if I'd read it back in the 60s, I would have enjoyed it more.

Inge (Inge1990) says

Of this book I only read 2BRo2B. This book is written in the same setting as the big trip yundor. However, now we are even further in the future. People indeed figured out it was not handy to have 20-30 people living in 1 apartment, therefore they have population control. For every newborn a volunteer should die.

In this short story you read the story of a happy father to be, who is getting a triplet. Is he able to get 3 volunteers to let all 3 newborns exist?

It is a fun short story, which luckily is not yet the truth. If you take in consideration that it is written quite some time ago, it is fun to see what the writer thought the future would be. For the rest, the story itself is not really special, but neither was the big trip yundor. I believe it was supposed to be a graphic novel, and I think both stories would be much more interesting as graphic novels. This because now the story has quite some explaining about the world/people while it is only a short story. With a graphic novel, the explaining is not necessary and the focus is much more about the story.

David says

Another two stories I got from the Gutenberg project. They are darkly humorous stories set in a future where people potentially live forever. Highly recommended.

nesam says

two short stories from one of my favorite authors, 2br02b is my favorite of the two but since they are short i never have had to choose, both set a small bit of world and play through it in an interesting way

libprop says

Mengharukan...

Minggu-minggu ini secara tak sengaja saya bersinggungan dengan produk kebudayaan manusia seperti film, lagu, cerpen, buku, dan artikel bertema kuasi-fiksi-sains, fiksi-sains, distopia, nihilisme, dan keputusasaan. Ketidaksengajaan itu hadir karena saya memilih tontonan dan bacaan secara acak. Misal punya niat nonton film horor, ternyata film horor itu bernuansa nihilis atau distopia.

Semuanya penuh ketidaksengajaan dan berlanjut hingga saya bertemu Kurt Vonnegut lewat buku ini. Sebuah ketidaksengajaan yang terus berlanjut? Cukup absurd. Atau beginilah takdir dari Yang Mahakuasa.

Saya tidak menyangka, perkenalan dengan Kurt Vonnegut akan seperti ini, "Hai, Nak, aku adalah seorang fatalis yang penuh humor. Hidup di tengah manusia-manusia putus asa dan sakit. Bagaimana dunia masa depan yang hancur itu?" Seorang distopian, posmo, misantropik humanis, dan pelawak.

Mengapa kita tidak hidup lebih lama dengan orang-orang seperti Kurt ini? Seharusnya, anti-gerasone benar-benar diwujudkan sebelum dia meninggal. Itu akan menarik bukan?

Konon, jika begitu akan ada konsekuensi katastropik. Tapi benarkah akan semengerikan itu jika kita bisa memilih siapa orangnya? Misal orang yang kita cintai.

Mengharukan...

Zenta says

?si, sat?riski st?sti par n?kotnes pasaules neiedom?jamo realit?ti. Autors sp?j p?ris rindkop?s par?d?t cilv?ku izmisumu, ciešanas un v?lmi nepak?auties esošajiem noteikumiem, to visu apvijot ar melno humoru un iemetot zin?tnisk?s fant?zijas pasaul?, kas atspogu?o daž?dus n?kotnes redz?jumus.

"The world could do with a good deal more mess, if you ask me," he said."

James says

Five stars for 2BR02B alone

Abduh Wily says

Cerita pendek yang essensinya panjang

Marts (Thinker) says

Two classic science fiction tales by Vonnegut. The first "Big trip up yonder" explores the life of 172 year old Gramps and his extremely large family all crowded into an apartment. The other tale 2bro2b explores a supposedly 'perfect world' where there are no deaths, no poverty, no war, with the USAs population

stabilized, and an old man who painted a mural he didn't like!

Safar Banggai says

Asyik

Busrini Agustina Prihatini says

dua cerpen vonnegut dengan judul perjalanan nun jauh ke sana dan B0R2B adalah dua kisah yang berbeda, tapi padanya kita bisa belajar bahwa bahwa bagaimana jika kematian bisa kita atur sendiri? apakah kita benar-benar siap menghadapi kematian jika kita tahu waktunya? ataukah karena ketidakpastian itulah maka kita bisa lebih bisa menghadapinya? dan ketika kematian bisa kau atur, apakah kau sanggup bertemu banyak generasi setelahmu yang bisa jadi hadirnya kebaikan dan keburukan pada mereka adalah hasil dari sikapmu saat ini? dan, sanggupkah kita hidup dengan banyaknya populasi yang semakin membesar dengan bumi yang itu-itu saja?

dan cerpen kedua, mungkin sebuah ironi dari cerpen yang pertama. yang mana, kita dihadapkan lagi pada keputusan kematian ada di tangan manusia. demi menjaga populasi, orang harus menyerahkan diri untuk mati. yang mana, di mana ada kelahiran di situlah ada kematian. dan itu manusia yang mengaturnya. sanggupkah kita menjalannya? memilih orang-orang terdekat kita untuk diambil nyawanya agar anak kita bisa hidup? bukankah Tuhan adalah sebaik-baik pengambil keputusan akan kematian? siapakah kita hingga bisa menentukan hidup mati orang?

Norma says

(Format : Audiobook)

"Share and share alike."

A mid twentieth century idea of what the future might hold with the introduction of an anti aging potion. Gramps Ford and his clan of descendants, all live together in a three room apartment. only he has the privacy of a room and double bed to himself. Cleverly written with a nice twist to the ending, this satirical short story is easy to read and fun to enjoy. The narrator, Kitty Hendrix, is excellent, her mellow voice giving depth to the characters and the text.

The Audiobook, entitled Two by Vonnegut, was gifted to me by the right's holder, via Audiobook Boom and it also contains a second story, 2BR02B, also narrated by Ms.Hendrix.

Perry Whitford says

Two early science-fiction short stories from Vonnegut which first appeared in magazines way back in the mid-1950's and early-1960's respectively, but can now be read online for free thanks to the good people at Project Gutenberg, may Kilgore Trout bless their giving hearts!

The stories are appropriately grouped too, as they each make a different conclusion from the same piece of speculation, namely the potential consequences to society of immortality. As you would expect, antic humor is at the fore.

'The Big Trip Up Yonder' foresees population density and presents the Ford family, all four generations of them crammed into a one-bedroomed New York flat. Gramps rules the roost and he's just disinherited his grandson Lou from his will, for the eleventh time.

'2BR02B' foresees population control, leading to the end of poverty, sickness and war. You can live forever or commit euthanasia, but births require deaths to balance the numbers. That's bad news for Edward K. Wehling, Jr, who just became the father of triplets.

Quick, witty reads.
