



The Happiness of Kati

Jane Vejjajiva, Prudence Borthwick (Translator)

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Nine-year-old Kati has always lived with her grandparents in the house by the river. Every day she goes to school, brings offerings to the monks, and plays with Tong, the abbot's nephew. She is happy enough, but something -- "someone" -- is missing. Kati has not seen her mother for nearly five years, and no one will tell her where she is, until the day she receives some shocking news from Grandmother: Her mother is very ill with Lou Gehrig's disease and has suffered from it for many years. Would Kati like to go see her?

And so Kati travels to the house by the sea to spend the last weeks of her mother's life with her. There she learns the reason why her mother gave her up and also finds that she has a decision...to meet the father she's never known.

A singular story of love, hope, and renewal, set against the lushly exotic background of Thailand, "The Happiness of Kati" is a profoundly touching novel that reminds us of how very brave, and very wise, children can be.

The Happiness of Kati Details

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From Reader Review The Happiness of Kati for online ebook

Silvana (Por detrás das Palavras) says

Adquiri este livro durante uma promoção da Editorial Presença. Fui conquistada pela capa e pelo título. Por isso, adicionei-o à encomenda e nem sequer reparei no número de páginas. Quando ele chega a casa fiquei um pouco desiludida ao ver que o livro era bastante pequeno. Não sei porquê, mas na minha cabeça imaginei-o maior.

Apesar de ser um livro com poucas páginas tem uma história bastante bonita. É contada de forma simples mas cheia de significado, emoções, amor e carinho.

Ao longo destas páginas vamos acompanhando Kati, na sua vida diária. Sendo ela tailandesa, também conseguimos aceder a aspectos que caracterizam esta cultura e que para nós são desconhecidos.

A escrita transparece sensibilidade, o que faz com que o leitor se sinta muito próximo da história e das personagens.

Quanto ao final, alguns aspectos foram os esperados, porém houve um que me surpreendeu. Foi um acontecimento que envolveu uma escolha de Kati e que eu não estava à espera.

Vi no Goodreads que o livro faz parte de uma série. Infelizmente os outros não estão traduzidos para português e penso que para inglês também não. Digo infelizmente, porque fiquei com curiosidade de saber para onde evolui a história.

Fee Anyau says

I love the book because the sentences are lyrical and poetic. It makes me really hope that I could read Thai proficiently so that I could have read the original version in Thai Language instead. My favourite sentence from the book is "*Grandpa said Grandma's smiles were so rare they should be preserved and canned for export overseas, like top-quality produce.*"

Kati's grandpa is such a lovable old man and I love Kati for having the innocence *and* maturity when it comes to dealing with life's painful experiences. She also finds happiness in the simplest of things, and I think that this is something good to be reminded of.

The story may be simple, but if you view it as a whole, it actually is a very beautiful book with many great lessons.

PM says

i love this book because it is fresh, clean, and simple. it is not cheesy and it gives you the feeling that yes life sometimes suck but it is not the end of the world. i like its take on moving forward. very refreshing. here is my full review: <http://prinsesamusang.wordpress.com/2...>

Joana Marques says

Sabem aquelas alturas em que não sabemos o que nos apetece ler? Em que corremos as estantes com os olhos e vemos as possibilidades mas parece que nenhuma nos chama?

Eu andava assim. E, pelo canto do olho, um livro sorriu-me. Um pequeno livro que na capa tem uma árvore que solta corações.

E dei-lhe uma chance.

E foi a melhor decisão que tomei!

A Felicidade de Kati é um pequeno livro com uma grande história. A sua escrita doce e fluída faz-me lembrar livros de crianças. Talvez porque a história é contada do ponto de vista de Kati, uma menina de nove anos, e por isso é descrita de maneira simples, da maneira que as crianças falam e compreendem.

Kati é uma criança tailandesa que vive com os avós. Em pequenos capítulos vai descrevendo o seu dia-a-dia. A escola, a comida que a avó faz, as conversas com o avô, a visita diária dos monges que vêm buscar as oferendas. Compreendemos que Kati nas suas descrições não fala do que mais a inquieta: onde está a mãe? Kati recebe dos avós todo o amor, mas falta a mãe. E aos poucos percebemos que os avós não são gente do campo. Percebemos que existe uma história por trás. E essa história chega com notícias da mãe.

E Kati viaja em busca da mãe, em busca de parte da sua história perdida. E com isso tem de tomar decisões que lhe afectarão da vida. Caminhos que terá de escolher.

Tudo isto numa linguagem fluída, simples, quase poética, e ao mesmo tempo com pinceladas da inocência de uma criança.

Um livro que recomendo. Que se lê de um sopro e que nos deixa com uma lágrima no olho e ao mesmo tempo um sorriso nos lábios.

Uma agradável surpresa!

Srisurang says

Chanida says

I read Thai (original) version of this book a few years ago. I love it. The story is sad (for me) but it made me smile with tear. The story is beautiful to show the love, seperation and hard time of the little girl and also caring within the family. Sorry if if my review doesn't help. I don't know how to express my idea in English.

Jenny says

Short, but great!

It has great descriptions...descriptions that I think when I was younger I might not have appreciated (I tended to skip a lot of descriptions to get back to the action) but that I really enjoyed in this book. It made Thailand seem so vibrant and beautiful.

This is about Kati. Kati's mother has ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease and is dying. Kati has not seen her mother in years and gets to go visit her and spend time with her before her death. As she does, she learns her mother's story and thereby learns her own. I appreciated that Kati is given the choice to contact her dad or

not... I loved the feeling of peacefulness and happiness that this ends on. Kati knows who she is and knows that she is loved.

While it does have some sad parts, I really felt like overall it's a hope filled book.

Karen Arendt says

What a wonderful, sad, uplifting story set in Thailand. Katie has not seen her mother in five years and does not know why. Through the story, she comes to understand shy and have to make a decision about her future as well. I love the chapter titles; they could serve as little daily reminders of how to look on the bright side. I found the Thai culture very interesting as well.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

This story, taking place in contemporary Thailand, is about a 9-year-old girl living with her grandparents who must confront the impending death of her mother from Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). The description of her mother's slow decline from ALS is moving and sad. Vejjajiva writes beautifully--I loved the description of the landscape, and especially all the beautiful flowers. Recommended for its unusual, interesting setting and for its informative look at an incurable disease.

LauraW says

This book was a quick read and I did read the whole thing - two things that are not always true lately. I did enjoy the book and the view of Thailand from it, but there are a couple of things that bothered me. I think Kati should have been told all along why her mother was gone from her life. And I think that, before she died, the mother should have talked to her about her father. It was unfair to the father and to Kati to not give her more complete background about the father. Sure, at 9 years old, she didn't feel the need to meet him, but what if she should change her mind? She has very little to go on to make that decision.

Ian Tymms says

A lovely book about life and death and living well. Short, poetic, accessible to Middle School students. About a Thai girl although wealth means that her experiences of life often sound as much generically global as they do specifically cultural.

Pearl says

I read this short and beautifully written story one late night and finished it in one sitting, plus I read it in its original language: Thai.

'The Happiness of Kati' (????????????????) is a simple, yet lovely story, bound to be a Thai classic. And written in the most pure and in a way 'innocent' every little detail about each place, emotion or Thai culture is clear as day. Not much dialog though and could test the patience of the reader (I hear that the movie was the same and hence it wasn't that successful here)

I can see what the writer is trying to get across about how the way Thai society should be, loving, caring, compassion and various other good deeds. Or I could just be insane for seeing this, depends on the reader at this point.

Good book, I liked it, not a totally fantastic book, if you didn't read it you wouldn't be missing anything, but if you do get the chance, give it a shot, we do in fact have good literature here in Thailand.

Lisa Vegan says

This book was very hard for me to rate. I could have just as easily given it 3 stars as 4, so I guess that means 3 ½ stars, or thereabouts.

This is the story of Kati, 9 years old, who lives with relatives and who hasn't seen her mother for several years, but hasn't been told why. As the story progresses, circumstances change and Kati finds out a lot of information. The events take place in 3 locations in Thailand.

The writing style is very poetic, but it also sort of distanced me from the emotions in the story, and some of the feelings rang slightly false. I don't want to say which because I don't want to give away too much about the story. There are some wonderful and amazingly vivid descriptions of food and flowers and living by the water.

Each chapter has subtitles that don't reflect the content of the chapters but tell their own back-story.

I loved how Kati's decision was revealed; I would have really appreciated it when I was young. Kati's mother's original decision angered me because in my mind there was a far superior and better choice, but a couple of things Kati's mother did (the room, the letter) I just loved. I really adored grandpa for the way he relates to Kati, and in giving her some control (other family members do too actually) and particularly for his sly sense of humor. Most of the characters are interesting.

In the author's bio section on the inside back cover, the reader is told that the author's father is a doctor who researches ALS and that he asked his daughter, who lives in Bangkok, Thailand, to write about Asian people suffering from the illness. In this book she did that.

This book could be read in one sitting and I think I'd have appreciated it more if I had done that, or if I'd done it in just 3 sittings, as there are 3 parts to the book. To pick up and put down as frequently as I did isn't ideal. It's a very short novel and a very quick read.

Liz says

Nine year old Kati lives with her Grandma and Grandpa in a house on the water. Quite unexpectedly

