



The Waterproof Bible

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A magical story of love and the isolation that defines the modern condition - Andrew Kaufman pulls off the near impossible and creates a wholly original allegorical tale that is both emotionally resonant and outlandishly fun.

Rebecca Reynolds is a young woman with a most unusual and inconvenient problem: no matter how hard she tries, she can't stop her emotions from escaping her body and entering the world around her. Luckily she's developed a nifty way to trap and store her powerful emotions in personal objects - but how many shoeboxes can a girl fill before she feels crushed by her past?

Three events force Rebecca to change her ways: the unannounced departure of her husband, Stewart; the sudden death of Lisa, her musician sister; and, while on her way to Lisa's funeral, a near-crash with what appears to be a giant frogwoman recklessly speeding in a Honda Civic.

Meanwhile, Lisa's inconsolable husband skips the funeral and flies to Winnipeg where he begins a bizarre journey that strips him of everything before he can begin to see a way through his grief... all with the help of a woman who calls herself God.

The Waterproof Bible Details

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Author : Andrew Kaufman

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From Reader Review The Waterproof Bible for online ebook

Rachel says

It was definately an interesting read. The book was very strange, and I'm still not sure it went anywhere, but I could hardly put the stupid thing down. I'd recommend it if you're feeling philosophical or want to be confused.

Marcella says

Oh Boy-I love Andrew Kaufman's writing. His first, All My Friends are Superheroes was a perfect little book, and this, his 2nd is also truly wondrous. Funny, smart, magic realism meets Canadian landscape meets tight writing...

Corey says

Kaufman has a true taste for the metaphorical. The pages of his *Bible* are suffused with totems, and religions, and floods, and sudden blindness. What it all means is entirely up to the reader, and there will doubtless be a few who find *The Waterproof Bible* not to their liking. The tale is just barely linear, and most of the outlandish events that occur are left unexplained. I would argue that when the trek is this much damned fun, it doesn't matter if you're left a little bewildered at journey's end. Why should you be any better off than Kaufman's characters? Part of life is to enjoy the mysteries, to embrace the unexplainable, and the one's who can't accept that not all is knowable are the ones who lead lives of utter misery. As Margaret thinks of the dangers of living by a rigid dogma, such beliefs remind her "of the Christians she knew who were scared of their genitals, or the scientists who could accept only a rational explanation as the right one."

Read the rest of the review [here](#).

Liane says

I have to admit, I initially, whole-heartedly judged this book by it's cover; you would too because the edition I have is GORGEOUS. Coral fabric hardcover, with the title in gold and the partial dust jacket depicting waves in blues and greens and yellows. Unfortunately the guts of the book were less memorable than its skin. I wished that the ending was more drawn out; as it is it feels rushed. I enjoyed the story for its weirdness and imagination but it didn't leave much of an impression overall.

Martin Clark says

A surreal and wonderful tale. The story includes a woman who broadcasts her feelings to everyone around her unless she traps them in an object and stores it in a box; underwater cities so much like our own they have skyscrapers and insurance clerks and fundamentalist religion; and an inhabitant of one of those cities, a green-skinned, gilled woman named Aberystwyth, driving to Canada in a Honda Civic to save the soul of her

mother.

I'm sure it's meant to be allegorical, but I love this kind of quirky stuff in its own right, and this book just gets better as it goes along. In the end all the fantastical parts of the story fit together like some elaborate but perfectly cut puzzle to produce a beautiful and satisfying resolution.

Jim says

Back in the good ol' days there was real and unreal and that was it; it was one thing or t'other. Then all these other realisms started appearing: surrealism, magic realism, hyperrealism, neorealism, pseudorealism. Suddenly it all got very confusing. Confusion, of course, is a state of mind. And if you were looking for a state of mind in which to approach *The Waterproof Bible* I would aim for this one: Things only get confusing if you let them get confusing. Accept what's presented on the page as reality even though a) that reality doesn't match the one you're comfortable with and b) it stretches the laws of physics (and possibly credulity) beyond breaking point. Just suspend disbelief, sit back and enjoy the ride. It's not hard. Fans of science fiction do it all the time. We accept concepts like transwarp beaming—which even its inventor describes (will describe) as “like trying to hit a bullet with a smaller bullet, whilst wearing a blindfold, riding a horse”—without batting an eye so the notion that another race of sentient humanlike creatures exists under the earth's oceans and have gone undetected for millennia isn't such a stretch and the fact that a woman could be born with the ability to project her emotions is nothing. Oddly enough the one thing I found impossible to accept in this book is that the homes of these underwater denizens have stairs. I don't care what universe this book is set in there is no way anyone needs stairs under the sea. That aside I got on just fine.

The only difference between a happy ending and a sad ending is where you choose to end the story. I doubt Kaufman thought of that first—God alone knows who did—but he must've had that in mind as he brought this one to an end. Assuming, of course, that any story ends when an author stops typing. For me this one hasn't ended yet. To be honest I can't get it out of my head and even when I've moved on to the next book I can see myself harking back to this one again and again.

Read my full review [here](#).

Erika Nerdypants says

I want to give this 3.5 stars, but Goodreads doesn't allow the half star rating. I loved Kaufman's "All My Friends are Super Heroes", so much that I went looking for this one. And I wasn't disappointed. Completely out of genre for me, this was an unusual kind of love story with hidden gems of life wisdom. I love how easily Kaufman allows you to believe the unbelievable. Why couldn't a giant frog woman drive a white Honda Civic in downtown Toronto? Witty, whimsical, poignant are all words that came to mind while reading. The only flaw for me was that the story jumped around from character to character, which caused the plot to feel a little disjointed, despite the fact that all the main characters shared significant connections. I suspect a second reading might clear up some minor confusions, but overall a very enjoyable book.

Suzanne says

Oh-so-weird and oh-so-wonderful...but isn't that what Andrew Kaufman does best? All My Friends are Superheroes still holds the top spot for me, but I enjoyed this as much as I enjoyed Born Weird, which is to say I enjoyed it very much. While I initially was drawn in by Rebecca's story (filling up shoeboxes with her emotions -- brilliant), it was Aby who turned out to be my favourite in the end -- her out-of-water journey was just spectacular.

Petra Kidd says

The edition I read had a different cover, it had a frog on the front and was published by Telegraph books. Loved the cover but shame on the publisher/editor for the spelling mistakes, you did not do the author justice by allowing such proofreading sloppiness.

Never mind, I did enjoy this beautiful and unusual book. I think it could have gone a little deeper with the characters and been expanded in many ways. Towards the end it did feel rushed as the chapters became very short. Well done Andrew Kaufman for such originality and making the extraordinary believable. I half expect to see green people with gills lolloping about on sticks now!

If you like Kaufman, check out Murakami, you are sure to love his work as it touches on similar themes.

Peter Darbyshire says

A woman tries to stop projecting her emotions into the minds of those around her by instead channeling her feelings into possessions, which she hides in a storage facility. A man builds a sailboat in the middle of the Prairies, despite there being no water nearby — until father and son rainmakers make a catastrophic appearance. A woman from an aquatic civilization searches for her mother, who has hidden herself among the land dwellers and is running an abandoned hotel. A musician has an uneasy relationship with a woman who may or may not be God. What do these characters have in common? Exactly the sort of weirdness CanLit needs.

Melki says

This is the third Andrew Kaufman book I've read, and the only one that really didn't thrill me. It felt as though the author had ideas for three terrific short stories:

- A woman whose emotions are so strong that everyone around her knows what she's feeling.
- Two feuding rainmakers - a father and son who haven't spoken in years - get hired for the same job.
- A water-dwelling humanoid creature hopes to find her AWOL mother, and coax her back to an aquatic lifestyle.

And, then he decided to chuck them all in a story together . . . for no discernible reason. Most of the characters pursue their own separate storylines, barely interacting, though like a butterfly flapping its wings, some of their actions impact others. I think. I was mostly just waiting for the ending, which turned out to be a message about acceptance.

I guess.

I didn't like this one, but for pure imagination and chutzpah, Kaufman deserves at least three stars.

Jaen says

Es ist ein gutes Buch und ich würde es an jeden weiterempfehlen, der ein bisschen leichte Lektüre gerne mit Momenten von Tiefgang kombiniert sieht. Es hat Spaß gemacht, dieses Buch zu lesen und es gab durchaus Momente, in denen ich mir ein Schmunzeln oder ein kurzes Auflachen nicht verkneifen konnte (was bei den anderen Fluggästen durchaus für verwirrte Blicke gesorgt hat), dennoch hat das Buch auch seine Schwächen. Zum Beispiel nehmen die Charaktere sehr viel übernatürliches Geschehen einfach so hin, wodurch von dem Leser erwartet wird, das er das gleiche tut, und damit konnte ich mich während des ganzen Verlaufs nicht so recht anfreunden. Es gibt außerdem sehr viele religiöse Anspielungen, die sich tatsächlich nicht überlesen lassen, weil sie einem ziemlich direkt ins Gesicht schlagen. Wem dies nicht gefällt, sollte daher die Finger von diesem Buch lassen. Die vier verschiedenen Sichtweisen muss ich grundsätzlich als positiv bewerten (ich mag es, wenn man die Möglichkeit bekommt, in verschiedene Charaktere einzutauchen), konnte mich aber nur in zwei davon so richtig hineinversetzen. Eine Sichtweise wurde so kurz gehalten, dass es eher immer eine Überraschung war, wenn plötzlich ein Kapitel aus dieser Sicht beschrieben wurde, mit dem anderen Charakter konnte ich mich einfach nicht identifizieren, sodass seine Sichtweise mich oft aus meinem Lesefluss geworfen hat.

Insgesamt kann ich daher nur drei Sterne geben, was immerhin heißt, dass ich das Buch trotz allem mochte. Es hat seine Schwächen, ist es aber dennoch wert, gelesen zu werden (wenn auch nur, um sich Flugzeit um die Ohren zu schlagen).

Suad Shamma says

Lewis - "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

God - "Because it makes a good story."

Andrew Kaufman has succeeded in creating a literary classic with this one. Magic realism at its very best, The Waterproof Bible is a quirky, whimsical story dealing with the oddest mix of characters you will ever read about, who all intersect each others' lives in one way or another over the course of a few days.

You have Rebecca, an extraordinarily ordinary woman who involuntarily broadcasts her emotions onto others. When she's happy, everyone can feel her happiness, when she's sad, everyone can feel her sadness, and when she's scared, everyone can feel her fear - however, she's found a way to trap and store her emotions in personal objects and storing them at Unit 207, E.Z. Self-Storage, which left her capable of lying to people about her real feelings and hiding them from everyone, including those who actually cared. An incident with a tap left on flooded some of her boxes (premonition of the larger flood that will occur later in the book?), forcing her to throw them out and with them her emotional attachment to the people concerned with these objects.

There's Lewis, Rebecca's brother-in-law, who has just lost his wife and decided to flee the city rather than cope with the situation, but ended up meeting a woman who claims to be God.

Then there's Aby, a frog humanoid who left the water in search of her estranged mother on dry land. One important fact about Aby is that she's an Aquatic - Aquatics are those who believe and follow the Aquaticism religion - (don't worry, Kaufman goes into great depth explaining the basics of the religion to us). There's also Margaret, Aby's mother and she owns (sort of) a hotel and does not want to go back to Aquaticism.

Finally, there's Stewart, Rebecca's husband, who left her three years prior and is now building a boat while he waits for his wife to make the final call.

Each one of these characters have one thing in common - they are all waiting for that one moment when lightning strikes, so their feeling of loss diminishes. Rebecca loses her emotions when her sister dies, Lewis loses his senses when his wife dies, Stewart loses his wife as their relationship dies, Margaret loses her family and home as her religion dies, and Aby loses her mother as her beliefs die. In one intersecting moment, they all meet and miracles happen.

This book, or shall I say 'bible', is full of visuals, metaphors, allegory and all other forms of imagery. It is satiric, yet biblical - at the same time it is a love story that is cliché-free. From floods, to moments of enlightenment, to a meeting with God, to blindness, to thunderstorms and saving lives, this book will take you on an exciting journey of self-discovery and awakening. You will be left bewildered by the end of it, with so much happening but very little explanation to any of it. Yet, that's the beauty of this novel, the unexplainable is what makes it so fascinating.

Call it a case study on the search for the true meaning of life, a serious discussion of God, faith, and religion, a light comic romp, or a love story. Whatever it is, it will get to you. It will make you question life, connect with these characters at some level and take a deeper look within yourself. But it will also make you sit with a smile on your face while you read it, chuckling at all the funny bits as you appreciate Kaufman's originality and wit.

My favourite line in the book was: "The only difference between a happy ending and a sad ending is where you decide the story ends."

So Kaufman writes, and so we should all believe.

Wiebke (1book1review) says

This is such a great read. I love the characters Kaufmann creates. They are so average and out of the ordinary at the same time, it is just amazing.

Taha says

Lost'un finalinden beri bu kadar cevaplanmam?? sorularla dolu bir ?ey görmemi?tim. Kitab? okumak keyifliydi ama bitirdi?inde insan kendini ister istemez Jon Snow gibi hissediyor.

