

The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories

By Etgar Keret

The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories By Etgar Keret

Classic warped and wonderful stories from a “genius” (*The New York Times*) and master storyteller.

Brief, intense, painfully funny, and shockingly honest, Etgar Keret’s stories are snapshots that illuminate with intelligence and wit the hidden truths of life. As with the best writers of fiction, hilarity and anguish are the twin pillars of his work. Keret covers a remarkable emotional and narrative terrain—from a father’s first lesson to his boy to a standoff between soldiers caught up in the Middle East conflict to a slice of life where nothing much happens.

New to Riverhead’s list, these wildly inventive, uniquely humane stories are for fans of Etgar Keret’s inimitable style and readers of transforming, brilliant fiction.

The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories By Etgar Keret Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Etgar Keret's *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God & Other Stories* stings and thrills with fierce fables of modern life. Set in landscapes ranging from "this armpit town outside Austin, Texas" to "this village in Uzbekistan that was built right smack at the mouth of Hell," these stories lay their plots' central tensions out plainly: "Dad wouldn't buy me a Bart Simpson doll," one begins. Then they take off like little roller coasters, careening through the pathos of Denis Johnson's *Jesus' Son*, the clowning of David Sedaris's *Barrel Fever*, the in-your-face violence of Quentin Tarantino, and the bewildered alienation of Franz Kafka. But readers need not know any of Keret's sources to enjoy his stories fully. The Israeli writer's aphorisms leap off the page and lodge themselves in the mind: "There are two kinds of people, those who like to sleep next to the wall, and those who like to sleep next to the people who push them off the bed." Keret's vernacular prose is fun to read, and his vision of the world is weirdly comforting. Happiness never really flourishes, but small hopes and graces abound. --Michael Joseph Gross

From Publishers Weekly

In this collection of antic tales, Israeli writer Keret chronicles the bitter ironies that determine his characters' daily lives. Set in contemporary Israel, Keret's brief stories most are three to five pages long juxtapose a casual realism with regular flashes of unabashed absurdity, portraying characters on the brink of adulthood forced to confront life's chaotic forces death, justice, love, betrayal for the first time. Keret attempts to render often sad or tragic events with a light touch, and his plots lend a fantastical, whimsical air to simple, everyday reality: a bus driver is obsessed with keeping his schedule, a stewardess falls in love with a passenger, a man is befriended by an angel in disguise, a woman runs a convenience store at the gate to hell. The most successful stories capitalize on their brevity, their irony sharpening as the plot turns on a dime. "Cocked and Locked," for instance, portrays an Israeli and an Arab soldier in a desert standoff; a clever switch of identity reveals that the enemies we create are often born inside ourselves. But Keret's characters can be carelessly drawn, their shifts in sentiment seeming either flip or predictable, as in the story "Good Intentions," which focuses on a coldhearted killer's decision not to murder a good man. Similarly, the longest story, "Kneller's Happy Campers," which follows a young man on a quest for love in the afterlife, seems disjointed and bland after the charms of its conceit wear off. Without strong individuals, the stories here lose critical mass and remain too disparate to command attention as a collection.

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From Booklist

Israeli writer Keret's stories are brief and powerful linguistic downpours, usually punctuated by uproarious climaxes. One of the best tells of a girl who requires her boyfriend to rip out his mother's heart to prove his love. This is wonderful political satire, but even taken at face value, its last line is hilarious. "There are two kinds of people," Keret says, "the ones who like to sleep next to the wall, and the ones who like to sleep next to the people who push them off the bed." The final story, "Kneller's Happy Campers," imagines the afterlife of suicides, in which people walk around after offing themselves in a world slightly more awful than the one they left; this is Twain's "Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven" turned upside down, and it's almost as funny. Keret gives in to stereotypes when he turns his eye toward Americans or Palestinians, but readers will still find those stories, like the others, smart, insightful, and delightfully hip. John Green

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rolando Gil:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students since they are still students or the item for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great and also important the book The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories. All type of book could you see on many options. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

Holly Hughes:

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Michael Anderson:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more simply to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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