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The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories

By Etgar Keret



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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.



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

- Sales Rank: #200847 in Books
- Brand: Riverhead Books
- Published on: 2015-10-13
- Released on: 2015-10-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.98" h x .55" w x 5.10" l, 1.00 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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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:

William Chestnut:

Do you one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this particular aren't like that. This The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories book is readable through you who hate the straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable looking at experience without leaving possibly decrease the knowledge that want to provide to you. The writer of The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories content conveys objective easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different such as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

James Rouse:

Typically the book The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research previous to write this book. That book very easy to read you can find the point easily after perusing this book.

Kyra Franson:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a e-book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get before. The The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life within this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished reading it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Ruth Lowry:

The book untitled The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God & Other Stories contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the girl idea with easy way. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was compiled by famous author. The author provides you in the new period of time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice read.

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