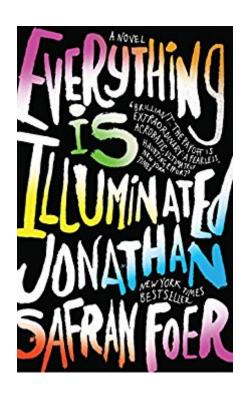
The book was found

Everything Is Illuminated





Synopsis

â œImagine a novel as verbally cunning as A Clockwork Orange, as harrowing as The Painted Bird, as exuberant and twee as Candide, and you have Everything Is Illuminated . . . Read it, and you'Il feel altered, chastened â " seared in the fire of something new.â • â " Washington Post With only a yellowing photograph in hand, a young man â " also named Jonathan Safran Foer â " sets out to find the woman who might or might not have saved his grandfather from the Nazis. Accompanied by an old man haunted by memories of the war, an amorous dog named Sammy Davis, Junior, Junior, and the unforgettable Alex, a young Ukrainian translator who speaks in a sublimely butchered English, Jonathan is led on a quixotic journey over a devastated landscape and into an unexpected past. Â As their adventure unfolds, Jonathan imagines the history of his grandfatherâ ™s village, conjuring a magical fable of startling symmetries that unite generations across time. As his search moves back in time, the fantastical history moves forward, until reality collides with fiction in a heart-stopping scene of extraordinary power. â œA rambunctious tour de force of inventive and intelligent storytelling . . . Foer can place his readerâ ™s hand on the heart of human experience, the transcendent beauty of human connections. Read, you can feel the life beating.â • â " Philadelphia Inquirer

Book Information

File Size: 2144 KB

Print Length: 292 pages

Publisher: Mariner Books; Reissue edition (September 3, 2013)

Publication Date: September 3, 2013

Sold by:Â Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Language: English
ASIN: B003UV91B0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #28,689 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #62 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Biographical #79 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Biographical #110 in Kindle Store >

Customer Reviews

The eccentric and attention-seeking graphics of the bookjacket convey the idea that this book is fresh, daring, kooky, and inventive--and the book is all these things! But it is also serious and thoughtful, touching on universal themes and the essence of what makes us human. With young "heroes" who are sometimes both earnest and sweetly vulnerable, the book contains moments of profound melancholy, as well as deep sadness, behind its bravado and its finger-snapping brio. Jonathan Safran Foer, a character bearing the same name as the author, is looking for the woman he believes saved his grandfather Safran from the Nazis. Traveling to the Ukraine, he meets Alex Perchov, a young man representing a Ukrainian travel agency which specializes in taking tourists to the sites of vanished shetls. Alex, a not-quite-fluent translator, and his "blind" grandfather, who serves as the driver, travel with Jonathan to the site of Trachimbrod, his family's village, collecting stories and legends which will help Jonathan learn about his family and his Ukrainian Jewish heritage. Parts of the book are a bit sophomoric. (How many farting dog jokes does one need? And do we really need to know the details of Grandfather Safran's 132 mistresses?) The fictional Jonathan's letters and comments as he writes a novel about his trip are an artificial device for dealing, perhaps, with the author's uncertainties and/or heading off criticism, while the chapters he includes for Alex's review, are, of course, the actual chapters of this book. And Alex's misuse of language, while often very funny, begins to pall after numerous repetitions.

This is in many ways a brilliant book, brimming with energy and invention. Foer is blessed with enormous talent and I have no trouble at all imagining him becoming, in time, one of the major writers of the dawning century. This book, however, is not an unqualified success. In a way Foer was betrayed by the very reviewers who were somersaulting backwards in order to help him. I was expecting the book to be utterly hilarious but the effect fizzled because the reviewers had already related the best jokes. He was betrayed by them also in the sense that they built such unreasonable expectations into the minds of readers that it would be difficult not to disappoint. Foer only adds to the trouble through his hyper-ambitious title. No, everything is NOT illuminated by reading this book. The themes are a recycling of things I've heard before, very often in places like Hollywood movies. To praise the virtues of love and compassion is not illuminating: it may be true, but it is not new. Foer has his heart in the right place, but that may be part of the problem. I get the sense that he is trying too hard to please. There is nothing wrong with giving your reader pleasure (God knows so

few writers even know how) but in order truly to illuminate, in order to allow the reader to walk away with his world in some way changed, one must be ready to challenge, and perhaps even, to insult. Perhaps the success of this novel will embolden Foer to take off the kid gloves and hit us hard the way that, say, Philip Roth does. I don't agree with the reviewers who complained that Alex's English is either unrealistic ("no Ukranian would speak English that way") or offensive.

Download to continue reading...

Software Architecture And Design Illuminated (Jones and Bartlett Illuminated (Paperback)) Web Development With Javascript And Ajax Illuminated (Jones and Bartlett Illuminated (Paperback)) Everything Is Illuminated The Everything Wedding Vows Book: Anything and Everything You Could Possibly Say at the Altar-And Then Some (Everything (Weddings)) The Everything Wedding Vows Book: Anything and Everything You Could Possibly Say at the Altar - And Then Some (Everything Series) Illuminated Art Glass - Featuring 14 Lampshade Kiln Cast Projects Java Illuminated: An Active Learning Approach Databases Illuminated The Illuminated Rumi Tantra Illuminated: The Philosophy, History, and Practice of a Timeless Tradition In Her Voice: An Illuminated Book of Prayers for Jewish Women Tao Oracle: An Illuminated New Approach to the I Ching Exalted Cult of the Illuminated The Illuminated Prayer: The Five-Times Prayer of the Sufis Geometry Illuminated: An Illustrated Introduction to Euclidean and Hyperbolic Plane Geometry (Maa Textbooks) Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets: Paradoxes Resolved, Origins Illuminated The Everything Chinese Cookbook: From Wonton Soup to Sweet and Sour Chicken-300 Succulent Recipes from the Far East (Everything Series) The Everything Bartender's Book: Your Complete Guide to Cocktails, Martinis, Mixed Drinks, and More! (Everything Series) The Everything Guide To The Ketogenic Diet: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Ultimate Fat-Burning Diet Plan! (Everything: Cooking) The Everything Mother of the Bride Book: The Ultimate Wedding Planning Guide for Mom! (Everything Series)

Dmca