



Amaryllis Night and Day

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The first time Peter Diggs saw Amaryllis she was at a bus stop where the street sign said Balsamic, although there was nothing vinegary about the place. The bus was unthinkably tall, made of yellow, orange and pink rice paper, lit from within like a Japanese lantern. That was a dream, but where this romance goes as the dream begins to intersect reality is nothing that a reader can be prepared for. 'Trust me, I'm a weirdo, ' says Amaryllis as she and Peter embark on their nocturnal experimentation, which leaves no one, on quite the same footing with reality

Amaryllis Night and Day Details

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Author : Russell Hoban

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From Reader Review Amaryllis Night and Day for online ebook

Jasper says

Russel Hoban is easy to read. Bip bip page turner. I like his language and the reality he sets. Nothing on Riddley Walker, but he's just really enjoyable to read. And gets you thinking too.

Lindsay says

Funny and weird with interesting and very flawed characters. I enjoy Hoban's prose and contemporary references on film and music and art.

Ray says

A strange little tale of a couple who can enter each others dreams. Hoban writes beautifully and is pleasantly off beam in an enjoyable rather than challenging sense.

Harmless.

Candy Morrigan says

BIZARRE! A good read but rather un-poetic for me in writing style.

Dan says

The most enjoyable Hoban book for me. It has a great sense of its London place, funny dreams and beautiful imagery that stays with you for a long time after finishing. Highly recommended.

Jessica Milverton says

Great book! Felt like I was in the story with the characters and was living the dreams they were having!!

Brent says

Hoban does a fantastic job of demonstrating just how compelling the repetition of themes can be in a novel. This story is full of fugue-like strands that repeat and build to great effect. However, I wish there had been more story here...the characters are thinly (but vividly) sketched and the plot's movements flit weakly by.

Still, this novel is impressive in that not many writers could pull it off...or would even attempt to.

Warwick says

Having loved Riddley Walker, I finally got around to checking out something else by Hoban, and I'm so pleased I picked this one. The idea of the book is so awesome that I can't believe no-one's thought of it before – maybe they have – but it's about two people who find that they have the ability to enter each other's dreams. At first they explore the sexual possibilities of this enviable talent, and begin an unstable relationship half in real life and half in dream-worlds – but gradually nightmarish elements from their respective pasts begin to intrude into the dreams and force a kind of resolution.

It's a smallish book – I read it in a couple of days – and Hoban builds it up simply with short chapters and very clear writing. There is a pared-down feel to the dialogue which takes a little getting used to, but the effect is that he is somehow very easy to believe when he describes things which should be impossible. His evocation of the world of dreams is spot-on – logical yet illogical, sexy, frightening and difficult to pin down. Hoban is good at building up metaphors gradually as the novel goes on, and one of the most central to this book is the Klein bottle, a theoretical 4-dimensional object which has only one surface but which intersects with itself, like a kind of solid Möbius strip. Not easy to describe, but for Hoban it seems to represent the way our lives cross and re-cross the same physical and emotional points. This symbol and others like it resonate more and more as you go through the book, helped out by two very endearing and thoughtful central characters who, among other things, are concerned with the way art reflects and enriches life.

By the end, the idea of the dream itself begins to seem like a symbol of the way in which memories and past experiences can affect you in the present: how do we begin a new relationship when there is so much emotional baggage from previous mistakes and heartbreaks? That is, I suppose, what the book is trying to discuss in a new and sympathetic way. Appropriately enough, when I finished it, I felt like I'd woken up from a very beautiful and wise dream.

David says

Hoban is always worth reading. I put him in the same category as Vonnegut - generally a pretty easy read with some wacky stuff thrown in for seasoning. This one's a Lynchian analogue of a simple boy-meets-girl with a lot of identity/dream fuckery.

A.J. says

Richly populated with images, this one kept me guessing all the way through: how much of this is real, how much dream. I loved the repetitions of themes and images and particularly enjoyed the idea that each human is given a box of music, sights and sounds when they are born which crop up again and again in the course of their lives.

Terry Mark says

Basically the story is about a stranger tuning in to another to enable both to meet up in their dreams and then revealing one's self to the other in their day to day life. Getting to know that person and seeing if they can meet up in dreamtime on a regular basis to get to a particular end goal. I've often wondered whether the people you meet in your dreams were people that you've met in past lives or yet to meet in the future. I would love to be able to tune in to other people so as to meet up with them in dreams so really like the concept of that within this book. Russell Hoban's novels might not suit everybodys taste but I think he's great.

Eline Walda says

Zeer oorspronkelijk en onderhoudend! Alleen in de ontknoping zag ik wat inconsistentie en dat vond ik jammer. Voor de rest aanbevelenswaardig.

Carys says

not great - a good story but it could have been developed more. the characters could have had more depth. they were very superficial.

Valeer Damen says

Very well written, very recognisable insights, a good story. I want to read more by him.

Sarah says

I didn't *love* this, but I did like it. It reminded me of those surrealist/absurdist indie films that I so enjoy. For some reason, I prefer absurdity on screen.
