



Sebastian and the Troll

Fredrik Backman , Vanja Vinter (Translator)

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This is a short story I wrote in December 2017. It's about pain. It's been translated by my friend Vanja Vinter and is published here on my blog for now because I'm not really sure where else to put it yet. If you read it and find something you like with it you're welcome to donate whatever you think it's worth to a charity of your choice.

Sebastian and the Troll Details

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Author : Fredrik Backman , Vanja Vinter (Translator)

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From Reader Review Sebastian and the Troll for online ebook

Amanda says

Wow, I have to say I'm blown away by this incredible parable and short story. This is the one of the best short stories and possibly one of the best stories I've ever read about pain and depression. I'm glad that it's available to read for free online for anyone who needs to hear this.

I read it here:

<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

Nikkitha Reddy says

I have, at times wondered if reading fiction matters. Do I learn enough from fiction or is it just a way out of my monotonous reality?

And then stories like this come along, you feel like an idiot for ever having doubted the power of words and of the profound impact it can leave on you. Sebastian and the Troll is a quick 10 minute read, and would be my definitive story suggestion to anyone in pain.

PattyMacDotComma says

4★

“Sebastian reaches his hand out. The troll is soft, its fur thick.

“You’re not from my imagination. My imagination isn’t this good.

The troll takes a deep bow.

‘Thank you.’

‘What do you want from me?’ Sebastian asks.

‘What do you want for you?’ the troll asks.

‘I want it to stop hurting’

This is a very short story, available online, about a boy who lives in a glass bubble. Sometimes he can hear his parents crying, sometimes not. He tells us he doesn't eat much anymore, and he's very tired of having nightmares.

The troll says he has come from inside Sebastian, and they have quite a conversation. The troll is a chatty fellow, with humour and common sense. Sebastian comes across as depressed, possibly autistic or in some way removed from ‘normal’ behaviour, and he mentions that at a time when there were some little holes in the glass, his parents slipped some pills in for him.

He says he knows his parents wish something bad had actually happened to him so they could fix it. His monsters and fears are wonderfully described, and that terrible feeling of being chased that many of us have had is all too real.

Backman is known for his quirky characters, but Sebastian isn't like the ones I'm familiar with (so far).

I really enjoyed this, but then I'm a pushover for a good short story. Read it for yourself and make a note of what you think. ?

<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

Teodora Kasabova says

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<http://readersense.blogspot.com/2018/...>

Stephanie Anze says

"His darkness is a heaviness and a tiredness that pulls the bones of his chest inwards and downwards until he can't breathe."

"Sebastian lives in a glass bubble" the story begins. Its a bubble that gets thicker and thicker and separates Sebastian from others. It keeps him from making connections and just from feeling happy or just feeling overall. That is until he gets a rather unusual visitor that helps him see himself in a different light.

WOW! This story is amazing. There is a reason why Fredrik Backman is one of my all-time favorite authors. Heartfelt, moving, profound, beautiful and touching this short story packs a punch. At just seven pages long, this work has left a mark bigger on me than some of the lengthier books I have read this year. I just love it. I cried tears of sadness but also of joy. This story is the hug you need when you are feeling down. Its the balm that soothes a tired soul. It really feels as if Backman is talking directly to you. The best part? Backman published this on his blog so there is no waiting. You can read it right now. In fact, do yourself a big favor and read it. First time reading this author? You will be amazed. Already familiar with him? You will love him even more. I had no idea what was in store when I sat down to read this unassuming short story so I had no preconceived notions. This work is perfect in every respect. Highly recommended!

Angela M says

A touching short story by a favorite writer. Thanks to Phyllis and Cathrine from Bound Together for providing the link.

<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

Cheri says

Online short story by Fredrik Backman

<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

Man thanks to Angela, whose review let me know about this little gem.

enqi ??? [joon's] says

Sebastian reaches his hand out. The troll is soft, its fur thick.
"You're not from my imagination. My imagination isn't this good."
The troll takes a deep bow.
"Thank you."
"What do you want from me?" Sebastian asks.
"What do you want for you?" the troll asks.
"I want it to stop hurting", Sebastian asks.
"What?" the troll asks.
"You should know, if you've been inside me. Everything. I want everything to stop hurting",
Sebastian begs.

Dreamlike, short and packing an emotional punch. I feel like this is the kind of story with words that have several entendres and you're never going to get all of them but you discover new things every time you read it. It's, without a doubt, beautiful.

FREE on Fredrik Backman (the author)'s blog:
<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

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<https://knijnikrile.wordpress.com/201...>

Ellie says

A touching little story about an unhappy boy who lives in a bubble and is taught a life lesson by a troll. Very sweet. I especially enjoyed the ending. I would love to share it with a child of 9 or 10.

Kathleen says

A wonderful short story about pain written by Fredrik Backman.

Olivia says

Read this in under 10 minutes. A short, quirky (well it is Backman) and somewhat grim story (only Backman could have this combination) that is an allegory for mental health. In my opinion this is one of those stories that could be taught in creative writing classes as I feel there is a lot to dissect here. A must read for any Backman fan.

Magdalena says

Beautiful and touching.

<http://www.fredrikbackman.com/2018/01...>

Nikki says

I haven't read something by Backman yet that I disliked. I thought this was a well done, and was a really good way to understand mental health.

DebsD says

4.5* rounded up. A wonderful short story, another example of Backman's ability to put huge ponder-y ideas into simple, effective prose.

"What's up there?" he asks and points to the top of the cliffs where the rope is attached.

"A life. A hundred thousand years of all the best and all the worst." the troll whispers.

"And in-between that?"

The troll smiles, almost happily.

"Oh, yes! THAT! All the in-between. You get to choose that. The best and the worst in life just happens to us, but the in-between... that's what keeps us going."
