



Κάτι θα γίνει, θα δεις

Χρήστος Οικονομού, *Christos Ikonomou*

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Δεκ?ξι ιστορ?ες απ? τα Καμ?νια, τη Ν?καια, τη Δραπετσ?να. Απ? τον ντ?κο των Κρητικ?ν, απ? το ουζερ? "Υπ?ρχω", απ? το φουγ?ρο της ΔΕΗ στο Κερατσ?νι. Ιστορ?ες για τρ?πεζες που πα?ρνουν σπ?τια, για σπ?τια που πα?ρνουν φωτι?, για ?νειρα που γ?νονται στ?χτη. Για το σκοτ?δι που ζει στη διπλαν? π?ρτα. Κ?τι θα γ?νει ?μως, θα δεις. Γιατ? εκε? ?που μεγαλ?νει ο φ?βος μεγαλ?νει κι εκε?νο που σ?ζει απ? τον φ?βο.

Περι?χονται τα διηγ?ματα:

- ?λα ?λλη, τ?ισε το γουρουν?κι
- Μολυβ?νιος στρατι?της
- Μ?ο
- Κι ?να αβγ? κ?ντερ για το παιδ?
- Πλακ?τ με σκουπ?ξυλο
- Το α?μα του κρεμμυδιο?
- Κ?τι θα γ?νει, θα δεις
- Τα πρ?γματα που κουβ?λαγαν
- Μουστακ?κι με κ?ρβουνο
- Ξ?να, εξωτικ?
- Για τους φτωχο?ς ανθρ?πους
- Το δ?σιμο των σωμ?των
- Βγες ?ξω και καψ' τα
- Π?πολ αρ στρ?ιντζ
- Πιγκου?νοι ?ξω απ' το λογιστ?ριο
- Κομμ?τι κομμ?τι μου πα?ρνουν τον κ?σμο μου

Κ?τι θα γ?νει, θα δεις **Details**


Date : Published 2010 by Π?λις

ISBN :

Author : Χρ?στος Οικον?μου , Christos Ikonomou

Format : Paperback 258 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Fiction, Cultural, Greece, Literature

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From Reader Review Κ?τι θα γ?νει, θα δεις for online ebook

Kasa Cotugno says

This was a real haul, and not because it was bad. What is presented in these stories of unrelenting grimness is a realistic portrayal of life for the average person living in Greece and how ordinary lives are impacted by that country's financial collapse. Visitors remember Greece as being sun drenched, steeped in history, cheerful. For her citizens, however, it's as bad or worse than anything we are familiar with in our own country. Plus, in all these stories, it seems to be raining already or about to. One character remarks that even the rails on her balcony are weeping. A real eye opener.

Maria Beltrami says

The protagonists of these stories are living the hell. A hell of misunderstanding and extreme poverty. Not a ray of light illuminating their lives, not the smallest hope. These stories seem to be set in ancient times, when fate was a fearsome and powerful god, and instead are set in today Greece, the one of the times of the crisis. The only drawback: there are many, too many. At one point the reader gives a crash under such despair. Thank Archipelago Books and Netgalley for giving me a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

I protagonisti di questi racconti vivono l'inferno. Un inferno di incomprendione e di estrema povertà. Non un raggio di luce rischiara le loro vite, non la più piccola speranza. Sembrano essere ambientati in tempi lontanissimi, quando il fato era un dio temibile e potente, e invece sono ambientati nella Grecia di oggi, quella dei tempi della crisi.

Unico neo: sono tanti, troppi. A un certo punto il lettore cede di schianto sotto tanta disperazione.

Ringrazio Archipelago Books e Netgalley per avermi fornito una copia gratuita in cambio di una recensione onesta.

Lorilin says

Good Lord, this is one depressing book. Page after page, story after story of the most awful things people have to bear. It is dark and heavy, with most characters living lives that are hopeless, chaotic, and unstable.

I echo the other reviewers who have praised author Ikonomou for so powerfully capturing the poverty, despair, and destitution people are experiencing in Greece's garbage economy. But what struck me most about this book is how negatively women are portrayed--always helpless, sad, borderline crazy. They are abandoned and oblivious and, even though they are the ones keeping their families together, they still somehow come off as weak. They are raped and whored out A LOT. Even in the stories where they are the main (and sometimes the only) characters, they always play second fiddle to the men. Is this a cultural thing? Is this simply an accurate portrayal of how women are treated in Greece? And is Ikonomou okay with it? Or is he trying to make a point against it? I'm not sure. But, yikes, it's bleak.

Reading this book was depressing and eye-opening. If you read all the stories in one sitting, like I did, prepare to be overwhelmed with the sadness of it all. I wish I had chosen to digest them bit by bit. Instead, I zipped through it...and then had to have a good cry afterward. The book is powerful, but, wow, it's a lot to

absorb.

See more of my reviews at www.BugBugBooks.com.

A says

Really well written and striking images. Didn't feel specifically Greek.

Roxanne says

Poignant profile of Greece in crisis, told through a series of short stories that leave your heart clenched. I read this in English after my favorite local bookstore featured a series of books in translation and can't help but notice the disorientation of reading a work in your mother tongue displaced into the language you now use most.

Katherine says

Beautifully translated by Karen Emmerich, *Something Will Happen, You'll See* is a modern Greek tragedy. Telling the stories of ordinary people whose lives have been destroyed by Greece's economic crisis, it echoes the classical tragedies in form, while using completely modern language that captures a moment of utter sorrow, betrayal and hopelessness.

The smell of halva spreads through the house and for a moment disguises the smell of Friday and the smell of loneliness and the smell of the malicious poverty that is slowly and silently and confidently gnawing at Ellie's dreams and strength and life – and those of anyone who lives to work, who is born and lives and dies for work. For a handful of bills.

The stories stand on their own, but read in their entirety they give a nuanced sense of the despair that invades the hearts and minds of the characters. As they lose their jobs, their homes, their loved ones, or as they huddle together around a fire for warmth and companionship, or as they cling to each other in fear of the night and the coming storm of bankruptcy, the stories look inward, at their selfishness, and their helplessness. A woman climbs into bed with a man-shaped halva, eating him as revenge. Five men tell stories around a fire as they try to escape the cold night and the fear that comes with it. A man collects his father from jail. A couple tells fairytales as their neighbors remove the walls of their home, stone by stone. A young man stands watch over the neighborhood, guarding his mother and sister from threats of rape and murder. As the desperation of poverty chips away at their humanity, the people cling to a sense of control over their own fate. Meanwhile, a storm is coming; the wind picks up, it starts to rain, and a Christmas tree is swept off a balcony.

He's drenched, dripping all over as if every pore in his skin is an eye and every eye is crying.

It's raining harder. Raining with hatred, like a punishment. Lightning keeps flashing across the sky. It's like there's a war on up there – light warring with darkness. A war. Light battling to enter the world and someone battling to shut it out, to seal up all the cracks, to sink the world in darkness.

The writing hooked me from the first page; it is lyrical, poetic, and emotionally devastating. Reminiscent of the greek chorus, motifs, phrases, and entire passages are echoed and repeated; each time with new meaning and overwhelming effect. The brewing storm, the repeated motif of fear of the night – these images become charged with emotional symbolism that captures a moment of pain in a nation's psyche.

And parents will tell their children stories about strange people who once lived and died for a handful of cash and the children will listen with their mouths hanging open and all these things will seem magical and unreal.

The characters are easy to empathise with, although they are, for the most part, utterly unlikable. Perhaps I didn't like them because they were too human, too flawed, too real. This book felt unforgivingly honest. As they feel betrayed by those who are supposed to protect them – the officials who place useless recycling bins on the streets rather than working to solve the problems they face; looking busy but failing to do anything real – the characters resent those who are able to succeed, and claw at each other for scraps. A stream of consciousness style makes the voices blend together into a single song of poverty. The improvised nature of this makes it all the more convincing; it echoes the hysteria that is slowly brewing. But there is also a thread of faith, of solidarity despite the fear. So often, the voices change from "I" to "We", from "me" to "us", and the sense of community gives a semblance of hope.

We talk and talk and the more we talk the better I understand that what binds us together are the things we're afraid of and the things we hate. How did we end up like this? Where did all the hatred and fear come from, can you tell me? And the more time passes the worse things get. Some days I see things that make me want to kill someone. My lord. I went through hell on the ships all those years but I never felt a thing like that. Never. But now it's too much. I'm drowning, you know? Drowning.

This is such a powerful, devastating little book. I couldn't put it down; it is an accident from which I could not tear myself away. As the storm slowly blows in; as the sun sets and the darkness creeps over the islands; as the people stifle their sorrows in alcohol and cigarettes, or cling to each other out of fear; as the world is destroyed, piece by piece, until nothing remains, the voices in this book cry to be heard. It is definitely worth reading.

Read more of my reviews at Literogo.com

I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

Antonis says

Αυτ? η βραβευμένη συλλογ? διηγημάτων του Χρ?στου Οικον?μου δ?σκολα διαβ?ζεται μονορο?φι· στο τ?λος κ?θε διηγ?ματος νι?θεις ?τι πρ?πει να σταματ?σεις, να διαβ?σεις κ?τι ?λλο, να κοιτ?ξεις απ? το παρ?θυρο για λ?γο για να βγεις απ? τον πνιγηρ?, γεμ?το απ?γνωση, κ?σμο τους. Γραμμ?να λ?γο πριν η ελληνικ? κοινων?α βρεθε? μ?χρι το λαιμ? μ?σα σε αυτ? το παρατεταμ?νο δι?στημα «κρ?σης» που κοντε?ει πια μια δεκαετ?α, με ?ρωες και ηρω?δες που (ψευτο)ζουν σε φτωχογειτονι?ς του Πειραι?, στα ?ρια της τρ?λας ? και π?ρα απ? αυτ?, θυμ?ζουν ?τι ο?τε «?λοι μαζ? τα φ?γαμε» ο?τε ?λη η χ?ρα ζο?σε «π?νω απ? τις δυνατ?τητ?ς της».

Ο ρεαλισμ?ς των διηγημάτων -ιστορ?ες της διπλαν?ς π?ρτας σαν κι αυτ?ς που ?λοι ?χουμε ακο?σει- ε?ναι πραγματικ? γραθι? στο στομ?χι. Ο αναγν?στης δεν μπορε? παρ? να θαυμ?σει την ικαν?τητα του συγγραφα να δ?νει μια απ?λυτα πιστευτ? φων? σε ανθρ?πους που σπ?νια ?χουν αυτ? την ευκαιρ?α, ανθρ?πους που δεν τους συμβα?νει κ?τι το εξαιρετικ?, κ?τι το αξιoσημε?ωτο, κ?τι το συνταρακτικ?, π?ρα απ? τη ζω?, τη φτ?χεια και τη μοναξι?.

Ταυτ?χρονα, την γραφ? του Οικον?μου μ?νο γυμν? δεν μπορε?ς να την πεις· ακ?μη και στα πιο πεζ? θ?ματα, ακ?μη και στις πιο κυνικ?ς στιγμ?ς των ιστορι?ν του, ?νας απρ?σμενος, αλλ? καθ?λου ?στοχος, λυρισμ?ς κ?νει την εμφ?νισ? του, κι ?τσι οι περιπτ?σεις των ανθρ?πινων ναυαγ?ων που γεμ?ζουν τις σελ?δες τους πα?ουν να ε?ναι πια μ?νο αυτ?, δηλαδ? περιπτ?σεις, αριθμο?, στατιστικ?ς, και γ?νονται ?νθρωποι, με τον δικ? τους εσωτερικ? κ?σμο, τις ευαισθησ?ες και τα ?νειρ? τους.

Αν υπ?ρχει κ?τι που ?σως με ξ?νισε σε αυτ? τη σπουδα?α δουλει? ε?ναι ?τι τα περισσ?τερα διηγ?ματα της συλλογ?ς διαψε?δουν πανηγυρικ? τον τ?τλο της· τελικ? τ?ποτα δεν γ?νεται ? τουλ?χιστον τ?ποτα που να επαληθε?ει τη φαινομενικ? αισιοδοξ?α της φρ?σης του τ?τλου. Κανονικ?, αυτ? θα με ενοχλο?σε πολ? περισσ?τερο, εδ? ?μως αυτ? το β?λτωμα, αυτ? η ακινησ?α, ε?ναι ουσιαστικ? στοιχε?ο του κλ?ματος ?λων των διηγημάτων, και ο Οικον?μου πετυχα?νει να το αποδ?σει σε κ?θε επ?πεδο.

Katie Anne says

This book is not a pick me up and may not be the light beach read you're looking for.

Why you should still read it:

- Ikonomou has an amazing lyrical quality to his work. Through this series of short stories, you can connect deeply with the characters, who are life like, warts and all.

- This series gives faces, albeit fictional ones, to the economic crisis in Greece. Ikonomou shows the power of fiction to share truths that no newspaper article has conveyed yet about the ongoing crisis there.

Must read.

Panos says

Θεωρ? πολ? αξι?λογη αυτ? τη συλλογ?, ωστ?σο ?χοντας ?δη διαβ?σει την επ?μεν? του, βρ?κα κ?πως κουραστικ? τη θεματολογ?, η οπο?α επικεντρ?νεται στην οικονομικ? κρ?ση και τα παρεπ?μενα αυτ?ς. Δεν μου ?φησε την α?σθηση αισιοδοξ?ας που υποσχ?ταν το οπισθ?φυλλο, αυτ? το "κ?τι θα γ?νει ?μως, θα δεις" που λ?με πολ? συχν? μεταξ? μας, που λ?νε και οι χαρακτ?ρες των διηγημ?των του Οικον?μου. Αντιθ?τως, μου μα?ρισε την ψυχ?. και δεν ε?μαι της ?ποψης ?τι η λογοτεχν?α πρ?πει να ε?ναι αν?λαφρη και να μας κ?νει να ξεχνι?μαστε απ? τα προβλ?ματα και τις δυσκολ?ες που αντιμετωπ?ζουμε.
Δεν μπορ? β?βαια παρ? να παραδεχτ? ?τι πρ?κειται για πολ? καλογραμμ?να διηγ?ματα.

SStefano says

Sedici storie che hanno come location non la Grecia turistica e brulicante che tutti conosciamo, bensì la spianata di Atene, in particolare i quartieri depressi intorno al porto del Pireo. Ikonou, con una prosa asciutta e dolorosa alla McCarthy, ci presenta i suoi personaggi: uomini e donne senza fortuna, disoccupati, abusati dal potere politico, derubati, affamati.....defraudati dalla grave crisi economica che in Grecia ha colpito individui, famiglie e comunità. Individui ordinari che procedono nel piccolo universo della vita senza progredire. Senza scopo, senza speranza, senza dio, senza regole.
E poi succede qualcosa che agita quelle acque putride e stagnanti.....qualcosa che dà significato a caos, un filo segreto a cui aggrapparsi e che lega inesorabilmente la nostra vita a quella degli altri.

Gerasimos Evangelatos says

Μ?λις τελε?ωσα τη συλλογ? διηγημ?των "Κ?τι θα γ?νει, θα δεις" του Χρ?στου Οικον?μου (Εκδ?σεις "Π?λις"). Μια σειρ? απο ψιθυριστ?ς ιστορ?ες απ?γνωσης που εκτυλ?σσονται στη Νίκαια, στον Κορυδαλλ?, τον Πειραι?, τη Σαλαμ?να - περιοχ?ς που γενν?θηκαν και μεγ?λωσα. Με βας?νισε πολυ η αν?γνωση. Κι ?πρεπε να την ολοκληρ?σω για να καταλ?βω το γιατί: οι ?ρωες του Οικον?μου, ?νθρωποι που προσπερν?με καθημεριν? στο δρ?μο, υπομ?νουν χωρ?ς να αντιδρ?ν. Μουδιαζουν, πενθο?ν, νοσταλγο?ν και τελικ? υποτ?σσονται. Χωρ?ς δραματικ?ς εξ?ρσεις, ? φιλοδοξ?ες λογοτεχνικ?ς ηρωοπο?ησης. Φοβ?μαι οτι κ?πως ετσι ειναι η εποχ? μας. Κι αυτ? ειναι το ν?ο κοινωνικο δι?γημα, που της αντιστοιχε? ακριβ?ς (κι ακριβ?ς) καθρ?φτης της.

Vassiliki Dass says

Υποκλ?νομαι στον συγγραφ?α! Γιατ? δεν ε?ναι που περι?γραψε με ακρ?βεια το τι μας περ?μενε με την κρ?ση, δεδομ?νου ?τι το βιβλ?ο γρ?φτηκε λ?γο πριν απ? την εκδ?λωση της, ε?ναι που ?χει μια ματι? π?νω στην φρ?κη τ?σο ποιητικ?, τ?σο αποσπασματικ? κι ?μως ολοκληρωτικ?, ε?ναι που με λ?γες λ?ξεις ? εικ?νες ζωγραφ?ζει την εικ?να σε ?λο της το μεγαλε?ο της ανθρ?πινης αξιοπρ?πειας, του π?νου, της απελπισ?ας, της στωικ?τητας, της προσπ?θειας επιβ?ωσης ?ταν εξωτερικ?ς και πολ? ισχυρ?ς δυν?μεις επιδρ?ν π?νω στα πεπρωμ?να. Υποκλ?νομαι!

Damiana says

Vi è mai capitato di innamorarvi di un libro solo guardando la sua copertina? A me non era mai successo: non sono una di quelle che compra libri solo in base alla bellezza della copertina, prima mi leggo la sinossi e, se possibile, pure qualche recensione. Fin quando, spulciando la pagina facebook dell'Ambasciata di Grecia a Roma, ho visto la copertina della nuova edizione di questo libro (già pubblicato nel 2011 con una copertina diversa)... E' stato amore a prima vista! *.*

Vabbè, torniamo seri e passiamo alla recensione vera e propria, va...

Qualcosa capiterà, vedrai è una raccolta di storie ambientate nel Pireo, zona di Atene famosa per il suo porto, dove i protagonisti, appartenenti alla classe media e operaia della Grecia, vivono l'inferno della crisi economica. Ikonomou ci racconta le loro storie partendo dal basso, senza soffermarsi sulle cause economiche che hanno scatenato la crisi, ma piuttosto analizzando le difficoltà che questi anni hanno portato e gli eventi che segnano in modo indelebile il destino dei protagonisti. L'autore dipinge bene quest'atmosfera, creando un racconto a tratti spigoloso, inquieto e di grande intensità emotiva.

Eliasdgian says

Ρεαλισμ?ς και λυρισμ?ς συν?μα απ? ?ναν συγγραφέα που αφουγκρ?ζεται τους ανθρ?πους δ?πλα του, εμβάθ?νει στις ενδ?μυχες σκ?ψεις τους, και μιλ?ει τη γλ?σσα τους? που με τη ματι? καθαρά? και με ευαισθησ?α ξ?χωρη, προξεν?ντας –?χι σπ?νια- την αδολ?ευτη συγκ?νησ? μας, αφηγ?ται τα π?θη ?λων εκε?νων των ανθρ?πων, που, αν και πρωταγωνιστ?ς στη ζω?, δεν θα ανταμ?σει κανε?ς στον επ?πλαστο κ?σμο των media και την ιλουστρασι?ν καθημεριν?τητ? του.

Δεκαπ?ντε και ?να αριστουργ?ματα περι?χονται στο 'Κ?τι θα γ?νει, θα δεις', σε ?να ψηφιδωτ? ιστορι?ν με επ?κεντρο τον ?νθρωπο – την απ?ντηση, δηλαδ?, σε κ?θε ερ?τηση, ?ποια κι αν ε?ναι αυτ? (κι ας με συγχωρ?σει ο σπουδα?ος André Breton για την αδ?ξια αντιγραφ?).

Για τους φτωχο?ς ανθρ?πους της Κοκκινι?ς, της Αμφι?λης και του Περ?ματος («Μολυβ?νιος Στρατι?της»), για τους απ?κληρους της ζω?ς («Τα πρ?γματα που κουβ?λαγαν»), για ?λους εκε?νους που η μυρωδι? της μοχθηρ?ς φτ?χιας διαπ?τισε τα σ?ματ? τους και τελικ? ροκ?νισε τη θ?λησ? τους για ζω? («?λλα ?λλη τ?ισε το γουρουν?κι»), για ?σους επιμ?νουν να ονειρε?ονται, ?στω κι αν α?ρατα χ?ρια παραφυλ?νε να αρπ?ξουν τα ?νειρ? τους («Το α?μα του κρεμμυδιου?»), για ?λους αυτο?ς γρ?φει ο Χρ?στος Οικον?μου, και το κ?νει εξαιρετικ? καλ?. Πρ?το βιβλ?ο του που διαβ?ζω, κι ?μως, δηλ?νω ?δη φανατικ?ς οπαδ?ς του!

Natania says

"Really liked," of course, isn't quite right. The book is heartrending; what saves it from merely depressing the reader is the author's empathy with the down-and-out people he depicts. He shows their despair but also their capacity to take in beauty and feel wonder in the worst of moments. This capacity doesn't exactly save them from poverty and hunger, but it saves them from the impulse toward suicide (mostly). I feel I now know a lot more about Greece and its crisis, its financial inequities, and the feelings of people at the bottom

of the heap. The style is Faulknerian--sometimes annoyingly so--lyrical and full of marvelous metaphors. Above all, full of humanity. Not knowing Greek, I can't judge this carefully, but Emmerich's translation seems excellent.
