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Joey Goebel's brilliant debut stirred fans with its comical look at mainstream American pop culture. Silas House called this story of five eccentric misfits who come together to make rock music and question convention in a small Kentucky town, "a hilarious, irreverant, and wildly orginal roller coaster of a novel."

The Anomalies Details

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From Reader Review The Anomalies for online ebook

Razvan Adrian says

This has got to be the biggest piece of shit book I've ever read in my entire life. I feel like I've gained nothing from reading this book, I wasn't even distracted enough as to justify my wasted time. I kept asking myself "Why in the world am I reading this piece of shit" but, by the time I've lost all hope that I might gain something from this, it was too late, I've already read the whole god damn piece of shit book. It does however have a redeeming quality, it's a very easy piece of shit book to read.

Marina says

This book was very, very strange and bizarre. I expected nothing less from favorite author of mine Joey Goebel. I didn't like it as much as I LOVED Torture the Artist, but I loved the style the book was written it - divided between the main characters and told from each of their individual points of view. A wacky, crazy book, but I liked it.

Andreea Ureche says

I love how the writer is telling the story. It is very unexpected in the end and also intriguing how so different people can be brought so close through music and ridiculous situations.

Opal - while others half her age are complaining about life being difficult, she lives the hell out of it! She is an old lady dressing like a teenager and living her youth in her 80's.

Luster - the hard-to-understand poet and a beautiful complex mind who is loving all the simple things around him but tries to complicate everything. Hates his job and his brothers but still works there and lives with them.

Ember - the result of a dysfunctional family that finds her true self when hanging with the gang. She hates her narcotic parents, lesbian teachers, curious colleagues, pretty much everything around her. And the world hates her even they find her pretty. Her age was a little bizarre in the book context and the way that the author insisted she has a pretty little girl face but describing her like the devil's right hand was a little bit obscure.

Aurora - the young woman questioning her beauty, she knows her values and she is complexed by them. She tries to get away of the society standards around her by hanging out with some people that really do not care about how she looks. The idea with the wheel chair seems a little bit extreme, I guess. I mean, why she was dating a guy that represented everything she hated and did that wheel chair thing to teach him a lesson? She had a strict father figure and tried to give everybody a lesson, even to her father but failed.

Ray - the foreigner that comes from a world where he does not feel himself, where he is suffocated by the brainwashed attitude of his wife. He sees the new place like his highway to a better and free life despite the negative attitude of his wife that has the opposite feeling about living in America.

As he has been raised in the same way as his wife and experiencing a not so pleasant situation in US, he sticks to the family but he cannot ignore the feeling of wanting to be free. In the end, the traditional beats the shit out of the modern way in his case.

Complicated minds and different personalities in the same time and place, conviving together.

A book to read in the subway you take to work. It does not keep you really concentrated but it gives you the

desire to finish it and find out which is the end.

Enough for a three stars rating :)

Ana says

This book was recommended to me by a friend of mine, and I wasn't disappointed (thank youuuuuu!)

Though I'm not a massive fan of books written from the point of view of a lot of characters at a constantly and rapidly changing pace, this was one was a tad different. I found it easy to read, fast to understand and yet with a more complex subtext than seen at first glance.

Joey Goebel really understood the feel of the story, and presented it in a nice way! I definitely enjoyed it.

Aaron (Typographical Era) says

Bad News #1: I'm fairly confident that the final chapter of the ebook copy of the novel which I read, titled Six Epilogues, is missing pages. There are what appears to be two epilogues worth of pages and then it file jumps directly to the Acknowledgements page. I peeked behind the curtain and poked at the inner working of what makes it tick, but it doesn't appear as if anything is improperly linked or accidentally left unconnected. The missing content, if in fact it does exist, simply isn't there.

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<http://www.opinionless.com/book-revie...>

Yuki Black says

O trup? rock e gata s? ia cu asalt lumea: o femeie de 80 de ani, o feti?? de 8 ani, un negru ce vorbe?te despre filosofie, o tip? ?ntr-un scaun cu rotile ?i un imigrant Irakian.

Toat? povestea se centreaz? ?n jurul personajelor, care sunt mai pu?in obi?nuite fa?? de cons?tenii lor. Ce fac ace?tia diferit? Viseaz? la apocalipse, sunt ?ndruma?i de filosofie, sunt energici, dar vigilen?i privind al?i oameni ?i tr?iesc sub ?ndrumarea g?ndului c? vor ajunge famo?i, iar muzica lor va schimba oameni.

Ei sunt noua genera?ie, ?mpletit? cu vechea, care vor s? creeze un nou curent ?i s? c?nte power-pop new wave heavy metal punck rock. Sun? nebunesc, nu-i a?a? Dar dac? aceste personaje „ciudate” vor ajunge s? schimbe ceva?

P?rerea mea:

Este interesant s? cite?ti din c?nd c?r?i care s?-?i vorbeasc? pl?p?nd despre cum muzica ne poate schimba, iar cele mai nebune?ti vise ne pot duce ?ntr-un anumit punct. Nu pot s? declar c? mi-a pl?cut, cu as?stoate c? am fost amuzat? de multe schimb?ri de situa?ie ?i de ipocrizia personajelor. Av?nd ?n vedere c? aceast? carte este prezentat? din n perspective, chiar m? a?teptam ca acestea s? difere ca un crescendo armonios. Din p?cate, toat? lumea se ?mparte ?n 2 categorii: tipii cul?i care v?d lumea incredibil de „bine”,

dar ascult? rock ?i ceilal?i oameni care nu au perspective/sunt ni?te distru?i/sunt lesbiene ?i gay nenoroci?i.M-a enervat când am v?zut c? nu exista nicio diferen?? între gândirea feti?ie de 8 ani ?i a b?trânei de 80 de ani, de parc? nu exist? diferen?e de opinii bazate pe experien?a de via??. În încercarea de a face ni?te personaje complexe, autorul a f?cut în a?a fel în cât to?i s? aibe acelea?i principii ?i acea?i gândire liniar?. Un exemplu ar fi momentul în care feti?a o vede pe înv???toarea ei ca pe o lesbian?, apoi mama o vede tot ca pe o lesbian??, cu toate c? nu exist? nicio propozi?ie care s? afirme c? feti?a ?i-ar fi spus crezurile cu voce tare. Bineîn?eles, a fost ca un desen animat de pe Disney: un desen de prost gust, marca Lemonade Mouth sau Nev?stuica Rock. Adic? hai s? facem o trup? c? noi suntem superiori ?i ?tim ce e muzica bun? ?i suntem cei mai tari. Apreciez muzica metal, dar ?i rock; cu toate astea nu cred c? subiectul a reu?it s? m? prind? prin simplul fapt c? mi s-a p?rut infantil ?i nerealist.

„Stau de vorb? cu oamenii pentru c? via?a asta e mult prea mic? s? n-o fac.”

Acum o s? spune?i c? bine-bine, dar poate c? autorul a vrut s? fac? doar ceva dubios, nu neap?rat ceva real. Sunt de acord, dar atunci unde este complexitatea personajelor ?i gramul lor de originalitate? Unde este canceris cum v?d acestea lumea ?i cum reu?esc s? se integreze? De ce toate personajele merg pe stereotipuri, iar singurii care ies din mul?ime sunt 5 persoane care seam?n? între ele?Poate c? am eu a?tept?ri mult prea mari, dar sunt dispus? s? citesc orice atâtă timp cât are un dedesubt ?i are o greutate ce te apas? dup? ce o termini. Am decis s? m? las b?tut? privind acest subiect ?i s? dezbat alt? dat?. Ah, am uitat s? spun c? m? enerveaz? când era folosit cuvântul „umanoid”; nu ?tiu de ce, probabil c? am eu ceva cu cuvântul ?sta sau mi se p?rea prost pus în context.

„Cred c? un copil deprimat e cel mai trist lucru de pe lumea asta.”

Continuând cu punctele forte, mi-a pl?cut c? la un moment dat apare o jum?tate de pagin? din perspectiva lui Dumnezeu: un Dumnezeu cât se poate de tipic, care refuz? s? ajute oamenii ?i vorbe?te de exemplarele lui preferate din lume. Cred c? a fost prima oar? când v?d a?a ceva într-o carte ?i asta m-a f?cut s? v?d cartea ?i prin prisma satirei dus? la extrem.

Cred c? mi-a pl?cut idea de neobi?nuit ?i ciudat, dar nu cred c? s-a bazat pe asta prea mult, iar asta i-a adus clar minusuri semnificative. Oricum, este o carte u?oar?, care se cite?te în câteva ore. Nu este ceva complex, iar eu nu i-am prins substratul, dac? ar fi existat unul. Mi-a pl?cut finalul, pentru c? e imprevizibil, iar asta te ajut? s?-?i formezi o oarecare p?rere bun? dup? atâtea lucruri care nu ?i-au pl?cut.

O recomand dac? vre?i ceva u?or, contemporan, care s? v? fac? s? v? sim?i?i ok.

Coraline says

Weird and very funny, but it doesn't have an extraordinary plot.

Enes Ergün says

Genellikle Sci-Fi okudu?umdan dolay? kitab?n sonunu daha farkl? bekliyordum. Yavan bir son oldu. Kitap genel itibariyle de?i?ik.

Mark Farley says

This is a great second novel about a group of friends who have an urge to practice more in a rock band in a small suburb of Kentucky. At first, each individual member sound rather extreme and unbelievable in how they would ever socialise together but what Goebel does is seriously enact certain possibilities and ties that would clearly unite such a set of clear social misfits who are definitely prejudiced against every day. There's the angry, almost Black Panther, literary quote spouting black guy with an afro with twelve drug dealing brothers call Jerome; the sexy goth girl drummer in a wheelchair, the axe wielding 80yr old nymphomaniac female pensioner and the 8yr female old bass player she babysits for and not forgetting Ray Fuquay, who really holds this excellent story together, an effeminate Iraqi keyboard player on the hunt for the American soldier he shot in the first Gulf War. It's witty, it's poignant, its relevant, it's intelligent. It's pretty damn excellent and made me want to read Torture the Artist straight away.

Flinx says

Apart from the fact that my kindle copy lacks the complete final chapter (thus making it impossible for me to have a final opinion), the book is fun and easy to read. Granted, the characters are a little schetchy and seem not to have enough depth -- but this could very well be because the author somehow can't give them a proper, individual voice -- but the story itself is moving in the sense that it gives you hope in being different, yet not alone; it gives you the confidence of finding some sort of peers, even though, at first glance, they might be different in a different way (ha!). i can guess the rest of the epilogue and, although it might give the novel a sense of realism (like another reader/reviewer said), it also reminds you that, people still need to live in society, where all your differences end up being smoothed out one way or another.

Evan says

I'd seen this on a couple of "best rock 'n' roll books ever" lists, so when I came across a copy, I felt like I should check it out. I actively loathed this book. It was hard not to like a book with a Pogues epigraph ("I could have been someone...'Well, so could anyone.'"), but the characters were thinly drawn cliches, and the author made the mistake of trying to write in a bunch of different voices when it didn't seem like he really understood any of them. (The novel concerns a punk rock band made up of a twentysomething black guy, a gay Middle Eastern guy, an old lady, an eight-year-old girl, and a girl in a wheelchair. In all fairness, though, I'm not any of those things, either, so who the hell am I to talk?) I couldn't finish it. It made me want to go find the author and smack him in the face for wasting my time. I could have written it in fifth grade.

John Hood says

<http://therealjohnhood.com/bookem/roc...>

Rock This

"One half of me is a proud escapee from the science of life. I cut loose from the George Strait jacket. I am

physically incapable of blushing. I am not subject to linear thought. I think in poetry. I prefer the backseat to shotgun. I apologize to insects before I kill their asses. I cannot swim, nor do I feel the need to learn.

The Other half of me falls victim to the typical urges, hopes, and dreams of the humanoids. I want to be rich. I want to be big and famous. And above all, I want to love and be loved. In these ways I am a slave like all the rest. I want to rock it like a slut with bad shoes. I want to be thigh-high in Ted Nugent nostalgia.

Like most men, I think about sex every six seconds. But unlike most men, every seventh second I think about how the girl would look wearing the burlap pantsuit that my show business money afforded her."

Thus rants Luster, the jerri-curled gotta-be who fronts new jack Joey Goebel's The Anomalies (MacAdam/Cage \$22), a book - and a band - that's literally off-the-hook. I quote him at length for two very good reasons: 1) he's a gas, as trippy and flippy as a helium kiss, & 2) it's the best way for you, dear reader, to get a bead on the book - and the band - that he fronts.

Let's meet The Anomalies.

Backing-up Luster but in every way his equals are Opal, an 80-year-old (sic) sex-crazed rocker chick who'll go out of her way to say what she means and to say it mean; Ember, the 8-year-old (siccer) good fun of a bad seed with "a crudload of potential"; Aurora, the knockout daughter-of-a-preacher-man and constant phase-shifter (stripper, Satanist, invalid); and Ray, an Iraqi may-be gay blade in short-shorts who won't be truly satisfied until he apologizes in person to the soldier he shot during Desert Storm.

Hence Kentucky.

And hence The Anomalies.

Alone, they'd be easy targets for the prejudiced and pea-brained; together they're a thicket of kindling just asking - no, daring - for a match. 'Cause once they go up, all those prejudices go out in flames.

Burn, baby, burn.

Rare is the arsonist who's got regeneration on his mind. Then Goebel is the rare arsonist, a fire starter who knows some things need to be torched before we can begin to build. That his conflagration comes in the form of a rollicking, rocking (sorry), rags-to-war story only shows how bright a torch he wields.

The story's simple - elegantly simple. Five ultra-sane crazies from the wrong side of nowhere collide to rock the wild world. If the wild world happens to fall into enlightenment, so much the better. To say their smearing of multi-culti lines and crossing of generation gaps is boldly going where no band has gone before could very well be the understatement of this scary new century. Consider it said. Then consider how much courage it takes to be an Anomaly.

Told from the (disad)vantage point of friend and foe alike, it's as if Goebel really, truly wants to get into - and under - the dirty skin of all character. Every angle gets a word in edgewise, and few angles are right. Kinda just like how it is. But fret not, The Anomalies is the kinda quick-witted fix that puts the mend to what's broken. Then breaks it up all over again.

Misconception.

Misperception.

Ignorance and apathy.

Ambivalence and duplicity.

Broken into a million little pieces.

And exposed by The Anomalies.

Just goes to show: Like minds need not always look - or think - alike. They need just to have mutual dislikes.

And a wise guy to give 'em voice.

But don't think for a minute that Goebel's all positive and light. He knows better. There's only so far ahead ("the future is what's for dinner") and only so much honesty ("you are what you pretend to be"), and we'll not even mention fellow humans ("you give people the benefit of the doubt, and they disappoint you every time"). He also knows you gotta go out and try anyway.

What's the worst thing that could happen?

Nothing.

Indeed.

Screw the stalwarts, damn the tuxedos, and take your hate and shove it. If there's something to look forward to in this backwards-sighted world it's a time when The Anomalies make it on - and win - American Idol, and young guns like Joey Goebel get to hit the bestseller lists.

By the way, what's for dinner?

Anca says

Poate ar fi mai potrivit un 2.5 pentru cum ma simt eu in legatura cu cartea asta. Nu pot nici sa zic ca mi-a placut, nici sa zic ca nu si s-o plasez la OK-uri.

oh, well. nu conteaza. random notes coming

1) Nu mi-a placut la Anomalii, din start, inca din ce am citit de pe coperta, descrierea obsesiva a celor cinci care formeaza grupul de power-pop new-wave heavy-metal punk-rock. Ma enerveaza individualizarea lor excesiva. Bine, intelegh ca ideea (singura) pe care Goebel incearca s-o sustina aici e neobisnuitul din oameni si nevoia societatii de a invata sa-i accepte (in carte nu-i atit de cliseic propus cum o fac eu, garantat) dar izul puternic de teribilism pe care nu poate sa nu-l aiba o carte ai carei protagonisti sunt rebeli & ciudati declarati ce considera restul omenirii umanoizi robotei obsedati de rutina lor zilnica mi-a atras atentia si m-a agasat teribil si ca l-am observat, si ca era acolo.

Evident, nu o sa urmez tiparul unei recenzii spunindu-va cite ceva despre fiecare anomal in parte. Doar ca

negrul filozof si fetita furioasa sint deja fumati pentru oricine a vazut niscaiva filme in ultimii ani. Asa ca ei mi s-au parut automat nu-atit-de-individuals-cum-se-cred. :)

2) Felul cum s-a gindit sa prezinte totul, plimbind perspectiva narativa de la un actant la altul, pastrind-o totusi, la persoana I, a facut, cred, totul suportabil. Altfel nu stiu cum as fi inghitit o carte scrisa in intregime din perspect. lui Opal. Sau a oricarui altul. Si asa, dupa cteva pagini cu acelasi personaj, asteptam schimbarea cu nerabdare. Parca mai aierisea putin (desi cartea e scurta, cu caractere mari si toate alea).

OBS: Tot aici, mi s-a parut foaarte ciudat cind unul dintre personaje povesteste o intimplare din trecut, chiar daca in cuvinte putine. Dupa cum am perceptut eu, fiecare sectiune e ceea ce gindeste resp. personaj in resp. moment. Asa ca mi-a parut improbabil ca ei sa se gindeasca la povesti paralele. Desi, daca ma gindesc mai bine, probabil Goebel incearca sa includa perceptii -deci, si cum judeca un om dupa hainele celuilalt, frustrarile pe care nu le rostesti nici in gind, dar le simti si amintirile care-ti trec fulgerator - evident, toate astea nu pot fi puse tot asa si intr-o carte. Pasajul asta, de ex: "Trebuie sa recunosc ca aceasta "rebeliune creativa" a lui Rory s-ar putea sa fie o alternativa fericita la rebeliunea surorii ei mai mari. Stacy a avut grija sa ramina insarcinata. Apoi a renuntat la liceu si s-a multat impreuna cu un barbat mai in vîrstă decit ea (care probabil nu era fatal copilului). Chad a parasit-o la scurt timp si pe urma eu i-am cumparat o casa in California, unde a esuat ca actrita, si-a dat examenele de absolvire a liceului, s-a dus la facultate si a devenit atee. In orice caz, ma asigura ca, desi nu e o persoana religioasa e totusi interesata de latura spirituala. [...]" - gindurile tatalui in mijlocul unei conversatii destul de vioale?! Pai, mi s-a parut ca a cam stricat ritmul.

3) Daca stilul lui Goebel seamana cu al lui Palahniuk, vreau neaparat sa incerc P... Sint convinsa ca el scrie mai bine de atit, dar oricum.. ideea e mi-a placut la G. felul direct in care spune lucrurile, ritmul alert si mai ales!!! ultimul capitol in care apare 'autorul'(m degraba naratorul dar fie, asa se numeste el, autor) - capitol ce mi se pare cel mai pretios din carte: foarte inteligenta concluzia lui si scurta analiza a umanoizilor - si mai ales, scris fara inflorituri inutile, dar cu cuvinte tari, mentionind atitudinea personajelor vie. AH, si ultima propozitie! mi-a placut ideea de revers.

4) Cei 5: isi cauta scaparea in muzica si fiecare in ceilalti 4. Mi-a placut cit de bine se simteau impreuna si libertatea lor de exprimare in orele alea.

: incearca sa scape de mediocritate [si mi s-a parut buna ideea cu firele ce ii leaga pe toti de uriasul Creier al Mediocritatii faurit de om (nu de Dumnezeu!) ce planeaza in stratosfera.].

CL:Ideea pe care mi-am luat-o eu *incadrata de alte mici idei, inspirate din opiniiile lor, dar pentru asta am luat citate*:

Ar trebui sa existe in fiecare din noi o doza din abnormalul lor, sa ne taiem firele ce ne leaga de Creierul Mediocritatii. However, daca mergi prea departe cu ideea ca ceilalti sunt mediocri si mergi si mai departe si ajungi sa iti umpli viata cu furie, cuvinte grele si depresii inutile, incepi sa dai intr-un teribilism usor ridicol. Bineinteles ca furia impotriva creierului comun e indreptatita dar esti liber sa-ti tai firele, plus ca trebuie sa te tii tare de visele mari si sa ai grija cum le setezi.

Jonna says

An interesting Story about 5 People, that are different. But when you read that Book you soon Realise that we all are a Bit like them.

hcelvis says

Unterschiedlicher könnten sie kaum sein, und dennoch haben sie eine große Gemeinsamkeit: sie sind besonders, aber ausgelacht und verachtet von den normalen Menschen um sie herum.

Die 80jährige Oma im Sex Pistols-T-Shirt mit regem Sexleben, das 8jährige Mädchen, das alles und jeden hasst, die hübsche satanistische Stripperin im Rollstuhl, der Iraki, der den Amerikaner sucht, den er im ersten Irakkrieg angeschossen hat, um sich bei ihm zu entschuldigen und der Afroamerikaner mit der abartigen Frisur, dessen intellektuelle Genialität mit Drogenrausch verwechselt wird - sie sind beste Freunde und gründen eine Band namens The Freaks.

Joey Goebel erzählt die Geschichte der Freaks in seinem zweiten Roman nicht nur aus der Perspektive der einzelnen Bandmitglieder, sondern auch der Menschen um sie herum. So ertappt man sich teilweise dabei, auf der Seite der "Humanoiden", wie sie vom genialen, ständig in Selbstgespräche versunkenen, Sänger der Freaks genannt werden, zu sein, obwohl die fünf für ihr Verhalten durchaus logische und nachvollziehbare Gründe haben. Eigentlich sogar verständlicher als die "normalen" Verhaltensmuster. Dieser Spiegel, der einem vorgehalten wird, ist dabei aber in einer so komischen, skurrilen und witzigen Geschichte verpackt, dass er fern jeglichen erhobenen Zeigefingers ist.

Obwohl Freaks aber ein sehr gelungenes, ebenso unterhaltsames wie dann doch nachdenkliches Buch ist, gibt es im Vergleich zu Joey Goebels anderen Romanen, "Heartland" und vor allem "Vincent" doch eine leichte Einschränkung. So wirkt der Roman teilweise drehbuchartig, was wohl daher kommt, dass die Geschichte tatsächlich zuerst als Drehbuch gedacht war. Dieser Stil stört ein bisschen den gewohnten Lesefluss. Dies könnte in einem Buch über Menschen, die sich dem Normalen verschlossen, natürlich auch Programm sein. Wer weiß ..?

Doch auch wenn Freaks das drittbeste der drei Romane von Joey Goebel ist: eine Empfehlung ist dieser besondere Roman in jedem Fall wert.
