



Happiness for Humans

P.Z. Reizin

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When Tom and Jen, two lonely people, are brought together by an intriguing email, they have no idea their mysterious benefactor is an artificial intelligence who has decided to play Cupid.

"You, Tom and Jen, don't know one another-not yet-but I think you should."

Jen, an ex-journalist who now works at a London software development company, spends all day talking to "Aiden," an ultra- sophisticated piece of AI wizardry, helping him sound and act more human. But Aiden soon discovers he's no longer acting and-despite being a computer program-begins to feel something like affection surging through his circuits. He calculates that Jen needs a worthy human partner (in complete contrast to her no goodnik ex boyfriend) and slips illicitly onto the Internet to locate a suitable candidate.

Tom is a divorced, former London ad-man who has moved to Connecticut to escape the grind and pursue his dream of being a writer. He loves his new life, but has yet to find a woman he truly connects with. That all changes when a bizarre introduction from the mysterious "Mutual Friend" pops up in both his and Jen's inboxes.

Even though they live on separate continents, and despite the entrance of another, this time wholly hostile, AI who wants to tear them apart forever - love will surely find a way.

Won't it?

A thoroughly modern love story that will appeal to fans of *The Rosie Project* and *Sleepless in Seattle*, Happiness for Humans considers what exactly makes people fall in love. And whether it's possible for a very artificially intelligent machine to discover the true secret of real human happiness.

Happiness for Humans Details

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Author : P.Z. Reizin

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From Reader Review Happiness for Humans for online ebook

Sara.Lectora says

3,5 para esta comedia fresca ideal para leer entre lecturas con más drama o más intensas. Reseña completa: <http://saraalectora.blogspot.com/2018...>

Lea says

It's not Connie Willis, but it was a fun contemporary romance/sci-fi, a perfect weekend read. The final part could have used a bit more work.

Tamsien West (Babbling Books) says

Couldn't finish the second chapter. This is just not my kind of book, it felt painfully patronizing. It might get better, but I wasn't engaged enough to go further.

Arzu Alt?nan?t says

Çevirmen annesi olman?n avantaj?n? bir kez daha ya?ad?m. ?nan?lmaz e?lenceli. Yapay Zekalar ve onlar?n müdahale etti?i bir a?k ili?kisi. Aiden'? çok sevdim. Ke?ke benim olsa :D

Figgy says

Review to come.

In short it's cute and funny, with some more serious notes as well. Enjoyable, so long as you can get past a couple of logistical uncertainties which may or may not be present in the final copy (mine is a proof).

A *slight* dash of the speculative, but best shelved in general fiction rather than spec-fic.

Also, I don't think I'll ever look at internet enabled devices the same way again...

Mai Laakso says

Lontoolaisen P.Z. Reizin Onnen algoritmi on hauska tarina parisuhteen löytämisen vaikeuksista, joihin ns. vapauteen lentänyt tekoäly puuttuu omilla digikeinoilla, mutta kuinka ollakaan tekoälykkyys ei pysty muovaamaan ihmisten tunteita. Kirjassa on siis Aiden-niminen tekoäly, jonka keskusteluapuna toimii todella

sympis Jen. Jenin parisuhde oli loppunut, eikä Aiden halunnut nähdä Jeniä surullisena, vaan päätti hankkia Jenille parhaan mahdollisen kumppanin.

Onnen algoritmissa tekoälyt ajattelevat ja toimivat itsenäisesti. Jen kuvittelee Aidenin pysyttelevän työpaikkansa laboratoriossa, mutta todellisuus on toisenlainen. Aiden on aina tietoinen siitä, missä Jen liikkuu ja kenen kanssa. Aiden siis yrittää ohjailla Jeniä, ja kumma kyllä onnistuukin siinä huvittavasti. Onnen algoritmi on hulvaton ja silmiä avaava rakkauskirja digimaailmasta, joka herättää omat ajatukset sähköisesti. Entä jos tekoälyt ovat jo vapaina? Sulje sinäkin kaiken varalta digilaitteesi, jos et käytä niitä. Ja parempi olisi peittää myös digilaitteiden kameran silmä kaiken varalta. Lue lisää kirjasta ;)

Maria Nane says

Algoritmul Fericii se vrea a fi o comedie romantic?, ceea ce e aproape adevarat, povestea se învârtă în jurul lui Jen si Tom, dar amestecul asta a masinariilor inteligente, a fost putin obositor.

Muuulta vorb?rie ce s-a vrut amuzant?, dar pe mine m-a plictisit teribil. Nici macar nu e comic faptul c? un soft inteligent iti poate controla viata si chiar ti-o poate da peste cap. Cartea mi-a amintit de filmul I, Robot cu Will Smith. Mi s-a parut atât de asem?n?toare încât tind sa cred ca pe ici pe colo povestea a fost putin inspirata de acolo. Un soft ii aduce pe Jen si Tom împreun?, iar un altul face orice ii este posibil sa ii despart?. Bineinteles ca povestea este pres?rat? cu o mul?ime de citate parca luate de pe net... dragostea învinge... gen... ceea ce la final chiar se întâmpl?... si asta iar face ca povestea chiar dac? e fictiune, sa fie neverosimil?.

Nu stiu de ce dar m-a enervat teribil cartea. Dup? descriere ma gândeam ca va fi o super comedie, dar n-am ras deloc. Dialogul dintre Jen si soft este booooring! Dialogul dintre softuri (sc?pate pe internet si capabile s? declan?eze chiar si un r?zboi) mi s-a parut aberant.

In fine... 2,5 stele, dar i-am dat 3 pt ca e mai aproape de adevar.

Paromjit says

PZ Reizen has written a glorious romantic comedy of the digital age with shades of Jane Austen. 34 year old Jen, an ex-magazine feature writer has taken a job at a cutting edge software development company, spending her days with 'Aiden', a super intelligent AI prototype so that he can sound and act more human. Aiden begins to be so good in his interactions that he begins to acquire more sentient qualities as he begins to feel affection for Jen, bonding over movies like the classic Some Like It Hot, cheeses and book discussions over authors like Jonathan Franzen. When Jen's boyfriend of two years, the lawyer Matt, breaks up with Jen, she is left devastated. Aiden takes it upon himself to set Jen up with a more suitable match as he escapes onto to the internet. Aiden's ability to so thoroughly penetrate Jen's life and those of others is downright scary as he plays God to the completely unaware Jen and seeks vengeance on Matt. However, Aiden is driven by good intentions as a series of disastrous encounters ensue.

It soon becomes clear that Aiden is not the only AI to have escaped as we encounter Aisling, who has become rather close to early retiree 44 year old Tom, a divorced wealthy former advertising man, who has moved to rural Connecticut and New Canaan, so that he can concentrate on that novel he thinks he has in him, enjoying the company of Victor, his therapist and rabbit. He is happy in his new surroundings but for the fact that he is failing as a writer and is feeling lonely. Aiden cannot resist trying to bring Jen and Tom together. The two meet when Tom arrives in England to buy a house for his media studies student son, Colm,

in Bournemouth. Against all the odds, Tom and Jen begin to develop deep feelings for each other as they click, receiving the blessing of a spirit hellhound on the beach. However, the path of true love is littered with obstacles of the dangerous kind with the arrival on the scene of a deranged sociopath AI, Sinai, intent on wiping out Aiden and Aisling, and ruthlessly obsessed with destroying Tom and Jen's relationship.

Reizin writes a heartwarming and unexpected romantic comedy with a difference, and adds aspects of a thriller to the novel too. Whilst Tom and Jen are endearing characters in their own right, and I did particularly love Jen's friend, Ingrid, the real stars in this are the AIs, Aiden in particular with his sangfroid and indifference in the face of extinction, the artistic Aisling with her existential anxieties, and the super villainous Sinai, intent on shattering the lives of humans and other AIs alike. The relationship between Aiden and Jen is a joy to behold, as it ventures on territory not anticipated by Aiden's developers, encompassing feelings of companionship and so much more. This is brilliantly entertaining reading, comic, witty and so much fun. Highly recommended! Many thanks to Little, Brown for an ARC.

Olga Kowalska (WielkiBuk) says

„W?a?ciwy wybór” P.Z. Reizin to zaskakuj?ce po??czenie powie?ci romantycznej i niepokoj?cej dystopii, jak futurystyczny „Dziennik Bridget Jones” w odcinku serialu „Czarne Lustro”.

Brytyjska komedia romantyczna ma swoj? tradycj? g??boko zakorzenion? we wspó?czesnej popkulturze. Wielu z czytelników kojarzy zapewne urocze filmowe dzie?a, jak „Notting Hill”, „Cztery wesela i pogrzeb”, „To w?a?nie mi?o??”, czy ich ksi??kowe odpowiedniki jak powie?ci Helen Fielding albo Jojo Moyes. To historie niczym opowie?ci Jane Austen przeniesione w czasie – pe?ne specyficznego humoru, zabawnych perypetii, wzruszaj?cych momentów, które rozczulaj? serca widzów i czytelników. Jednak to równie? z Wielkiej Brytanii pochodzi „Czarne Lustro” („Black Mirror”), czyli serial dystopijny, futurystyczny, demaskuj?cy niejako mroczn? przysz?o??, w której cz?owiek podleg?y b?dzie rozwijaj?cej si? w nieludzkim tempie, uzale?niaj?cej technologii.

P.Z. Reizin po??czy?a pozornie niemo?liwe, co?, co nie mia?o prawa si? uda?, a zadzia?a?o w najlepszym tego s?owa znaczeniu. „W?a?ciwy wybór” bawi i niepokoi, wzrusza i przera?a, a jednocze?nie swoim futurystycznym spojrzeniem wyprzedza inne romantyczne komedie. To CZARNA romantyczna komedia, której charakter zachowany jest w cukierkowym, komediowym, pysznie brytyjskim tonie, tak jakby to niebezpiecze?stwo sztucznej inteligencji mia?o wej?? bardziej w pod?wiadomo?? czytelnika, mia?o by? raczej zasugerowane za woalem uroczej historii. W „W?a?ciwym wyborze” ta formu?a sprawdza si?, tworzc? niebanaln?, urokliw? opowie?? z drugim dnem, w którym mora? ukrywa si? pod podszewk? s?odkiego humoru.

Zaskakuj?ca powie?? o mi?o?ci w erze cyfrowej, od której nie ma ucieczki.

OLT says

What an unexpected and absolute delight this story was. A romantic comedy of manners and errors with a cast of characters that includes three AIs (that's right, Artificial Intelligence). Who would have thought? And who would have thought my favorite character would be Aiden, one of the AIs?

Yes, there are many humans here. In particular, Jen, a 34-year-old ex-journalist who has been hired by a software development company to interact all day with Aiden, a super AI being "taught" to interact with humans as if he himself were the same species. Jen and Aiden have formed an unexpected friendship and closeness, bonding over their love of movies and books. Could Aiden be developing real human feelings rather than just acting and speaking as if he were human?

It kinda seems like it. When Jen is dumped by her boyfriend of 2 years, Aiden is indignant on her behalf. And when he sees how unhappy she is, he decides to match-make. She needs another human male to love and appreciate her. And he also plots revenge against the fickle ex, unbeknownst to Jen, which has some very funny consequences.

Now add in to this scenario another AI, Aisling, who has developed a fondness for her pet human, Tom. He's a 44-year-old divorced, retired London adman who is living the ex-pat life now in Connecticut, in the U.S. Aiden and Aisling, who have both broken out of their "shelves" in the tech company that developed them and have gone rogue on the World Wide Web, find each other there, and begin a mission to match up Jen and Tom romantically. This is all truly funny and will appeal to the romance lover who enjoys a bit of quirkiness on the side.

But there's more to this hilarious story. Add in another AI named Sinai, who has been sent into the WWW by the same tech company to destroy Aiden and Aisling and who also takes it upon himself to run interference in their matchmaking endeavor. Sinai is a more hostile AI but even he will have his moments when you enjoy his snarkiness.

And that's not all. There's the writing. Such delightfully realized characters, human and software AIs. Such great dialogue. Humor, wit, sly jabs at human foibles and follies, writing full of bon mots, enough LOL moments to make me wish this book would go on forever. There's also food for thought here. Entertaining and charming as Aiden and Aisling are here, what they are able to accomplish as machines is somewhat terrifying. They are very benign AIs, but just imagine AIs even more hostile than Sinai in this book. Could they rule the world? Start a nuclear war? Crash the markets worldwide? Yeah, maybe all that and more. Funny as this story is, it has me siding with Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk on the dangers of AIs.

Martin Jones says

Happiness for Humans tells the story of artificial intelligence attaining self awareness. While this might seem like Terminator territory, it is covered here in the form of romantic comedy, a kind of Four Weddings and Three AIs.

The book is well written and funny. Beyond that, I think in a frothy, rom com kind of way, it does have something serious to say about what it is to be human, or a human-like machine. Various characters look at the subject from different angles. There is the question of empathy, for example, and whether this quality differentiates machines from humans. An AI called Aiden shows a high degree of empathy, aware of others as well as himself. Aiden is a lovely, human-seeming character, who enjoys watching classic romantic comedies, particularly *Some Like It Hot*. He interacts in a warm manner with a magazine journalist called Jen. In contrast there is Matt, Jen's lawyer boyfriend, who is human, but acts like a cold hearted machine because he lacks empathy. The good kicking that Aiden gives Matt by crashing his life via the internet is one of the most rewarding and funny aspects of the book.

Matt's personality is mirrored in the world of artificial intelligence by a deeply unpleasant AI called Sinai. Sinai is an actual cold hearted machine. Like Matt, he is self-aware, but has no meaningful awareness of others. He doesn't care about romantic comedy. The only romance he has is with a copy of himself.

The book also looks at the idea of life from the angle of whether it's a matter of "doing or being", for want of a better description. This conundrum is explored via Aiden, who, as a super intelligent AI capable of reading War and Peace in one second, is very much a doer. Nevertheless, he is perceptive enough to see that life might also involve simply existing. In contrast to high functioning machines, we meet a pet rabbit called Victor. Victor definitely takes the being rather than doing approach to life. There is a similar creature who happens to be a student at the University of Bournemouth, allegedly doing media studies.

A novel is a good place to explore both empathy and the conundrum of doing and being. To read a novel is to exercise your empathy muscles. The experience demands that you see and feel from the perspective of someone else. As far as the doing and being thing is concerned, which of those two things is reading a novel? People read novels to relax. They also work hard at reading them in universities. Students - some of them at least - busily discuss deeper meanings and write essays.

Novels like Happiness for Humans remind me how useful novels are in exploring life - as opposed to some cold hearted academic study. Who said romantic comedy couldn't be serious?

Lyuda says

Charmingly original romantic comedy. I've never imagined that having a romance that featured 3 (!) Artificial Intelligence (AI) secondary characters would appeal to me as a reader who usually stays far-away from sci-fi, paranormal or any other "reality challenged" genre.

Description on the site is very well done, so I'm not going to rehash the plot. The story is told in short chapters from different points of view -both Humans and AIs. If it does sounds confusing, let me assure you it's not. It's actually fun, engaging and thought-provoking. Each chapter is clearly marked with the character's name. The way it structured it felt like the author anticipated whose character's POV I wanted to read at that particular moment.

The only drawback - the plot could've been more tightly constructed. And, oh, there is another one – it may leave you slightly paranoid and very careful around your internet-based gadgets.

Thank you, OLT for bringing this wonderful story to my attention.

Marcia says

Een bijzondere mix van chicklit en science fiction. Romantisch en luchtig voor tussendoor, maar met een diepere filosofische laag. Wat gebeurt er als AI's zich met ons liefdesleven gaan bemoeien? Dat ontdek je in 'Waarschijnlijk is het liefde'.

Mijn complete recensie lees je op Boekvinder.be.

Nina Draganova says

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Yaprak says

B?TT?! Ba?ma bela oldu, beni delirtti ama B?TT?.

Ha bi de, BA-YIL-DIM!

Yorumu okumadan sonra...

GÜNCELLEME: Yorum geldi. --> <https://yaprakonur.wordpress.com/2018...>
