



Ode to Happiness

Keanu Reeves , Alexandra Grant (Illustrator)

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Ode to Happiness is a grown-up's picture book, a charming reminder not to take oneself too seriously. With drawings by painter Alexandra Grant, text by actor Keanu Reeves, and in collaboration with mutual friend Janey Bergam, this facsimile artists' book is about making the best of a bad situation. In the tradition of a classic "hurtin' song," Reeves' text externalizes a melancholy internal monologue and subtly pokes fun at it. Grant's images, delicately realised in sombre inky washes, reflect the dark and light, the pathos and humour of the text. Neither entirely earnest nor wholly ironic, Ode to Happiness is both a meditation and a gentle tease about how we cope with life's sorrows.

Ode to Happiness Details

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Author : Keanu Reeves , Alexandra Grant (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Ode to Happiness for online ebook

Kirsten says

I'm sick and on an emotional precipice.

It made me laugh and is true in its message, and made my day a little brighter.

woody fanon says

it can always be worse

Gemma says

Simple. Brilliant. Contemplative.

Rock Angel says

"I draw a hot sorrow bath
in my despair room
with a misery candle burning
i wash my hair with regret shampoo
after cleaning myself with pain soap
i dry myself with my gorgeous white
one hundred percent and it will never change towel
then smooth on my i don't deserve lotion
and i hate myself face cream
then i put on my alone again silk pyjamas
and go to sleep
when the hue has gone blue
and you can't quite grin and bear it
let this word picture remind you
it can always be worse
X"

from ODE TO HAPPINESS
by Keanu Reeves

Helen says

A limited edition. This is either a dark - pretty convincing - look at depression, a hilarious act of sarcasm, or little poem written by a guy who's an actor that I like, with cute simplistic water colour line paintings done by an artist he knows. There could be a significant element of 'the emperor's new clothes' if you wanted to read anything deeper into it - with a smattering of pretention you could easily wax eloquent for the length of a dissertation I'm sure. LOL

kayla says

i LOVED it

Anna says

Really disappointing, since it's not a book and more like a poem.

Ellie says

I found OTH inspiring. It has turned a bad mood into a better one. I still smile when I see it on my bookshelf. Looking forward to the next Reeves and Grant collaboration.

Lori says

Five stars for the incredibly brilliant marketing which relied on the belief that Keanu Reeves' name was enough to get me to pay Amazon the 36 dollars that they were asking for in order to own this first edition collection of paintings and poetry.

Visit my blog to see the full review:
Ode To Happiness - A Review in Pictures: <http://thenextbestbookblog.blogspot.com>

Jennifer Klenz says

It took me about 30 seconds to read this book. I didn't like the illustrations and my first thought, I hate to say was, "So he really is dumb after all. I always thought he was pretending" but then upon further reflection I couldn't decide if he is or not. To me this book seems like something that could be tossed off in one night sitting around after a meal, just goofing around. And apparently that was exactly what it was. I've done that kind of goofing around drawing things under different themes with friends, but I never had it published and distributed for other people to buy and then make actual money on it. Apparently he tossed off the "poem" when making fun of a friend after dinner one night and he had no idea that she sent it to her artist friend to

turn into a book. You can't browse and look into the book to see what it is like. Its all sealed up which is clever because no one would buy it otherwise. It is the size and length of a calendar with one very very simple monochromatic painted image with a few words of text on each page. It does make fun of an upper class person's depression when we have more than 98% of the world, but its not enlightening or uplifting. Keanu makes fun of the book himself in a Youtube video of a booksigning event. Its obvious to me that this book only exists and is being sold for >\$30 because he is famous.

Alex Alex says

Amazing !!!! Keanu it's just a amazing person!

Elle Kay says

I feel this book was written just for me which perhaps is the power of so simple a concept. It draws you in, commiserates with your pain, and then finishes by letting you know that 'it could be worse'. A beautiful moral about not taking yourself too seriously perhaps. Or maybe, an ode to wearing that suffering like a badge but then pushing on through. Accompanied by haunting watercolours, I loved this book with all my heart.
