

The Daydreamer

By Ian McEwan

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A delightful literary foray for adults and children alike, from the inexhaustible imagination of Booker Prize-winning, best-selling author Ian McEwan. In these seven exquisitely interlinked episodes, the grown-up protagonist Peter Fortune reveals the secret journeys, metamorphoses, and adventures of his childhood. Living somewhere between dream and reality, Peter experiences fantastical transformations: he swaps bodies with the wise old family cat; exchanges existences with a cranky infant; encounters a very bad doll who has come to life and is out for revenge; and rummages through a kitchen drawer filled with useless objects to discover some not-so-useless cream that actually makes people vanish. Finally, he wakes up as an eleven-year-old inside a grown-up body and embarks on the truly fantastic adventure of falling in love. Moving, dreamlike, and extraordinary, *The Daydreamer* marks yet another imaginative departure for Ian McEwan.

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The Daydreamer By Ian McEwan Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Most grown-ups think Peter Fortune is a difficult child because he is so quiet: they "knew that something was going on inside that head, but they couldn't hear it or see it or feel it. They couldn't tell Peter to stop it, because they didn't know what it was he was doing in there." Actually, he is involved in one of his great adventures: exchanging bodies with his ancient pet cat, battling a troop of dolls come to life, making his parents disappear with a vanishing cream or discovering what it is like to be an adult falling in love. Through his daydreams, Peter learns to see the world from numerous points of view. He is the only boy at school, for example, who can recognize the weaknesses of a bully and feel compassion for him. In his first book for children, McEwan (The Comfort of Strangers ; The Child in Time) dextrously presents a series of strange and wonderful metamorphoses. His vivid and poetic writing, celebrating the creative abilities of a gifted 10-year-old, reveals a profound understanding of childhood. Illustrations not seen by PW. Ages 8-up.
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From Booklist
Gr. 4-7. What if our worst fears (or, perhaps, our dearest wishes) actually happened? Right here in the backyard. There's a nightmarish sense of the domestic transformed in these interconnected stories about a 10-year-old loner. When Peter is quiet, it's because he's having "the weirdest" adventures in his head. They're experiences that grow out of the clutter of the kitchen drawer or the bombardment at the breakfast table. He loves his parents, but they crowd him. What would happen if he used vanishing cream? How would it feel to swap bodies with a cat, with a baby, with a grown-up? To actually, viscerally, be those creatures and still have your 10-year-old consciousness? The episode about the defeat of a bully is unconvincing, and at the end, Peter is too articulate about being on the edge of adulthood. But British author McEwan (whose prizewinning adult novels have been filmed) writes simple, visual prose--comic, deadpan, and lyrical--that captures the physicalness of the wild fantasy. The uneasiness remains. Things are put back together, but the world is not exactly right. The illustrations were not seen in galley, but there could be no better expression of Peter's vision than the kind of surreal artwork Browne has used in such books as *Changes* (1990), where the mundane is suddenly mad. What if . . . ? *Hazel Rochman*

From Kirkus Reviews
Adults think that Peter Fortune is a difficult child because he sits by himself and stares into space. But, except for resultant absentmindedness, like forgetting his little sister on a bus, Peter's daydreams are usually harmless flights of fancy. The Daydreamer includes seven of these flights and four of them--``The Dolls,'' ``The Cat,'' ``The Baby,'' and ``The Grown-Up''--are metamorphosis experiences. ``The Cat'' is a beautiful story that tells of Peter's spirit climbing into the body of his old house cat, William. While in William's body, Peter experiences life as a cat and fights William's last territorial battle for him. Some of Peter's other experiences are less benign. For example, many children flirt with the idea of making their families disappear, but the way Peter goes about it in ``Vanishing Cream'' is rather gruesome. And when Peter verbally defeats the school bully in ``The Bully,'' Peter himself acknowledges that his words are unduly harsh. Although McEwan presents Peter as a sweet introvert, Peter proves himself to be far from that. Novelist McEwan's first book for children contains some magical moments but is marred by being often repetitive and occasionally mean-spirited. (Fiction. 8+) -- *Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Wood:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only the story that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to their book. One of them is this The Daydreamer.

Pam Gray:

Reading a book to become new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to study a book. When you go through a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what kinds of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your analysis, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, and also soon. The The Daydreamer will give you a new experience in studying a book.

Marsha Young:

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