



The Rich Part of Life

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After Teddy loses his mother to a car accident, he and his young brother are left with their eccentric Civil War professor father, who is more able to discuss Confederate footwear than his sons' day at school. But Teddy's father plays the lottery with his wife's old numbers, and wins \$190 million, immediately transforming their lives forever. For the first time, the family must learn what "the rich part of life" really is. Creating the perfect balance of humor and pathos, Jim Kokoris takes us on an unforgettable journey through the ups and downs of this revelation of unexpected wealth.

The Rich Part of Life Details

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Author : Jim Kokoris

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From Reader Review The Rich Part of Life for online ebook

Kate says

Fairly certain that everyone has a 'what would I do if I won the lottery' list. Sometimes it's multiple lists, adjusted by the size of the prize. I have such a list, which is interesting given that I don't buy lottery tickets. My list is -

Hire an island and take all my friends on a beach holiday.

Take a world trip that includes Iceland, the Bahamas and the Maldives.

Choose some charities that a big contribution would make a massive difference to (I already have some that are close to my heart).

Buy a seaside shack in the place where I spend summer (McCrae) - nothing fancy because there will always be sand on the floor.

Given the existence of these lists, it's intriguing when lotteries go unclaimed (as happened in Melbourne this week) - and this is the topic of Jim Kokoris's novel, *The Rich Part of Life*.

Teddy's mother was killed in a car accident, leaving him, his younger brother and their father, Theo. Theo is an eccentric Civil War professor, whose grief is crippling.

I couldn't count on him for much. He frequently got lost when he drove, misplaced his wallet and keys almost daily, and drifted off in the middle of most conversations.

Theo enters a lottery using his wife's old numbers, and wins \$190 million. He is slow to claim the prize and when he does, the family's life changes in unexpected ways. Despite Teddy's wishlist (a ranch, new bikes and a big television), Theo seemingly has no interest in spending the money. Naturally, other people do. Theo's elderly aunt and his brother, Frank, move in and various acquaintances and neighbours are suddenly very friendly. Teddy begins to understand that to be 'rich' means many things.

The broad concept for this story is appealing, and presents questions such as how money changes people, and whether some are more 'deserving' of a windfall than others. The exploration of the eternal question - can money buy happiness, or in this case ameliorate grief - is a little too obviously executed given the family's situation but nevertheless was interesting. Notably, while people avoided the family in their grief, they clamoured to be near in their prosperity.

My problem with the story was that it became cluttered with characters, each trying to stake their claim and each with obvious motivations. Furthermore, these additional characters were all a little odd - the ex-beauty-queen, the washed-up actor who only played vampires; a motherless baby; a worldly football player-turned-bodyguard, and so on. As the story became increasingly 'busy', the delicately explored relationship between Teddy and Theo was lost, and any reflections on grief that Kokoris could provide from Teddy's perspective were drowned in the noise - a shame given that Teddy's voice was perceptive and real.

2/5 Overdone.

Sue Heaney says

I can't get enough of this author and the way that he paints a picture with words of the story. It's funny and quirky. I highly recommend!

Tea Jovanovi? says

Roman o odrastanju... o de?aku koji prerano ostaje bez majke a otac dobije na lutriji... i Ve?ito pitanje, šta biste uradili s novcem da dobijete na lotou... Topla i nežna pri?a...

Rieta says

I seriously loved this book. If I lived near Jim Kokoris I would ask to be an editor so I could read everything first. He has such an amazing ability to develop character. I've never really had a favorite author but I'm getting there with Kokoris. Loved this book.

Victoria Miller says

Loved it! Told from the perspective of an eleven year old boy, with a younger brother ("The Nose Picker"), whose mother has died, Jim Kokoris has written a most engaging and unexpected tale, with a wonderful cast of eccentric but engaging characters. Kokoris weaves a subtle nuance throughout his writing: what remains unsaid is more powerful than what is told as the story unfolds. Don't want to give anything away....there are some things you'll see coming and some you won't, but always the unexpected, too. A very enjoyable read with some great characters and a quite surprising plot.

Christine says

A great book that was funny, suspenseful and engaging. It is like 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding' meets 'The Descendants' -- the story of a Greek family with the type of hilarious humor that all ethnic groups can appreciate, used as a backdrop for a much darker story of sudden wealth, dark secrets and legacy, all narrated by an 11 year old boy. I loved the Chicago setting. Author Jim Kokoris also has the rare gift (which I like to call 'To Kill a Mockingbird' syndrome) of being able to tell an adult story as seen through the eyes of a child, with all the requisite innocence and humor. Full of laugh out loud moments and great conversations. This was recommended to me by a book club, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes a good, engaging story. Chicago natives will love it, too!

Romi says

I would give this 3.5 stars. It was a lovely idea with quirky and sweet characters but I found that it dragged. It could have been tightened up. It's interesting because he hit the jackpot with his next book

it's...nice...outside. This book was a warm up to that one that fixed the writing issues I saw in this one!

Engie says

Es gracioso que no lo había puesto como leído siendo el libro que me inició en el hábito de la lectura, pero bueno, aquí está. Mejor tarde que nunca.

Joanie Driemeyer says

Liked this one a lot. The characters are unique. The story explores the question of what happens to people when they suddenly come into a lot of money. In this case, it affected others more than those who won the money.

Xenia says

A sweet and unique type of novel where an eleven year old boy (who often seems much more mature than his age) finds his life in a tumultuous tectonic shift when his father wins the lottery. I love the naturally blossoming relationship between father and son as they deal with odd and extenuating circumstances, and it has colorful cast of characters that are appropriately likeable or dislikeable for the situations. I became legitimately invested in Teddy's progress, and without saying any spoilers, the closing act of the book is satisfyingly dramatic and heart warming. A fun casual read!

Beth Tortorici says

An interesting read but moved slow. Kind of slow. Interesting father/son relationship. Had to force myself to finish!

Emir Ibañez says

2.5

Lo que en un principio prometía ser cómico y reflexivo poco a poco se volvió aburrido y ya no me importaba cómo iba a terminar, simplemente quería que termine. En fin, si les gustan las historias lentas puede que les guste, pero aún así hay algo que no me terminó de convencer.

Wisewebwoman says

Told from the perspective of an 11 year old boy who recently lost his mother, it is extraordinarily well written.

On contemplating his widower father who is not well himself: "Due to the uncertain state of his health, I was convinced that Tommy and I daily walked the fine line that separates children from orphans." He then looks up "Orphanages" in the yellow pages.

Through the course of the novel we see the slow emergence of the baffled and disconnected father after he was won the lottery and refuses to spend it.

Book Concierge says

Professor of history Theo Pappas plays his dead wife's favorite lottery numbers - the date of birth of his oldest son, Teddy - and wins \$190 million. The lives of the Pappas family members are forever changed, but all does not go smoothly. Kokoris gives the reader a wonderful cast of characters who are vividly drawn. My book club really enjoyed this book. We couldn't help ourselves and simply HAD to "cast the movie" - Kevin Spacey as Theo. And, of course, it made us wonder - would WE be changed by winning the lottery?

Pamela Pickering says

I found this book listed in a book chat room. It's opening line: The day we won the lottery I was wearing the wax lips that my dad bought me and the Nose Picker at the gas station. How can you not like a book that has a entry like that. What a charming find. It has the most interesting characters. I have to say my favorite would be the out of work vampiric actor. It has many humorous moments, it is sometimes predictable but still very enjoyable.
