



Walker on Water

Kristiina Ehin , Ilmar Lehtpere (Translation)

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A woman cultivates a knack for walking on water, but is undermined by her husband's brain, which he removes each night when he returns home from work; a couple overcomes the irksome mischief of the gods; a skeptical dragon wonders what sex is all about: this is the world of Kristiina Ehin. From the 2007 British Poetry Society Popescu prize winner for European poetry in translation: a series of comic, surreal adventures. Kristiina Ehin's quirky voice takes each story directly from the dream state, at times stubborn and resistant, at other times masochistically compliant. Ehin offers up modern folktales in which the very nature of our human identity is at stake-rampant with images and archetypes both new and old, and mediated by the abrupt changes we can only experience in dreams. KRISTIINA EHIN is a highly acclaimed performer of her poetry, prose and drama in Estonian as well as English. This is her first book of stories to be published in the U.S. In her native Estonia, she has published six volumes of poetry, three books of short stories and a retelling of South-Estonian folk tales. She has written plays, as well as poetic radio broadcasts. She has won Estonia's most prestigious poetry prize for Kaitseala-a book of poems and journal entries written during a year spent living as a nature reserve warden on an otherwise uninhabited island off Estonia's north coast. In the UK, she has published six translated books of poetry and three of prose.

Walker on Water Details

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Author : Kristiina Ehin , Ilmar Lehtpere (Translation)

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From Reader Review Walker on Water for online ebook

Leslie Ann says

3.5 stars. The stories often baffle, but the prose sparkles.

Faroukh Naseem says

One of the most intriguing genres to me is Magic Realism. Sometimes I'm baffled with the ideas and concepts put together by some writers. This book joins my list of favorite Magic Realism books.

#theguywiththebookreview presents Walker on Water by Kristiina Ehin.

This is a compilation of short stories featuring some bizarre characters, one who removes his brain every night at home, one who walks on water, a skeleton woman, dragons, woman who has a string of ex husbands whom she recognizes with an apricot each.

.
Kristiina Ehin is a poetess and it reflects in her stories, in most of them I noticed that she uses certain things to symbolize others.

.
What to look for:

Mark says

Crazy, whack, funky, funny, scary, and surreal. Highly enjoyable.

Madeleine says

A very slim book of fairy tales and love stories. Although the stories are not all of the same quality, the overall effect is somehow enthralling. I read this book because it was a contender for the Best Translated Book Award 2015 and wrote a bit more about it here:

<http://www.rochester.edu/College/tran...>

Matthew says

Excellent imagery in this beautifully translated prose. Thought-provoking surrealism; found myself re-reading passages to explore the nuances.

Thank you to Unnamed Press for the gift - I have the feeling I'll be revisiting this, and will definitely share!

Savannah says

I won Walker on Water through a First Read's Giveaway! Walker on Water is a book containing a bunch of short stories. I haven't picked up a short stories type of book in a long time, so I was a little hesitant when I picked this one up. However, the first story put my mind at ease and I knew I would enjoy this book. A thought provoking collection of shorts that will have your brain turning and have you re-examining the relationships around you.

Fred says

This is one of those books which just baffle me as to how other people can enjoy them. Quite literally, this book consists of many many very minute stories which are just plain bizarre and have no explanation or meaning. THAT'S IT! *It is 88 pages of nothing!*

No themes, no morals, no emotion; there was nothing I could take away from this! Most books are at least a bit mind-broadening but this is just 88 pages of absolutely nothing that could possibly mean anything within a book.

I would say more but there is nothing to slate in this book because there isn't any actual content. If you DO like this book, please could you comment and explain to me what the point of it was? That would be really appreciated because I genuinely could see nothing in this. The sole reason I finished it is because it was so short!

jeremy says

it's been a long time since i've so vehemently disliked a book, but the (very) short stories in kristiina ehin's *walker on water* were toilsome. also a poet and playwright, the estonian writer is well acclaimed for her short stories (and has been translated into 20 languages), but i found this collection of surrealistic folktales insufferable.

Dan says

Ehin's fantastical stories convey so much so swiftly. It really did feel like reading a personal mythology. The characters and scenarios were somehow familiar despite their wildly inventive plots.

Mostly, I read these stories as a woman examining the compromises of love and marriage. Many of the stories revolved around a negotiation between a woman and her paramour. In some, the result was happy. In others, not so much. But throughout there was a strong throughline of violence. Often these women had to physically pull themselves away from the men who subtly trapped them. I'm having a hard time expressing exactly what I mean, so I'll use an example from the book. In the titular story the narrator's life is saved by her husband's smarts, whereas in another a woman bites her husbands arms off, naturally divorce follows. Ehin seems to be saying that finding the perfect balance with a man is impossible or, if not impossible, very, very difficult.

I'll be thinking about this collection for some time.

If you liked this, make sure to follow me on Goodreads for more reviews!

Ferni says

This book had been sitting around my room for a couple of months and now that I finished it I can say that it was interesting.

This is not a straightforward book, is magical realism. Estonian magical realism to be more precise. And is a story about life, love, lust, dreams, fear and faith. This all are unrelated stories (or are they?) that tell us different things (or do they?) and it finishes with Happiness and Life. And pine branches and mosquitoes and warmth.

Go read it.

Tom Simmons says

WoW is possibly the best books of 2014. The book's super short stories perfectly synthesis ancient and contemporary forms into a single narrative experience. It's funny and tragic and all over beautiful.

Black Elephants says

Lovely modern surreal fairytales from Estonia. An excerpt:

"The tree men I've bitten arms off of are doing well. I felt guilty for many years. I was afraid I had completely ruined their lives. Of course it must have been difficult for them. But a physical disability doesn't have to make anyone unhappy. If a person has a great will to live, he'll recover from the greatest traumas."

Alan says

This is an extremely quirky set of adult fairytale-like magic-realism stories, some of which have running connections and others which are standalones. It is a translation by Kristiina Ehin's regular English language translator Ilmar Lehtpere of the Volume 2 Short Stories in the 2 volume Estonian language set Viimane Monogaamlane: Luuletused ja jutud (The Last of the Monogamians: Poems and Stories).

Choosing the first story "Walker on Water" for the English title was likely for ease of usage. Both in Estonian and English, "Monogaamlane" (Monogamian) is an invented word which would seem to be a combination of Monogamy and Mohican. So it is more like "The Last of the Monogamous Ones". I don't think most would get the joke in English until they've read the book where most of the stories do deal with marriage relationships (most of them quite fantastical and surrealistic). But the title itself would likely seem so odd to an English audience that using the first story "Walker on Water" for the title probably seemed easier.

"Walker on Water" is actually my favourite of these, especially as Ehin has also expanded it into novella length where she uses the short story as the basis for a performance piece of a 100-year old woman speaking about her life and her water-walking abilities. One of those Estonian language performances is even

available as a CD audiobook Vetelkõndimisest (About Walking on Water).

As with all of Lehtpere's translations, this is absolutely perfectly done. The stories are odd and quirky in the original Estonian as well. You could probably read all sorts of things into these, whether as a commentary on regular human relationships or between nation states. Or just enjoy them for pleasure.

The book doesn't use Ehin's own line drawings which illustrated the Estonian edition, but the striking selection of Andy Kehoe's evocative work for the cover art by Unnamed Press more than makes up for that.

Maggie says

This book was interesting. The writing style was a bit strange but I didn't mind because the book wasn't originally in English. The only problem I had with the book was I couldn't quite tell if the stories had some deep meaning or if the author simply slapped some words on a page. But I suppose that added a certain charm to the whole. I would recommend this book to anyone.

World Literature Today says

This book was featured in the Nota Benes section of the January/February 2015 issue of World Literature Today Magazine.

<http://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/2...>
