



The Good Mayor

Andrew Nicoll

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Set in the little town of Dot in a forgotten part of the Baltic, this novel tells the story of Tibo Krovic, the good and honest Mayor of Dot, and his love for his secretary, the beautiful, lonely, but married, Mrs Agathe Stopak.

The Good Mayor Details

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From Reader Review The Good Mayor for online ebook

Maddancer says

The Good Mayor was recommended by a friend who wasn't sure quite what to make of it, but was fairly sure she liked it, even maybe loved it. So I took it home and started to read and was about a quarter the way through when I realised that i was hooked, but on what? The story, the characters, the imaginative wordplay, the twist of fantasy with reality, magic with emotion, love with hate...

Half way through the book I wanted to make sweet love and eat a sumptuous meal - not in any particular order, possibly at the same time. The descriptions are detailed yet not overdone. The "narrator" humourous and observant yet not intrusive.

Three quarters the way through, names like Dot and Dash and Ampersand made perfect sense, and stregas were clearly the font of all wisdom in the matters of love and sensibility.

By the end of The Good Mayor, I knew I would need to think on this one a few days more before i could chat with my friend about it, and understood that bits of it were going to come floating to the surface to remember, test out and ponder even further.

My recommendation is - Read it. Let the words soak in, taste them, feel them in your mouth then get comfy and let the story wash over you. Trust me on this, I am a strega from a long line of stregas....

Jennifer says

Apparently I'm not "quirky" enough for this novel. I picked it up because I read somewhere that it was a readalike of *Chocolat*, a book I love. In fact, Joanne Harris does offer a blurb for this one. However, stuck with it through several monotonous scenes - although the descriptions were fanciful - of the mayor longing for his secretary. Then she sleeps with someone she's hated (with the excuse that the mayor is moving too slow for her - and she's married!). I started skimming from there.

When she TURNS INTO A DOG, for no good reason other than she wants to, is when I gave this one up. I guess I have too much of a sense of reality to deal with this quirkiness.

Darcy says

When I read the synopsis of this book I thought it sounded good. However when I read it the rhythm of the book was such that it seemed like there was 50's tv show music in the background making it hard for me to read and distracting me. I thought the characters were almost cartoonish and I couldn't connect to them. In the end the book just wasn't for me.

Bookaholic says

entru mine, romanul scriitorului sco?ian Andrew Nicoll a fost o experien?? literar? surprinz?toare de la prima pân? la ultima pagin?. Povestea de iubire dintre bunul primar al ora?ului Punct (situat al?turi de

Cratim? ?i în ve?nic? du?m?nie cu ora?ul vecin, Umlaut), Tibo Krovic, ?i frumoasa lui secretar?, doamna Agathe Stopak, este ca o p?turic? dintr-aia f?cut? din buc?zi disparate de material ?i a c?rei frumuse?e const? în faptul c?, de?i amestec? lucruri atât de diferite, rezultatul final reu?e?te s? fie nu doar omogen, ci ?i foarte pl?cut. Cam a?a e ?i cu A fost odat? ca niciodat?, Nicoll se joac? cu conven?iile literare, jongleaz? cu ele, cu personajele ?i cu cititorii deopotriv?, iar ceea ce iese e o poveste, în acela?i timp, (aparent) banal? ?i insolit?.

Banal? pentru c?, practic, nu-?i propune s? fie altfel decât celelalte pove?ti de dragoste ale lumii. Insolit? pentru c?, în ciuda stereotipiilor de care se folose?te, reu?e?te s? te surprind? neîncetat. Pe m?sur? ce dai paginile, te cam prinzi de forma pe care ar trebui s-o ia povestea (?eful îndr?gostit de secretara sa, cât de original, nu?), dar nu ?tii la ce fel de final s? te a?tep?i.

O poveste care începe cu „A fost odat? ca niciodat?” (în parantez? fie spus, interpretarea asta porne?te de la titlul în românl? al c?r?ii, cel din englez? fiind un pic mai prozaic, The Good Mayor), a?adar, o astfel de poveste se poate termina, previzibil, cu „au tr?it ferici?i pân? la adânci b?trâne?i” (dar parc? ar fi prea simplu) sau, ca orice basm modern, poate alege s? încalce conven?iile ?i s? nu le permit? protagoni?tilor s?-?i tr?iasc? pân? la cap?t iubirea (dar atunci ar fi prea trist). Solu?ia g?sit? de scriitor e, îns?, atât de simpl? ?i de elegant?, încât î?i pare bine c? a reu?it s? te p?c?leasc? pân? la ultima pagin?. (continuarea cronicii: <http://www.bookaholic.ro/a-fost-odata...>)

Jan says

A quirky and engaging love story between an unhappily woman and her boss, the good Mayor of Dot. Whimsical and charming, it's an old fashioned love story with colorful characters abounding in the mythical world of Dot (which is next to Dash and at odds with Umlaut, their neighbors on the other side.

Elina says

Πολ? τρυφερ? βιβλ?ο που ε?χα διαβ?σει παλι?τερα....

Marisa Fernandes says

"Amor, Ponto e Vírgula" é um romance incomum e original, carregado de exotismo. A narradora é a Santa Walpurnia, uma virgem barbuda, padroeira da cidade de Ponto localizada algures no Báltico. E a história passa-se essencialmente entre o Presidente da Câmara, Tibo Krovic, e a sua Secretária, Agathe Stopak, por quem está secretamente apaixonado há já algum tempo. Ela é casada, mas vive infeliz porque apesar dos seus vários esforços o marido só quer a companhia do álcool quando chega a casa...

A verdade é que apesar destas premissas aparentemente simples e comuns, a história ganha contornos especiais do início ao fim. Walpurnia está sempre a ser chamada, há bruxas e feitiços e personagens que evoluem da sua forma humana para dálmatas...! E a história de amor que se desenvolve entre Tibo e Agathe é muito bonita, mas está longe de ser linear... De um momento para o outro, Agathe passa a ser objecto de desejo de mais outro homem na história. Porém, enquanto um nutre por ela um bonito amor, ou outro só sente desejo e não tem amor!

A escrita é bela, leva-nos a sonhá-la até por causa da própria forma como é contada e também nos deixa a

pensar sobre as implicações de se: gostar de alguém e mantê-lo em segredo sem avançar no dito momento, porque nunca o encontramos e estamos sempre à espera de uma altura melhor, e com isso perder a oportunidade; escolher alguém por quem temos atração física, mas não verdadeiro sentimento, porque a pessoa por quem temos algum sentimento "não se mexe", ficamos a achar que o sentimento não é correspondido, o tempo passa e não temos a vida toda; e de se permanecer numa relação em que não só não nos sentimos realizados, como nem somos felizes... Questões com que, certamente, nos iremos cruzar pelo menos uma vez na vida (mesmo que isso não se passe conosco é muito possível que possamos conhecer alguém que já esteve ou virá a estar em circunstâncias semelhantes).

*

"É assim que o amor é: dá a tudo um sabor novo, pinta tudo com cores diferentes, acaricia os nervos com uma sensação aguda que faz lembrar picadas de agulha, torna o entediadamente mundano novamente suportável."(p.158)

Learnin Curve says

Actually no I deserve to mark this one as read 50% in and get my credit back. In my own narrative of this book they embrace at the bandstand, she bends forward her buxom figure wobbling seductively as she tells him her husband has died of drink, they marry and she feels the weight of all her sadness fly away from her like a little fluttering bird. good night.

J says

This book is so well written there's a danger of falling in love with the author. Particularly when he says things like "Naked and plump and luminously beautiful..."

um... where was I?

Oh. It's a love story. And more. You'll be asked to indulge in a bit of fantasy. You'll be asked to forgive and forget. You'll be glad you did. Fresh and witty, yet full of honest observations on human nature, The Good Mayor is a delight.

Dragos C Butuzea says

primar + secretar? = love

Iat? ce ?tiu eu despre via??. Am ?nv??at c? ?n lumea asta nu exist? at?t de mult? iubire ?nc?t s? ne permitem s-o risipim. N-avem voie s? irosim nici m?car un strop. Dac? avem norocul s-o g?sim, oriunde am g?si-o, trebuie s-o p?str?m ?i s? ne bucur?m de ea c?t de mult putem, pentru c?t de mult timp putem, pân? la ultimul s?rut. (p.296)

asta spune primarul „cel bun“, personajul principal al romanului lui Andrew Nicoll. Evident c? dac? spune asta e ?n?elat ?n dragoste, ?i cum naiba - pe sfânta Walpurnia cea b?rboas?! - s? nu fie când e un c?c?cios romantic ?i minunata sa secretar? de care e in love, o fi aducând ea ecouri ?ndep?rtate ale unor coruri de ?ngeri, tot de

co?zial? are nevoie. a?a c? se-arunc?, mincinoasa ?i curva ?i nenorocita (cum avea primarul s? gândeasc? despre ea), în bra?ele unui neispr?vit, îns? viril din cela care nu ?tie prea multe, cum o prinde, cum o...

ei bine, primarul „cel bun“ e un fel de hamlet, care mai multe vorbe?te decât face - a little more conversation, a little less action - iar când face, are de executat un adev?rat ritual. a?a c? ba o invit? pe iubita sa secretar? la mas?, ba îi urm?re?te pe sub u?? micu?ele ?i gr?sunele dege?elele, ba îi scrie bile?ele cu subîn?elesuri, de-abia h??t, o ?i pup?. totul pe zeci de pagini pe care le cite?ti cu indulgen??. simpatie ?i ironie. evident c?, în?elat, „se r?zbun?“ ca ?i hamlet - cum anume nu spoil?ruiesc (e de-ajuns un dan c. mih?ilescu aici), dar men?ionez c? e de râsul curcilor.

cartea asta a nu este la fel de amuzant? ca prima, îns? e mai bine scris?, ?i e mai frumoas? poate pentru c? e mai romantic? - asemenea bietului primar r?bd?tor ?i în?elat - ?i mai mitologic?, are un aer de poveste. pân? ?i ora?ul în care se petrec toate e utopic. îns? pe toate acestea le treci cu vederea, ?i mergi corconice?te pe firul întins al paginilor, dup? povestea primarului „cel bun“ ?i al iubirii sale.

v? spun doar c? e cu happyend, ?i, a?a cum scrie ?i autorul, pentru povestea asta e mult mai important felul în care e istorisit? decât ceea ce se întâmpl?. (p.371)

Amanda says

The good guys win. Don't act surprised--it's billed as a love story after all.

At first, I loved this book because it was so lovely and loving and in love. It was almost silly-cute and *completely* unrealistic. Like some kind of literary ballet, complete with twinkling and tremulos. But I was only half-way through the book--hell, it couldn't have gone on like that *forever!* I KNEW something bad was bound to happen. And then it did. Something bad. Something really really bad. Something...REALISTIC!

What the fuck???????????

YOU RUINED MY BALLETT! How dare some Mr. Right Now come in off the street and ruin the perfect courtship? How dare sex replace love? How dare Agathe get scared and how dare she have doubts and how dare she make wrong decisions? How dare real life come in, stomping around and putting dirty footprints all over my clean white pages of this work of *FICTION*??? And this was fresh-laid marley, too. I'm mad at you, Truth! Look what you did to Agathe! And poor Tibo Krovic!!! Only Anna Karenina might know what it is to suffer like you've suffered, ol' Tibo.

sigh

I'm glad the bits of magic brought me back to a willing suspension of disbelief. And the bits that stroked my hair and snuggled me and reassured me and snuck a tutu or two out from the wings--those bits were good. I think my heart stopped beating once or twice out of pure sadness, but somebody came and massaged it back to life. I'm pretty sure it was deus ex machina.

I still haven't fully recovered.

Tanya says

There were only 9 reviews on good reads when i decided to read this book and they were all good. Therein lies my mistake - dont judge a book on a good reads rating. I struggled through the first chapter or so and then finally found the book readable but the ending was atrocious.....i wouldnt recommend it but give it 2 stars because at least i could finish it.

Jessica says

This novel came out a year ago in the U.K., and will be out in the U.S. in September from Bantam. It's highly unusual in its structure and style, sort of like a magical realist novel set in the North. But that doesn't describe it well at all. It's quite delicious (if a bit slow-going at first)...the mayor of a town named Dot (Ampersand, Dash, etc. are other place names) is in love with his secretary, who is married...the novel explores unrequited love, romance, lust...and ends not quite happily but perhaps hopefully...It's rich in layers: about life, love, possibility, opportunities missed and others taken...It's beautifully written and very romantic, in the very best sense of that term.

Vaso says

A very romantic book, that describes the love of the city mayor. A love, that the mayor doesn't want to admit...

K says

I absolutely adored this book, up until the last 40 pages, which seemed a bit random and rushed for me. I think those last pages stopped it from being one of my all-time favs. That and they didn't take the cat with them.

Having said that, what an extraordinarily inventive and beautifully lyrical debut!
