



# Eric

*Shaun Tan*

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“Years ago we had a foreign exchange student come to live with us. We found it very difficult to pronounce his name correctly, but he didn’t mind. He told us to just call him ‘Eric’.”

As charming as he is curious, by the end of his stay this intriguing house guest will capture your heart. This story is from Shaun Tan’s award-winning collection Tales from Outer Suburbia.

## Eric Details

Date : Published April 1st 2010 by Allen & Unwin (first published April 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9781742372921

Author : Shaun Tan

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how much brighter and varied our lives can be when we are open and accepting to new cultures.

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### **Octavi says**

Maravilloso. Como todo lo que hace Tan.

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### **Maggie Stiefvater says**

Technically this little volume is part of Tales of Outer Suburbia, if memory serves, but if you can find it in this little hardback version, it is very agreeable. It works on so many levels — I read it to my kids, who are 8 & 9, and we giggle and talk about metaphor.

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### **Maria says**

This is so cute!

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### **Abduraafi Andrian says**

Hari ini tidak biasa. Aku punya janji temu dengan Mr. Chapman, supervisor sukarelawan Scottsdale Public Library. Dua minggu lalu, aku menyerahkan aplikasi sukarelawan kepada bagian informasi perpustakaan itu dan mendapatkan respons dari Mr. Chapman sekitar seminggu lalu yang mengatakan bahwa mereka sedang tidak menerima sukarelawan. Aku melakukan konsultasi dengan koordinator program dan dia menyarankanku untuk bertemu Mr. Chapman. Pertemuan itu dinamakan *informational interview*. Dan hari inilah kami sepakat untuk bertemu.

Seusai kelas Jurnalisme, aku langsung menuju Scottsdale Public Library. Aku duduk di bus sambil bertanya-tanya: apa yang harus kulakukan saat *informational interview*? Aku sudah mengumpulkan beberapa pertanyaan untuk diajukan kepada Mr. Chapman, tapi aku masih tetap gugup. Aku membuka aplikasi Google Play Books di gawai dan coba menilik beberapa buku yang belum selesai dibaca. Eric menarik perhatian.

Aku sudah tahu Shaun Tan sejak 2016 kala membaca *The Arrival*. Dari situ, aku punya ambisi untuk membaca semua karya-karyanya. Ilustrasinya sungguh detail dan memukau. Tahun lalu, aku coba membaca kisah si mungil Eric. Namun baru setengah jalan, aku memutuskan untuk menyudahinya karena harus bayar. Hehehehe. Dan tadi, aku tidak pikir panjang dan langsung membayar buku digital. Tidak perlu waktu lama untuk menyelesaikannya.

Kisah pada buku ini mengingatkan kembali tentang betapa kita selalu bertanya-tanya tentang kehadiran orang asing di hidup kita. Apakah kedatangannya benar-benar memiliki arti? Apakah dia akan tinggal lebih lama atau hanya sebentar? Bagaimana ketika dia pergi begitu saja tanpa pamit? Apakah kita akan mencari tahu ke mana dia pergi? Atau kita melepaskannya saja dan terus berjalan? Bekas apa yang dia tinggalkan semenjak dia pergi?

Pertanyaan-pertanyaan yang akan terjawab bila kita memiliki waktu cukup lama. Buku yang bagus! Omong-

omong, aku masih harus menunggu waktu temu dengan Mr. Chapman. *Degdegan.*

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### **So?a says**

Shaun Tan je môj ob?úbenc ? jednoducho krásny alebo krásne jednoduchý príbeh.

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### **Hilary says**

Lovely illustrations, beautifully drawn in sepia with clever use of colour at the end. A short tale of a visitor who's host family does not feel they connect with him. This book was in the 'picture books for older children' section of our library but I think it's suitable for any age.

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### **Rana Heshmati says**

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### **Orvokki says**

Milá ilustrovaná knižka, ktorú pre?ítate za pár minú? postávajúc v kníhkupectve pri polici s knihami. Ale je tak krásna, že si ju dos? možno po do?ítaní aj tak kúpite a prinesiete domov.

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### **Miss Bookiverse says**

This is such a cute book, and only a little smaller than a postcard.

The drawings are adorable and beautiful.

At first I was afraid the storyline would fall flat and disappoint me but then I turned the last page and I went all "aaaawwww", perfect conclusion to the book.

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### **oliviasbooks says**

*It's the first thing we show any new visitors to our house. "Look what our foreign exchange student left for us," we tell them. "It must be a cultural thing," says Mum.*

I solemnly promise: Should a Thumbelina-sized Eric (His real name is too difficult to pronounce for us) ever decide to stay at my place as a foreign exchange student, I am going to refrain from buckling him into a car seat, where he would be blocked from seeing the world (Easy, since I don't own a car). I will coo about each bonbon wrapper and bottle cap he chooses to pick up, visit him daily in the pantry (I don't have a pantry; but maybe he can stay in the cupboard that houses our pasta, the Nutella and the Knäcke) to see how he is faring and switch my long, dangling earrings for silver hoops so he can accompany me "Jenks-style" to enjoy his "cultural thing" and to sprinkle his almost unbearable, black-and-white cuteness across my life.

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## **Benino says**

A beautiful reflection on the minutiae of objects and impressions that we can make on another person. Appreciate the little mysteries, because Eric would. And then you might be able to host a guest, and let them discover little things of beauty. A tiny book, with a boundless joy.

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