

Cosmic

Frank Cottrell Boyce

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This is the story of a certain Liam Digby and how he ended up floating off into the vast expanse that is space. The story begins in a quiet little town called Bootle, where Liam realized that he lived a fairly uneventful life, largely due to the fact that he was tall and therefore treated more like an adult than a kid. This leads him to try out an adult role, namely the role of being a dad. One day, Liam was invited to take the most thrilling ride ever created, but it required his dad, who wasn't much of a thrill seeker. Liam was prepared to go to extreme lengths to have that experience, but he later learns that it is a lot tougher to be a dad than he thought. The question is, was all this worth it?

The novel is written in the stream of consciousness style that is so popular amongst many books today. This gave us insight into the main character's thoughts and feelings without the novel having to rely too much on dialogue. That being said, the dialogue that was in the book was hilarious and witty. It was a very enjoyable component of the novel. The manner in which Boyce wrote the novel made its tone much lighter and easier to read, so once I'd gotten past the exposition, the book sucked me in and I couldn't put it down.

The way the story zooms out and shows us the big picture, describing where the characters are and how it's just a little part of a much greater lesson, makes this a truly unique novel and helps the reader avoid losing perspective and getting sucked into the minor details. It makes the read quite an enjoyable experience. The descriptions of space and the amount of precision needed on a mission that every kid dreams about when they're young is quite a humbling read because it shows how everything has to be perfectly balanced in order to avoid doom. The novel captures this with three words: "Permanent Fatal Error". It is a horrifying thing to read and it invokes a ton of fear in the readers, making them wonder what is going to happen to these young characters.

I would recommend this book to anyone in mid to late middle school. Kids between the ages of 10-14 are the primary audience of this book. This book would make a great gift for anyone who loves to read or anyone in need of a contemporary novel that makes them laugh. It would also make a great gift for kids that feel like they're growing up too quick or not growing up at all.

Recommended Titles:

- The Strange Fascinations of Noah Hypnotik – David Arnold
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams
- So B. It – Sarah Weeks
- Mrs. Peregrines Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs
- Scythe – Neal Shusterman