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One-Two



Synopsis

You usually lose your dearest people long before their deaths...Two conjoined babies are born at the crossroads of two social worldviews. Girls are named Faith and Hope. After spending their childhood in a foster home and obtaining primary education, they understand that they are different from other people in many respects. The problems of their growing up are exacerbated with permanent humiliations from society. Finally, fortune favors them, slightly opening a door to happiness – separation surgery that theoretically can be performed in the capital. And sisters start their way, full of difficulties and obstacles. Will they be able to overcome a wall of public cynicism together with internal conflicts among themselves? Will they find a justification for their existence and accept it? Searching for the answers to these and many other questions constitutes the essence of this novel. One-Two is a psychological drama, the main events of which unfold in 1980s and 1990s. The novel is a speculation about how difficult it is to be a human and how important it is to stay human until the end. It is a message full of empathy and kindness addressed to all people. I believe the right time has come. I hope this book is for you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

One-Two by Russian author, Igor Eliseev is quite a fascinating novel and one of the more soul-stirring books I've read in a long time. Set in Russia in the 1980s and 1990s, the period of Perestroika, it's a psychological drama that revolves around two conjoined twins named Faith and Hope. Born in a maternity home, they are placed in an institution for foster children where they spend much of their childhood. The story is narrated, for the most part, by Faith, evidently the physically stronger of the twins. Through her thoughts and feelings and her interactions with the other wards in the home and the staff, we get to see and feel the pain and trauma the twins are subjected to on account of the negativity of those around them, some of whom view them as subhuman. They suffer non-stop verbal and emotional abuse, humiliation and even hatred from young and old alike, all because they are viewed as different from a "normal" human beings. In a touching moment of reflection, Hope laments the realization that "in their eyes, we are not the poor cripples deserving compassion but the two-headed freaks invoking fear and disgust." With no one to turn to for support, the twins are forced to depend on each other for solace in order not to surrender completely to despair. Notwithstanding its depressing overtones, One-Two is by no means a dark tale of misery and hopelessness. At some point a ray of hope flickers and the opportunity for the twins to have their condition corrected through surgery presents itself. But first they have to overcome more obstacles. At the same time they are conflicted about the possible ramifications of being separated from each other and how it is likely to affect their lives. One-Two is quite a moving and inspiring tale.

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