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The Most Important Thing Happening: A Novel In Stories



Synopsis

Fantastical Stories of Timeless Truths A boardwalk peddler selling one ounce of God. A gentle mute who unwittingly triggers a tragic chain of events. Two businessmen declaring war over the Very Last Sandwich in the Entire World. The characters in the eleven short stories of The Most Important Thing Happening move through the whimsical, the mysterious, and the introspective toward the hope your soul longs for. So allow these stories to unfold before you one at a time. Chew on them. Let them haunt you. Go ahead and make a few fictional friends. Take a look at the world in a new way. You may come out the other side transformed.

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Customer Reviews

This book is not your typical Christian fiction in the best way. It contains my favorite blend of non-linear storytelling, grammatical wit, seemingly unrelated events colliding, and TRUTH in the bigger story being woven throughout its eleven chapters. It's so well written that discovering the hidden jewels in this treasure chest doesn't happen until the middle of the book, when the timeline

almost folds back on itself. It's then you see the seeds meticulously planted along the first five chapters. In the vein of Kurt Vonnegut Jr., *Lost*, *Crash* - you aren't going to be spoon-fed the bigger picture, message, or even the plot. It's the discovery of how the individual parts make up the whole that makes this such a rewarding reading experience and dynamic feat of literature. If you find yourself perplexed in the beginning, KEEP READING. It (unlike *Lost*) has such a satisfying payoff. Edgy and engaging, *The Most Important Thing Happening* abounds with relevant metaphor to glean wisdom and challenge perspective. Perspectives that need to be challenged. Mark blurs the lines effortlessly between what I expect from Christian Lit vs. Contemporary Fiction. Well done.

This book wasn't at all what I was expecting. It reminded me of *The Night Circus*, Ted Dekker, Frank Peretti, sci-fi, fantasy, the *Twilight Zone*, and so much more--all rolled into one overarching novel with a number of seemingly random stories. I read through it in one sitting, and trying to figure out the depth to the theme of the story was what kept me going. That and I loved the author's style of writing descriptions, particularly of social media and of one woman who mumbled in run-on sentences. Such a creatively odd story that will keep you pondering and thinking long after you're done with it. It's a fun book and a haunting one too. I really can't describe it without spoilers, and even if I tried, I couldn't do it justice. Let the author speak for himself and get a copy of this book to read. How he keeps all his subplots together is really astounding and memorable. Don't let them sidetrack you into putting this book down once you pick it up. For while you're reading it, it will be *The Most Important Thing Happening*.

After an engrossing first story, we jumped into the 2nd and I kept wondering how they would connect. Eventually, the stories do. And the way they connect is really amazing and not expected. I am sure I have never read a book like this. The long story in the middle of the book was my favorite...the characters' discovery was truly wonderful. This book is as much art as any novel I have read in recent years. When it was over, all my questions weren't answered, but I did feel confident that I was better having spent these hours with this book. (If you find this helpful, please say so. If not, please leave a comment so I can continue to improve my reviews. Thanks!)

As a whole, this imaginative and intelligent surrealist novel breathes new life into a challenging and convicting modern day parable. More of the individual stories stand on their own strengths than those that don't, and even the latter pay off later in the novel when collisions between stories become more apparent. I want to gripe about meta fiction and stories about Story, but I just can't.

Mark Steele has done the unthinkable and come up with something new even with them. If you're looking for fiction that blows the lid off your imagination while inspiring you to see beyond yourself, look no further.

This book was totally weird, with references to things that the average person would probably not understand, at least not at first. The main character is obsessed with material things and does not care what it may cost to get whatever it is he wants, and that means cost to him or to any one else. I only read the first chapter before I stopped reading it because the content became extremely offensive to me because of the graphic detail involved. I would not recommend reading this book to anyone.

This book was quite surprising to me. Each story was quirky, with a surprising twist, like a Twilight Zone or Amazing Stories episode. The stories were interesting and compelling with likeable characters and an underlying sense of humor. There were amusing details in each story that would be easy to miss if you're not paying attention. The book was quite enjoyable and worth reading.

This novel laid me bare. I found myself searching my own heart for my shortcomings, my fears and insecurities, and the Hope for them. I was confronted with the human condition in the best way that humans learn--story. This was a thrilling read that surprised me, page after page. Mark Steele's clever layering of plots and subplots and symbolism still have me thinking almost a week after finishing. I cringed during Blah, Blah, Blah. I teared up in 99 Pages (Somewhere in the Middle). The way everything fell so neatly together was just beautiful. I couldn't put the book down. Ingenious, Mark. Well done.

Take the imaginations of Rod Serling and Thomas Pynchon, mix in the humor of Dave Barry and the wisdom of C.S Lewis and you have "The Most Important Thing Happening." Reading this refreshing and entertaining novel is like enjoying a Twilight Zone marathon! These short stories weave together to make one of my favorite novels of the year. Not a lot I can say without spoiling parts of the book, except that there's a paper monkey involved. Highly recommend!

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