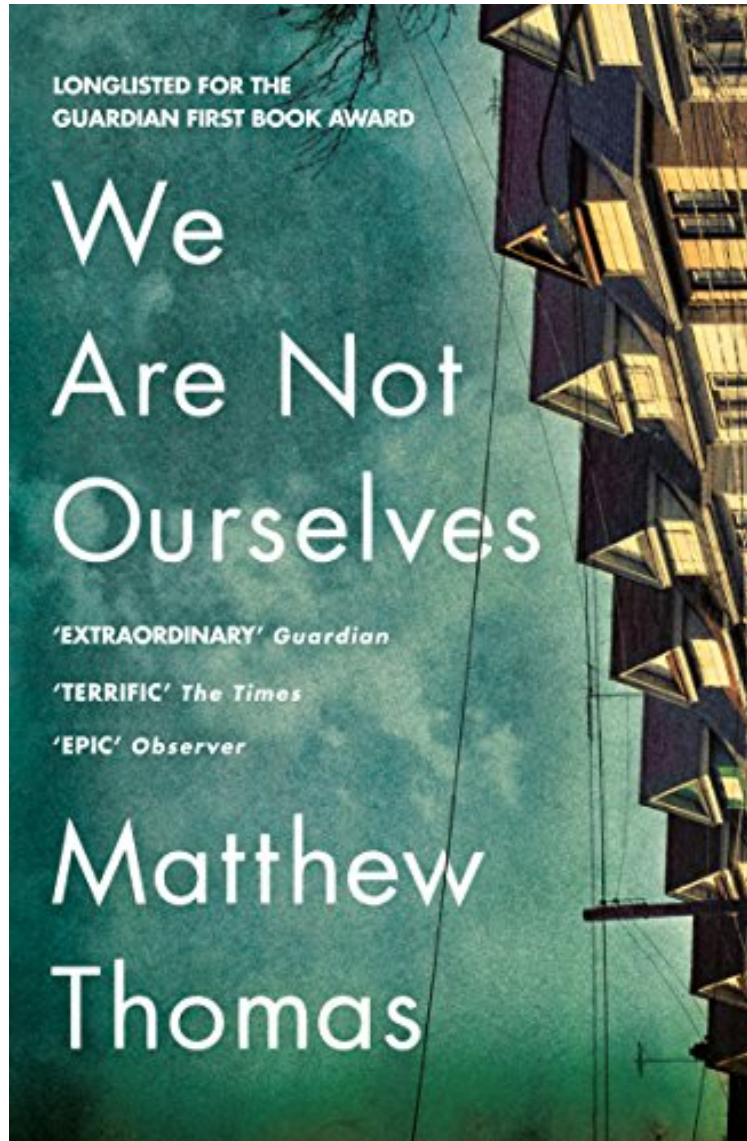


[Free pdf] We Are Not Ourselves

We Are Not Ourselves

Von Matthew Thomas

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Von Matthew Thomas : We Are Not Ourselves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised We Are Not Ourselves:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Alzheimer is a slow-motion train wreckVon DreamI read this book for Misha Collins. I add this in the beginning of this review to make clear that I was not drawn to this book via affiliation to the topic. I have no Alzheimer's patients in my immediate family or circle of friends. For me, reading this book was watching a slow-motion trainwreck for

hundreds of pages. Which I guess is a very accurate description of Alzheimer's. But for me, it was also very trying and at points the futility of it all was so depressing that I was tempted to not go back for the last few hundred pages. In the end, I got through the book and I do not regret buying or reading it. Parts of it are very beautifully and vividly written, parts of it are very intense. But I do believe that a personal connection to the topic would probably be helpful to appreciate the full scope of the book. As it is, three stars because I'm very definitely not ever going to read the book again.

2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Groer Roman um Leben und Wrde im Zeichen von Niedergang und Zerfall

Von Michael Dienstbier Dies ist ein Roman ber Niedergang und Verfall. Einerseits ber den Verfall des Wissenschaftlers Ed Leary, ein leidenschaftlicher Hochschullehrer, der an Alzheimer erkrankt und dessen geistigen und krperlichen Verfall, von den ersten Symptomen bis zum Verlust der Kontrolle der eigenen Krperfunktionen, beschrieben wird. Zum anderen erleben wir, wie im Zusammenhang mit Eds Krankheit die Trume seiner Frau Eileen zerbrechen. Der Kauf eines groen Hauses stellt fr sie die Erfllung ihres persnlichen American Dream dar und sie verfolgt diesen Traum mit zunehmender Besessenheit, auch als die Kosten fr Eds Behandlung und Pflege lngst einen Groteil des Familienbudgets in Anspruch nehmen. Dritter im Bunde ist der gemeinsame Sohn Connell, der als erster mitbekommt, wie schlimm es um seinen Vater steht, als er ihn zu einer seiner Vorlesungen begleitet, welche in einem Desaster endet und zu einer der eindringlichsten Szenen des Romans gehrt. Und noch etwas steht im Zentrum des Romans, etwas, was uns guten alten Europern das Blut in den Adern gefrieren lsst: das amerikanische Gesundheitssystem. Die Lebensentwrfe, die zerplatzen, weil ein Mensch erkrankt, die Versicherungen, die sich weigern, zu bezahlen und der damit verbundene stndige Kampf ums finanzielle berleben gibt Einblick in eine Lebenswirklichkeit von Millionen von Amerikanern, die uns Europern seit langem in dieser Form unbekannt geworden ist. "They had no idea that everything they placed in a definite spot brought her one step closer to disappointment" (280). Natrlich ist "We are not ourselves" ein trauriger Roman, dessen unvermeidlicher Ausgang allen Beteiligten relativ schnell bewusst wird. Was beeindruckt und den Roman zu einem kleinen Meisterwerk macht ist Matthew Thomas' Fhigkeit, das Leben, Lieben und Leiden von Ed und Eileen eindringlich und fr den Leser jederzeit nachfhlbar zu Papier zu bringen, ohne sie dabei vorzuführen oder der Lcherlichkeit preiszugeben. Der Kampf Eds um die Beibehaltung seiner Wrde im Angesicht des Verfalls sowie Eileens Kampf um die Erfllung ihrer unerfllbaren Lebenstrume ist bewegend, ohne kitschig zu sein, tragisch und bedrckend, aber eben auch beeindruckend und im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes menschlich; menschlich, weil wir hier Charaktere haben, die im Angesicht eines Schicksalsschlages nicht den Mut verlieren, sondern immer weitermachen und trotz aller Widrigkeiten versuchen ein Leben zu fhren, was diesen Namen auch verdient.

2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I could not stop reading ...

Von Jacqueline K. Surely, the fact that my father suffered from Alzheimer's disease is what first drew me to this book. Once I had started reading, I could not stop. Matthew Thomas manages to describe the different stages everyone around the person suffering from this disease goes through, the compassion, denial, confrontation, struggle, etc., including the lucid moments in which the person him-/herself understands/seems to understand what is happening to him/her. The book has left me admiring my mother much more than ever before for the energy she put into taking care of my father. ...

Kurzbeschreibung

SHORTLISTED FOR THE JAMES TAIT BLACK PRIZELONGLISTED FOR THE GUARDIAN FIRST BOOK AWARDNOMINATED FOR THE FOLIO PRIZENAMED A NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

A stunning, heartbreaking debut *We Are Not Ourselves* is both the intimate story of a family and an epic of the American Century. The product of a stormy upbringing in an Irish Catholic enclave of New York City, Eileen craves stability. Coming of age in the early Sixties, she meets and marries a young scientist named Edmund Leary. But while Eileen wants more for her family, Ed wont give up teaching for a better-paid job. Inadvertently Eileen starts to climb her own career ladder in nursing. She pushes Ed into finding a new home, but it becomes clear that his resistance is part of a deeply troubling psychological shift. In this masterful debut, Matthew Thomas paints a sprawling, profoundly sympathetic portrait of a family coping with slow-burning tragedy. *We Are Not Ourselves* is a grand testament to our deepest hopes and most human frailties.

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"*We Are Not Ourselves* is a powerfully moving book, and the figure of Eileen Leary mother, wife, daughter, lover, nurse, caretaker, whiskey drinker, upwardly mobile dreamer, retrenched protector of values is a real addition to our literature. Chad Harbach, author of *The Art of Fielding*"

"The mind is a mystery no less than the heart. In *We Are Not Ourselves*, Matthew Thomas has written a masterwork on both, as well as an anatomy of the American middle class in the 20th Century. It's all here: how we live, how we love, how we die, how we carry on. And Thomas does it with the epic sweep and small pleasures of the very best fiction. It's humbling and heartening to read a book this good." Joshua Ferris, author of *Then We Came to the End*

"Okay, straight out, this novel is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but. *We Are Not Ourselves* delivers the deepest, most involving and best pleasures of reading, the pleasures that have you lose your hours while curled up in a comfy couch, that have you sneaking looks and reading when you should be doing other things. A true epic in the best sense of the word, encompassing the big great gorgeous heartbreak that was our

American Century. You doubt me. Please do not. Each page is suffused with a relentless and probing genius, as well as a generous and humane heart, and the result not only explodes across the darkening sky, but remains with you long after you've finished the last page and handed it to someone you love. So long as there are novels like *We Are Not Ourselves*, so long as there are writers like Matthew Thomas, the form of the novel is more than alive, it is thriving, palpitant. Charles Bock, author of *Beautiful Children*In his powerful and significant debut novel, Thomas masterfully evokes one woman's life in the context of a brilliantly observed Irish working-class milieu.a definitive portrait of American social dynamics in the 20th century. Thomass emotional truthfulness combines with the novels texture and scope to create an unforgettable narrative. Publishers Weekly, starred review"*We Are Not Ourselves* is wonderful on the position of the striving classes and our longings on behalf of our families, and on how we deal with unexpected disaster. Its as fiercely passionate and big-hearted and memorable as *Eileen*, its *Im-holding-this-family-together-with-my-two-hands* protagonist." Jim Shepard, author of *Project X* and *You Think Thats Bad*[A] masterly debut. Vanity Fair*The Corrections*. The Art of Fielding. Most years, theres a mega-hyped American epic thats heralded as a literary breakout. This years, a saga about an Irish-American family in Queens, is refreshingly unpretentious but packed with soul and profoundly moving characters. Entertainment Weekly, The Must ListA gripping family saga, maybe the best I've read since *The Corrections*. Melissa Maerz, Entertainment Weekly, Grade: AIn his powerful and significant debut novel, Thomas masterfully evokes one woman's life in the context of a brilliantly observed Irish working-class milieu.a definitive portrait of American social dynamics in the 20th century. Thomass emotional truthfulness combines with the novels texture and scope to create an unforgettable narrative. Publishers Weekly, starred review[A] devastating debut novel . . . an honest, intimate family story with the power to rock you to your core . . . [a] wrenchingly credible main character . . . rich, sprawling . . . Mr. Thomass narrow scope (despite a highly eventful story) and bulls-eye instincts into his Irish characters fear, courage and bluster bring to mind the much more compressed style of Alice McDermott . . . Part of what makes *We Are Not Ourselves* so gripping is the credible yet surprising ways in which it reveals the details of any neuroscientists worst nightmare . . . This is a book in which a hundred fast-moving pages feel like a lifetime and everything looks different in retrospect. As in the real world, the readers point of view must change as often as those of the characters . . . This is one of the frankest novels ever written about love between a caregiver and a person with a degenerative disease. The great French film *Amour* conveyed the emotional aspects of such a relationship, but Mr. Thomas spares nothing and still makes it clear how deeply in love these soul mates are. Janet Maslin, New York TimesAstonishing and powerfulThomass finely observed tale is riveting. As a reflection of American society in the late 20th century, its altogether epic, sweeping the reader along on a journey thats both inexorable and poignant. PeopleStunning...The novel is a formidable tribute to the resilience of the human spirit, to the restorative and ultimately triumphant supremacy of love over lifes adversities....The joys of this book are the joys of any classic work of literature for that is what this is destined to become superbly rendered small moments that capture both an individual life and the universality of that persons experience. The Washington PostAn ambitious, beautifully written novel about ambition and what it can do and not do [that] deals with the classic American Dream in all its messy complications. USA TodayA long, gorgeous, epic, full of love and caring.one of the best novels youll read this year. New York Times Book A great novel about hope, heartbreak, family, and failure in America." Esquire A stunning, stunning bookPossibly the most engaged Ive been with any book this year. Phil Klay, Year in Reading on TheMillions.comThe greatest Alzheimers novel yet*We Are Not Ourselves* exceeds the usual boundaries of fiction on the subject. Stefan Merrill Block, NewYorker.comKurzbeschreibungSHORTLISTED FOR THE JAMES TAIT BLACK PRIZELONGLISTED FOR THE GUARDIAN FIRST BOOK AWARDNOMINATED FOR THE FOLIO PRIZENAMED A NOTABLE BOOK OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK TIMESA stunning, heartbreaking debut *We Are Not Ourselves* is both the intimate story of a family and an epic of the American Century.The product of a stormy upbringing in an Irish Catholic enclave of New York City, Eileen craves stability. Coming of age in the early Sixties, she meets and marries a young scientist named Edmund Leary.But while Eileen wants more for her family, Ed wont give up teaching for a better-paid job. Inadvertently Eileen starts to climb her own career ladder in nursing. 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