



The Ninth Life of Louis Drax

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Louis Drax is a boy like no other. He is brilliant and strange, and every year something violent seems to happen to him. On his ninth birthday, Louis goes on a picnic with his parents and falls off a cliff. The details are shrouded in mystery. Louis's mother is shell-shocked; his father has vanished. And after some confusion Louis himself, miraculously alive but deep in a coma, arrives at Dr. Pascal Dannachet's celebrated coma clinic...Full of astonishing twists and turns, this is a masterful tale of the secrets the human mind can hide.

The Ninth Life of Louis Drax Details

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Author : Liz Jensen

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From Reader Review *The Ninth Life of Louis Drax* for online ebook

PopiTonja says

Neko vreme vec zivim u ubedjenju da su mi dosadili trileri...nakon Luja kapiram da sam samo pravila pogresan izbor! Fantasticna knjiga!

Bibliophile says

Having read my first Liz Jensen (*The Uninvited*) recently, I expected *The Ninth Life of Louis Drax* to be equally difficult to categorize. It is definitely original, but more conventional in regard to the story than I anticipated. The answer to the mystery of why a nine-year-old boy is lying in a coma is just a matter of connecting the dots. I did that early on, but figured Jensen would turn everything upside down and present me with a totally unexpected mind-bending alternative. When she didn't, I grumbled a little and felt let down. But that says more about my preconceptions than it says about the novel. It's a very good book, if you can get past the parts where Louis yammers on in his vegetative state. Suspenseful, interesting, imaginative and quite the page-turner. One thing bothered me though. Suddenly there is a lot of philosophizing about women, women's nature, women's thinking and women's wily tricks, all based on one particular woman. One character even has to reassure another that not ALL women are conniving bitches. Where the fark did that come from?

Semjon says

Auch wenn Titel und Buchcover es nicht vermuten lassen, so ist die Geschichte um das neunte Leben von Louis Drax ein ausgefeilter Psychothriller mit einigen parapsychologischen Elementen. Wenn man ein Freund von sachlich fundierten Krankheitsbildern in Psychothrillern ist, dann muss man schon ein sehr offenes Herz für die Grenzüberschreitungen haben. Nichtsdestotrotz bewirken diese telepathischen Sequenzen im Buch einen enormen Spannungseffekt, der das sehr gut geschriebene Werk zu einem wahren Pageturner macht. Mich hat es sehr gut unterhalten und trotzdem gibt es nur drei Sterne.

Die Kapitel im Buch wechseln stets zwischen zwei unterschiedlichen POVs. Der neunjährige Louis liegt im Koma, nachdem er bei einem Ausflug mit den Eltern in einen Spalt fiel. Seine Gedanken und Erinnerungen vermischen sich mit dem Erlebten am Krankenbett, was schon sehr anspruchsvoll ist hinsichtlich einer Nachvollziehbarkeit. Mit Fortdauer des Buchs kommt man in seine Erzählweise immer besser rein. Allerdings ist die Sprache von Louis sehr aggressiv, vulgär und hochtrabend, was zu seinem Jungen seines Alters nicht passte. Das störte mich sehr. Auf der anderen Seite erleben wir die Geschichte aus der Sicht seines behandelnden Arztes.

Leider gibt es keinen überraschenden Plottwist und die offensichtliche Auflösung des Rätsels ist dann auch die Tatsächliche. Ein Buch, das mir gefallen hat, aber auch wie so viele andere Thriller nicht weiter in Erinnerung bleiben wird.

George K. says

Το συγκεκριμένο μυθιστόρημα της Λίζ Γ'νσεν (το μοναδικό της που έχει μεταφραστεί στα ελληνικά), ήταν ένα από τα βιβλία που ψάχνα με μια κάποια μανία στα διάφορα παλαιοβιβλιοπωλεία για κάποιο καιρό, ντάς από χρόνια εξαντλημένο και σχετικό σπώνιο. Τελικά το πτύχα σε μια αγγελία ενός ιδιότη στο ντερνέτ πύρσι τον Οκτώβριο σε ύριστη κατάσταση και, φυσικά, το ήραξα. Ήιζε ήη αυτ ή αναζήτηση και η προσμονή για την αγορά του; Σε πολή μεγήλο βαθμό, ναι, ήιζε.

Η περίπτωση στο οπισθόφυλλο της ελληνικής έκδοσης, λήι τα εξής: "να συνηθισμένο παιδί έχει κλήση στη μουσική ή στη ζωγραφική. Ο ΛΟΥΙ ΝΤΡΑ στα ατυχήματα. να συνηθισμένο παιδί έχει μια ζωή. Ο ΛΟΥΙ ΝΤΡΑ ζει την ύατη, μνα για κθε χρόνο που κατάφερε να γλιτσει από το θύνατο. ήλοι περιμέναν ήτι κποτε θα του συμβε ήτι πραγματικά τρομερή. ήπως και συνήβη. Κατ ή διήρκεια ενός οικογενειακού πικνέκ, το αγρι πύφτει σ' να φαρήγι. Ο πατήρας του εξαφανίζεται. Η μητέρα του παθαίνει νευρική κλονισμό. Ο ΛΟΥΙ σζεται σαν από θαύμα και μεταφέρεται στην κλινική του διήσημου δέκτορα Πασκλή Ντανασ. Βυθισμένος σε κμα, μοναδικές μύρτυρας και θμα εκένης της μοιράας πύσης - ή μπως εγκληματικές ενέργειας; -, βρσκει τον δικό του τρόπο να επικοινωνήσει με τον ζώ κσμο..."

Πρκειται για να αρκετ ή διαφορετικ ή από τα συνηθισμένα μυθιστόρημα, που συνδυζει αρκετ ήκανοποιητικ ή ψυχολογική δρμα με το θρήλερ μυστηρού, εν ή μπορε να πει κανεή ήτι ήως υπάρχουν ακμα και λήγα στοιχεία φαντασάας. Η πλοκή ήκρυβε αρκετ ή ενδιαφέρουσες εκπληξήλες και αρκετ ή σασπνς σε διάφορα σημεία της. Η ήλη ιστορία μου κρήτησε το ενδιαφέρον από την πρώτη μήχρι και την τελευταία σελήδα και ήταν να βιβλίο που νετα θα διβάζα σε μια μύρα (αντ ή για δύο ήπως ήκανα), αν δεν εήχα και ήλλες ασχολήες στο μεταξύ. Η γράφ ή μου ήνηκε πολή καλή και ιδιότηρη, ευκολοδιβαστη και εθιστική, ο τρπος που ξετυλήεται η πλοκή δέσκολα θα κνει τον αναγύστη να χήσει το ενδιαφέρον του ή να βαρεθε. Την ατμσφαιρα θα την χαρακτηρίζα κπως μουντ ή περιεργή. Κποια στιγμή στο ήμεσο μήλλον, θα δω και την ομτίτη ταινία του 2016, σε σκηνοθεσά Alexandre Aja.

monica ? says

I don't really read this kind of book, but Jamie Dornan will play as the doctor so I wanna give it a try! LOL

edit

JAMIE JUST POSTED THIS ON HIS INSTAGRAM!

I'M SO GOING TO READ THIS ASAP!!!

Sandra says

Um livro surpreendente.

Surpreendentemente negro.

Surpreendentemente inteligente.

Supreendentemente rico.

Concluindo - nada do que estava à espera.

Pensei que seria um livro bem humorado, leve que me faria sorrir e rir um pouco. Nada disso.

Fez-me pensar, e muito.

Mandy says

4.5* Loved this my third book by Liz Jensen and one that's been on my shelf ages (why?) Couldn't put it down, loved the style of writing and the characters including little Louis. You could see where it was going but it was still a great story.

crni biser says

Više o knjizi možete pročitati na stranici Crni biser & Prodavnica snova
<http://crnibiser87.blogspot.rs/2017/0...>

Michelle Teoh says

Oh my God. Spent the whole day reading this and oh my God.

The reason I'd bought this book in the first place was because it was ridiculously cheap, at a Popular books clearance sale. I hadn't thought much of the book, since I've never heard of the title and the author before. Books which I buy without actually wanting to buy them are books that are normally left on my shelf for a long time until I go through my booklist.

But this was different, and after finishing *The Fault In Our Stars*, I decided to read this book, which was strange.

Anyway, the story started off really slow and draggy, but I knew it wasn't a bad book because Liz Jensen can write really well, but the plot just wasn't moving fast enough for me. But I always ploughed on, desperate to finish the book because of its initial dullness.

And then today, I arrived at the part when things got exciting, not to mention well disturbing. Because if this

book is anything, it's wildly disturbing.

Louis's perspectives were always chilling to the bone, because he thought such horrible thoughts for a child. And it was interesting how I was so tricked into believing the goodness of Natalie Drax, and how horrified was I when I -and everyone else in the story- found out about the truth. In short, there were a lot of surprising plot twists that later on made me howl in disbelief and shock (alone in my room, of course) as I flipped through the pages eagerly.

Did I mention that the story was set in France? Which did well for my French fetish.

Mark says

The opening line draws you in on the instant

' I'm not most kids. I'm Louis Drax. Stuff happens to me that shouldn't happen, like going on a picnic where you drown '

Such an opening could, I suppose, head off in a number of different directions. Downwards to cliched cleverness, upwards to bizarre stratospheric confusion, meander around the foothills in which wood and trees get totally indistinguishable or settle into a mixture of all three and from that melee produce a really fascinating reflection on universal questions such as the way appearances can deceive, the pros and cons of sacrificial love, the demands and responsibilities inherent in parenthood, the sinister effects cloying vulnerability and artificial neediness can have on relationship and the brutal actions some will take in order to survive at any cost.

This was an incredibly ferocious book; one of those in which it was difficult to settle down in to a comfortable place because everytime you did so another strand holding you attached to 'normal' and 'predictable' snapped and you swayed ever more confusedly over a big dark drop.

The basic plot is of a boy who is in a coma brought about as a result of an horrendous fall. This fall may have been an accident but more likely the result of horribly foul play. Was it the act of spur of the moment madness or a long-term journey of cruel intentional planning. The story is a mixture of the gradual answering of this question, the slow revelation of the real character of the parents, the uncovering of the hurt and harm done to various characters on the periphery of the story and the wreckages of relationship and friendship left in the wake of the action's passing.

We hear the story from two first person narrators. The doctor in charge of the comatose Louis and, ingeniously, from inside the labyrinthine mind of the boy himself. The dark nature of one of the main characters is chilling and shocking, the extraordinary lengths to which they go to flourish in their own warped way is truly unsettling but the honest way in which other mistakes and presumptions and obsessions are examined is strangely hopefilled.

This is a really powerful book, one which will definitely bear re-reading because now the truth of the history is clear it enables the reader to address more honestly the questions it may have thrown up but which were submerged in the mists and fogs of claim and counterclaim, theory and fable.

Well I have just re-read it. And thought i would let you all know; it is definitely worth a re-read. 17:iv:13

Maria Espadinha says

O Rapaz-Gato

"Eu não sou como a maior parte dos rapazes. Sou o Louis Drax. Acontecem-me coisas que não deviam acontecer, como ir a um piquenique e afogar-me"...

De facto Louis Drax pouco ou nada tem a ver com a normalidade:

É um rapaz com uma enorme tendência para acidentes que começaram logo com a sua chegada ao mundo - nasceu como Júlio César!

Após a sua conturbada entrada no planeta , novos acidentes - com graus de fatalidade variáveis - se sucederam, mas a alma colavasse-lhe ao corpo, impedindo-o de fenecer!...

Salmonela, tétano, botulismo e meningite foram algumas das doenças que experienciou, entre outras hórridas que nem sabe dizer!

Tem um hamster chamado Mohamed - já vai no terceiro - pois não encontra nome mais apropriado. Se é hamster , é Mohamed e ponto.

O seu melhor amigo vive na sua imaginação - um rapaz sem rosto, com a cabeça entrapada num monte de ligaduras ensanguentadas.

Interessa-se particularmente por vampiros morcegos e numa mesma frase, consegue misturá-los com a cruz suástica.

Sempre que sai dum elevador tem impreterivelmente que esvaziar a bexiga.

Não gosta de perfumes, pois fedem intensamente - recordam-lhe urina de gato combinada com ratazanas mortas.

Interessa-se por personalidades que já morreram como Jacques Cousteau , Adolf Hitler , Jeanne d'Arc , os irmãos Wright, além de múltiplas doenças e venenos...

É bom de ver que o perfil de Louis Drax pouco se encaixa nos trâmites da normalidade ;)

É um jovem peculiar, inteligente, irreverente, trasbordante de imaginação , e a sua história é única e fascinante!

Uma leitura deveras viciante capaz de sequestrar qualquer um! A mim , asseguro-vos que me raptou! ;)

É um 4++ :)

Kim says

Books are the bestest gifts.

Really. Just a few months ago I gave away my top five books to five people who have been vital to my physical and mental health during the last year. I made them take turns reading them and the reviews that I wrote of them. Did I care if they really liked them? Sort of. Did I make them read them all? You betcha. Why? Because, duh, it's all about me.

I believe (all mine) that there are only a few reasons to give books:

1. You want the person to see what you loved about a certain book, to be able to discuss, relive and have Hallmark moments with.
2. You see something in a particular book that reminds you of the giftee.
3. You want to impress someone.
4. You want to look smart.

I fully embrace #1 and #2 and have, on occasion, utilized #3 and #4. So, when I met the voracious reader that is karen of goodreads.com fame and she greeted me with gifts (GIFTS!!) I almost had a squee-gasm. It was close, I tell you... If it weren't for the presence of other goodreads.com famous peeps and the fact that we were at this hoity toity awesome restaurant, I just might have let loose. No telling where that would have led...

As you may have surmised, karen gifted me with this book. It has taken me quite awhile to finish it (I do not like this new feature that lists how long this has been on your currently reading shelf, btw, Otis...) but it was not because of the book, it's my (ME, ME, ME) own undoing. I'm losing a lifeline. I'm having trouble escaping into books. I would imagine it's like quitting smoking. You feel like you're losing part of yourself, and I'm not sure how to fix it. I miss escaping.

So, I'm going to review this with #2 angle... karen doesn't really know me, I don't expect her to... I'm pretty damn shy and overly neurotic. So as read this story of this beautiful, tortured, grieving, annoying, pathetic, overly dramatic, bats in the belfry, mad as a hatter, crazy as fuck mom of a nine year old boy in a coma, I started to wonder..just a bit. I do have a five year old son and I am extremely afraid of fostering an Oedipal Complex on him. But, I let it go. Again, karen doesn't really know me and my psychoneurotic mindset.

So, this mom... and this son... this son who is um, just as schizo (Hello? He's in a coma and his coma BFF is some scraggly guy named Gustave who is all bandaged up and bloodied and limps and vomits waterweed??? Just a bit unhinged, right??) and then this coma specialist doctor who (of course) falls for the pitiful strumpet of a mom because she's *soooooo* beautiful and *soooooo* persecuted because her son is in a coma and everyone believes that her husband is the one that pushed him off the cliff that put him there.

And I'm reading this and I'm getting angry because I've seen this before... guys falling for the victim, wanting to protect and to be the big man on campus. And this woman is just all martyred up and loving it. And I can kind of guess where the plot is going but I do like the writing and I do need to know how it ends because I really just hate giving up on books, and I need to get passed this crap of not being able to read and a bunch of other me, me, me, type reasons and I come to this paragraph:

'The figure reappeared briefly from the line of trees. It was her. although far away, you could see the outline

of her face, like it had been cut from paper; a perfect, shocked oval. The shape and colour of terrible innocence. A mixture of feelings-love, distaste, revulsion, pity- rose in my throat like vomit. There was an eternity to that moment, that see-sawing split second when adoration clung and then lurched, spilling into chaos, rage, hate, anger; the desire to smash and embrace, love and destroy. Betrayal does that. Forces the clash of belief and disbelief. Shows you how worthless love is, when its object is indifferent, ruthless, no more than a machine for surviving.'

Hell.to the. Yeah.

I'm not really sure why that struck me so hard. It unraveled me and made me feel again. Even if it was repulsion and a smug satisfaction that the guy finally figured it the fuck out. I really can't say. But, it's important to me. And, from then on (page 210 of 227) I was captivated. It's not an insult, sometimes it only takes a 17 pages or less to fall in love, think of A Clean Well Lighted Place, for example.

So, thank you karen of goodreads.com. This might be the breakthrough that I needed. Maybe (maybe) I'll start to escape again. There's another line... 'Coming back to life can be as slow as dying' (page 221)

Ain't that the fucking truth.

Beth says

Read this. It was awesome. A little boy gets hurt and ends up in a coma... this book is about what happens to him, his doctors and his family while he's 'under'. A little bit bizarre, and of course, that's what makes it fun.

Dannii Elle says

My shallow self was immediately sold by the captivating cover! Upon learning this was being adapted into a film, my interest was even further piqued. However, this ended up becoming a puzzling yet ultimately forgettable read, for me.

Nine-year-old Louis Drax is so accident prone that he should be dead nine times over! He has continued to baffle doctors and scientists with his unfailing will to live, despite the accidents and mishaps that have plagued his young life. The story commences upon his ninth chance at life.

Certain facets of the story completely captivated me - the beauty of the writing, the uniqueness of idea, the struggle to find the kernel of truth amongst the mingling and often opposing narrative viewpoints, the layering of reality - but others distanced and distracted me from the plot's trajectory. I found the oddness of this book became its own undoing. I adore odd fiction, but this became too difficult to discern, in areas, and ultimately sequestered me from all empathy with the characters.

This, added with the unlikable aspects of the nature of every character, made me rather blase about the plot's culmination. There was a rather shocking grand reveal that rectified this, somewhat, but by that point I felt only a portion of the emotions that should have been elicited from me, as reader.

Bill says

liz jensen has got to be the most imaginative writer ever. this is the third book by her that i've read in the last couple of weeks and none of them are remotely like the others.her writing is uniformly beautiful and her plots are unbelievably gripping.i read this book in one sitting,pausing only once to dash to the kitchen to get a drink.it is that unputdownable.i'm not going to say a damn thing about the plot, you're just going to have to get the book and read it.you won't be sorry.

Rachael says

Louis is extremely accident prone, having almost died eight times. His parents have a troubled relationship. On his ninth birthday, at a picnic, some horrible accident occurs. Louis's father disappears and Louis ends up in a coma. Here enters the other narrator, Pascal, a doctor specializing in coma recovery. After a series of stange and creepy discoveries, Pascal learns that Louis's mother, whom he has fallen in love with, killed her husband and attempted to kill Louis basically because she is pathologically self-centered. An enjoyable complex and surreal story, in which Louis himself - his character and attitude - is the very best part, especially his conversations with Fat Perez.

Erika says

I feel like I know people like this in real life. People who are always having BIG HUGE ISSUES and DRAMA and everyone should feel sorry for them all the time. That's part of the reason I don't get on FB anymore. I think that colored my opinion of the book but I really did like the writing.

Asl? Da?!? says

10 dakikad?r ekran?n kar??s?nda oturmu? kitaba dair bir cümle yazmaya çal???yorum. Olmuyor. San?r?m hayat?mda okudu?um en garip, en tuhaf kitapt?. Ayr?nt?!? yorumum çok yak?nda yirmidortsaatacikkıtapci.com'da...

Görü?mek üzere.

SpookySoto says

This is a weird book, I had it in my TBR because of a goodreads's recommendation but I have 1000+ books in it and I forgot it until Yesterday that I saw that a trailer for the movie came out (I didn't watch it then), and I went and read the synopsis and got this urge to read it, and so I did. I read this in two days, that's very rare for me, I'm not a fast reader and I usually read more than one book at a time, so this means I was really invested in the story, I just couldn't stop reading it.

I knew nothing about this book, only the small synopsis it has here in goodreads and I think this is the best way to experience it, going in blind. Basically it's the story of Louis Drax, a nine year old boy who is accident prone, an outcast and highly intelligent. On his ninth birthday he has another accident and is now in a coma, that's all I'm going to say.

The book is narrated from Louis and The doctor's point of view. I liked more the doctor's POV because I found Louis's voice and thoughts too weird and a bit creepy. The book has some twists and turns, that aren't too obvious and I think they're well done although I guessed them all, but that didn't detract me from enjoying it.

I liked the writing style, the dual perspectives, the fantastical elements and the pace of the book. It kept me intrigued all the way through.

I saw the movie trailer, there are some changes (the doctor is way younger) and some other weird things, but overall it looks like a good adaptation, we'll see.

I recommend it if you're looking for something different and a bit strange.

Update: I saw the movie and, although the doctor is way younger, I liked it. I think it's well adapted.

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]
