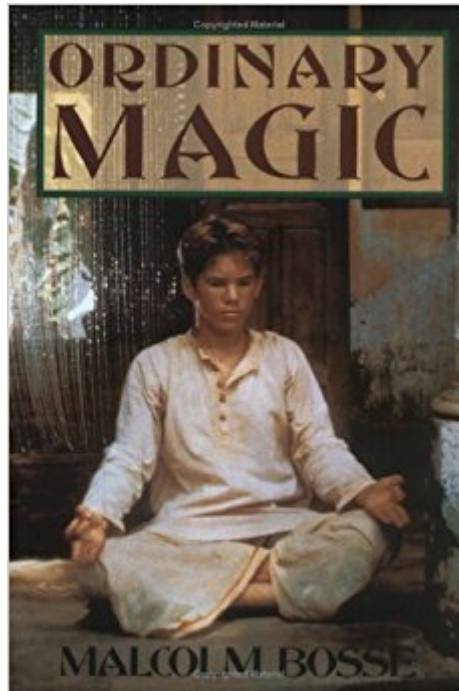




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Ordinary Magic



Synopsis

Fourteen-year-old Jeffrey has spent his entire childhood in India. When his father dies, he faces a new life in the United States, where his Hindu upbringing seems out of place-at first.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

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Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

"A deeply moving novel...to be savored and treasured." --The New York Times Book Review

I had met the author, Malcolm Bosse, many years ago and loved his books for teenagers. I have given this book as a gift several times over the years after first reading it myself. The book is beautifully written on how it feels to be different and not fit in. (There is also a cute guy on the front cover so it works as a gift for young girls.) What I like is the story aims at a teenager who is different, but his experience is so different than the reader would experience that many people can relate - not just aimed at one issue like so many books written today. I like to think that many types of readers can relate and identify with parts of the story.

Always a challenge to read the book after you've seen the movie. The movie version reviewed earlier this year on a sister blog was a Canadian CBC Production set in Paris on the Grand in Ontario. The book similarly begins in and around Madras, India but takes Ganesh to

America instead. Whereas a movie shows you a book tells you and the narrative adds nuances one may have missed. And one catches the details changed for simplicity or to save time and improve pacing in the movie setting. The resolution, when it comes, happens quickly and leaves the reader hanging. Most people's lives do not have happily ever after fairytale endings.

"Ordinary Magic", originally published as "Ganesh" almost twenty years ago, is an absorbing and touching story of an American boy, born and raised in India, who must "return" to the United States after both his parents die. When the book opens, Jeffrey "Ganesh" Moore is fourteen. His mother has been dead for five years, and his father is suffering from heart disease. In the first third of the book, we are introduced to Ganesh's life as an "Indian" villager and accompany him through his father's death and funeral. The remainder of the book concerns what happens to Ganesh after his father's death-- his lonely trip to the River Cauvery to spread his father's ashes and his move to the U.S. Ganesh's somewhat rough acclimatization to American culture is perhaps no more than a reader might expect, but what charms about this book is not that Bosse is trying to wow us with an unpredictable plot, but rather that he enters so clearly into the mind of a fair-skinned, blue-eyed boy raised as a Hindu and depicts so clearly the conflicts such a boy would likely have on coming for the first time to his "native" land. Ganesh is a strong and likeable character, and "Ordinary Magic" is a thoughtful and delightful book for readers from age 10 or so and up.

In this book, Ganesh is the main character, and he goes through a lot in India and America alike. I think that the author wrote this book to be for adults, but when it wasn't long enough, he simplified it and made it a child's book. If this book had been originally written for a child, then it would have had a more "believable ending", and not have this short process. The author took you by the hand, and told everything that was going to happen fifteen pages before it happened. Sorry Malcom Bosse, but you really failed this time.

I've read this book for school. All I can say is 2 words: BUY THIS! Jeffery is a great guy. This book has a cool plot! Who knew fasting and not leaving a house could- Oh, dear. I don't want to spoil everything. Look, just get this book, You and your children will enjoy it! See ya later :)

I loved this book. I thought it was wonderful, I espically liked it because I could relate conciderin I'm hindu just like Jeffrey (Ganesh) was

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