



Framed

Frank Cottrell Boyce

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A few things to know about Dylan

He is the only boy in his entire town—so forget about playing soccer.

His best friends are two pet chickens.

His family owns the world's only gas station/coffee house—their pies are to die for, but profits are in the hole.

Criminal instincts run in his family—his sister is a mastermind-in-training, and the tax men are after his father for questioning.

And one more small thing about nine-year-old Dylan—the crime of the century has just fallen into his lap.

With the same easy mix of wit, warmth, and wonder that made his debut novel, *Millions*, an award-winning international bestseller, Frank Cottrell Boyce tells the story of a boy who reminds an entire town of the power of art.

Framed Details

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Author : Frank Cottrell Boyce

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From Reader Review Framed for online ebook

Jonathan Roberts says

Framed

By Frank Cottrell Boyce

‘Framed’ is a wonderful story about the power of Art. The story is set in the small, bleak, ex-slate mining town of Manod in Wales and Dylan is the last remaining child in the whole town! He is just Nine years old and helps his dad to run the failing ‘Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel’: a petrol station with a coffee machine. There is not much going on in Manod until the arrival of some mysterious suited men. It transpires that due to some unprecedented flooding in London the National Gallery are relocating their painting to the unused slate quarries of Manod and the presence of the Art changes the lives of the community for the better.

There are lots of quirky fringe characters who add a great deal of comedy. My favourite is Daft Tom a 30ish childlike character who is obsessed with 'The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' (who were all named after Renaissance artists). At times the pace becomes a bit slow but at no point did I want to put the book down. Frank Cottrell Boyce fantastically generates the rich environment and atmosphere and though the view of most the characters is that it is a depressing and desolate place the affection with which he intimately describes it generated in me a wish to visit.

This book would be brilliant for an enthusiastic year 5 or 6 child to read independently and I would recommend reading it as a class before a trip to the National gallery as all the Art referenced in the book is real and can be found there. The characters are excellently developed and the descriptions beautiful.

Turrean says

A charmer! Lovely story about how exposure to great art changes the lives of the people in a small Welsh town.

Readertime1779 says

Sorry, this was more of a one and a half book.

Elisha Condie says

Aww, another awesome book recommend by my friend who produces the Bob Edwards show. I'm all alone in the dark without her.

This story is so great. It's about the small English town of Manod where a little service station owned and operated by Dylan and his family is struggling to survive. Then the entire art collection from the British Museum comes to be stored in Manod Mountain and things get interesting. Different townspeople are touched and inspired by different works of art and things start to change in Manod.

I love a story where you can't put a finger on who the best character is. Is it the two old ladies who live halfway up the mountain? One is blind and the other doesn't know how to drive. So the blind one drives and the other one steers. Or is it Dylan's Dad who can fix anything - even people? Nice Tom (formerly Daft Tom) who is obsessed with the Ninja Turtles? Dylan's little sister Minnie who loves bandits and reading about the guy who stole the Mona Lisa? I can't decide. I loved them all.

A friend asked me *why* I read a fair amount of young adult fiction and I've settled on the reason that it's more imaginative and optimistic than adult fiction. And I'll take imagination and optimism almost any time.

Sara Register says

A Pretty quirky book...just like Millions. I enjoyed reading it for the quirkiness. I had to laugh at all the references to "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles", having grown up watching them. I laughed every time someone said, "What the shell?"

Ariana says

This was a fun read. I loved the main character, Dylan, a young boy living in the small Welsh town of Manod. He has great pride in Manod and is oblivious to its many drawbacks (constant rain, poor economy, etc.), though the adults reference them often. He and the other children in his family pull together to help save their family's gas mart from financial ruin.

There were a few sections of the book that dragged a little, but I had to keep reading because the author was so good at throwing something in that would just make me laugh out loud. Dylan relates many of his experiences to the Ninja Turtles, which is popular with the children (and especially with a child-like adult named Tom) in Manod. I couldn't help laughing every time Tom would say incredulously "What the shell?!"

I love the voice and thought processes of Dylan. He is a well-developed character. He and the entire town are greatly affected when paintings from the National Gallery are transferred to their old mountain quarry where the works will be stored to protect them during some bad flooding in London. Dylan realizes that when people see the paintings, the paintings act as a mutagen on the viewers, changing their lives for the better. (He and his friends know all about mutagens because of The Turtles.)

I want someone else to read this book so I can laugh with them about it!

Jean Brodahl says

The adorable narrator of this book is 9 year old Dylan from Wales. He's the ONLY boy in the small town of Manod so he has no one to play soccer with...a real bummer in a young English boy's life.

It starts out slow, but don't give up, you will be richly rewarded. I read a LOT of this book out loud to my husband because it is laugh out loud hilarious! We don't have this in our library yet but we have his first book "MILLIONS" & it's my favorite of the two, but only by a hair. It was turned into a delightful English movie. Very quirky, my favorite kind! (The author was a famous screenwriter before he started his hand at children's books, MILLIONS being his debut. So, of course, he wrote the screenplay for the movie, and it shows!)

"You've probably never heard of Vincenzo Perugia..." Dylan tells us that he stole the Mona Lisa and it was the perfect crime. "He didn't try to sell it. He didn't steal any other paintings. He didn't want to be famous or rich. He just wanted the Mona Lisa. And that's where he went right. That's why it was the perfect crime. Because he didn't want anything else. And that's where we went wrong. We wanted something." I hope a movie of FRAMED is planned.

The family is strapped for money so his sister, obsessed with master criminals and crimes, thinks it's time for a perfect crime of their own.

The minor characters are a riot. My favorite being Daft Tom, an older person (you get the idea he's in his 20's or 30's??) still obsessed with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, "what the shell" is heard throughout the book.

Surprisingly I found out that the author incorporates all real art, artists, and criminals. Lovely!

Alesha says

I loved this book, its so interesting

I was reading this is the same country its set in...what a coincidence!

Dylan is an amazing character, and talks older than what he is, I was surprised when I found out how old he was...!

I loved the fact that he called his chickens Donatello and Michelangelo... its great!

Jim says

What a pleasant read!! Recommended to all the little AND big kids out there.

Αρχικ? ε?χα την εντ?πωση πως θα ε?ναι βαρετ?, ευτυχ?ς ?πεσα ?ξω, ποοοοολ? ?ξω.

Κ?ριος πρωταγωνιστ?ς του βιβλ?ου ε?ναι ο Ντ?λαν, ε?ναι 9 ετ?ν και ε?ναι το μοναδικ? αγ?ρι, κοντ? στην ηλικ?α του, που ζε? στο Μ?νοντ, μια μικρ? π?λη του Ηνωμ?νου Βασιλε?ου. Για να μη στην περιγρ?φω π?ρε μια εικ?να

Ωρα?ο μ?ρος. Ε λοιπ?ν στο βουν? που βλ?πεις π?σω ε?χανε μεταφ?ρει οι ?γγλοι, κατ? τη δι?ρκεια του β? παγκοσμ?ου πολ?μου την Εθνικ? Πινακοθ?κη. Τ?ρμα το μ?θημα ιστορ?ας π?με π?σω στο βιβλ?ο π?λι.

Τ?ποτα δεν ?χει αλλ?ξει στο Μ?νοντ εδ? και πολ? καιρ?, με εξα?ρεση το ?τι ?λο και περισσ?τεροι το αφ?νουν για να π?νε στο Λονδ?νο. ?ταν μια μ?ρα π?ρασαν 20 φορτηγ?, με προορισμ? το αχρησιμοπο?ητο εδ? και χρ?νια βουν?, λογικ? ?τανε να προκαλ?σει απορ?ες. Η φαντασ?α των κατο?κων των κατο?κων δημιο?ργησε δι?φορα σεν?ρια. Αυτ? που δεν μπ?ρεσαν να φανταστο?ν ε?ναι π?ς η τ?χνη θα ?λλαζε ολ?κληρη η ζω? τους.

?μορφα γραμμ?νο και με μικρ?ς δ?σεις αληθιν?ς ιστορ?ας, το βιβλ?ο αντ? σε πηγα?νει ?να ευχ?ριστο ταξ?δι μ?χρι το Μ?μοντ ?που θα γνωρ?σεις ωρα?ους ανθρ?πους.

Julie says

I read this a few years ago and loved it. So I passed it to Ethan who also loved it. So fun.

Shelley says

A misunderstanding involving the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and famous works of art; a small welsh town with quirky residents; and a family trying to save its struggling business and home—the Snowdonia Oasis Auto Marvel—makes for a witty and hysterical read about how art can transform. The story is told from the perspective nine-year-old Dylan Hughes, the only boy left living in Manod—a dying, dreary grey town in Wales. But the town slowly becomes alive again after record flooding in London causes the National Gallery to evacuate its paintings to the safety of Manod’s closed slate mine. The Hughes family and the town and its residents begin to change and grow as they come in contact with the works of art housed up in the mine. There is “powerful stuff in those pictures.” Try listening to the book on audio. The narrator, Jason Hughes deftly captures the wonder of young Dylan’s narrative. Listeners will be hooked. (Recommended for grades 4-7)

Michael says

it's rubbish i have to read it for school :(

Hstillson88 says

Framed?

Frank Cottrell Boyce

I had a great time reading the book *Framed*. Boyce did an amazing job getting his message across, in a number of pages. This book is great for sitting on the couch and relaxing.?

The book *Framed* is a truly great read. Dylan, a small-town boy, shows his town that even through life's biggest mistakes there is always a good ending. Throughout this book Manod goes through a lot of changes and struggles, all of which are because of a mix up of names. Dylan is a kid who was never noticed and was all alone, but after the mix up he became the most popular kid in school and in the town. It all happened when a mysterious gang of cars came up the mountain road and set up a camp at the old mine. No one had the strength to ask what was going on, but Dylan did. When the gang came to the auto shop that Dylan's family ran, Dylan asked questions and wasn't shy at all. It turned out that the man was a secret agent, and he was storing paintings in the old mine because the National Gallery in France had a flood. Throughout this book there are constant struggles but Dylan continues to give his input, which inspires many.

Overall I would give this book a 4 out of 5 stars. The author Frank Cottrell Boyce does an amazing job expressing detail and also making his words come to life. I did have to take a point off because the beginning and end were not all that exciting. If you're looking for a book that is exciting and inspiring then I would totally suggest *Framed*.

Michelle says

Framed bercerita tentang seorang anak cowok yang keluarganya punya bengkel mobil dan pom bensin. Karena usaha keluarganya itu, dia jadi ahli banget mengenai mobil. Mereka tinggal di sebuah rumah di kota kecil, di dekat gunung yang menurutnya "terbalik", dalam arti, bagian luar gunung tidak dilapisi oleh pohon dan rumput, melainkan oleh batu, sehingga gunung tersebut seperti terbalik bagian luar dan dalamnya.

Pada suatu hari, banyak mobil yang naik ke atas gunung tersebut, dan menimbulkan kehebohan di kota kecil ini. Karena rumah si anak ini adalah rumah yang paling dekat dengan gunung, maka tetangganya berkumpul di rumahnya. Ternyata, mobil-mobil yang naik ke atas gunung itu, menyembunyikan koleksi lukisan yang sangat berharga. Nama-nama pelukis terkenal dan judul lukisannya jadi bertebaran di buku ini.

Konflik tiba di saat keluarga anak ini mengalami kesulitan ekonomi. Muncullah ide yang dilontarkan oleh adiknya yang menurutnya jenius, untuk mencuri lukisan-lukisan tersebut.

Nah, lucunya, karena tokoh novel ini anak-anak, jadi cara berpikirnya juga anak-anak banget. Termasuk dalam cara mereka membuat strategi untuk mencuri lukisan-lukisan terkenal itu.

PiMaster says

Framed is an interesting book, but it is not without flaws. The novel is written in a Diary format, and the main character, Dylan, says how the weather is and what cars he worked with, because his family runs an automobile garage. He lives in an isolated town located in Wales. Dylan essentially talks about his experiences that day, and it gets interesting when he and his sister try to steal a valuable painting for money. The plot was good, as even though Dylan wanted to take the masterpiece, he still had doubts about the ethics of doing so.

Now, onto to the problems. This book could have received 4 stars if there had been more plot twists. When Dylan's family was in a poor financial position, and they were speculating what to do, suddenly a group from the London National Gallery comes in to Dylan's town to keep paintings there to protect them from the

London floods. It is hinted about what they are going to do, and I knew Dylan would attempt to steal the painting. There should have been more suspense. Also, the whole book was basically about stealing the painting and what to do. This book needed more plot twists. Yes, Dylan's father did disappear suddenly, but that was not suspenseful enough. If you are looking for a novel that will keep you on the edge of your seat, *Framed* is definitely not for you.
