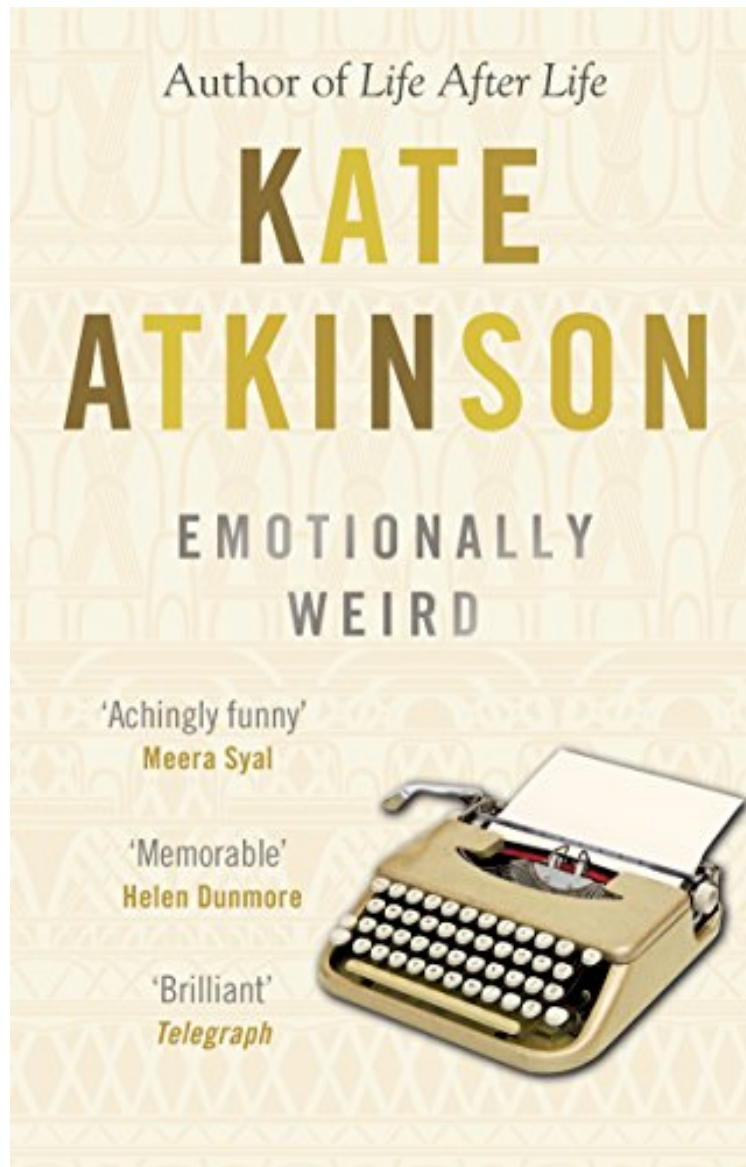


## Emotionally Weird

Von Kate Atkinson

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrang: #38054 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2010-07-27Erscheinungsdatum: 2010-07-27File Name: B0031RSA7E | File size: 26.Mb

**Von Kate Atkinson : Emotionally Weird** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emotionally Weird:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Brilliant WordplayVon dirtwitchAtkinson is the sort of writer I read in a blissful state. Her characters are many layered, her wordplay is fantastical, her plotline engrossing. I appreciate that her characters are, while not always exactly sane, intelligent. That's not something I can say about many novelists.She is a new find for me, and I'm very happy to have

found a writer I enjoy as much as Barbara Trapido. From me, this is a very high compliment. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Perspective Lost Von Ein Kunde I had enjoyed "Behind the Scenes at the Museum" and "Human Croquet" so much that I eagerly anticipated Kate Atkinson's next release. I must admit, I'm a bit disappointed. Atkinson's unconventional yet compelling use of perspective has been present in all of her novels. However, in "Emotionally Weird", the story becomes completely buried beneath dozens of functionless characters and hazy motives. Her unique style... fresh and funny... shone through in her first two novels. Here it is lost to a weaker plot and gloomy scenery. I must admit that part of what may have alienated me (as a silly American) was the overwhelming presence of unfamiliar Scottish references. Whereas these same type of landmarks may have been present in "Behind the Scenes at the Museum", there they were made familiar and funny by their meaning to the more likable characters that she had created. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. It's life, Captain... Von Mr. K. Mahoney Nora and Effie Stuart-Murray are sitting on an island off the west coast of Scotland, telling each other stories. Effie's tale is of her recent life as a student at Dundee University, whilst Nora tells of Effie's murky family history, with the announcement that she is not, in fact, Effie's mother. The hyphenated 'Stuart' is the only clue left that Nora and Effie have royalty as ancestors. However, you do begin to worry about this novel when Effie's audience, Nora, gets bored and decides to go to bed. If a fictional character has been diagnosed with ennui, then what chance have we of following this novel to its conclusion? We get to see the fascinating acts of feeding cats, the boiling of kettles in Effie's life story, but we do also get occasional glimpses of the invasion of Vietnam. Effie quotes large chunks of Archie McCrue's abstract lecture, as if to prove how boring the man is, when one or two words would have sufficed. Archie's lecture appears to happen in real time, and it seems as though Atkinson is writing the antithesis of a crime novel, by having all her main suspects meet up in the beginning, rather than at the end. But Archie McCrue is no detective. Chick Petrie is, and so is Madame Astarti, the heroine of Effie's attempt at fiction. Practically everyone who is anyone turns up at McCrue's lecture, an unlikely scenario for an early morning lecture during a power cut in the strikes of 72. Emotionally Weird takes a long time to get going. There's something wacky about all the characters, but none of them are truly amusing. In a recent interview in the Observer, Kate Atkinson commented that she found it very difficult to get going on this novel, and to achieve the right tone, and I'm afraid it shows in these early pages. Compared with Joanne Harris' Blackberry Wine, with which Emotionally Weird shares some themes, Atkinson's novel seems quite poor indeed, to begin with. This book hasn't really come close to universal praise in the press, despite a very enthusiastic piece in the Scotsman. I approached this book warily since a Star Trek fan is a very prominent character (Effie's boyfriend, 'Magic Bob'). Oh no, I thought, Atkinson's pitted all her wits against a very easy stereotype. My prejudice came from the fact that, like Bob, I'm also a fan of Cult TV (although not quite as drugged or sluggish as him). At the beginning of the novel, Effie is trying to work out how she can leave Bob. But you've only got to look at her narrative to see how far she's been infected. A couple of Effie's similes come from Doctor Who (the obvious 'Dalek' and 'Tardis'), whilst her supporting cast have been given the names of minor, but significant characters from Star Trek: Christopher Pike, Janice Rand, Kevin Riley, and even Gary Seven turns up as the author of some obscure paper. Purists should note that the novel occurs during the broadcast of the Doctor Who adventure, The Curse of Peladon. Maybe Effie should get out more. Maybe I should get out more. Around about 50% of Effie's male acquaintances seem to be writing fantasy novels, boring the pants off everyone with varying degrees of success. However, Atkinson does present Magic Bob much as Russell T. Davies would: as sad, but lovable. As to what genre Kate Atkinson would like to work in, I would stab a guess at the crime novel. No doubt her style would be unique, but still far more competent than Effie's novels starring Madame Astarti. My favourite character from the novel is Professor Cousins, who interrupts fatuous McCrue with the observation that all fiction could be tied down to the questions surrounding identity, citing Oedipus Rex as an example. You do get the feeling that Atkinson would tend to agree with the professor, whilst wondering when the scouring of eyes is finally going to arrive. But as with any novel with a phenomenally long cast list, you have to be patient, you have to wait for Emotionally Weird to wield its magic, to endure before the blockbuster ending arrives. Kate Atkinson employs a variety of styles and fonts in this book which she claims to be about 'words' (as she said in her Observer interview). I've done much the same myself when I've been writing. The reasons why I used such techniques was that I was being defensive, placing the expected critics of my work into the text itself, as Atkinson does here, in the voice of Nora. No doubt Emotionally Weird means much to Atkinson, and she fears that it will not mean much to anyone else. Martha Sewell and her creative writing class ponder that old cliché, that everyone has a novel within them. Maybe the relevant question should be: does anyone have a third novel within them? After a shaky start, Emotionally Weird answers in the affirmative, with a resounding conclusion that does leave you wanting more.

Kurzbeschreibung On a peat and heather island off the west coast of Scotland, Effie and her mother Nora take refuge in the large mouldering house of their ancestors and tell each other stories. Nora, at first, recounts nothing that Effie really wants to hear, like who her father was - variously Jimmy, Jack, or Ernie. Effie tells of her life at college in Dundee,

where she lives in a lethargic relationship with Bob, a student who never goes to lectures, seldom gets out of bed, and to whom the Klingons are as real as the French and the Germans (more real than the Luxemburgers). But strange things are happening. Why is Effie being followed? Why is everyone writing novels? Is someone killing the old people? And where is the mysterious yellow dog? deFamily history and identity are Kate Atkinson's twinned keynote themes. Behind the Scenes at the Museum (winner of the Whitbread Book of the year), had "The Family" at its centre, a sweep of charming, related genes who sauntered through the fin de siècle to the less glamorous 1992. Her second novel, Human Croquet starred the Fairfaxes, all missing mothers, perfumed with nicotine and danger, and strange aunts. Larkin may be right, your parents fuck you up but in Atkinson's novels you have to find out who they are before you can start laying blame. On the surface, Emotionally Weird follows the trend. Effie and her mother Nora are staying in the decaying family home on a small island off the West coast of Scotland. To keep themselves amused they begin telling stories. Nora's are about their ancestors, in whose veins blood blue as "delphiniums and lupins" flows, and the real identity of Effie's father and mother. Nora's language is like her "sea-change eyes", full of poetry and strange beauty. Effie's tales of life at the University of Dundee and her life with Star Trek obsessed Bob are more prosaic and funny: "I did so hope that Bob was a dress rehearsal, a kind of mock relationship, like a mock exam, to prepare me for the real thing." The novel becomes troublesome where it follows Effie to a creative writing course at the university. The class is run by Martha: who writes poetry "with impenetrable syntax about a life where nothing happened." The other characters in the novel are pre-occupied with the same need to find meaning through writing. Archetypal detective stories, sword and sorcery fantasy, doctor and nurse romantic scenarios, existential angst and liberal use of ellipses are given free reign. Whilst this self-conscious wordplay is fun for those who enjoy a more literary book, those who simply enjoy a good read may get lost in the jostle of competing language construction. In this novel, confused paternity is only part of the struggle for identity, the words you use are also defining- you are what you write. Some readers will revel in the Shandy-esque shape of the experimental in this narrative, others may find it's a literary joke taken too far. --Eithne Farry. Pressestimmen" A sparkling comic meditation on how authors choose to tell their stories. (A-) -- Entertainment Weekly " Keeps you turning pages long after you've told yourself you're going to bed....The language Atkinson employs to tell her enmeshed tales is something to behold....And encased in this web of language are the manifold pleasures of a tale well-told." -- "The Washington Post" " Atkinson has found her best subject, thereby letting out the secret to writing a truly funny comic novel." -- "Newsday" "A sparkling comic meditation on how authors choose to tell their stories." --"Entertainment Weekly "(grade: A-) ..".Reads like the fictional equivalent of a magic trick; you might wonder how she pulls it off, but you're certain to marvel at the results." --"Harper's Bazaar" "A full-bore, old-fashioned yarn--the kind that keeps you turning pages, hurrying toward the denouement long after you've told yourself you're going to bed." --"The Washington Post Book World" "Beautifully written...brimming with quirky characters and original storytelling.... Kate Atkinson has struck gold with this unique offering." --"Time Out" "Atkinson has found her best subject...a truly funny comic novel." --"Newsday" A sparkling comic meditation on how authors choose to tell their stories. "Entertainment Weekly (grade: A-)" Reads like the fictional equivalent of a magic trick; you might wonder how she pulls it off, but you're certain to marvel at the results. "Harper's Bazaar" A full-bore, old-fashioned yarn--the kind that keeps you turning pages, hurrying toward the denouement long after you've told yourself you're going to bed. "The Washington Post Book World" Beautifully written brimming with quirky characters and original storytelling.... Kate Atkinson has struck gold with this unique offering. "Time Out" Atkinson has found her best subject a truly funny comic novel. "Newsday" "A sparkling comic meditation on how authors choose to tell their stories." --Entertainment Weekly (grade: A-)." Reads like the fictional equivalent of a magic trick; you might wonder how she pulls it off, but you're certain to marvel at the results." --Harper's Bazaar" A full-bore, old-fashioned yarn--the kind that keeps you turning pages, hurrying toward the denouement long after you've told yourself you're going to bed." --The Washington Post Book World" Beautifully written...brimming with quirky characters and original storytelling.... Kate Atkinson has struck gold with this unique offering." --Time Out" Atkinson has found her best subject...a truly funny comic novel." --Newsday