

Faith Lutheran Church Book Club
April 16, 2024, 2:00 pm, Youth Room

The Possible World by Liese O'Halloran Schwarz (2018)

Which statement is more aligned with your opinion?

1. AUTHOR

A. It is obvious that the author is a physician but a lot of the ER scenes just show what she knows and are flat.

B. It's instructive to learn about life in a ER from a doctor's point of view.

2. CHARACTERS

A. The characters were well drawn and I sympathized with each. I felt I knew them. I felt like Clare and Lucy could stop by for coffee and we'd pick up the story from there.

B. Ben is unlike any other child his age; Clare is a grump; Lucy is more in love with her job than her husband.

3. VIEWPOINT

A. The author is very adept at narrating in the voices of the three characters: the boy, the 30-something ER doc, and the old woman. Their plot-lines connect.

B. Multiple viewpoints is a drag. You have to reread pages because you think you've missed something.

4. FLOW

A. The novel is choppy and hard to follow. It moves back and forth in time, from the Great Depression through the Vietnam War and into the present day, It's a bumpy ride for the reader.

B. The book started off slow, introducing multiple characters. I had a hard time seeing the connection at first but after a couple dozen pages I was HOOKED!

5. ENDING

A. I was confused and disappointed by the ending. How did Ben know Clare? Was Ben Leo in a past life? Lucy and Ben just carried on? It's a story that went nowhere.

B. There is a mystery concerning the identity of one of the characters that persists from beginning to end. But at the end I think it is a reader's decision of what to believe.

6. THEME

A. The book is ultimately about human connections.

B. It's about reincarnation. Thus it's unbelievable.

7. GENRE

A. Mystery

B. Tragedy

C. Historical Fiction

8. TITLE

A. *The Not Quite Possible World*

B. *The Not Quite Impossible World*