



Somewhere Over the Sun

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Alan, a spirited young writer with a wandering imagination has discovered that the stories he writes are suddenly coming to life. At the suggestion of his loving father, Alan embarks on a quixotic journey to visit friends and use his new found gift to write them all happier lives. There are a few limitations to his power; he can't cure diseases, he can't summon pots of gold, and headaches accompany each reality-infused story he lives out, but the appreciative and optimistic Alan is not deterred from creating fantastical characters and storylines to give his friends more literary lives.

Somewhere Over the Sun Details

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From Reader Review Somewhere Over the Sun for online ebook

Tareto Ndosì says

every page held a smile. every character seemed familiar. every storyline felt like a memory.
it's the kind of book that makes you stop and imagine what it's like to be the rose that it encourages you to stop and smell.
we could all do with at least a taste of the sort of out-of-the-box thinking that hugs these pages.

Julie says

I liked this book but I didn't love it. I wanted to love it. For being a short book it felt wordy to me. I knew where we were headed too. I liked Alan but I didn't connect with him.

I felt like he lived in his head and yet I felt that he did experience life.

This was a 3.5 for me.

Leo Martin says

What if we're never really in control of what will happen in our lives? What if someone's out there, writing his literary dream and you stumbled upon him in the streets, you caught his attention and he decided to put you in his work, combining a hundred words about you, what will happen to you, what you'll have to become and then what he wrote will soon materialize into reality just because he has the power to do so, to turn fiction into nonfiction, these are just a few of the many questions that I asked myself while reading Adi Alsaid's debut novel, *Somewhere Over The Sun*.

I don't want to go over the plot of the book, cause I want you to discover it for yourself and it'll be a rewarding experience. So I'll just do my thing, to point out the little things that you'll like about this novel. *Somewhere Over The Sun*'s a breath of fresh air in the fiction world. It celebrates the true power of imagination with an amazing closer look to the small things beyond the protagonists of the story, which I think, is kind of unique and often left out on the previous books that I've read. Alsaid introduced us to a whole new perspective of sex, specifically in the eyes of the dress and shirt you wore before you do the thing. He also expounded on the reason why our keys need keychains and a handful of other literary wonders, which I think, Alsaid brought to the literary table for other writers to emulate.

On a similar vein, I've never read a book that's beautifully and perfectly written like *Somewhere Over The Sun*. I was constantly grinning intellectually all throughout the book because I never imagined that such combination of words could describe a certain situation or what this or that character is feeling. A work of a born-writer!

In the end, *Somewhere Over The Sun* will leave us astounded by the true power of our imaginations, that, whatever it is that's holding us back to write, we just have to lay it all down and do the thing that makes us happy, that indeed, we never have to stop turning fiction into reality, because, for some people, it's the only hope that they can see in this too-cruel-this-could-be-fiction world.

A novel of substance, will never tire you out and will break your heart when you flip the last page.

P.S.

Adi, I'm very thankful that you sent a copy of your book to me. I will forever acknowledge you, and forever recommend this book to everybody because of that. But you still owe me one, I need your autograph, don't

forget! Again, thank you.

Kim says

As much as I wanted to like this book, as it started off seeming fresh and different, I soon got incredibly tired of it. Throughout reading, I felt the overwhelming sensation that this book was written trying to be clever, which rather spoiled it for me. While I appreciated the imaginative personifications of otherwise inanimate objects, and the story-arc overall, I was disappointed in the narrative and the human characters themselves. I wanted to like it, but I just found it impossible to connect with.

Carrie says

I knew I'd love this book after reading the excerpt on the author's website, and I was not mistaken. It was fun and quirky and made me smile almost immediately. The thing I loved most about this book was the way it reminded me about imagination and how important it is to cultivate it. We lose so much of our imagination once we leave childhood and Alsaïd brings it back gloriously. And I can promise you I've never read a more creative sex scene in my life. I'll never look at my clothes the same way again! The author's words made me smile, they made me laugh, and yes, they even made me cry, but mostly they made me happy. Pick up a copy...because we can all use a little happy in our lives.

Sarah (Workaday Reads) says

Alan has recently discovered that the stories he writes are coming true, but they come with a price in the form of bad headaches. After conferring with his father, his best friend, he decides to visit his close friends and write them each a story in an effort to bring them happiness.

The story was very uplifting and positive. Alan's actions are fueled by love for his friends. The source of his gift isn't revealed until the end, but it is easily guessed at before you get halfway through the book.

My favourite story that Alan writes is Saline's, which is one of the first stories he writes. It was sweet and beautiful, with a touch of fantasy. Alan's whole visit with Saline was my favourite part of the book.

I did not like Alan's Canadian visit. As a Canadian myself, I found it slightly insulting that his visit there was all about alcohol and drugs. This behaviour was not overly emphasized during any other visit, and I felt it didn't add anything to the story.

The writing is truly beautiful. Each word and phrase has been carefully chosen to fit the exact position it appears in. This leads to a very lyrical and poetic script. This makes the story great, but also not so great. There is no break for the descriptive, flowery language. It leads to a feeling of too much. Without any simple writing, it feels overdone in spots.

Overall, this book is full of wonderful phrases and quotes. The story is imaginative and unique. This is a good read, although it does feel overly written in some areas.

Renda Dodge says

Looking for and finding good indie books can be a chore. It's not like you can walk into Barnes and Noble and go straight to the "off-culture, well-written books by independent writers" section. You have to let Amazon, Twitter, Facebook and Good Reads do the work for you.

I met Adi Alsaid, virtually, over Twitter because Adi was doing what all indie writers should do—building platform. He asked to write an article for Line Zero. We featured his article in the Winter issue, and I loved his quirky piece on the love of writing. Shortly after publishing his article, I ran out and bought his book.

Adi, I'm sorry, Alan, the book's main character loves writing. He makes me love writing! I'd often work my way through a couple chapters and want to set the book down, run over to my laptop and pound out a short story. Who doesn't love a book that inspires them that way? On top of the author's clear love of the craft, there's the story element. Alan wakes up one day and realizes that when he writes, it comes true. While this may seem like the most amazing gift a writer could happen upon, Alan quickly learns he's unable to manipulate wealth, free will or any other potentially evil use of his power. Being most decidedly irregular (in a good way), Alan instead sets off on a cross-country trip to improve his friend's lives through his writing. Sometimes beautiful, sometimes sad Somewhere Over the Sun is one of the best examples of an amazing indie book in action.

One of the peculiar, but most fascinating, elements of the book is Adi's clear disregard for the rules. This story often drove me to re-read sections over again, just because they made me smile. He plays with words in ways that challenge me as a writer.

Go now to Google, type in "Adi Alsaid Somewhere Over the Sun" and buy yourself a copy. You won't regret it and you'll love every minute of it. When you're done you'll thank me for sharing this book and you'll thank Adi for writing it.

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Jimmy says

If you want to read a feel good book about happiness, then this is your go-to book. From characterization to plot to overall tone, I feel like this would be a wonderful book to really get yourself re-inspired in life in regards to your outlook on happiness. I think the only people who won't like this book at all are those Debbie Downers (and no offense to those named Debbie).

"There's always something hidden, and on most days we don't bother to look. But this world is capable of surprising us. All we have to do is slip beneath the surface."

If you wanted me to pick my favorite quotes from this book, this would be an extremely long review. Hell...I might as well quote the entire book itself. But really, Adi Alsaid has so many fun, inspiring things to say. I will admit that at times, there was just an overload of sweetness...much like walking into a candy store and splurging on a little bit of everything. I feel like I would have had more of an emotional attachment to the story if there were more contrasting elements, especially in the characters.

The characters were all wonderful and lively and friendly. But that's just it...I feel like I could see my friends in the main character's friends. The main character even points this out: "He did with them what most people do with friends. He chose characteristics he admired in each and made them his own..."

But...what about those I hate? I believe that there could be room for them as well, can't there? Sometimes, I love to hate those characters in a story.

"I try not to get too offended by seemingly rude people. You have no idea what their motivations are, what their reasons for acting a certain way are...Once you truly understand someone's reasons, it gets harder to take offense." Okay...I guess that's true. Still...I have a right to just not like people, right? Even for the fun of it?

The plot of the story is fairly straightforward. And therefore, much more of the focus of the story goes into the theme and tone of Somewhere Over the Sun. It's what's in the middle that matters: "...and we need not remind our readers that every story begins with life and ends with death and it is the days in between that matter." The true theme of the story is our own journey in life, and what we do with it. And the main character's purpose mimics Adi Alsaid, which is to write.

"Unless thoughts are spoken or written or sung or acted upon, there's no evidence that they were ever there." I think I heard this one before...if a tree falls and no one's around to hear it fall, does it make a sound? (The answer is yes). Nonetheless, it's definitely a theme that I wholeheartedly support. We should do the things that makes us happy. But even more than that, I believe that we should be able to do things that make others happy as well. It's not really just about ourselves...it's about others as well. Telling a story so that others may enjoy. Is that too egocentric?

"Retelling the highlights of your life's story can sometimes feel like narcissism. You're editing a whole book and highlighting the best sentence. But talking about yourself is a basic human desire and joy, and people who claim it is egocentric probably don't get asked about their lives enough." Ha...I love that quote!

If you're at that point in your life where you feel like you need just a good, happy book to read that doesn't sound like it's too preachy, then I would suggest this book. Plus, it has lots of great quotes, which is what I'll leave off this review with.

"We met at a coffee shop. Coffee shops are places people go to so they can feel like there may be someone out there for them to fall in love with. Everyone huddled around their steaming paper cups and conversations, looking across the room and convinced that if romance happens anywhere, it happens here."

"Even people who have lived by oceans their entire lives can still just stand there and stare, and I don't think the sense of wonder ever goes away."

"With the sun still hanging around like a full stomach, I wondered why it is that people say perfect moments are few and far between."

"It's absolutely necessary, and every time you are overjoyed, you need to tell as many people as possible, until you tell a grumpy person who decides your happiness is infuriating and punches you in the face and then you are no longer overjoyed."

Alice Bola says

Here is the first thing you need to know about this book: When you purchase it (and you will purchase it), make sure you buy a highlighter. This is the kind of book that begs to be read with a highlighter, or better yet a notebook and pen so you can jot down your thoughts. This kind of book draws you in, makes you sit in that comfy chair, it'll make you want to stay up at night reading. It will.

Here is the next thing you need to know: I am a crier in real life and during certain movies and/or TV shows but I can count on one hand how many books have moved me to genuine heart wrenching tears. This book is that kind of book. This novel is crazy good. It's malted milkshake good. It's little kid laughter good. Think of something you love that is so good it hits you in that stop under your ribcage right below your heart. Yeah, Somewhere Over the Sun is that good.

The novel tells the story of Alan as he travels across North America visiting friends while writing a novel. Alan is unlike anyone else, he has a gift. His gift is that what he writes comes true. He decides to write happy endings into each of his friend's lives. I kept wishing I had Alan's gift. Although truth be told, I'd probably use it more for evil than good.

This novel is full of surprises. If you have ever dreamed of writing a novel, read this book. He gives such great advice about having a relationship with the reader. If you have ever loved and lost, again and again, (and come on, who hasn't?) read this book. If you have ever experienced the love for a child or for a parent, read this book. If you like whimsical, if you believe in hope, if you need to be taught optimism, if you need to laugh, if you need a good cry. These are all solid reasons to read this.

Although mainly told by Alan, most of the characters we meet narrate the novel. Mr. Alsaid beautifully tells the story from each characters' point of view all the while having no idea what the others are thinking. It's magical actually. Knowing this I caught myself clenching my fists and biting my lip because I want to yell at the book, at the characters to give them a clue. I loved the anticipation waiting to see if they would figure it out for themselves. It's like missed opportunities, they are right in front of you but you don't see them. I also loved the relationship Alan has with his family and friends. I love he thought Jesse was born to be loved and won't be complete until someone falls in love with him. Mr. Alsaid brings life to everything Alan encounters, whether it is a bench or a tomato or a dress and shirt for the greatest sex scene ever written.

Mr. Alsaid is insanely good with words. There were so many morsels of goodness in this story.

I love how after laminating over a child's ability to fall in love, Alan says "If youth is wasted on the young, love is wasted on the old."

I love how he describes love's rejections as "they hit like snowballs. The idea they could hurt was almost silly, but the next day, I'd wake up with bruises all over."

I love how he describes different readers. I'm happy to say I'm a Greg.

I love how M, describing Danielle, says "that the ability to smile at your own sadness was a sign of elegance that he wasn't sure he possessed." I also loved that about Alan he says that "I wanted to tell him that he saw the world in a beautiful way and that if everyone had his point of view, the world would surely be filled with more pleasant people."

Most of all, I love what Robert says about his son Alan's optimism: "Few people can look at raining clouds and see the blue sky that's always above them."

This novel is full of raw vulnerability. It was beautiful to read. I was attached to Alan from the first sentence and my love for him kept growing. I will admit that I suspected the twist in the novel and at the end I saw that I was right. That didn't stop the tears from flowing and even then that didn't diminish the emotion I felt reading it.

Now stop reading this and go buy this book. And don't forget your highlighter.

Melissa says

I've just finished reading this book and wow! I don't think I've read anything quite like it. The story is unique and inspiring. As recreational writer, I feel the need to sit down and write myself a fictional happily ever after just to feel the words flow and hope against hope that maybe some of it will come to life.

Somewhere Over the Sun for me gives hope when life seems mundane and takes what little joys we all take for granted and create magical experiences from them.

Thank you!

Valerie (Reader of books. Enthralled by Words.) says

Adi Alsaid did it again, his beautiful words and incredible story wrecked me; tears are falling down my face because of Alan's story and the stories that he shared with the world. I felt ALL OF THE EMOTIONS: happy, sad, giddy, confused, intrigued, and most importantly, content with the ending.

Bravo Adi Alsaid, bravo.

After finishing Let's Get Lost, Adi Alsaid's new YA novel, I NEEDED more of his writing which led me to scavenge the inter-webs until I found this gem. I find such a joy in reading books by the same author because it allows for the reader to understand the author more; the similarities and the differences help to paint a more complete picture which is one of my favorite things about reading! Adi Alsaid is now an automatic buy for me, whatever sentences that he forms, I'm buying it!

The writing is this book... Are there even the right words to describe how beautiful the writing was in the book? I tried to write down every quote that I loved but it quickly became so much that I just highlighted all throughout this book; now I can pick it up anytime and be transported back to the story and exactly why I love this book. The writing was impressively great but it was more than that, it struck a chord with me; the writing was hilarious but also strikingly true and relevant.

One thing that I love about both Let's Get Lost and Somewhere Over the Sun is how easily they relate to my life and life in general; I love everything that is written in these bound books but Adi's writing affects my life outside of his books. These stories are told in printed word but their lessons and applications far exceed the confines of these books, there's a bigger picture that can be related back to everyone and it is amazing that one author can be so universal.

I LOVE intelligent humor and this book is chalk full of it! It is my weakness, I like partaking in it, I love hearing it, and I especially love reading about it. It made this book so much fun and laughter came easily to me throughout this entire book.

Alan, the main character, is GREAT! He is so fascinating and I couldn't get enough of him; I thoroughly enjoyed how he viewed the world and every page was a breath of fresh air. He is a unique character that shows his heart on the pages and reminds others to smile. Beautifully written character, Adi.

When writing my review for Let's Get Lost (linked here), I found that I had a hard time putting my love into words and I had the same problem with this book. I just loved it so much and how does one translate love into a review? This book was refreshing, I haven't given a book five stars since I read Something Real by Heather Demetrios over a month ago, but this book cured my five star dry spell. I can't type the words adequately enough to give this book justice but I sure will try. This book touched my heart; it wasn't just one book that I read this year, it was a book that affected me this year.

My favorite part of this book is that it is about a writer.... writing. It may sound simple and could be considered boring by some but it perfectly captured the need to write; I am an aspiring author and writing is not so much a choice but a necessity, I feel a physical need to write down all of the people and lives that reside in my imagination. No matter what I do, I seem to be gravitated toward a pen and paper, just like Alan. Alan was such a real character to me; I found so much truth in every part of him which was such an awesome experience. Like I mentioned earlier, Adi has a way of connecting with all of his readers and I can definitely see how Alan would connect with all types of people.

Don't be fooled by the almost 200 pages, this is one meaty book.
I recommend this book to everyone! Go forth and read!

Cassandra Jo says

I recently started rereading this book. I should go to it at least once a year because it really effects my mood. This book has a way of waking me up into not taking life so seriously. It opens my eyes and forces me to enjoy every little bit of life, even the undesirable parts. I love this book!
