


The One-in-a-Million Boy

By Monica Wood

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The story of your life never starts at the beginning. Don't they teach you anything at school?

So says 104-year-old Ona to the 11-year-old boy who's been sent to help her out every Saturday morning. As he refills the bird feeders and tidies the garden shed, Ona tells him about her long life, from first love to second chances. Soon she's confessing secrets she has kept hidden for decades.

One Saturday, the boy doesn't show up. Ona starts to think he's not so special after all, but then his father arrives on her doorstep, determined to finish his son's good deed. The boy's mother is not so far behind. Ona is set to discover that the world can surprise us at any age, and that sometimes sharing a loss is the only way to find ourselves again.

“Readers won’t be able to resist falling for Ona ... The conclusion will leave them smiling through their tears.”—*Shelf Awareness*

?“Poignant ... There is much to enjoy in this heartfelt tale of love, loss, and friendship.”—*Express*

“A must-read book ... Whimsical and bittersweet.”—*Good Housekeeping*

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Editorial Review

Review

“Wood (*Any Bitter Thing*, 2005) tells a simultaneously sad and joyous story of a unique eleven-year-old boy and the legacy he leaves behind. Known only as “the boy,” he has no friends, and spends his time obsessively compiling mental lists and memorizing countless Guinness world records. As part of his work to earn a Boy Scout badge, the boy does yard work for 104-year-old Ona Vitkus, a Lithuanian immigrant living nearby. They forge a close bond over the course of seven Saturdays, then the boy dies. His mostly absent musician father, Quinn, volunteers to finish the last three of the boy’s weekends. Quinn becomes aware of his son’s and Ona’s plan to get her into a Guinness records book—hopefully, as the oldest licensed driver—and this leads first to a road trip to find Ona’s only living son, now ninety, and eventually to a visit to her homeland at age 109. Wood’s portrait of a fractured, grieving family is peopled by endearing characters and should appeal to readers who enjoy the family-centered novels of Jodi Picoult and Kristin Hannah.” —*Booklist*

In *The One-in-a-Million Boy*, Monica Wood tells a magical, beautifully written story about the healing power of friendship, music, and unexpected, generation-spanning connections. As emotionally resonant as *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, this novel hums with energy, warmth, wisdom, humor, and soul.“ —Christina Baker Kline, author of *Orphan Train*

From the Inside Flap

The incandescent story of a 104-year-old woman and the sweet, strange young boy assigned to help her around the house a friendship that touches each member of the boy s unmoored family. For years, guitarist Quinn Porter has been on the road, chasing gig after gig, largely absent to his twice ex-wife Belle and their odd, acutely observant eleven-year-old son, who is obsessed with Guinness World Records. When the boy dies suddenly, Quinn seeks forgiveness for his paternal shortcomings by completing the requirements for his son s unfinished Boy Scout badge. For seven Saturdays, Quinn does yard work for Ona Vitkus, the spry, 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant the boy had visited weekly. Quinn soon discovers that the boy had talked Ona into gunning for the world record for Oldest Licensed Driver and that s the least of her secrets. Despite himself, Quinn picks up where the boy left off, forging a friendship with Ona that allows him to know the son he never understood: a boy who was always listening, always learning. "The One-in-a-Million Boy" is a richly layered novel of very real hearts broken seemingly beyond repair and yet still within reach of a stunning act of human devotion. "

From the Back Cover

Praise for "The One-in-a-Million Boy" In "The One-in-a-Million Boy, " Monica Wood tells a magical, beautifully written story about the healing power of friendship, music, and unexpected, generation-spanning connections. As emotionally resonant as "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, " this novel humswith energy, warmth, wisdom, humor, and soul. Christina Baker Kline, author of "Orphan Train" "

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tatum Martin:

The experience that you get from The One-in-a-Million Boy is a more deep you excavating the information

that hide inside words the more you get serious about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to know but The One-in-a-Million Boy giving you joy feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in a number of way that can be understood simply by anyone who read that because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. Making it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of The One-in-a-Million Boy instantly.

Gregory Jones:

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David Barr:

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Rodney Hussey:

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