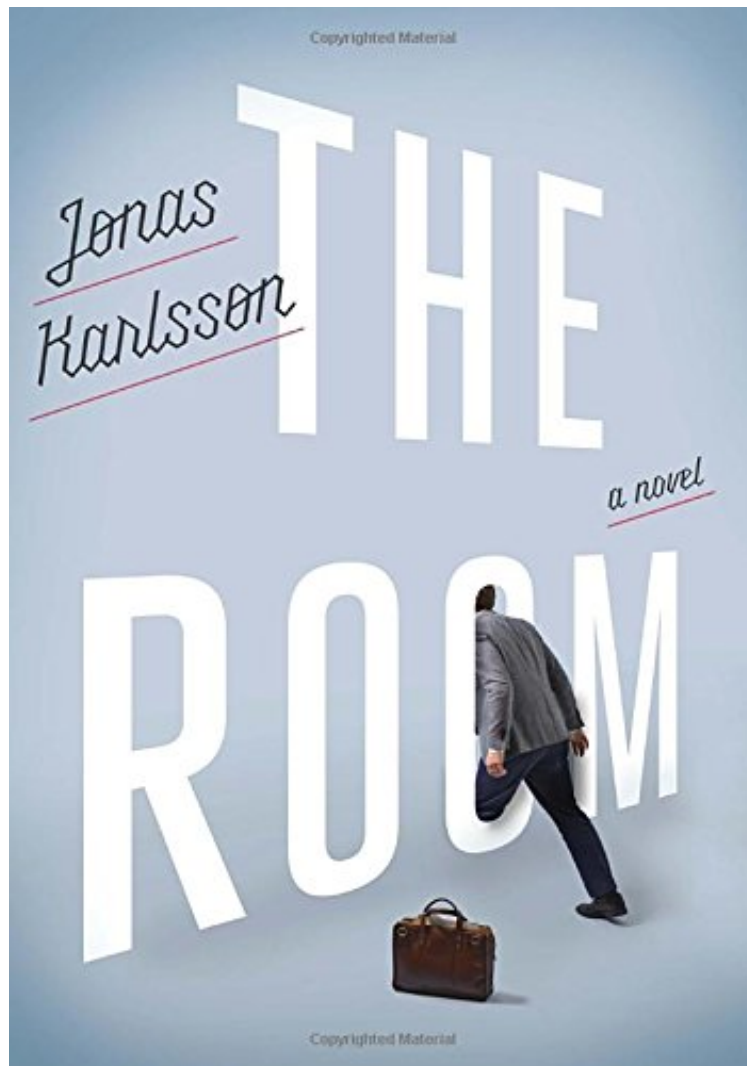


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The Room: A Novel

Jonas Karlsson

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#491141 in Books 2015-02-17 2015-02-17Format: Deckle EdgeOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.13 x .61 x 5.151, .81 #File Name: 0804139989192 pages | File size: 51.Mb

Jonas Karlsson : The Room: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Room: A Novel:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This will stick with me when I go in to the office tomorrow.By Vanilla Ice CreamA Swedish workplace offering glimpses of Franz Kafka, Terry Gilliam, Chuck Palahniuk, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman.The extremely spare, neat prose suits this novella's entirely certain but highly unreliable narrator. There was a little less to grab onto than I might have liked, while some repetitive experiences (arguably necessary to show the day-in-day-out, dull horror of the modern bureaucratic workplace) felt as though they took up a disproportionate amount of space in such a slim volume. What's amazing is how clearly the characters are drawn,

given the appropriately claustrophobic limitations the Karlsson imposes on the telling of his story.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. When you are completely alone.By R. Z. HallesonBjorn goes to work for the Authority where he is given menial tasks to perform. There he discovers a secret room that only he seems to know about. His coworkers become suspicious of him, but he comes to believe that there is a conspiracy to keep him away from the room. This strange story is utterly captivating and so skillfully written that even readers who don't usually prefer weird tales will read it to its surprising ending.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Room and MoreBy ShellyInteresting Read. My thoughts after I finished it was that he was so Narcissistic that he wanted his reality to be truth. One of his biggest flaws was that he saw himself better than everybody else so he saw himself owning that room because he wanted it to be real. I guess you could say he was delusional and insecure but that is not how he saw himself.

Funny, clever, surreal, and thought-provoking, this Kafkaesque masterpiece introduces the unforgettable Bjorn, an exceptionally meticulous office worker striving to live life on his own terms. Bjorn is a compulsive, meticulous bureaucrat who discovers a secret room at the government office where he works--a secret room that no one else in his office will acknowledge. When Bjorn is in his room, what his co-workers see is him standing by the wall and staring off into space looking dazed, relaxed, and decidedly creepy. Bjorn's bizarre behavior eventually leads his co-workers to try and have him fired, but Bjorn will turn the tables on them with help from his secret room. Debut author Jonas Karlsson doesn't leave a word out of place in this brilliant, bizarre, delightful take on how far we will go--in a world ruled by conformity--to live an individual and examined life.

“Swedish actor and playwright Karlsson’s short novel offers a monologue that builds from simple office satire to a reality-bending psychological profile with insights into the nature and importance of personal space.”—Publishers Weekly (starred review) “Trendy Nordic noir meets faded office bureaucracy—with haunting effect.”—New York Post “The Room, a modern, Bartleby-like examination of the tyranny of radical individualism, does mess with one's head, but in a most pleasurable way.”—Bookpage “Karlsson's prose and the inventiveness of Björn's surreal mental workings are often funny, but the overall impact is also deeply thought-provoking and profoundly disquieting, and the combination of the banal and the absurd results in a striking and singular read.” —Shelf Awareness““The Room is the most effective chapbook on workplace comportment since Glengarry Glen Ross. Hats off!” —Nick Offerman, author of Paddle Your Own Canoe “A gripping, tense, demonic fable in which the unease is precision-tooled and the turns of the screw wholly unexpected.” —Neel Mukherjee, author of The Lives of Others““The daily grind got you down? Escape into this Swedish dark comedy about a scaldingly contemptuous office drone who discovers a secret room in his workplace.” —O, the Oprah Magazine, Ten Titles to Pick Up Now “A contemporary tale worthy of comparison to Franz Kafka’s works, Amélie Nothomb’s Fear and Trembling, and Herman Melville’s classic ‘Bartelby, the Scrivener,’ while the antics of Björn’s fellow workers recall Terry Gilliam’s film Brazil. Enjoyable reading, extremely well executed, this fable should become mandatory reading for cubicle and office workers everywhere.” —Library Journal (starred) “Surreal, funny and unsettling.” —Independent.co.uk “Thoroughly enjoyable.” —Guardian “Hilarious and chilling.” —Times of London “Part psychological drama documenting a disturbed man’s possible descent into madness and part satirical take on corporate culture and the alienated workers it produces, Karlsson succeeds admirably in creating the perfect combination of funny, surreal, and disturbing.” —Booklist “Provocative...Karlsson’s deft jab at dead-end workplaces keeps you agreeably off-balance and eager for more of his work.” —Kirkus““Brilliant.” —Financial Times (UK) “A flawless novel that you will finish with a smile.” —Knack (Netherlands) “Jonas Karlsson masterfully tells us about his main character’s Kafkaesque adventure.” —Panorama (Italy) “A Beckettian drama in an open plan office.” —Il Giornale (Italy) “Sweden has its own Kafka in Jonas Karlsson.” —DeMorgen (Netherlands) “Fascinating.... Every time you think you know where Bjorn is heading, he does or says something that tilts the whole story. Minimalism and surrealism, bundled in a short but powerful novel.” —DeZondag (Netherlands) “The Room has the qualities of a masterpiece.” —Göteborgsposten (Sweden)About the AuthorJONAS KARLSSON writes plays and short fiction. One of Sweden's most prominent actors, Karlsson has performed on Sweden's premier stage and in several acclaimed feature films and television series. In 2005, Karlsson made his debut as a playwright, earning rave reviews from audience and critics alike. Spurred by the joy of writing for the stage, Karlsson began writing fiction.