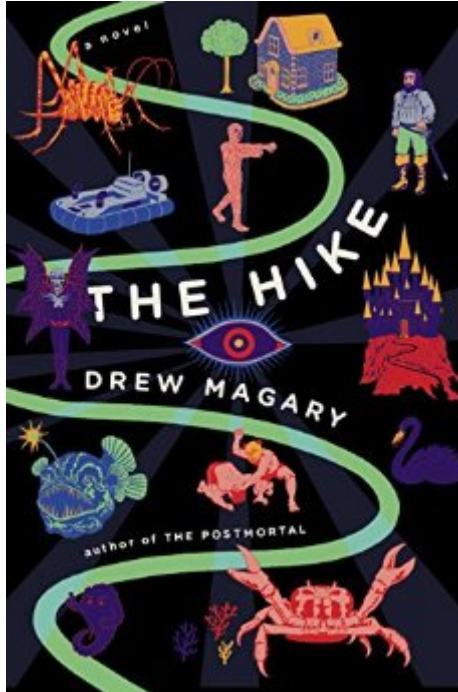


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The Hike: A Novel



Synopsis

“The Hike” just works. It’s like early, good Chuck Palahniuk. . . . Magary underhands a twist in at the end that hits you like a sharp jab at the bell. . . . It’s just that good.” NPR.org
A page-turner. . . . Inventive, funny. . . . Quietly profound and touching.” BoingBoing
From the author of The Postmortal, a fantasy saga unlike any you’ve read before, weaving elements of folk tales and video games into a riveting, unforgettable adventure of what a man will endure to return to his family. When Ben, a suburban family man, takes a business trip to rural Pennsylvania, he decides to spend the afternoon before his dinner meeting on a short hike. Once he sets out into the woods behind his hotel, he quickly comes to realize that the path he has chosen cannot be given up easily. With no choice but to move forward, Ben finds himself falling deeper and deeper into a world of man-eating giants, bizarre demons, and colossal insects. On a quest of epic, life-or-death proportions, Ben finds help comes in some of the most unexpected forms, including a profane crustacean and a variety of magical objects, tools, and potions. Desperate to return to his family, Ben is determined to track down the “Producer,” the creator of the world in which he is being held hostage and the only one who can free him from the path. At once bitingly funny and emotionally absorbing, Magary’s novel is a remarkably unique addition to the contemporary fantasy genre, one that draws as easily from the world of classic folk tales as it does from video games. In The Hike, Magary takes readers on a daring odyssey away from our day-to-day grind and transports them into an enthralling world propelled by heart, imagination, and survival. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't even know where to begin. I try to read four or five books a month and haven't before considered leaving a review. I had to here. I'm a big fan of Magary's work, be it Deadspin (the funbag!), his memoir on parenthood, The Postmortal (which, really I just thought was okay), and his appearance and subsequent white guy thumbdance celebration on Chopped. This book is everything and a little bit more for fiction fans. If you aren't a fan of the fantasy genre PLEASE do not let that discourage you. The book has such a great natural momentum, and the ending... It's excellent. I can go on and on but I won't. I'd recommend this book to any and everyone, including you. So go read it!

I have only a mild interest in the fantasy genre, but I've enjoyed Drew Magary's writing for a few years now so I preordered The Hike about a week ago. It arrived in the mail today around 4:00 PM, and I finished it before I went to bed. Masterfully paced and often hilarious, it's easily one of the best books I've read in years. I'll be recommending it to basically everyone. Magary has a casual but versatile voice that's perfect - if unorthodox - for a fantasy narrative. My only criticism is that I personally struggled to solve a simple puzzle that was presented shortly after the novel's halfway point. This made me feel dumb.

Bought this book a couple of days ago based on how much I liked Mr Magary's writing in Postmortal and in GQ. The Hike is a huge step forward for him as a writer. Tightly plotted with echoes of folk tales, buddy movies, and nightmares. Anyone who enjoyed Cloud Atlas, Dark Tower, or the Matrix movies but thought they could maybe have been better if they'd had a wiseass talking crab as a character - will love this book.

Good choice for an evening read. A solid mix of humor, adventure, suspense, the unexpected. Easy to get through in one sitting, but fast-changing scenes are distinct enough that it's also a good "pick up when you have small chunks of time" read. Looking forward to reading more from the author &

will check out his columns. Thanks for your work.

Interesting story and a good read. But not as much a personal adventure as I first thought then a glimpse into the cruelty of the journey. It was written well enough that I felt those strong emotions of the main character, and while I usually prefer escapism, this novel does make you think about his odyssey for days afterwards.

So many great reviews, but I struggled to keep reading. Interesting premise, but what spoiled it for me is the way the plot is just one ridiculous, miraculous, life-saving occurrence after another. Gee, how will the protagonist get out of this next mess? Oh, exactly what he needs will just magically appear from nowhere [for no reason, no connection whatsoever to anything else], over and over again. And... not particularly funny either. I couldn't even get 1/2 way through this. Maybe something later somehow ties it all together? I dunno, no more patience.

I needed a book that didn't require me to commit to a series. This was a quick read that took a days time off and on. It was very enjoyable and frankly would be an amazing movie. This is an adult Alice in wonderland crossed with a wonderful life crossed with some sci Fi. Awesomeness!!!

Have you ever asked a three year old to tell you a story? It usually starts off making sense, then it just gets weird for no good reason. There's no rhyme or reason from one scene in their story to the next. Finally, it ends and it might be tied to the beginning of the story and it might not. I felt like that reading this book. It starts with a decent premise; guy goes walking behind his hotel in the woods. From there, the story is just one weird scene one after the other with no rhyme or reason why one scene comes after another. I honestly thought the book was going to be a bad acid trip at the end. If the scenes were meant to be funny, they failed although one tiny character was amusing. I have to wonder if this was simply a short story at first of maybe 50-75 pages, but the publisher wanted the book to be longer. "Fill in the middle with more weirdness. We need to get this book close to 300 pages" because all you need to know is the beginning and the end. The middle doesn't matter. Harsh, I know. All the editorial reviews tell me I'm wrong. They loved it. It's "brilliantly weird" etc etc, blah blah, but I think the average joe will find 90% of the story unnecessary.

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