



The Screen Savers

Bryan Romaine

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The Screen Savers is a quirky, bittersweet comedy novel laced with mystery, satire and offbeat romance.

A loner loves watching non-mainstream films at his local cinema – films that, thankfully, few people want to see, but when the cinema decides to stop showing these films, he must do the unthinkable: make friends. At the very least he must work with others intent on keeping these screenings going: first, a mysterious woman who knows everything about him, then a group of misfits who are suspiciously similar to his old friends. Together they form The Screen Savers.

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The Screen Savers Details

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From Reader Review The Screen Savers for online ebook

Deborah Boyle says

I read the opening chapter of 'The Screen Savers' via Bryan's website <http://www.bryanromaine.com/blog/snea...> and loved it.

Can't wait for the book to come out online to read the entire book!

Angj Brooks says

Before I start my review I just want to say that I won this in a giveaway and once again, I am grateful to Goodreads and the authors who participate in the giveaways. This is not just because of the fact you get a free book, but because this is now the third book that really enjoyed, and may not have picked up in a store.

Possible spoilers ahead which I have blocked, but if you don't want to know too much detail and go into this book fresh, all I say is if you want a unique story about friendship and cinema outings, then definitely give this a read!

Okay on to the more detailed review.

The plot revolves around Adam and his life when he decides to take a break from his friend for 6 months. No contact, parties, phone calls etc. However Adam then gets roped into trying to save the art films at his local cinema which he enjoys going to (because there is no-one there) and gets entangled in a whole set of different complications.

From the above premise I honestly thought I would have difficulty relating to Adam and seeing as he is the main character, would have difficulty with this book. However whilst Adam can be seen as paranoid and eccentric, he is also sympathetic and human in his approach to things, and most of the time I sided with him. (view spoiler)

There are many other side characters who have traits that are recognisable in people I know which again helped make this story feel very real. (view spoiler)

This book is also quite funny and did make me giggle in a few places especially where (view spoiler)

Also I don't tend to judge a book by its cover (deliberate choice of saying there!) however I don't why but I do really love this book's cover. Perhaps it's the bright colours, or the fact I'm a sucker for movie poster/superhero films, but I love this cover and it really got me excited about the story I was about to read.

All in all The Screen Savers is well written, and as I said above I enjoyed reading it very much. I felt I could relate to Adam, and I must admit it is one of the most important things to me as a reader that I can either relate to or like the main character (which seems to be happening less and less in books I pick up), and whilst the situations he goes through. The book itself is very easy to read and the author has a very interesting writing style.

Fingers crossed that more people become interested in this book and I hope to see more from the author in the future!

Elizabeth Best says

I really wanted to enjoy this book - the idea of the book sounds great, but the characters didn't really feel real and neither did the situations. I mean, who can get away with not going to work or not doing work or not listening to your boss even for 10% of what Adam did? I understand Adam needed routine etc. but it was a bit forced. Yvette knowing so much about him wasn't really explained and there wasn't really an ending.

Tim Gambrell says

I am fortunate to have been given an advance reading copy of this novel by the author, and the following review is based on that. I have endeavoured to avoid any plot spoilers.

In *The Screen Savers* Bryan Romaine has created another of literature's complicated, neurotic, eccentric, fallible and ultimately human characters in the simply-named Adam. I think anyone who has lived on their own for any period of time will be able to relate to Adam – either positively or negatively. But at a basic level this reviewer found him to be an endearing creation with a real sense of truth about him.

This is Bryan's first novel, and I found it a very confident work. The narrative voice is third person and the style is conversational more than formal; the action is presented as happening now - giving the reader a sense of immediacy and pace. In common with many texts fuelled by obsessive, eccentric characters, *The Screen Savers* is very funny in places. The humour is situational and character-driven through reactions and mannerisms; it is never forced, and 'gags' (such as any are) are never set up in a contrived way. For example – and this owes much to the pictures that the text conjures in the reader's head - there is a persistent reference to deceased Scottish actor Alastair Sim. Now, okay, some younger readers may need to contextualise him, but the conceit is planted with perfect legitimacy and once there the obsessive revisiting of it, and the resultant mental hoops Adam puts himself through, create some extraordinarily comedic moments and images.

The only real negative that stood out to me was that Adam and Yvette's relationship is a little too scant and under-written in the final third of the book, but that's really a minor quibble amongst a whole load of positives.

To sum up, *The Screen Savers* is very well - and sympathetically - written, and I've greatly enjoyed the experience of reading it. I felt I could relate to Adam and to his situation in life; I understood the mental hoops he puts himself through in his relationships with other people. I've relished the challenges of the text, it's lightness of touch and the shorthand way it has of encouraging the reader to infill any narrative gaps. With bite-size chapters I really didn't want to put it down, and I can easily see this as a one-session read in future.

I hope this book gets the wide audience and appreciation that I feel it deserves, and that we get further works from Bryan Romaine as a result.

R Beesley says

Disclaimer: I received an advance reader copy, and have known Bryan for years. Despite that, I still read it, and really enjoyed it!

It's a testament to how good it is, that I forgot by the third chapter that I was supposed to be giving feedback. I found myself easily swept up in Adam's life and his (self-imposed) predicament, and was reluctant to leave it when called back into real life. Adam is a great vessel for detailing modern man's frustrations with the fast paced 21st century. Though the outsider in the novel, he was the one I identified with, to the point where at several sections in the book, I had to read passages out to my wife, trying to make her understand why I say/do the things I do.

Not only is it insightful, it's funny, and also a little odd. (In a way that you don't even realise until halfway through a scene, a chance meeting etc.) One is unsure of the actual reality surrounding Adam, but I was more than happy to go along for the ride, and the payoff is worth it.

It's a fantastic, confident, debut novel and though not out yet, I'm already looking forward to Bryan's next book.

Bithika says

This is a very funny novel and I guffawed many times while reading this. Bryan Romaine is also a screenwriter, and makes comedy films - and this definitely comes through in this book.

Early on in the story, Adam is prompted to ditch his group of 'friends' (and the endless stream of empty socialising that comes with them) in search of something more satisfying. Pretty soon after, he has strange encounter with an alluring woman who he keeps seeing at his favourite cinema. It is her favourite cinema too and has a special significance for her. She tells him that the cinema is in danger, of turning mainstream. They soon devise a plan to save it, and the quest begins.

Adam's mood throughout the book fluctuates between bewildered and mildly irritated which is funny in itself. His world contains a lot of bizarre and frustrating elements - his utterly clueless boss, his zen-master-in-disguise neighbour Sockball, the impossible blackbird that sings out of tune, his crazy friends who think they're in the mafia to name just a few.

In summary I really enjoyed this, and I hope to see more from this author. If you like surreal humour like The IT Crowd, then I heartily recommend this book.

