



The Highway Man

J. Alchem

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Dr. Rusenvelt, a physician cum psychiatrist receives a call. It is about a bestselling author who had created an illusion of fantasy around himself. The doctor is asked to bring him back to reality. However, he comes across a shock.

Rohan, broken on losing the love of his life, is driving on the highway. Suddenly a man intrudes in his life to place his broken pieces together. But Rohan has now another secret to witness.

Two stories to blow your mind.

The Highway Man Details

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Author : J. Alchem

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From Reader Review The Highway Man for online ebook

Pallavi Sharma says

Before reviewing this book, I would first like to thank Sidra for recommending this book to me and also providing with a free copy. So thank you so much Sidra for introducing me with the book.

The Highway Man is a collection of 3 short stories, each coming from a different genre, carrying different array of emotions and exhibiting a different aspect of life.

The first story 'Catherine', is about a writer who is trapped in his own exuberant imagination and starts living that very illusion as his reality. It is kind of a thriller with a very very unexpected ending. This is very aptly placed as the first story in the book because it leaves you longing for more.

The second story 'Sidzy, for-a-day', is a very calming read about a couple madly in love with each other and how their emotions are manifested in their actions. The cute romance makes you blush time and again and fall in love with the 'love between Sidzy and Jihaan'.

The third and final story, 'The Highway Man', remarkably draws how a single event can shatter your entire life and how another event can 'unshatter' it. This story reminds us about how easily we cling to the past and forget about our responsibilities in the present. This last story managed to get tears rolling from my eyes.

The writing style was simple and brisk which only accentuated the beauty of the stories. But there were certain grammatical errors according to me, and also I felt the stories were a little too short (not because I could not connect with the characters, but because I wanted to live with them a little longer). Overall it was an amazing read, worth every minute spent on reading it. I would love to give it a 4/5 stars.

Himanshika Sharma says

The highwayman is a collection of three stories, which surely proves to be an entertaining read as it comprises of different genres. Narration is commendable as the stories come from varied genres and have a fine grip on readers.

From a psycho-thriller in Catherine to a cozy love budding in Sidzy for a day and finally concluding with a life changing event in 'The Highwayman', this book is an apt weekend read and can be a promising one in your all time favorites!

A must read for all those who want to read more in less time. A perfect trio of short stories that can quench the thirst of a reader inside you!

Janci Rani says

Review :

This book is a combination of three soul stirring short stories. Even the preface has a cute story to tell.

The first story is Catherine. In this story, the author narrates how a best selling author gets obsessed with his own fictional characters so that he starts living with them and also love them. The characters were very well portrayed and the climax was just unimaginable. It left a thought that can love be this obsess?

The next one is Sidzy; for a day. Can a man go to this extent to make his girl happy? Yes. Indeed. Jihan sets

an example by making a memorable day for Sidzy and tries to live her day to make it memorable. And yes, I'm jealous of Sidzy for owning a man like Jihan. And this story can make anyone fall for a man like Jihan and I'm no exception.

The last one is The Highway Man. This story is about the life of a little boy Ayaan and his father. After the death of Ayaan's mom, they both live a life similar to hell. And unexpectedly, a stranger Jihan enters their life to make their life blossom again. Who is Jihan? Why should he do that? Read the book to find your answers.

My view :

I enjoyed reading the whole book and every stories imbibed my soul with multiple emotions. The author has penned down every story with utmost care and yes, his baby is so sweet and charming. The Highway Man story occupied a tight place in my heart and it almost brought tears. Even the dedication and acknowledgement is enough to prove the author's success as he has shown his gratitude to everyone in his life. Each and every character has occupied its special place in my heart and I fell hard in love with Jihan and Sidzy. The author has summed up the whole emotions and feelings of life in three short stories. The quotes adorning every stories has added special beauty to the stories. And at the end of the book, I assure that all the readers will feel a sense of refreshment and relief. I completed the whole book in less than an hour and that reveals how much passion I had towards those stories and characters. Thanks for this wonderful short stories and the characters as they became a part of my life now. The cover of the book matches well with the book. Still I couldn't find why the author decided to name the book with the title of the third story. But your babies never disappoint me.

A wonderful book which should never be missed. Grab it today and don't regret later for missing it.

Ratings :

Cover : 4.5 / 5

Story : (It deserves 5 / 5)

Narration : 4.5 / 5

Blurb : 4 / 5

Overall rating : 4.5 / 5

Anish Kohli says

Note: Free copy from the Author in exchange of an Honest review.

A highly disappointing read!!

The author very eloquently calls himself the '*Mother*' and his stories as his '*Children*' whom he kept hidden from the world fearing the harshness of the world. Fearing that his babies aren't ready for the world out there.

I couldn't agree more!!

These stories aren't ready for the world. These 'babies' have been rightly hidden from the light of day. Reading this book, you find that the underlying emotion is LOVE, in its different forms. Dear author, let me introduce you to another form of love called '**Tough Love**'. It is the kind of love that puts a lot of things in perspective and your '*babies*' are in dire need of it.

The book has 3 short stories:

1. Catherine
2. Sidzy for a Day
3. The Highway Man

Amongst the 3 stories, only Catherine is worth glancing over. The rest two simply read as Ripoffs of some low budget Hindi flick. They are too cheesy and too sugary and way too cliched. There isn't even a hint of originality. I am sorry Mr. J. Alchem, honesty was promised and this is god's honest truth from where I sit.

This is a book as short as 70 odd pages, containing only 3 different short stories with a WORLD of glaring mistakes. So many of them, I lost count. One can overlook a few, but it is hard to overlook where 'World' is swapped with 'Word' in a romantic sentence. It reflects severe lack of editing and attention.

In the preface, a score of people were thanked, who read these stories and encouraged the author to put them out there. I must say, they are not your friends. Not really. Because they never read it. Had as many people as you say, read this book, the errors would have been considerably less and much more inconspicuous. And amongst these people, the ones who really hold you close, would also have told you that these stories are not good enough to be dished out to the masses. Not nearly so.

I understand the need to tell a story that is inside of you. It can nag and nag until you let it out and I understand that feeling because I too have a story. BUT, having a story is not the same as telling it. Because telling a story my dear author, is an ART. And like any other art-form, either you have it, or you don't. From my perspective, you don't.

There really isn't anything to praise in this book as far as I am concerned.

Also, I sincerely hope your first name isn't Jihan but I am almost certain it is!

Writing yourself in your own story and making the character seem a god sent is pompous and a huge no no for me personally.

Murali Ryan says

The Highway Man by J Alchem is an collection of three short stories with gripping plot blended with emotions it makes the read more interesting and tempting.

The author's writing style is simple with blending of multiple emotions like love, happiness, relationship, pain of suffering, loneliness and also the lucid language makes you engaged with the story.

The first story is Catherine, that says life story of an bestselling author it makes you to hook with thrill till last.

The second story is Sidzy; for a day, states the love of a couple, Jihan husband of Sidzy who plans to surprise her wife in women's day by doing her all chores to make it a memorable day for her. It will be a beautiful short story you ever read for sure.

The third story is The Highway Man, its about a man who lost her wife in an accident and thereafter he helps the passers in whatever way he can. It's so touchy in the way author written it.

Overall, The Highway Man is a must read. I loved the book and would suggest you to read it. All the best to Alchem sir and I wish to read his other works too.

My rating - 5/5.

Asif Uzzaman says

Once in a while we all come across a book or a story in some magazine or newspaper that perfectly cures our reading appetite. The Highway Man by J Alchem is one such collection of three stories which are linked with each other in some ways but not directly -- the way R. K. Narayan's stories used to be connected with each other.

Like most books, The Highway Man begins with an Acknowledgement, which you ought to read. I repeat, do not leaf through the Acknowledge and Preface, they are not to be left unread if you get a chance to read this book. You can thank me later.

The author has got imagination of Rushdie and writing skill of Bhagat. Which makes the book very pleasant to read. All the three stories are beautiful and conclude with surprises.

The only negative point of the book is that it has got several grammatical errors, which disappoint.

Overall, The Highway Man is a winner, a good read, and a real page turner.

Aakanksha Mishra says

The highway man

The highway man by J. Alchem is a collection of heart-warming three short stories namely

- 1- Catherine
- 2- Sidzy, for a day
- 3- The highway man

These stories are written in so beautiful way that makes you confuse whether to smile or cry. Nothing is

beautiful than a book which can make you smile, cry, blush and even make you envy of the beautiful scenes created in the book.

The story Catherine revolves around a best-selling author Nicholas Sieum who has fallen in love and a physician Dr. Rusenvelt who has always dealt with extraordinary cases and the case of Nicholas Sieum was nothing less than extraordinary. The girl with whom he has fallen in love with was the female protagonist of his novels, Catherine. His father asked Dr. Rusenvelt to cure his son. In order to cure his illness, he ties up with a publisher and the publisher signs a contract with Nicholas for writing a crime thriller novel in some other town. The idea was to keep Nicholas away from memories of Catherine but what happens at the end of the novel will blow your mind. The twist in the end of the story is the main dish.

The second story is about a young couple who are irresistibly and passionately in love with each other and can do anything to make another smile. The story is set on the day dedicated to women's, international women's day. To make the day special for his wife, Sidzy he decides to play the role of his wife and doing everything for her to make her smile. He planned small - small surprises for her to show her love for her. He did everything to celebrate Sidzy's day and enlighten her day by showing the affection and respect he had for her. But his wife was not only the one who get surprises throughout the day.

The third story is about a 7-year-old kid Ayaan, his father Rohan and The highway man. Rohan lost his wife and his parents in a car accident and since that day his son lost his smile. He not even tried to get closer to him because he lost his will to love. One day when they were traveling towards Agra they meet a man on the highway who brings back the joy which was long lost from their lives. When Rohan started believing that Jihan was his savior something happens which was totally the turn of the events.

Review -

The book has the most amazing short story collection I've ever read. Each story was portrayed in a beautiful way to make readers fall in love with the characters. The book has all the elements romance, hope, joy, sadness, sorrow, pain, inspiration, faith, and fiction in just a small book. The perfect narration style and the surprising elements keep the readers hooked up till the end. The cover is also one of the most beautiful and attracting one.

The best part about the author is that he considers his books as his babies and tries to present his writing in a totally unique way.

If you are looking for an amazing book then here this book is for you.

Padmaja says

The Highway Man by J Alchem is a collection of 3 stories. They are:

1) Catherine 2) Sidzy for a day and 3) The highway man

Each story is beautiful and are the best ones I read in a long time.

Coming to the stories, Catherine is the story of a best selling Author who falls in love with the female protagonist of his novels, Catherine. His father approaches Dr. Rusevelt, a famous doctor to cure his son.

The story revolves around the doctor's efforts to cure the author who is also one of his favorites. Will he be able to cure him? Read the story to find out.

Sidzy for a day is the story of a married couple who are madly in love with each other. It is a very sweet story when on Women's day, the husband, Jihan decides to make the day special for his wife by doing everything he can do for her. The day is spent reminiscing their love. It's a very sweet story.

The Highway Man is the third story in the book. This is the story of a man who has lost his wife in a tragic accident. His wife's death has affected him immensely and he is hardly able to give time to his son. One day, on the request of his son, they go to Agra to visit the Taj Mahal. On the way, a stranger asks them for a lift. Upon conversing with the stranger, they realize the meaning of life.

The writing is beautiful and simple. No heavy words are used. My most favorite story is Catherine. The stories are very meaningful. This book is good for a quick read. I only wish it had more stories.

Rating 4.5/5

I received a review copy in exchange of an honest and unbiased review.

Samira Baber says

The highway man" by J Alchem is combination of four short stories

- 1)preface
- 2)Catherine
- 3)sidzy for a day
- 4)the highway man

The highway man book having four different genre in respective story and all are written in so beautiful way u can easily visualise the scenes in the book

The acknowledgement is just to different from others and that what makes his work unique.

In first story is of father and daughter.she is an imaginative and curious about what is a purpose of twinkling star..

The second one is story is of Catherine,a female fiction character in the books of famous author Nicholas sieum.In which the author Nicholas sieum itself fallen in love with Catherine and the physician Dr.Rusenvelt who always deals with unusual cases.his father ask him to cure his son.how he cure his son illness and what's the result of his treatment is an unimagined

The third one is love story of sidzy and jihan. These story will make you blush from starting to end.Its about a dedicated day to womens day.jihan plays the role of sidzy and decided give a surprises by doing all the small small things throughout the day and both of them shows each other how much proud and lucky to have each other in their life.

The fourth one is of the highway man.these story is about the son Ayaan Rohan and the highway man. Rohan lost his wife one day in car accident and after the lost of his wife. he just lost the meaning of his life.one day the higyway man meets both of them in between the highway when they were traveling to Agra and from that day he gives another life to father and son after the death of his beloved wife. highway man shows how to live happy without having anything and keep smiling without any reason.when Rohan start living happily as per jihan thoughts then something happens which turns the event.

Review:

These books has best collection of short stories.Its consist of the

obsession, passion, romance, love, inspiration, faith, emotion. the highway man tells how to except the reality and keep going with life., and how to live the life to the fullest and its says that how we can make others happy by doing small gesture. true happiness lies by making others happy.

Every story is written in such away that keep readers bonded till the end. it make readers to complete in one go because you cannot wait to read what happen next.

If you were looking to read an unique short story book then you should definitely read 'the higyway man' by J Alchem

Mridu aka Storypals says

Didn't hate the book- well for me hate is extreme, so well. This is getting two stars because the first story had the potential, so much potential!

You can read the review here- <http://storypals.net/reviewthehighway...>

BOOKAHOLIC says

“Dad, what if stars are just an illusion? A product of our imaginative mind? A pseudo-science phenomenon? An worn out story? A rotten belief?...Dad what if the sky is a floor in which God walks and through those star shaped holes keep a watch on us?... My 7 years old daughter, little Sidzy, said, lying beside me on the grass, facing the sky with closed eyes as she poured her heart out to me. All I remembered was the quote from Albert Einstein.
“The true intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination.””

With such a beautiful and thought provoking preface we start the journey of renowned author J. Alchem's bestseller book “The Highway Man”, it is a short story collection consisted of three short stories.

Summary:- *The whole world is upside down. People are walking in the sky with the ground moving above their heads. And the reason is simple; a bestselling author is in love. But why the whole world is inverted? What's so special about this love? Or worse?*

A man throws his masculine brain and heart aside and fixes a feminine one there. And the reason is simple; he wants to live the life of his lover, for 24 hours. But why does he want to do that? What's the need?

A man, neatly dressed in a suit, is playing with his bowler hat, on a highway at dawn. And the reason is simple; he needs a lift. But why does he need a lift? What's his purpose?

My thoughts:- I had heard about this book from my friends so when I saw the chance to review it I grabbed it at the given chance. And to tell the truth it wasn't a bad decision.

The three stories the book contain are **1. Catherine 2. Sidzey; for a day** and the namesake of the book title **3.The Highway Man .**

In the “Catherine” the story opens in the chamber of a psychologist who gets to treat his favourite romance author who is a patient of a delusion. *****Slight Spoiler Alert***** The author Nicholas Sieum has fallen in

love with the fictional heroine of his own romance series. And the doctor tries his best to treat him. The author is obsessed to the extent that he writes love letters to his ladylove and lives the life of Catherine himself.

The second story “Sidzy; for a day” presents life of a young couple Jihan and Sidzy celebrating International Women’s Day. The loving husband Jihan wants to help his wife Sidzy by doing all the household works and taking her to a date. He becomes Sidzy for a day. The story represents the love and conjugal life of two in a very romantic way.

“The Highway Man” is the last story and my favourite of all the three. Jihan lives with seven years old son Ayaan after the death of his wife and parents in a bizarre accident on the way Delhi-Agra. The grief-stricken family of two sets on a journey to visit Taj Mahal.

On the way he meets a mysterious man who keeps asking personal questions and cracking jokes that makes both father and son smile after a long time. They feel relieved.
The last story has a fine moral to it.

“Life is not missing what is gone but to counting and cherishing what you have...!!”

This story has a nice twist in the end that will make your eyes go round.

The author’s writing style is very fluent, easy going and frequently thought provoking. Plots are good too however a little clichéd. The stories have various themes. But one theme is predominant in all three stories, love and live life to the fullest.

And I just loved the Preface. The way he has presented his literary works as his children it is amazing. And the Bengali words, “Ami Sotti Bolchi” when you hear Bengali from a non-native speaker it is really too sweet. Last but not the least a very beautiful cover.

Drawbacks and Ratings:- However there is a slight drawback I found in the second story. The romantic conversation between the couple Jihan and Sidzy seemed a bit too cheesy. And in the first story I had expected a bit more suspense to treat the illness, it had enough possibility to take a turn towards a mystery. Otherwise the book is fine. I will recommend it to all.
4 stars is the rating.

Thanksgiving:- Thanks to the author J Alchem for giving me the opportunity to read and review this book.

Ammu Nair says

This book has 3 different stories but plot remains the same of love. Each stories different from the other. My favourite is the first one. The first story is about a guy who works on improving emotional quotient of people discussing his difficult case. The second story is what happens when a role reversal take place and third is what happens when someone's life is cut short.

The best part of the book is you have a connect with the book. The stories doesn't sound too illogical, we can think of it happening and the author using such simple stories and language can also be a plus point.

The negative of the book that it's only 3 stories. Wants more :-)

Overall a very nice read.

Ratings: 5 out of 5

Sidra ahmad says

I have read this book twice-First edition and Revised edition (Revised edition has only two 'updated' stories) So, I am in dilemma whether my review should be based on three stories (First edition) or two stories (Revised edition).

Okay, writing it as revised one.

The book has two stories; Catherine and The Highway man.

Catherine is a story of a doctor who received a call from the father of a bestselling author Nicholas Sieum. The call is about the illusion the author had created around himself about his own book series. The doctor is asked to treat him, but the situation goes worse when the treatment created another kind of illusion for the author. I loved this story the most between the two.

What I loved in this story:

1. The climax has totally blown my mind.
2. Authors really do lots of hardwork for their books and this story clearly shows the pain they take.
3. The character of Dr. Rusenvelt. I loved it.
4. I am like 'I want to read the series written by the author Nicholas Sieum' but sadly it is all fictional.

The Highway Man is a story of a father and his son. They both are sad and broken because of a tragedy that shook them completely. One day while going to Agra, a stranger asks them to lift and turn their life upside down for a better life. But this stranger too does hold a secret.

There are many reasons why I loved this story:

1. I loved the character of Ayan. He was so innocent. I felt his tears and pain while reading the book.
2. I loved the character of The Highway Man. I loved how he complimented everyone 'hey nice shoes' 'hey your smile is awesome' and helped them in discovering a new life. By just appreciating the things happening around, we can really make a better world. Isn't it? It really taught me a lot.
3. I loved the climax. It gave me tears. It is how you give back to society.
4. The message this story gives <3

Overall, it is a beautiful read. I would rate it 4.5 stars. Yes, recommended to all.

J. Alchem says

The Highway Man is my latest short story (revised) collection. It has only two stories namely Catherine and The Highway Man. The book is available on Amazon kindle worldwide. No paperback this time (author is on 'paper conserve' mode).

"Catherine" is a story of a Bestselling Author Nicholas Sieum who has a strange love story that would blow your mind. This story shows the hard work and dedication an author puts to create his book that he forgets he has a real life, too, to live.

"The Highway Man" is a story of a strange man who asks lift on an highway to strangers and then intrude in their life. It is an inspirational heart touching story that shows how a stranger can teach us the lessons we need. This story is under a contract to be a short film shortly.

Hope you love both the stories as much as I loved writing them.

Surabhi Sharma says

‘The Highway Man’ is a short read comprising three short stories out of which one is soon to become a short film. The stories are touching and mesmerizing. If I have to pick one of my favorites, I would say ‘Catherine’.

Catherine is a story of a bestselling author who fell in love with his own character of the book. I love the beauty with Alchem created the characters of the story. It’s truly mesmerizing and I not only loved the story but also the way he composed it and portrays the character of the bestselling author. The second story is ‘Sidzy; for a day’. The third and the final story in the book is ‘The Highway Man’.

Writing a short story is a tricky affair, you have to tell the tale in limited words with completeness. There must be a start and there must be an ending and that too in those limited words and readers should get a feeling that they have sailed an ocean in minutes.

It’s a quick read and best part is it gives a feeling of fulfillment in space of limited pages. I recommend it to all the readers who wants to read something worth their time and penny.

<https://thereviewauthor.com/>
