



The Great Blue Yonder

Alex Shearer

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People seem to think it's an easy life when you're dead. But you can take it from Harry, it's no such thing.

After finding himself dead from a bike accident, Harry emerges on the Other Side, a strange land where the sun is always setting but never quite disappears, and dead people wander about, waiting to move on to the Great Blue Yonder. Harry's not sure exactly what the Great Blue Yonder is, but he doesn't want to go there until he's found some way to let his sister know that he's sorry for the mean things he said to her just before the accident. To do that, he'll have to return to Earth as a ghost--and face what life there is like without him.

The Great Blue Yonder Details

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Author : Alex Shearer

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From Reader Review The Great Blue Yonder for online ebook

Kei Matsuda says

Good for kids

Mai Kimura says

MACMILLAN

7/12 30min, 7/13 30min

-regret-dead-incident-coincidentally-meaning-life-consider

Q. Do you believe heaven and hell? Please explain what you think.

A. I think we go to either of them, heaven or hell, after we die.

I believe that people who did good things (e.g. helped someone, or never hurt anyone etc) can go to heaven, and people who did bad things (e.g. deprived money, or murdered someone etc) must go to hell.

I knew the Japanese version of this book (it's called "Aozora no mukou") and this is children literature, so I chose this book.

But, this is a little difficult for me and I could not imagine the situation of the world in this book.

Therefore, I want to read the Japanese version during summer vacation and after that, I try to read the book in English!!

Oscar Maquito says

*5/5

The Author Has A Very Good Job Job Making This Book Just Like The Fault In Our Stars by John Green And Both Of Them Are All Impressive Making That Books...

Jacqueline says

Touching, moving, great book for understanding and coming to terms with death without being overly maudlin or even depressing. The protagonist Harry is a recently deceased young boy with an engaging voice readers will instantly bond with.

Favorite quote from this book. p. 112

"It didn't bear thinking about, all the things that could happen to my tree. I put them out of my mind. Why imagine the worst? I thought. The worst that can happen is that you'll die, and I had. So I might as well look

on the bright side now. And maybe my tree would last for hundreds of years, and maybe it wouldn't. I could only hope that it would do its best. That's all you can hope of anyone or anything, that they'll do their best. Because trees are only sort of human, after all, in their way."

Brian Spuy says

Really good children's books are never really just for children - they can be enjoyed by adults too. For me, "The Great Blue Yonder" falls into this category. I found it by turns funny and moving, and it sets one thinking about life's larger issues, and about what an afterlife might be like, assuming there is one.

The book may be offensive to conventionally religious folks - Shearer's vision of the afterlife is actually not exactly cheery, and surely not quite in line with Judaeo-Christian ideas. But then, a good book is *supposed* to be challenging. I look forward to more by this writer.

-Brian

<http://brianvds.blogspot.co.za/>

Camilla Chester says

This was such a comforting book and a good choice for any child who is grieving or trying to come to terms with a bereavement.

I so hope it is true - that when we die we don't feel anything but instead wake up in a queue and know instantly that we are dead. That if we're at peace we wonder off to The Great Blue Yonder where the sun never quite sets, to be recycled back into life. But if we have 'unfinished business' we hang about, or go back to haunt and use powers to transmit ideas and thoughts into the minds of the living.

Told all from Harry's POV, a regular kid who is just unlucky enough to be hit by a lorry whilst out on his bike, it is upbeat, light but not flippant.

My only tiny niggle with it is the voice does not always sound like a kid from now, more like a grown-man thinking back to when he was a boy who did things like make model airplanes and use handkerchiefs for toy soldier parachutes. Quaint rather than realistic, but then again it was the voice that made it comforting.

Judie Holliday says

It's probably unfair of me to give this 2 stars because it isn't written for me, but I have read and enjoyed many many children's books, and I really didn't think much of this one. After about 20 pages, once the premise was well established, I found myself skimming pages rather than reading them. I looked for narrative hooks or interesting episodes and only came across one or two. While it was interesting to see

where the author went with the idea of a ghost boy returning to the earth to settle 'unfinished business' I felt that he pushed the plot too far. This could have made a powerful short story but instead it made a loose, baggy, boring novel. I'd say this book would suit children under the age of 12 and that there isn't anything in it for adults.

Yang says

- Summery: Harry went to another world beacause of a car accident.He is waiting to go to the other side of the blue sky,but he still misses his father,mother,sister,teacher and classmate. He doesn't know how to come his feelings,uni he eegs Arthur,a ghost.Arthur helps harry bac to the earth,back to his relatie and friends...Now he I dead,harry doesn't know how the time flies,he also doesn't know how to kill the time.His journey is not finished,he wishes he didn't be mean to hi sister before the accident. He wishes he could say sorry to the people he hurt,and say goodbye to everyone.He eventually finishes all the things he that wished to Touching, moving, great book for understanding and coming to terms with death without being overly maudlin or even depressing. The protagonist Harry is a recently deceased young boy with an engaging voice readers will instantly bond with.

Favorite quote from this book. p. 112

"It didn't bear thinking about, all the things that could happen to my tree. I put them out of my mind. Why imagine the worst? I thought. The worst that can happen is that you'll die, and I had. So I might as well look on the bright side now. And maybe my tree would last for hundreds of years, and maybe it wouldn't. I could only hope that it would do its best. That's all you can hope of anyone or anything, that they'll do their best. Because trees are only sort of human, after all, in their way." flies to other side of the blue sky.

- Personal Review: We are powerless on facing death.Maybe a ray of sunshine will become the furl of our ferency.But death is not the marsh of wistfulness, it is important that you look through it.We should cherish every second in our life. There is a quote from this book: " never let the sun sets during your suffering in the abyss of magnanimous alone". People will unveil the importance of life when they realize they may not see tomorrow's sun rise after they lay down tonight. People should take their time when they are alive, and cherish everyone around them. But cherish everyone and time are not the end .As a student we must study hard ,if you are a adult you need work hard .Because if you are alive but you did't do anything important or helpfull,that like death .So keep your time and use it serious.

-I think Harry is a know wrong but be immediately corrected boy .We need learn from him .But he did that after he death,in fact we can't do anything after die .So we need think about do everything before,because people might one day you will not regret the chance,called Opportunities for those who prepare?

REMARK?I think that's a good book for us .Come ,let's read it .

Heather Tuttle says

This story is not only about death, it is a book in which it teaches you how to live. The Great Blue Younder is a very inspiring book. It is a book that reveals solemnity in changes using an interesting tweens voice,

creating one of the most enjoyable novels. This book is great for kids.

A boy named Harry, at the age of 12 dies in a bike accident with his last words to his sister. On the day of the bike accident he and his sister had a fight, in which he told her she'd be sorry when he was dead. Knowing she must be feeling tremendous amount of pain over the parting words. Harry is given a chance to make peace with his sister, and move importantly with himself.

Alex Shearer made an astonishing book. People think it is an easy life when you are dead, but this book by Alex Shearer will teach you that it is not easy due to Harry and his experience

Sophie says

I'll warn people reading this review; I have been a while since I have read *The Great Blue Yonder*. This is mainly because I got rid of it extremely quickly after I finished it, because I disliked it so much. After I finished, my sister asked me if she would like it. I had just declared to myself that it was the worst book I had ever read. But I still told her to give it a chance. My exact words were that you spent the entire book waiting for something explosive and engaging to happen, but it never did.

That was the nicest review I ever gave this book.

The whole book seems to be waiting for something to happen, and I realize that that is kind of the whole point, but it made for a slow read. I found the whole afterlife very disappointing, as there was a Saint Peter, but there was no Heaven. There was only an ocean, *The Great Blue Yonder*, that spirits would walk into if they were ready. After Harry arrives in the waiting area near *The Great Blue Yonder*, he meets up with the ghost of a boy who has been there for an extremely long time, waiting for his mother. Harry is held back from going into the *Great Blue Yonder* by his lingering sense of guilt over having been mean to his sister.

Their big, dramatic, last argument was over PENS. She wouldn't let him use hers, so he had to go and buy his own. On the way, he gets hit by a truck.

(For the people who will call this a spoiler, all of this happens in the first few chapters, so I don't think it counts. If you think it is a spoiler, sorry.)

Anyways, that is one of the most disappointing and anti-climatic deaths I have ever read. Yes, death is tragic and it is possible to be hit by a truck because your sister wouldn't let you borrow a pen, but still. Also, there is a comment where someone says, "You shouldn't be here for another 70 years!" I didn't like that for some reason. I know death is random, but if it isn't supposed to happen, why did it?

Another strike against Harry is when he returns to Earth with his friend as a ghost, and he sees how his family and schoolmates are dealing with his death. There is a point where he eagerly waits to see if a teacher will die, and he is actually hoping that the teacher will! He also gets upset when he sees the tree that has been planted in his honor, and he gets even more upset when he sees the school bully showing remorse for his actions. Both of these things seem like good things to me, but Harry just got mad.

Harry and his friend cause all sorts of mischief before actually going to Harry's home and accomplishing what they set out to do.

I also found the ending upsetting, as it didn't answer most of my questions. I will not be rereading this book, and I wouldn't recommend it.

Sora Tailes says

This book is about the boy called Harry who died because of the car accident.

This is a fiction book who the narrator is him. He is writing this book in heaven. He talks about how heaven looks like and what kind of place there is. He is talking about his family and some story before he died. He is waiting for his sister and his parents to come to heaven too.

He is at heaven with his friends who are also looking for his family.

-A says

I've read several books this year that I found childish, immature, boring and that made me question the taste of everybody else who liked them and who was older than 18 years old which then again made me question my own taste since so many people over 18 years old and older than me seemed to love those books (for example, "Lola and the Boy Next Door" that I read recently). Guess what?

I was wrong. There was absolutely nothing wrong with my age but there was plenty wrong with the books because when I read "The Great Blue Yonder", that is clearly a children's book, I was astonished. This is a fantastic book that I think everyone (child or adult or teenager) should read because it is simple enough for a child to understand and serious enough for an adult to enjoy. It talks about death and dying, making mistakes and your actions that might seem spur of the moment but might have a long lasting effect on anybody's life. I truly enjoyed to get to know the main character Harry and to journey with him through the Other Side and see him grow as a person that in turn makes the reader grow with him. The experience is magical. Yes, at times it seemed a bit childish for like half a page but the main character is a child, so this was a good reminder of this fact but it still made the story feel so much more real.

Thank you, Mr Shearer, for this wonderful experience.

Naomianna says

Although this is a children's book, it is one of those books that appeals to all ages. Considering it is a book about death it is not overly sad. The book has lots of humor mixed in with the sadness which I feel reflects real life. It's probably not intended as a book to help people grieving over the loss of a loved one but I feel that it could bring some comfort to those grieving. The story is told from the point of view of a 12 year old Harry who describes what Heaven is like and what being a ghost is like. I like that fact that it isn't overly religious and Harry's descriptions of Heaven are probably something that we can all imagine ourselves imagining.

Danielle says

When I was substitute teaching, I taught a lesson from this book. I remember feeling captivated by the story, but evidently that clip I read was the only captivating part of this book.

This book is no longer in publication, which should have been a clue to me right then and there. Very poorly written, this book was actually painful to get through. The characters were very shallow and difficult to connect with. I definitely do not recommend this book, especially as one to teach in elementary school.

My Audiobooks says

To be honest, this is the first Mandarin audiobook I've listened to in more than 10 years, and it is definitely one of the best. The narrator's voice is soothing, and the background music is quiet and melancholy. More than once through the audiobook, tears brimmed in my eyes. I'll definitely be seeking an English copy of the book and explore the deep and touchy emotions all over again.
