



Boys and Girls

Alice Munro

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Short story by Alice Munro.

My father was a fox farmer. That is, he raised silver foxes, in pens; and in the fall and early winter, when their fur was prime, he killed them and skinned them and sold their pelts to the Hudson's Bay Company or the Montreal Fur Traders...

Boys and Girls Details

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Author : Alice Munro

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From Reader Review Boys and Girls for online ebook

Ritu says

Boys and Girls captures what other stories try their hardest to.

It's a trip down memory lane to the time you were slowly shaped into gender roles.

I kinda hate it and love it.

It seemed that in the minds of the people around me there was a steady undercurrent of thought, not to be deflected, on this one subject. The word girl had formerly seemed to me innocent and unburdened like the word child; now it appeared that it was no such thing. A girl was not, as I had supposed, simply what I was; it was what I had to become. It was a definition, always touched with emphasis, with reproach and disappointment. Also it was a joke on me. Once Laird and I were fighting, and for the first time ever I had to use all my strength against him; even so, he caught and pinned my arm for a moment, really hurting me. Laird is the younger brother in this one.

I had goosebumps reading this because even though I haven't been raised on a fox farm, I have felt these exact emotions. The universalizing of them, through this story, is a no small feat.

All I know is I want to quote the whole darn story so that everyone reads it.

Sara says

Powerful short story on growing up as a girl and how it effects how you define yourself and how others define you. The fact that everything changed in one inexplicable moment adds to the beauty and power of the story.

Aditya Mallya says

A piercing short story about the two words in the title, and how their gravity pulls and shapes lives.

Nicole :) says

Perché non ho mai letto nulla di suo prima?

"The word girl had formerly seemed to me innocent and unburdened like the word child; now it appeared that it was no such thing. A girl was not, as I had supposed, simply what I was; it was what I had to become. It was a definition, always touched with emphasis, with reproach and disappointment. Also it was a joke on me."

burger queen says

1.5 Stars

I like the theme of the story, but the protagonist was highly unlikeable at times. The characters (father, brother, etc...) were also incredibly 2-dimensional with little personality.

Az says

The story was a bit boring to read at some parts, however, it shapes a clear message on gender stereotypes, societal norms, family beliefs and one's own sense of reality and dreams vs others. It was interesting to see the author's opinion on the topics through the short story and there were also a couple of parts that were a little surprising and unpredictable. I liked the writing style and the subject of the whole story. I think the engagement quality could have been improved on but all in all it was a good read. The ending was pretty sad in my opinion :(Although I believe that made the story even more realistic, deep and unique.

Tara says

I just couldn't get through it.

Sidharth Vardhan says

"The word girl had formerly seemed to me innocent and unburdened like the word child; now it appeared that it was no such thing. A girl was not, as I had supposed, simply what I was; it was what I had to become."

Read it here:

<http://womeninlit.tripod.com/alicemun...>

Manar mohamed says

"She's crying"

"Never mind", my father said..."she's only a girl"

I didn't protest that, even in my heart. Maybe it was true.

????? ??????.

Ariel Weiss says

meh

Sleet Sleet says

At first, I did not understand why Alice Munro uses plural in the title although there is only one girl and one boy in "Boys And Girls", but then the chain of events, as well as what the father says at the end "she's only a girl", reveal much about the intention of the author. "Boys And Girls" sheds light on the way girls and women were perceived in society in 1964; it highlights society's unwritten rules that were forced upon them. Rules that did not equate between men and women. For instance, in the story, even though the girl is of more help to her parents, her younger brother, though he almost does not contribute in any way, is deemed superior. Also, the mother has a traditional role which involves her doing solely household work.

But interestingly enough, the story is not merely about that because in it, we can see that men are also assigned traditional roles that usually involve them being outside doing harsh works.

However, there is one bias in the story as it gives voice to the girl to impart to the reader that she abhors traditional roles women are expected to play, and that she prefers to be outside assisting her father. This is apparent when she says about her mother "she loves me, but she was also my enemy. She was always plotting now to get me to stay in the house more, although she knew I hated it, and keep me from working for my father." Men in the story, however, never get to voice their opinion and the way they feel about their stereotypical roles.

Asmaa Samih says

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(<http://goo.gl/0TfxZC>)

Mike Narvaez says

This is certainly an interesting read. It shows the life of a young boy and a young girl in a farm and the hardships of having to kill the animals they have to live with and now it affects our feelings. While it is worth reading, it's really nothing out of the ordinary. I was actually expecting more from a Nobel winner.