



Being Written: A Novel

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Daniel Fischer has a secret. He knows he's a character in a book that's being written. He's the only one who knows, the only one who's aware of the author's presence—but what good does it do Daniel? He's just a minor character. The author seems much more interested in other people's lives. Now Daniel is determined to win a bigger part, and he'll do whatever it takes to get the author's attention and make this story his own.

Suspenseful, subversive, and hilarious, *Being Written* is an audaciously inventive literary turn that gleefully calls into question who we trust, what we believe, and how the stories of our lives are created.

Being Written: A Novel Details

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From Reader Review Being Written: A Novel for online ebook

Natalie Sue says

I really LOVED this book. It is slow paced for sure but its just original enough to keep me going. Just have a little patience and it will not disappoint.:)

Karjiana says

A great, short read. An unreliable narrator, a plot-twist, and (my favorite) meta-storytelling. I highly recommend it.

This book started off feeling like a typical love triangle with the meta-storytelling twist of one of the characters knowing they're a book character in a love triangle. While that twist was intriguing at first, it started to get kind of old. But then the plot twist happened and to quote the character & author, "It's [become] the kind of book people can't put down".

After the plot twist, I was very invested in the story. Because of the circumstances causing the plot-twist, I also felt conflicted about how I should feel towards the character because we have gotten to know them throughout the book up to that point. You also realized, that the author (of this book, not the "book") had been dropping hints throughout the story up until the plot-twist and that they went over my head. Once they were pointed out to me, I couldn't believe I missed them. And I loved that! Towards the end of the story, I found myself questioning how much of the story was real and how much I misunderstood.

As much as I loved this story after the plot-twist, I will say I was confused throughout the first half as to whose story the book is about and what their goal was. I think this may have been the author's (of this book) goal, but it made it somewhat difficult to follow. I also would be remiss to not acknowledge how minimally developed most of the characters felt, besides Graham. While these factors were irritating, I still ultimately enjoyed this novel.

Angela Pineda says

This book gives me hope... that I too can write a novel and get it published one day (no matter how bad it is).

This book was such a wasted premise. Unique idea of the protagonist realizing he's in a book and trying to become a bigger role. So much potential and zero payoff.

The writing wasn't great, no character depth, the narrators jumped between minor characters who you almost get confused because there's no substance and the 3 main characters - none of which are likeable. The "twist" is pretty dumb and ... I'd go on but it's a waste of reading how bad this book is. Just skip it.

Marji Morris says

Oh, my

I can't decide if this is the strangest book I ever read, but it certainly ranks right up there. I was tempted to give it one star, but the premise really hooked me.

The main character--or is he a minor character in someone else's story?--hears a scratching noise and realizes he's a character in a book. This leads him to do many things to ensure his prominence in the book an unknown author is writing about him and his new-found friends.

I had to keep reading to see how Conescu would end the novel. And the ending was, well, you'd have to read it to understand.

Brendan says

it was pretty cool. an interesting premise for sure, but went in a direction i wasn't so into.

Julie says

I wanted to like this book. The premise of a character in a book knowing that he is in a story was quite intriguing. Daniel can hear the pencil scratching when the author is writing about things in his area. Daniel would like to be more than just "guy at a bar"; he would like to be the hero of this story and get the girl. No one else knows about the author because they can't hear the scratching. Daniel does everything he can think of to bring the author's attention back to him. I need more action in a book. It took me so long to finish this book because it didn't grab my attention. The writing itself was fine but I couldn't get into the story.

Lincoln Sheets says

Stranger than it seems...

...(which is strange enough), and stranger than Stranger Than Fiction. And more satisfying, finally. Couldn't have been written in the 20th century, but was inevitable in the 21st.

Biba says

I'm not sure what's more dilusional: the protagonist thinking he's found himself being written into a novel or William Consecu implying said novel was being written entirely with a pencil. And having five points of view throughout the novel is a little messy, metinks. I'm glad this only took me a day to read. Sadly, a day I'll never get back.

Deb Oestreich says

Really more like 2.5 stars. This book was not what I thought. I expected a fantasy about a guy who realizes he's actually a character in a book, but I believe it's actually about someone who's mentally ill. His illness just manifests as a belief that he's a character in a book, which justifies some pretty heinous choices.

One could argue about why my interpretation is necessarily correct vs. an interpretation that he really is "being written." My only real justification is the way the book ends. If he were really "being written" I don't believe the book would end like that.

I was game as things went along, but by the end I felt tricked. I wouldn't recommend this to anybody.

Daniel says

William Conescu's novel is clever and a compelling read, and I sincerely hope it doesn't inspire any of its readers to write a book of his or her own. One "Being Written" is all the world really needs.

Daniel Fisher often hears the sound of a pencil writing -- sometimes far away, and sometimes nearby -- and comes to realize that he's a character in a novel. In fact, it's the novel we, the readers of "Being Written," are reading.

Yes, we're in the world of metafiction, but what sets "Being Written" apart from other metafiction -- and, as a result, makes it far less annoying than most metafiction -- is that William Conescu never makes an appearance in the book. And there's really no reason to believe he's even the author of the book in which Daniel appears, because "Being Written"'s author character is nothing more than the sound of a scratching pencil.

Daniel has been in books before, but always as a minor character. This time around, he wants to be a main character. As a reader of the types of novels purchased at airports, Daniel makes decisions typically made by characters in such mysteries and action thrillers, turning "Being Written," at times, into a self-aware parody of badly written bestsellers.

The premise is inventive enough on its own, but Conescu pushes the cleverness a bit too far. Daniel's sections are written in second person ("You pour yourself a cup of coffee..."), which Conescu's skilled writing saves from being too distracting, and which are offset by the chapters focused on the novel's other characters, written in third person. But do Daniel's sections also need to be in a different typeface from the rest of the book? I don't know if this was Conescu's decision or his publisher's, but it's distracting and doesn't serve much of a purpose.

The most interesting aspect of "Being Written" is what remains mostly unsaid in the book itself: what if Daniel isn't a character in a novel, and that notion is only in his head? What if inserting himself into the lives of "Being Written"'s other characters, and the resulting problems that causes, comes about simply because of a mental illness on Daniel's part?

For readers who can get past the cleverness-for-cleverness's-sake aspects of "Being Written" -- the parts that feel like they were written mostly for the enjoyment of classmates in a writing workshop -- the book does have its rewards.

M.T. Bass says

As one who barely manages to control or corral the characters I put to page, I was hooked from the moment I read the description of Being Written: A Novel. The idea of a minor character subverting an author's plot line for his own gain was not only intriguing, but made the writer in me curious how Consecu would pull it off. Well, he did and it was great fun. While some may not care for the ending, I found it absolutely perfect for the story.

Powersamurai says

I sure takes a while to get into this book. The concept is original, well, at least it is to me. But one that's hard to pull off. Conescu tried and sort of succeeded. It reads like you're reading something that would come out of Days of Our Lives then over half way, Bang!, you're alert and reading to the end. A bit late to drag you in, but if you've survived that far...

MB Shakespeare says

A really cool idea. A character in a book desperately wants to be the protagonist. Very creative story - well written and surprising - loved it. The short story "Blind" at the back of the book is excellent.

Scott Harrison says

An unrealized intriguing premise...

Tex says

How do you live your life when you "hear" your story being written while you are living your life. Love the concept, but it could have been way better. It took a while for this one to develop, galloping toward the last quarter, though.
