



Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel

By Simon Van Booy

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“A powerful meditation on the undying nature of love and the often cruel beauty of one’s own fate. This is a novel you simply must read!” —Andre Dubus III, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Townie*

From Simon Van Booy, the award-winning author of *Love Begins in Winter* and *The Secret Lives of People in Love*, comes a debut novel of longing and discovery amidst the ruins of Athens. With echoes of Nicole Krauss’s *The History of Love* and Charles Baxter’s *The Feast of Love*, Van Booy’s resonant tale of three isolated, disaffected adults discovering one another in Greece is the compelling product of an inquisitive, visionary talent. In the words of Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, “Simon Van Booy knows a great deal about the complex longings of the human heart.”

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Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel By Simon Van Booy Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Van Booy, a Frank O'Connor International Short Story award winner (for *Love Begins in Winter*), offers a tender, earnest first novel, in which flight attendant Rebecca Baptiste moves to Athens, Greece, where she meets George Cavendish, an American with a passion for languages and drinking. Their romance blooms quickly, but when Rebecca falls for a Welsh archeologist named Henry, George drinks so much that he stumbles in front of a car—Henry's car. Without knowing what they share, Henry tends to George's injuries, cementing an immediate and long-lasting alliance. But some time later, George sees Rebecca with Henry, and the shock of recognition leaves these three sensitive souls shaken, snapping George into sobriety and sending Henry adrift. When Henry finally returns two years later, after a devastating earthquake, both he and Athens have changed dramatically. Finally, his discovery of a journal that may have belonged to Rebecca makes him wonder how well he knew her. The rhythms of Henry's tender, damaged heart propel the narrative, and Van Booy wisely resists romanticizing torment, instead suggesting that grief—tied as it is to fate and faith—can give way to promise. (July)

Review

“A swift and engaging story...” (*Wall Street Journal*)

“His prose is music, and his characters are warmhearted, gentle, bemused, philosophical beings....It's as if Shakespeare's Sonnet No. 30 has unfolded into a full-blown novel.” (Austin Ratner, *The East Hampton Star*)

“Van Booy's writing rings with the proverbial pithiness of Oscar Wilde, the elegance of F. Scott Fitzgerald, the clarity of Graham Greene and the wit of Evelyn Waugh, conjuring a strong voice full of poetic, timeless grace of which much of the contemporary literary scene is starved.” (*San Francisco Examiner*)

“Van Booy's writing seduces from the first page....He is a hugely gifted writer. More vitally, he has something to say.” (*Portland Press Herald*)

“There is...an integrity to [Van Booy's] vision and a haunting element in his portrait of friendship and, ultimately, resolution.” (*Daily Mail* (London))

“[T]he exquisite prose and heartbreaking (but never hopeless) emotional honesty make it a worthy read.” (*Daily Candy*)

“Vivid and meticulous...the floweriness of his prose is skillfully balanced by his short, precise sentences. Intriguing.” (*Metro* (London))

“Atmospheric and anchored in its place. A book that is timeless but not rootless. *Everything Beautiful Began After* is highly sophisticated and absolutely sincere.” (*Irish Times*)

“How lovely to encounter a grownup romantic in Simon Van Booy....[He] is a lovely writer, and *Everything Beautiful Began After* is a kind book.” (*Open Letters Monthly*)

“Beautifully written, touchingly told, Van Booy radiates pain, fears, love and freedom on every page of this book.” (*Passport*)

“A tender, earnest first novel....Van Booy wisely resists romanticizing torment, instead suggesting that grief -- tied as it is to fate and faith -- can give away to promise.” (*Publishers Weekly*)

“If F. Scott Fitzgerald and Marguerite Duras had had a son, he would be Simon Van Booy; this is a truly special writer who does things with abstract language that is so evocative and original your breath literally catches in your chest. This is a novel you simply must read!” (Andre Dubus III, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Townie*)

“Already a new-generation master of the short story, Simon Van Booy has now emerged as a newly minted master of the novel as well....Van Booy is a writer whose work I will forever eagerly read.” (Robert Olen Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*)

“*Everything Beautiful Began After* both creates and satisfies a feeling of wanderlust. Van Booy’s confident prose carries the reader over oceans and back again, into archaeological digs and airport hotels, and the romance at the center of the book stays vivid long after the story is through.” (Emma Straub, author of *Other People We Married*)

From the Back Cover

Rebecca is young, lost, and beautiful. A gifted artist, she seeks solace and inspiration in the Mediterranean heat of Athens—trying to understand who she is and how she can love without fear.

George has come to Athens to learn ancient languages after growing up in New England boarding schools and Ivy League colleges. He has no close relationships with anyone and spends his days hunched over books or wandering the city in a drunken stupor.

Henry is in Athens to dig. An accomplished young archaeologist, he devotedly uncovers the city’s past as a way to escape his own, which holds a secret that not even his dotting parents can talk about.

...And then, with a series of chance meetings, Rebecca, George, and Henry are suddenly in flight, their lives brighter and clearer than ever, as they fall headlong into a summer that will forever define them in the decades to come.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cora Gallien:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be upgrade about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe can update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know which you should start with. This *Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel* is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Kevin House:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not call for people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Looking at a book can help folks out of this uncertainty Information specially this Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel book because this book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Dorothy Shuler:

This book untitled Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel to be one of several books which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy that book in the book shop or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this guide from your list.

Renee Oneal:

The book untitled Everything Beautiful Began After: A Novel contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was authored by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

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