

BOOK REVIEW

A book outside the ordinary

FARAH MASUD

Haunting yet heart-warming with a hint of dark humour – it is a tale of two young boys and their father dealing with the loss of their mother. Needless to say, it is about grief in all its ugliness and melancholic beauty.

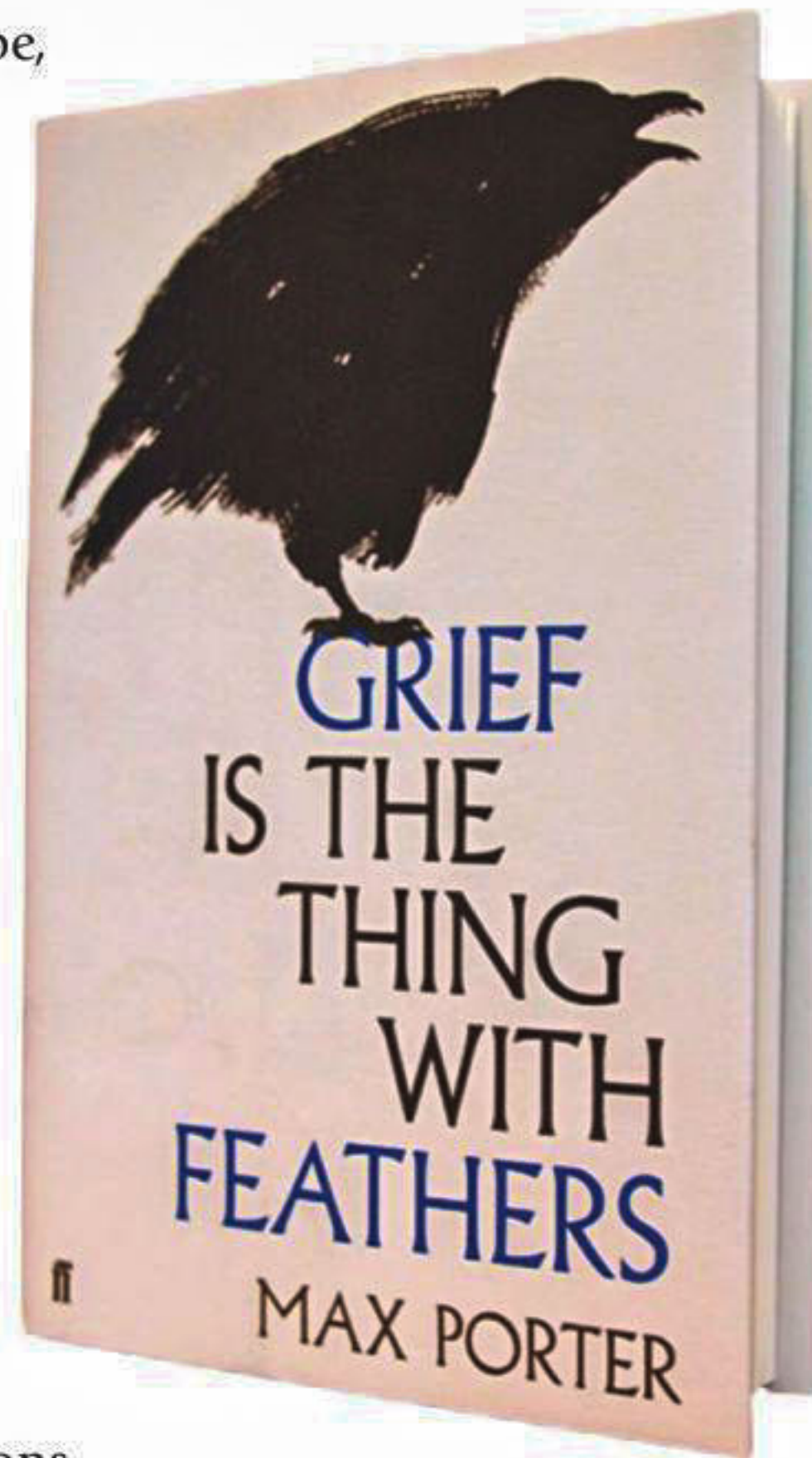
Told from the perspective of “the boys”, the “dad” and yes, the “crow” -- author Max Porter's book is a work of art both in the visual and literary sense. It is a combination of prose, poetry and mythology.

To start off, the title of the book “Grief is the Thing with Feathers” is a play on words based on Emily Dickinson's poem “Hope is the Thing with Feathers”. For literature nerds, the title alone is reason enough to pick up this book. You will realise the irony and dark humour behind it once you get into the story. It shows the ingenuity of author right from the start.

The story begins with the children and their father, a Ted Hughes scholar, whose worlds have turned completely upside down due to the mother's death. Enter, the

Crow. Just like its archetype, the Crow in this book is a trickster who feeds on the grief of mourners. But our crow is more than just that. He claims to be sentimental. He takes the place of a nurturer and helps the damaged family to cope in strange and sometimes, cruel ways.

Time and again in the story, the father and the children realise their utter incompetence without a mother. So they deal with it in the only way they know – by hurting themselves and each other. Sometimes shutting everyone out, sometimes indulging in delusions, and other times pulling dangerous stunts and getting into fights. The monologues



and conversations between the characters are so raw and believable that at times, it becomes very difficult to keep reading. Through his writing, Porter does not sugarcoat the harsh reality of the family's condition and that is what makes the reading experience feel that much more intense and personal.

The book has a very unique structure. Sometimes the chapters appear in verses, like that of poetry, and other times they are more like prose. The author also makes use of typography which is absolutely a treat for the reader.

The book itself draws inspiration from Ted Hughes' book “Crow”,

which is a collection of poems that follows the perspective of the character *Crow*. But picking up “Grief is the Thing with Feathers” without having read Ted Hughes' book does not at all make the reading less enjoyable. In fact, it will help you to appreciate and understand the book based on its own merit. On the other hand, if you are familiar with Ted Hughes' work, then this book will appeal to you just the same, perhaps on a deeper and more profound level.

Finally, “Grief is the Thing with Feathers” is a book for people who want to try reading a style that is completely out of the ordinary. And for those who are not into poetry, this is a great introduction to the form. Essentially, it is a short read that will probably take you a few days to finish, but will remain etched in your mind for a long time.

Farah Masud is a humanbean and that is all you need to know about her. Please don't try to contact her anywhere, especially not in person.

YouTube channels for tech junkies

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

YouTube is a great place to feed your curiosity concerning the latest releases that excite the tech scene and make headlines. From watching an in-depth analysis of gadgets to fuelling your temptation to buy the recent trendsetter device, here are a few YouTube channels that will help you decide what to buy next and keep up with the tech world.

UNBOX THERAPY

Hosting almost 10 million subscribers, Unbox Therapy tops the list. Do you know that a fidget spinner phone actually exists? Thanks to Lewis Hilsenteger's channel, the viewer gets to know of such absurd and unimaginable gadgets. With harmless and quirky humour, he reviews many sorts of unconventional devices besides smartphones and gaming consoles. This channel consists of a variety of videos like unboxing the world's smallest phone, testing heat coater, solving accidental device lock fiasco etc.

MARQUES BROWNLEE

Marques Brownlee boasts around 5.7 million subscribers; he has been my personal favourite since last year. Marques brings before you the unimaginable wonders that the tech world has to offer; like the self-lacing Nike sneakers, a lifetime shoe lacing hack for so many! Along with reviewing mobile phones, tablets, gaming consoles, etc. and helping you decide the best for your-



self by his in-depth analysis, Marques has stepped up in the game recently by reviewing some models of the revolutionary Tesla. MKBHD, a name he also goes by, is definitely a competitor for many in the rising YouTube popularity game and your go-to channel for technology analyses with apt music, animation, and videography.

SUPERSAF TV

This channel is a little underrated comparing to its competitors. Though SuperSaf TV has around 900,000 subscriber, I believe the time isn't far when this channel will be giving every other a tough competition. I have grown a fan of this channel mostly because of how the presenter compares a phone with another on split screens.

Because of his doing so, his criticisms are reliable and convincing enough. Like many other, SuperSaf TV is notable for occasional giveaways. If you're mostly focused on phone reviews, SuperSaf TV is worth a shot as most of his videos are split screen comparison of mobile phones.

ANDROID AUTHORITY

As the name suggests, this channel is head-to-toe Android related. If you're a fan of Android devices, this channel is a must-have on your subscription list as it provides you with relevant insights. Unlike the channels I have mentioned above, Android Authority is solely focused on reviewing Android phones and tablets. However, exception is noticed following the releases of headliner Apple phones like the iPhone X.

THE VERGE

Home to approximately 1.6 million subscribers, The Verge keeps up with the overall tech scene from mobile phones, futuristic cars to robotic inventions and many. With different presenters in different videos, this channel never fails to amaze one by presenting the mind boggling inventions and pique their interests in the creative scopes of the tech world. The channel also has a segment named “90 seconds on the verge”, where they discuss the most popular tech news.

Though the subscriber count varies from channel to channel, the aforementioned YouTube channels deserve your attention if you're a tech junkie.