

## Book Review: *Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too* by Jomny Sun

BY ALEXANDRIA ROSE GOSEN

**I**N JOMNY SUN'S GRAPHIC NOVEL *Everyone's a Aliebn When Ur a Aliebn Too*, we follow the story of Jomny, a lonely alien sent to Earth to study the humans. Along his journey, he learns about the highs and lows of life. He learns of friendship, creation, existentialism, depression, and basic connection with others.

In an effort to get rid of him for a while, Jomny is sent to Earth by his peers to study the humans. Though he never encounters any humans, he does meet a wise tree, existential egg, an introverted hedgehog, and extraverted otter. He also encounters a lonely bear, and the terrors of winter. This book is written with a very child like nature that will spark nostalgia in your heart and soul. This book is a pure combination of philosophy, poetry, discovery, and children's picture book that covers topics of loss, love, loneliness, and the terrors and joy of change. Jomny makes friends for the first time in his life as he learns that it's okay to be different and stand out. He also learns that even though life is sad sometimes, you should take advantage of the good moments that come around.

Everyone's a Aliebn when Ur a Aliebn Too has had great reviews from many of its readers, including actor and playwright Lin Manuel Miranda. Miranda says, "Jomny Sun's incredible writing knocks you to the floor, breathless, then scoops you up and gives you a kiss where it hurts it occurs to you to cry. Read this book only if you want to feel more alive."

I found this book heartwarming and motivating. It wanted to find a bouncy castle and relive my childhood days with all my friends. I felt like I wasn't alone in my times of grief. It's one of those books that addresses some of your more complex thoughts, but writes it in a way a four-year-old could understand, and somehow that makes it more clear for me to understand my thoughts and feelings. I hope you like this book as much as I did. †

## Netflix Review: *Dogs*

BY SKYE FULLER

**N**ETFLIX'S *DOGS* WILL TEACH even the oldest viewer new tricks. The six-part docuseries covers topics such as service dogs and their training, pet adoption agencies, and even the competitive world of dog grooming among other canine-centric topics.

Of course, it goes without saying that the show is host to a smorgasbord of incredibly lovely and

heart-warming instances of loyalty, companionship, and unconditional love. These moments are pervasive throughout the series. However, there are some remarkable instances that should also be noted, instances of incredible creativity, of topical events, and extreme generosity and altruistic care. The episode "Bravo Zeus" is an example of these themes; it follows the story of a Syrian student, Ayham, and his Siberian Husky, Zeus. The episode discusses Syrian current events and the implications of the current civil war.

Before he left to study in Germany, both Ayham and Zeus faced life-threatening situations, and more than once they relied on each other for comfort and protection. It was devastating when Ayham had to leave Zeus behind when he went off to study. Getting him the complicated and difficult to acquire paperwork he would need to cross the border was not a possibility at the time. Ayham missed Zeus terribly and worried for his safety. The episode chronicles the journey undertaken by Zeus and a group of tireless animal-advocates to reunite him with his best friend.

This episode was a strong indication that the series was not going to be a simple and cute romp concerning puppies. Instead, the series underlines a bond that human beings share with dogs. It tells very human narratives through the colorblind lens of that bond, creating something more indicative of the human experience than anything I have seen in quite some time. And yet, the series is titled *Dogs*.

Netflix's *Dogs* is both a tearjerker and a treat: a very good watch about very good boys and girls. †

## Food Review: *The Little Oven*

BY ANDREW WYLIE

**T**HE LITTLE OVEN is a quaint and popular restaurant located on the East Side of Saint Paul on White Bear Avenue, about a half mile north of Highway 94. This beloved neighborhood staple has been in business since 1990 and is known for its generous portions and reasonable prices.

The Little Oven is simple but charming inside, displaying quaint décor. There can be a wait during busy times, but the service is friendly, and the food comes out quick and hot. They run multiple specials during the year. Their current promotion includes multiple dishes designed for Lent.

The breakfast options are magnificent and available until 2 pm. Fill your plate with favorites like fresh eggs, crispy bacon or sausage, toast, pancakes, and hash browns for a very fair price.

Besides their breakfast, the Little Oven offers multiple dishes for lunch and dinner including everything from steak, hamburgers, soups, chicken, salad, and appetizers. There are also many vegetarian and gluten-free options, but what they are really famous for are their pizza and Italian food. The lasagna was voted the best in the state by WCCO, the Minneapolis CBS affiliate.

I ordered the lasagna, which was preceded by fresh breadsticks (made on site), which come with seasoned butter and again, in very generous portions. These breadsticks were warm, fresh, and delectable. It took willpower not to eat all of them right away and ruin my appetite before the entrée arrived.

The lasagna was worth it. The sauce was sublime, and the cheese was portioned perfectly. You need to put a little extra force with your knife to get the cheese separated for a bite. If you come hungry, you may be able to finish this plate, but to-go boxes are a familiar sight at the little oven.

Their pizza is also a favorite and for good reason. The crust alone is good enough to make the dish desirable. I like the sausage best because it really does taste superior to your average sausage pizza from a chain restaurant. The Little Oven runs a special on its takeout pizza, where if you buy one, you can get another one for \$3.99, making it a popular option.

There are so many other tantalizing Italian options that I can't wait to get to. According to my friendly waitress Maria, the Chicken Alfredo Milano is another popular dish that people come back for again and again.

If you have room for dessert, the most popular option is the sweet fried dough. It comes in bite-size portions with a side of chocolate fudge and whipped cream for dipping. This Italian favorite tastes a little bit like a doughnut and was fantastic. I couldn't eat anywhere near as much as I wanted because, by this time, I was very full.

The Little Oven is well worth a visit. They are open at 6:30 am every day except for Sunday, when they open at 7 am. They close at 9 pm during the week and at 9:30 during the weekends. There is a parking lot across the street as well as on-street parking on Minnehaha Avenue where the restaurant is located.

Come very hungry and be ready to take some home with you. There is free Wi-Fi as well if you bring some work with you. This is a cash-only restaurant, but if you forget to bring some, there is an ATM on site. †



Photography provided by Andrew Wylie