

A book that chooses to look at the issue of divorce from a rather unexpected point of view. Makes no difference if a separation is “velvety”. No difference if there are tensions or fuss. The world for the child, the bitterness for all that feels lost being obligated to adopt a new situation are here.

Lena, the narrator is one such a child. She seeks a place and role in the new family, nostalgic of the exclusive relationship she once had with mum and dad, dripping poison for her little brother, more befriended with the new reality, and transforms dad’s new girlfriend “The godawful” into a boxing sack. Anything she does, no matter how she behaves she’s a first hand loser. It’s not that “The godawful” is to blame for anything in particular. Anyhow Lena is angry at everybody and everything because her life is anger-bearing. It’s the sudden subversion that tears down her childhood idyll that’s so hard to take. Her speech is harsh, aggressively, humoristic, showy and arrogant in a grownup’s snobbish way. In fact it’s a mask, a hard defence line so she can hide behind it the emotional confusion and inner fear that it doesn’t fit in the reality that others built for her. From this point of view Lena constitutes an interesting character and the writer chooses to her the perplexed father and the messages to his friend which develop a unique dialogue with the child’s torrentuous monologue propelling crucially the plot and projecting another side of reality.

What happens in the end? You’d ask. Who wins in that peculiar “bra de fer?” Lena? The Godawful?” The spite of the girl or the wish of two people to make their life? I won’t tell you. Maybe because the story’s goal isn’t about rendering winners and losers but more about underlining reality’s endless talent for bypassing dilemmatic situations making fun of people’s plans, healthy wounds and opening new unexpected roads of their lives.

Special mention to George’s Sgouros humoristic illustrations that often converse merrily and inventively with the script

Eleni Georgostathi February 2016
miaforakaienakairoimikrieleni.blogspot