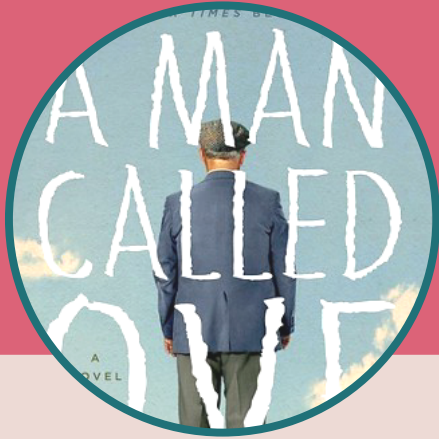


The Expat Book Club

'A Man Called Ove'

Fredrik Backman



Discussion Guide

Our Expat Book Club first question is always the same: Did you finish the book...and did you enjoy it?

Ove is a curmudgeon. But at the end of the novel, he is beloved by his neighbour and the reader too. What changes? Do you think Ove changes?

The author reveals Ove's past to us piece by piece - why do you think he does this?

Ove's character - or at least his values - are set in late childhood. He follows his father's example, but also believes that you prove yourself by your actions. Do you agree with this?

Ove's relationship with Rune is very significant - what did you make of their (anti) friendship?

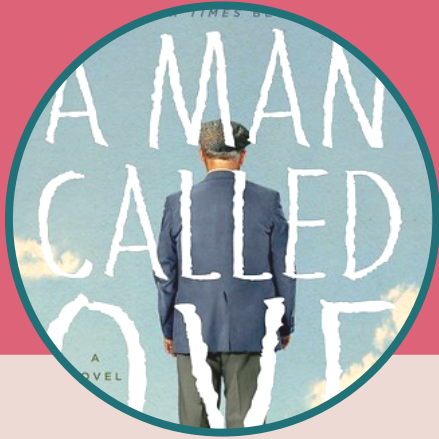
If Rune and Ove are very similar, Parvaneh and Ove seem to be complete opposites. Why do they become such close friends?

Ove and Sonja's love story is one of the most moving parts of the book. Why did they work so well together?

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The saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child. In this novel it seems that a cast of unlikely characters come together to ultimately save Ove - would you agree?

Ove has an ongoing battle with the bureaucrats - or 'white shirts'. Is his battle really with them, or do they signify something else?

There are so many wonderful quotes in this novel. I loved the one comparing love to a new house which, over the years you start to love 'not so much because of its perfection, but rather its imperfections'. Did you have a favourite quote?

In the hospital, Parvaneh has hysterics when the doctor tells them that the trouble with Ove is that 'His heart is too big'. This reminded me of the story of the Grinch - do you think there are parallels?

What do you think about Ove's relationship with the cat? Did the cat allow him to express things he couldn't otherwise say?

This is a genre-defying novel - with lots of dark humour, but a lot of warmth too. Did you laugh? Did you cry? Or both?