

# Reading Ebook Autumn By Karl Ove Knausgaard



A love letter to his unborn daughter, *Autumn* is for every reader who thinks about what the world holds for their child, and is the first book in a surprising, deeply personal and humane quartet: *The Seasons*--the new project from the always fascinating, original, global literary superstar. 28 August. Now, as I write this, you know nothing about anything, about what awaits you, the kind of world you will be born into. And I know nothing about you... I want to show you our world as it is now: the door, the floor, the water tap and the sink, the garden chair close to the wall beneath the kitchen window, the sun, the water, the trees. You will come to see it in your own way, you will experience things for yourself and live a life of your own, so of course it is primarily for my own sake that I am doing this: showing you the world, little one, makes my life worth living. *Autumn* begins with a letter Karl Ove writes to his unborn daughter, showing her what to expect of the world she will soon come into. He writes one short piece per day, describing the material and natural world with the precision and mesmerizing intensity that have become his trademark, a riveting personal encyclopedia of everything from chewing gum and tin cans to the migration of birds and the stars. Through close observation of the objects and phenomena around him, Karl Ove shows us how vast, unknowable and wondrous the world is.

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Review "Knausgaard's observations are a balm during these troubled times. . . . Knausgaard has the Scandinavian talent for celebrating the plainness of things, the importance of the minor objects with which one shares solitary confinement." —Heather Mallick, *Toronto Star* "[Knausgaard's] observations themselves are sharp and compelling, rooted in concrete detail, with a matter-of-

factness that often veers toward the objective or scientific. . . . The short pieces in *Autumn* . . . are marvels of concision, opening out into epiphanies with an effortless grace, but rooted in the physical world: the colours of spilled petrol, the shifting tones of grass and trees as autumn slips toward winter, the faces of loved ones. There is never any sense of sameness, and each section has its own quiet power that merits a slow approach to the book as a whole. . . . *Autumn* is a beautiful, thought-provoking book, often uncomfortable and shocking, but as frequently profound, the sort of book one can imagine revisiting often, finding something new, something significant, in every reading.”

—National Post “[Knausgaard] looks at things you’ve looked at, but like Einstein or Seinfeld, he spends a little more time with them.” —Toronto Star “These sharp little essays . . . capture the wonder of things with photographic immediacy. . . . [A]n inspiring, surprising collection. . . . It will warm and enlighten anyone who opens their eyes to it.” —The Times “Knausgaard can take the breath away, his compressed vignettes delivering the same emotional charge as longer sequences from his previous work. . . . [Autumn] quietly illuminates Knausgaard’s profound gift for making the reader see the world in fresh and unpredictable ways.” —The Guardian “The joys of one of the world’s great living writers distilled.” —GQ.com “Autumn is sweet and slender. . . . [T]he central preoccupation of the book [is] to restore our sense of awe, to render the world again strange and full of magic. . . . Loose teeth, chewing gum, it all becomes noble, almost holy, under Knausgaard’s patient, admiring gaze. The world feels repainted.” —The New York Times Book Review

“Knausgaard eloquently expresses the delights, rewards, and insights of looking closely in this, the first of a projected quartet of autobiographical volumes based on the four seasons. . . . His writing encourages the reader to see the connections between quotidian things and the bigger picture and to appreciate both continuity and change. *Autumn* hums in the background as apple trees flourish and days get darker, and one looks forward to what associations he will uncover in the remaining seasons of the year.” —Publishers Weekly “[W]hat a sweet, surprising, short collection of essays this is! Lie on the beach, sun beating down, and read about the season to come.” —Philadelphia Tribune

“The writing is paired with beautiful illustrations by Vanessa Baird, which will leave readers with a sense of wonder. *Autumn* takes on a wide variety of subjects, but the vignettes are all united by the love with which they were written.” —Bookish “What truly unites these pieces [in *Autumn*] is Knausgaard’s sensibility, which is one part Montaigne (an urge to address big issues), one part Nicholson Baker (an eye for picayune detail), and one part Annie Dillard (an admiration for nature and an elegant prose style) . . . A call to pay closer attention to the routine stuff in our lives and to allow ourselves to be thunderstruck by their beauty. An engagingly wide-ranging set of meditations.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

**PRAISE FOR KARL OVE KNAUSGAARD:** “Once or twice a decade, word of mouth elevates a seemingly uncommercial literary writer to the status of a mass cult: you look around and suddenly it seems everybody is reading a particular book. To the ranks of David Foster Wallace and Haruki Murakami can now be added Karl Ove Knausgaard.” —The Gazette “The master of the literary selfie.” —France24.com “Mr. Knausgaard seemed to be able to write about anything. . . . [T]he great chronicler of the modern condition.” —The Globe and Mail “Knausgaard is a genius, without doubt. . . . Reading Knausgaard, I have the sensation that each moment of every human life is essential yet has never been painted or recorded in anything even approaching adequacy. So he tried to do this and the shocking thing is that he has succeeded.” —Toronto Star “A living hero who landed on greatness by abandoning every typical literary feint.” —Jonathan Lethem, The Guardian “With each subsequent book of his that is translated into English, Mr. Knausgaard continues to solidify his reputation as one of the most vital writers working today.” —The Observer (UK)

**About the Author KARL OVE KNAUSGAARD's** first novel, *Out of the World*, was the first ever debut novel to win the Norwegian Critics' Prize and his second, *A Time for Everything*, was widely acclaimed. *A Death in the Family*, the first of the *My Struggle* cycle of novels, was awarded the prestigious Brage Award. The *My Struggle* cycle has been heralded as a masterpiece wherever it appears. The author lives in Osterlen, Sweden. VANESSA BAIRD (1963) was born in Oslo, where she now lives and works. She has an MA from the Royal College of Art, London, and in 2015 she won the Lorck Schive Art Prize, Norway's biggest contemporary art prize.

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