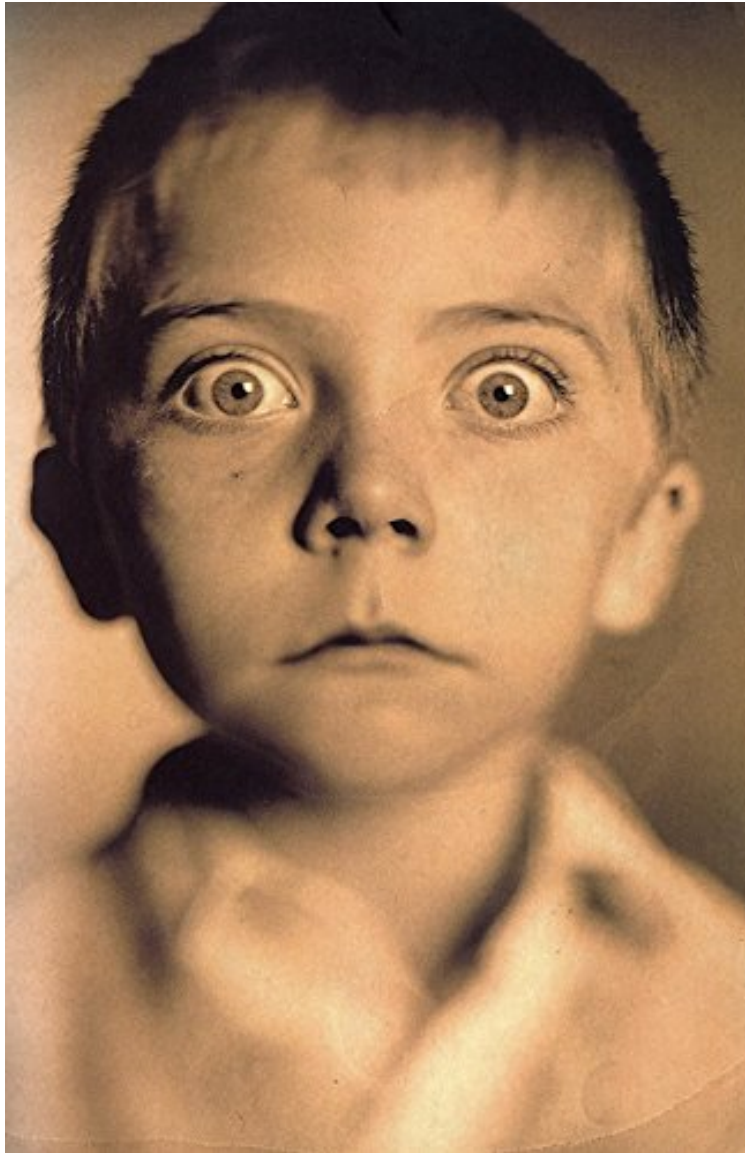


(Mobile book) The Peculiar Memories of Thomas Penman

## The Peculiar Memories of Thomas Penman

*Von Bruce Robinson*

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**Von Bruce Robinson : The Peculiar Memories of Thomas Penman** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Peculiar Memories of Thomas Penman:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
Entertaining but ultimately disappointingVon Ein KundeI've read a half dozen reviews of The Peculiar Memories and expected a laugh-out-loud rollicking, absurdist farce of a novel. And parts of the book do indeed live up to the

advanced billing, particularly some of the early "soiling" scenes. But, as another reader has noted, a transformation takes place midway through, and instead of an eccentric, socially inept, pornography- and munitions- obsessed adolescent, Thomas metamorphoses into a successful lover and a refined and emotionally balanced individual. This is not nearly as much fun. I found the love affair with Gwen to be fairy-tale implausible and somewhat cloyingly portrayed, and few of the other characters emerge as fully formed persons. The ending is appropriately downbeat and Thomas prepares to move on with his life, but by then the damage has been done and the story begins to wear thin. Though well written and certainly not a waste of time, *The Peculiar Memories* doesn't remain true to Thomas as we first encounter him.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Would-be Writers Beware Von Dr Phil Tama Writers with ambitions and pretensions should avoid this book: it will instantly humble and perhaps shame you. Your manuscript will be relegated to the bottom most drawer never to be scanned again. Robinson's sense of language is out of the Lawrence Sterne school of masterful logomachy. The humour alone will produce spasms in remote and special places; scatology has never been as well served. Thomas Penman, however, is EveryKid and his thoughts, desires, and deeds are illuminated by Robinson in a manner reminiscent of a coal fire on a blazing grate. Shadows and sudden lucidities inform the book and the room. I was wholly "taken" with this book and the construct of the grandfather is brilliant. Religion, fortune telling, village life, sodden schools, shaky marriages, even the elements are handled with exquisite care in words and phrases you writhe to have thought never mind written. I think it is impossible to overpraise this text; anyone with an ear for language will exult in Robinson's accomplishment. There are academics who could [will] spend the next three decades deconstructing this text for a career. What I need to do is begin a re-reading, and now!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A raucous yet tender romp Von Grady Harp *The Peculiar Memories* of Thomas Penman may be peculiar to those who have forgotten that bizarre landscape of wide-eyed, hormone-driven adolescence through which we all passed, but to this reader the rites of passage facing the 14 year old have rarely been so candidly captured. Thomas Penman has strange behaviors, but as his creator Robinson relates them, they all serve as seeds to explain with great wit and empathy the results of Thomas' coming of age. This is a wonderful little book that reads rapidly (as in difficult to put it down), entertains us with outrageous situations, then ties a series of clues to the Everyman question of Who Am I and How Did I Get Here? into a deeply touching finale. These characters are unforgettable - everyone of them from the main character, his best friend Maurice, the Vicar Potts, the psychic Olanda, the radiantly drawn Gwendolin, and of course Walter his Grandfather. A wonderful excursion and addition to the READ THIS List for teenagers. Suggestion: Don't let the language in the first chapter throw you off course: it is there for a reason!

**Kurzbeschreibung** *The Peculiar Memories* of Thomas Penman is the acclaimed autobiographical debut novel by Oscar-winning screenwriter Bruce Robinson, the author of *Withnail and I*. This is the story of a dysfunctional family. It is about a boy and his grandpa, life and death, sex and hate, dog's meat and cancer. It is also about pornography, enemas, Morse codes, puberty, secrets, God and loathing. It is also about love..

Perhaps the most peculiar aspect of *The Peculiar Memories* of Thomas Penman is the author's fascination with every form of bodily excretion. Feces, sputum, semen, earwax--the list is endless. We discover early on that Thomas "from the age of four ... navigated all lavatories and shat himself everywhere else," and the pages that follow detail the boy's obsession with his own fecal matter in terms that are as imaginative as they are repugnant. Having established from the get-go that young Thomas Penman is not going to be an ordinary hero, Bruce Robinson (who wrote the screenplays for the films *The Killing Fields* and *Withnail I*, and also directed the latter) then launches us into his protagonist's life with a vengeance. In short order we discover that Thomas's grandfather, Walter, is riddled with cancer and as obsessed with naked women as his 14-year-old grandson. In addition, Thomas's father, Rob, is involved in an illicit affair and his mother has hired a private detective to prove it. And Thomas himself is madly, truly, deeply in love with the divine Gwen Hackett. Pornography, masturbation, voyeurism--according to Robinson, these are the main preoccupations of the adolescent boy. This book is being compared to J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, and who's to say that Holden Caulfield might not have had similar hobbies had he been written 40 years later? If you can get past the raunchiness of the language and the situations, Thomas makes an unexpectedly sympathetic hero, and his relationship with his half-mad grandfather is oddly tender. *The Peculiar Memories* of Thomas Penman is not for the faint of stomach, but for those who like their fiction raw, this one fits the bill.

--Alix Wilber *Pressestimmen* "Fresh and compelling . . . Handled with verve and affection." --"Los Angeles Times" "A book I could read over and over again, a beautiful story told with such dexterity and depth, it can be enjoyed for both its imagination and its craft." --Simon Pegg, NPR's "All Things Considered" "Sharp, spry, and darkly funny from the first page to the last." --"ForeWord"