



Slips, Trips & Falls

m. j. foran

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Folk music gone bad, death by compost, the sad poetry of abandoned footwear and a hamster called Dorothy Parker. Welcome to Miles' world. It's about to get a little weird.

'This is f***ing hilarious. This is the sort of book I'd buy in an airport and have to move my seat because I'd be laughing so hard I'd annoy the person next to me. Talented writing and thanx for the smile.'

This review was written by The Skaterwriter. It was the first on-line review I received for Slips, Trips & Falls:

'A serio-comic novel about a forty-something control freak who finds himself on the run with a beguiling, pregnant stranger.'

That's the short pitch.

The 'elevator pitch' I believe they call it in the movie business.

You have to imagine you have a captive audience for a very limited time.

You need to hook them fast and make them eager to hear more.

What if they want to hear more?

Um, OK...well...let's suppose we're in a much taller building...and...they've stopped struggling for a bit.

I guess we'd just start anywhere really.

So you drag the pregnant, suicidal girl from the canal at no small risk to your own personal well-being, yeah? A simple 'thanks' might be nice, right? But instead you find that she's actually pissed at you. Well, it's the sort of thing that can fairly upset the rhythm of your day – y'know, your routine?

Yes, routine is important to Miles. Reacting against his hippy upbringing he has lived a life devoted to conformity, his fear of risk-taking preventing him from growing emotionally.

Surprisingly, he has a son – he's not entirely sure how this happened either – who he takes to the local fast food restaurants with the other weekend fathers.

Desperate to pass on some sort of working philosophy to his child, Miles is faced with a dilemma. He wants him to follow the rules but this has brought him no luck in his own life. It seems that no one wants to take him seriously, not least his ex, the whimsical and capricious Sonia who takes life and love as she finds it.

That is until he discovers the pregnant girl – y'know, the ungrateful suicidal one? Right. Well, despite the initial ingratitude it seems that someone is actually, finally, listening to Miles.

It's just that, well, the girl's interpretation of what he says is rather different to what he actually means. Soon Miles realizes that he has created a monster. A monster for which he feels responsible.

Their common journey will see Miles revisit his past, coming face to face with a secret which could either undermine his entire identity or give him the courage to, finally, be himself.

I guess this is my floor.

What they said - more praise for Slips, Trips & Falls:

'Wow. This is good. Great voice. Nice balance of humour.'

Nigel Fields, A Walk to Paradise Garden

'Very funny. Anything that highlights the way certain types of men of a certain age struggle to find their place in the modern world is ok with me, whether it approaches the subject with darkness or humour or both.'

Nathan O'Hagan, The World is (Not) a Cold Dead Place

'Funny, entertaining, thoughtful.'

Zane Stumpo, Schrödinger's Caterpillar

'Very funny and an entertaining read. It put a smile on my face.'

Shain Knowles, Trippin'

'The humour is dry and observant.'

Sandie Zand, The Town That Danced

?

Yet more kind words from readers:

'You have a great voice. As a child of the sixties with a seventeen-year-old son you pushed all my buttons – and my funny bone – with this one.' Andi Brown

'I thought it was brilliant! I love your dry humour and throwaway lines. Your writing is accomplished, the characters interesting and so's the story.' Vall M

'Some delightful touches of comedy. Well-written.' Stephen Racket

'Very confident, mature style.' Vin Mariani

'A very good read written by a very good writer.' M.T.H.

'Just the right side of sarcastic. The kind of book I would buy for my holiday, so I could giggle as I sizzle.' Juliet Ann.

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