



Thanks for the Trouble

By Tommy Wallach

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Tommy Wallach, the *New York Times* bestselling author of the “stunning debut” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review) *We All Looked Up*, delivers a brilliant new novel about a young man who overcomes a crippling loss and finds the courage to live after meeting an enigmatic girl.

“Was this story written about me?”

I shrugged.

“Yes or no?”

I shrugged again, finally earning a little scowl, which somehow made the girl even more pretty.

“It’s very rude not to answer simple questions,” she said.

I gestured for my journal, but she still wouldn’t give it to me. So I took out my pen and wrote on my palm.

I can’t, I wrote. Then, in tiny letters below it: Now don’t you feel like a jerk?

Parker Santé hasn’t spoken a word in five years. While his classmates plan for bright futures, he skips school to hang out in hotels, killing time by watching the guests. But when he meets a silver-haired girl named Zelda Toth, a girl who claims to be quite a bit older than she looks, he’ll discover there just might be a few things left worth living for.

From the celebrated author of *We All Looked Up* comes a unique story of first and last loves.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Wallach (author of *We All Looked Up*) delivers well-rounded, witty characters—all contemplating whether living a full life is better than living a long one. Bittersweet moments intersect with the intricate fairy tales Parker writes, compelling readers to judge what is real and what is make-believe." (Publishers Weekly, STARRED REVIEW)

"An absorbing coming-of-age narrative about the power of connection." (Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW)

"A unique and compelling tale. The narrator's hilariously crass but poignant voice is sure to intrigue even the most reluctant of readers." (School Library Journal, STARRED REVIEW)

"This novel is a good read-alike for John Green fans." (VOYA)

"Organic and well earned." (The Horn Book)

"Readers looking for a beautifully written philosophical romance will enjoy losing themselves in this one." (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books)

"Jaded young readers and romantics alike will fall hard for Tommy Wallach's (author of *We All Looked Up*) underachieving writer of fairy tales and out-of-time wise woman as they tumble through a delirious three days of skinny dipping, drinking Champagne in a limo and rampant philosophizing. Cleverly but unobtrusively framed as a college application essay, *Thanks for the Trouble* plays with love, hubris and the youthful belief that more is always better." (Shelf Awareness)

About the Author

Tommy Wallach is a Brooklyn-based musician and novelist. He is the author of *Thanks for the Trouble* and the *New York Times* bestselling *We All Looked Up*, which has been translated into more than a dozen languages. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, *Wired*, *Salon*, and other magazines. As a musician, he has put out an EP with Decca Records, as well as two independent releases, including *We All Looked Up: The Album*, a companion record to his first novel. He is a 2015 MacDowell Fellow and a finalist for the Children's Choice Book Award. Grok more at TommyWallach.com.

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Thanks for the Trouble

THIRD PERSON FAIL

THE BOY SAT ON A bench in the lobby of the Palace Hotel. It was about eight thirty in the morning, and he was supposed to be at school. But the boy had always thought it was a load of BS that you were expected to go to school on Halloween, so he'd decided not to. Maybe he'd go later. Maybe not. At this stage, it didn't really make much of a difference either way.

The boy noticed he was drawing more attention than he usually did. He'd been to the Palace plenty of times

before, but this was the first time he'd shown up on a weekday, and the place wasn't busy enough for someone like him to go unremarked. He was dressed in dirty jeans and an old black T-shirt, and his hair was long and probably a mess (full disclosure: he hadn't looked in the mirror before leaving the house that morning). Also, he was Latino, which made him one of the very few Latino people in the building who wasn't there to bring room service to or clean up the dishes of or mop up the floors for old, rich, white people. To put it bluntly, he looked like he'd come there with some sort of criminal intention, which was racist and judgmental and totally non-PC.

It was also true.

That's not to say that the boy looked like a thug. He was just your average teenager. Or a little above average, actually. Like, you'd probably think he was cute, if you had to weigh in one way or the other. Or not cute, maybe, but not not cute either. Just, like, your normal level of cuteness. A solid seven out of ten. Maybe a B/B+ on a good day, in the right light, taking the most forgiving possible position on his too-thick eyebrows and his weirdly prominent dimples when he smiled and his slight butt chin . . .

Fuck me. This is turning into a disaster, isn't it?

I thought it would be better to write this in the third person, to give myself a little critical perspective. But it feels pretty messed up to write about whether I'm cute while pretending I'm not the one writing about whether I'm cute. It would be like writing your own recommendation letter or something.

Shit. I just noticed I used the F word up there. Oh, and now I've written "shit." I guess I could go back and delete them, but I'd rather not. I mean, do we really have to play this game, where because I'm who I am and you're who you are, we pretend that the word "fuck" doesn't exist, and while we're at it, that the action that underlies the word doesn't exist, and I just puke up a bunch of junk about how some teacher changed my life by teaching me how Shakespeare was actually the world's first rapper, or about the time I was doing community service with a bunch of homeless teenagers dying of cancer or something and felt the deep call of selfless action, or else I pull out all the stops and give you the play-by-play sob story of what happened to my dad, or some other terrible heartbreak of a thing that makes you feel so bummed out you figure, what the hell, we've got quotas after all, and this kid's gotten screwed over enough, so you give me the big old stamp of approval and a fat envelope in the mail come April?

I say no. I say let's not play games. You asked me a question—What was the single most important experience of your life?—and I'm going to answer it, even though my answer might be a little longer than five hundred words and might have the F word in it, and even the F action in it, and a whole lot of other stuff I'd have to be crazy to put down on paper and send to you. And then you'll read my answer, and you'll make your decision.

Let's start over.

Nice to meet you. I'm Parker Santé. I am medium cute, and bad at writing in the third person. Here is how the most important experience of my life began.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lois Silvey:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book Thanks for the Trouble it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can more easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book features high quality.

Susan Martinez:

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