

The Goddess of Small Victories

author: Yannick Grannec

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Synopsis

author	Yannick Grannec
readBy	Emily Woo Zeller, Dawn Harvey
inLanguage	english

Princeton University, 1980. A young and unambitious librarian named Anna Roth is assigned the task of retrieving the records of Kurt Gödel - the most fascinating and hermetic mathematician of the 20th century. Her mission consists of befriending and ultimately taming the greatman's widow, Adele, a notoriously bitter woman set on taking belated revenge against the establishment by refusing to hand over these documents of immeasurable historical value.

But as Anna soon finds out, Adele has a story of her own to tell. Through descriptions of Princeton and Vienna after the war, the occupation of Austria by the Nazis, the pressures of McCarthyism, the end of the positivist ideal, and the advent of nuclear weapons, Anna discovers firsthand the epic story of a genius who could never quite find his place in the world - and the private torment of the woman who loved him.

Reader's comments

comment 1: Emily Thompson

The Goddess of Small Victories by Yannick Grannec is an extraordinary novel that intertwines the lives of a brilliant mathematician and the woman who loved him. The story delves into the complex relationship between Kurt G del, the legendary logician, and his wife, Adele, offering a profound exploration of love, genius, and the sacrifices made in the pursuit of greatness. Grannec's narrative is masterfully crafted, shifting seamlessly between past and present, revealing the intricacies of Adele's life and her unwavering devotion to her husband. The author skillfully depicts the intellectual circles of 20th-century Europe, capturing the essence of an era marked by both scientific brilliance and existential turmoil. What makes this book particularly compelling is its focus on Adele's perspective, providing a nuanced portrayal of a woman often overshadowed by her husband's genius. Her struggles and triumphs are portrayed with sensitivity, making her a fully realized character in her own right. The Goddess of Small Victories is a beautifully written and thought-provoking novel that will captivate readers interested in the intersection of love and intellect. It is a poignant reminder of the small victories that shape our lives and the enduring power of love in the face of adversity.

â€” Emily Thompson (2026-05-30 15:36:07)