

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman is an excellent novel about Ove who appears to everyone to be a grumpy old man. He is unhappy with rule-breakers and modern advances in the world that he thinks are unnecessary. He seems self-centered and extremely set in his ways. On the other hand, he helps others, maybe not always willingly, but never the less he will help them especially to show them how to do it correctly. But these things are only the surface things. Through a cast of unique characters, Ove's true personality begins to show through. His love for his wife and the gradual acceptance of his neighbors is beautifully told and the reader begins to slowly love this old man. His developing care and kindness for the woman next door, the love for her children and the eventual strength and care for his old best friend all show that Ove is not the curmudgeon old man many think him to be. This one book can have you laughing one minute and crying the next as you follow the unfolding of Ove.

Through the beautiful prose this book also causes the reader to consider what it must be like to grow old, then to grow old alone. There are not many books that I find that leave you warm and satisfied with plenty to think about after finishing, but this is one of the few. I am so glad many people recommended this book. I look forward to reading anything this author writes.