

THE PRESS ABOUT

*DEAR GABRIEL*

BY HALFDAN W. FREIHOW

”Wise, intimate and beautiful about an autistic child ... Life with Gabriel is illustrated with low-key and dramatic glimpses of genuine episodes. These evoke smiles and emotions as well as a rare insight in the reader. The father’s reflections on his son are interesting, not least because they appear so wise and real, so proud and devoted.”

Cecilie Schram Hoel, *Dagsavisen*

”Beautiful and full of insight ... When the commotion after this year’s literary output has abated, there will still be some books left on the shelves that will matter in peoples’ lives. ‘Dear Gabriel’ by Halfdan W. Freihow is such a book ... Grief is the book’s central theme, and rarely has it been described with such naked honesty as here ... At the same time it honours the distinct nature of a child that is different. For while it challenges the surroundings, it also commands an odd attentiveness, a sensitive vigilance and a continuous reflection on existential issues, and it is mainly here that ‘Dear Gabriel’ has its strength.”

Fartein Horgar, *Adresseavisen*

”In a beautiful, clearly chiselled prose, Freihow leads us through the whole threatening labyrinth that an ordinary day is for his son ... Without any hint of the ‘disclosure mentality’ that characterizes our time’s prevailing ideology of privatization, Halfdan W. Freihow has written a wise and attentive declaration of love against a dark backdrop.”

Pål Gerhard Olsen, *Bergens Tidende*

”A powerful literary work ... even though Freihow writes to Gabriel, the reader merges with the son. Through the writer’s consistent use of the second person, Gabriel’s differentness is reduced, while one is simultaneously reminded of one’s own. Freihow’s is a poetic language, dense and rich. It eschews every form of sentimentality. After twenty pages one feels like a family member, one cries and despairs, rages and laughs with Gabriel.”

Tonje Torsnes, *Vårt Land*

“A brave and powerful book ... Halfdan W. Freihow writes about not succeeding. It is precisely the description of loving deficiency that makes the book forceful and important.”

Tom Egil Hverven, National Radio