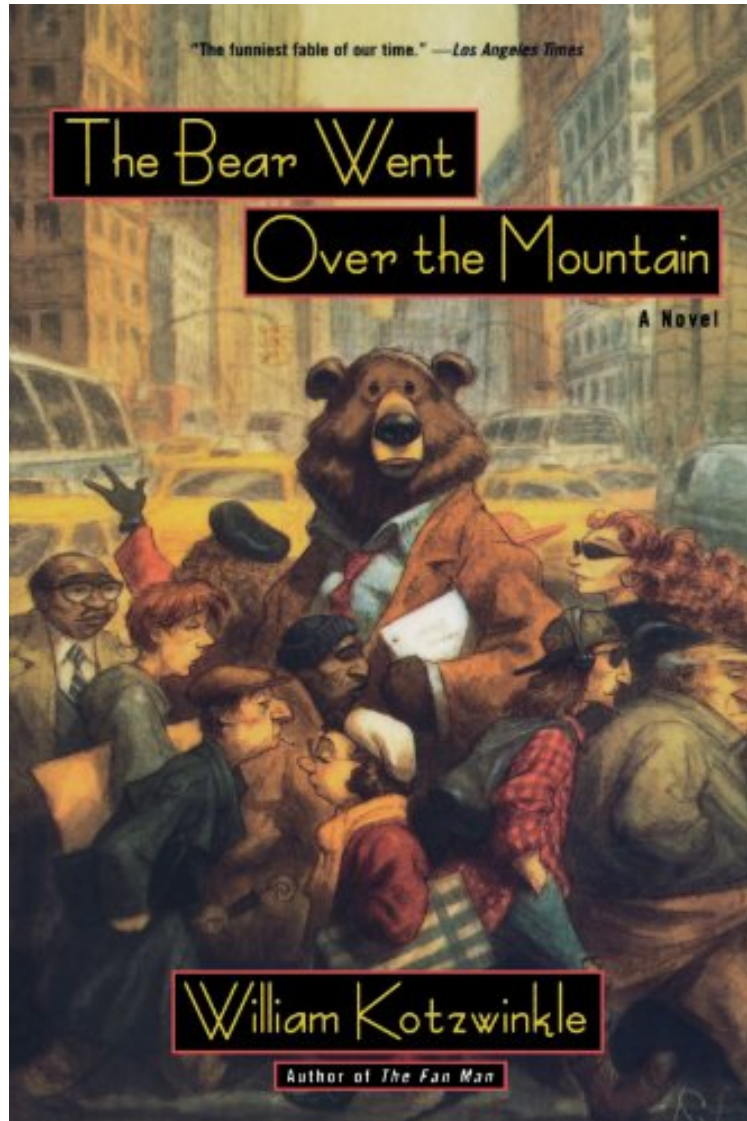


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## The Bear Went Over the Mountain: A Novel (Owl Book)

William Kotzwinkle

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#115306 in Books William Kotzwinkle 1997-11-15 1997-11-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .3 x 5.50l, .95 #File Name: 0805054383320 pages The Bear Went Over the Mountain | File size: 65.Mb

**William Kotzwinkle : The Bear Went Over the Mountain: A Novel (Owl Book)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bear Went Over the Mountain: A Novel (Owl Book):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A surprisingly great read with a unique method of delivery. By Dani Maupin This book was a complete surprise for me once I started reading it. I found the story to be fascinating, and the two main characters to both be completely likable even with the 'bear' factor. I found some of the concepts regarding

the intimate relationships of some of the characters to be a little hard to be okay with, but I got over that with the understanding that it helped further the story. This is actually a very interesting book with a pretty unique concept and simple story that makes you think about your own life and how you determine what's 'real'. A great read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. enjoy the adventures of a forest bear as he endeavors ...By DavidThis book looks as though it should be a charming little yarn for young and old. WRONG! this is most definitely for adults only. If you are an adult PURCHASE IMMEDIATELY. they say never judge a book by its cover, but in this instance, the illustrator captured the whimsy and charm of the novel almost perfectly. enjoy the adventures of a forest bear as he endeavors to find success in modern day New York. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy Second ChanceDumb.

Once upon a time in rural Maine, a big black bear found a briefcase under a tree. Hoping for food, he dragged it into the woods, only to find that all it held was the manuscript of a novel. He couldn't eat it, but he did read it, and decided it wasn't bad. Borrowing some clothes from a local store, and the name Hal Jam from the labels of his favorite foods he headed to New York to seek his fortune in the literary world. Then he took America by storm. *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* is a riotous, magical romp with the buoyant Hal Jam as he leaves the quiet, nurturing world of nature for the glittering, moneyed world of man. With a pitch-perfect comic voice and an eye for social satire to rival Swift or Wolfe, bestselling author William Kotzwinkle limns Hal's hilarious journey to New York, Los Angeles, and the great sprawling country in between, where a bear makes good despite his animal instincts, and where money-hungry executives see not a hairy beast with a purloined novel, but a rough-hewn, soulful, media-perfect nature guy who just might be the next Hemingway. By turns sidesplittingly funny, stingingly ironic, and unexpectedly tender, *The Bear Went Over the Mountain* captures the zeitgeist of the 1990s dead-on, in a delicious bedtime story for grown-ups.

.com You might think that a writer best-known for novelizing the movie "E.T." would find a satire on the book publishing industry hitting a bit close to home, but William Kotzwinkle seems quite comfortable with the task in this comic fable. In Kotzwinkle's merry send-up, the author of the hit novel "Desire and Destiny" is a bear, a real bear, who after finding the manuscript under a spruce tree and attaching his nom de plume, Hal Jam, becomes rich and famous overnight. Obtuse editors, star-hound agents, and a right-wing televangelist and Presidential candidate all warm to Hal's warm, bearish honesty without bothering to read his book--or to notice that he's an animal, for that matter. It's an old gag turned by a canny author to amusing, if not always compelling, purposes. From Publishers Weekly This is certainly the season for satirical looks at publishing. After Olivia Goldsmith's *The Bestseller* comes this delightful fable by Kotzwinkle (whose *E.T.* shares with Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump* the distinction of being its author's best-known title despite having been read by comparatively few people). Kotzwinkle has imagined a disconsolate Maine professor, Arthur Bramhall, who sets out to write a bestseller, only to have a bear steal it, thinking it's something to eat. This is no ordinary bear, however; he has aspirations to becoming a person (they eat so much better, and with much less trouble, than bears do). What better way to establish an identity than by becoming a celebrity novelist? Soon, the bear has found a pseudonym, Hal Jam, an agent and a publisher. With his distinctively masculine presence, and a monosyllabic way of talking that reminds many of Hemingway, he's on his way to stardom with a novel that everyone agrees has its roots deep in the natural world. Soon, he has a Hollywood agent, too, and the admiration of a Southern writer whose specialty is angels; both of them succumb to Hal's exuberant love-making (since a bear normally does it only once a year, a lot of libido is saved up). A pillar of the Christian right wants Hal's support for a run for the presidency, and Hal is only too willing, since he thinks "candidacy," like most words he doesn't know, means something to eat. Meanwhile, Bramhall, who is turning into a bear as fast as Hal is becoming human, launches a lawsuit to recover his lost book. How it all works out, and how Hal finds himself a sequel, is the meat of Kotzwinkle's hilarious and sometimes touching parable. The book business is unmercifully skewered (having read only a few lines of the novel, Hal's publicity person writes a summary on which all interviewers depend), but the spirit is mostly kindly, and in Hal Kotzwinkle has created a real star. Movie rights optioned by Jim Henson Pictures; author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal YA-Hal Jam takes a manuscript that he finds under a tree in rural Maine, breaks into a store to secure appropriate clothing, and heads for New York City to transform the manuscript into a runaway best-seller. Jam thinks, talks, and behaves like a human with bearlike tendencies; the only unusual part of this scenario is that he is in fact a bear. Kotzwinkle has created a very funny novel, satirizing many different aspects of the literary world. While Hal Jam becomes more and more human in behavior, the real author of the manuscript, Arthur Bramhall, falls further and further into reclusiveness searching for possible ideas for a future novel. As he retreats from humankind, his bearlike characteristics become more and more permanent. Only a brief attempt to identify himself as the author of the famous novel shakes Bramhall from his winter slumber. As Hal Jam thrives in his new environment, he encounters all the negatives found in a fast-wheeling money-driven society--drugs, alcohol, greed, and under-the-table agreements. His human behavior struggles with his still-prominent bear behavior. He has the normal desires of a male bear and acts upon them. And no one sees the bear. There are a lot of outrageous scenes, both in rural Maine and in urban areas. Sophisticated students will understand the underlying satire;

others will laugh just for the sake of laughing. Dottie Kraft, formerly at Fairfax County Public Schools, VA Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.