

A BOOK REVIEW by Meghan Sangster

Title - Words Paint Our Family Portrait

Author - Hugo Aurelio Toro

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Oh my gosh, I just read the sample short stories and Wow Wow Wow. I got so many goosebumps. It is just written so well and it's amazing and it's so special.

It explains so much about the life and family of the author Hugo Toro, and it sounds like such a beautiful but sorrowful story.

He tells and speaks his truth in such a manner that is heartfelt and genuine with total integrity and honesty. I'm a bit biased since I have known Hugo for many years, and he has been a good man, and through his true-life stories, now I can understand a little more about the trials and tribulations. Resilience comes through. The journey and adventures are epic and include beautiful photos.

In real life the author is private and never really spoke about personal challenges or not in depth like this. He is honestly such a good man. Through so many challenges and joy he describes a beautiful life.

He is a real person that has opened their soul and heart and it's just beautiful. It brought me to tears. I don't know why but in a good way.

Hugo has written three collections of short stories covering 100 years of family life and tales. The stories commence in the 1920s and finish in current times.

I really love the part with Simba the old cat and listening to vinyl records while writing these heartfelt stories and dedications. A range of emotions are felt with the passing of his mother young, and a trip overseas with father to see their old friends.

The school years resonate and it's so sweet it's like this epic journey. His family migrated to Australia in a courageous move and deal with all the challenges of integration. The young family seem like they are just beautiful, and mother oh my gosh she lived such a life.

It's just absolutely outstanding for someone to show through a written portrait, the love and care and where and what and how they came from is pretty remarkable. The family adventures and journeys are a really special thing.

How does Hugo approach writing and the motivation? Hugo is an artist. To him, writing his family tales was like painting a portrait but with words instead of paint. Hence the title of his book. Hugo realised early in his life that he would have to document family tales. He saw that as the elders passed away, their tales are lost.

A brilliant book, but not just a book a collection of stories reflecting actual truth.