

BK notes – the bus driver who wanted to be god

+Reread 'The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God', 'Goodman', 'Breaking the Pig', "Korbi's Girl", 'Good Intentions', and the novella "Kneller's Happy Campers"

*The first person to use a club probably wasn't the strongest, he just needed it more than anyone else.

*Sometimes a person gets so wrapped up into an internal logic that there is little point to additional discussion. The only thing to do is communicate the problem, as directly as possible.

*People from far away (or just outsiders) can miss the obvious warning signs about someone's character.

*You can become what you want, even when it seems like the opportunity is past, because there are some basic core characteristics that always apply.

*The great affection kids have for their toys might be related to a toy's unconditional acceptance of the kid.

*There are some consequences that help you realize – nothing is worth the possible downside.

*People are generally unwilling to change someone who helps them, even if a change would be hugely beneficial to the helper.

'The Bus Driver Who Wanted To Be God' – the first story in the collection, there was a feeling of watching things start, and an interesting parallel to the recent 'Pineapple Crush' with the way things end on a bench near the beach.

'Goodman' – I remember the first time I read it, I thought the story was fine, maybe in the better half of the book. Each time I've read it since, I seem to discover another layer, and I think more of it. The story is dense and complex, particularly with how it explores the different ways people use the past to understand the present.

'Breaking the Pig' – this one made me think about what kids personify in their animals. Is it some aspect of the self? It's interesting how one thing that doesn't change as we grow up is how we become attached to whatever accepts us without conditions, and that perhaps being faced with conditional acceptance is what motivates us to take action.

"Korbi's Girl" – this used to be my favorite, my views are still positive but I like other stories a little better. One great aspect of this story is the way it sets the mood, a foreboding sense of an impending change creating the required tension throughout.

‘Good Intentions’ – solid, I like the main idea that being good to others is almost like a disease, and that people rarely want to change someone who is helping them.

“Kneller’s Happy Campers” (novella) – there were a lot of little moments I enjoyed from this one, but overall there’s something about it that doesn’t work for me. One possibility is that Keret used the novella structure to link together a lot of ideas that didn’t quite stand up as their own stories, but this strikes me as a little unlikely given the length of some of his other work. There is a nice overall thread here that we tend to chase things that are out of our reach, but that we shouldn’t give up on them.