

Mads Rage

*THREE FRIENDS AND A BAD THING*

The author's storyline

The novel revolves around three young friends in a rural West Norwegian society, and is told through the voice of one of these friends (known as The Gary Boy). Together with his two buddies (Guri and Kjørvald), he revels in a life spent getting drunk, playing video games, and cooking up wacky ideas. However, a kerfuffle with a rifle leads to The Gary Boy's head being blown off, and in their panic his two friends replace it with a boat radio. This could only have been made possible by Kjørvald's technical knowhow, of course, who has a knack for this sort of thing. The Gary Boy survives and comes to his senses, or rather he comes to a different set of senses altogether, ones he isn't too sure about. He begins to go through the process of understanding what happened to him. But before long the radio battery runs out of juice, and he's once again in peril. His friends scurry around until they find a solution. Soon after, Guri reveals that Kjørvald was the one who fired the fateful bullet, putting their friendship on the brink. Kjørvald feels betrayed that Guri let the cat out of the bag because it wasn't what they had agreed on, and it all quickly erupts into a bitter conflict in which Kjørvald demonstrates that he has a very nasty side. Guri tries to put their friendship back together regardless, but The Gary Boy messes it all up by confronting Kjørvald about his behaviour. In the end, Kjørvald ends up shooting himself with the same rifle.

This story is told through an energetic, comedic language meant to mirror the mental state of the protagonist. After the accident he experiences everything in an unbroken stream of consciousness, and doesn't seem quite capable of working out rationally and exactly what has happened to him. As more information slowly comes to light, the central themes reveal themselves to be guilt and atonement.