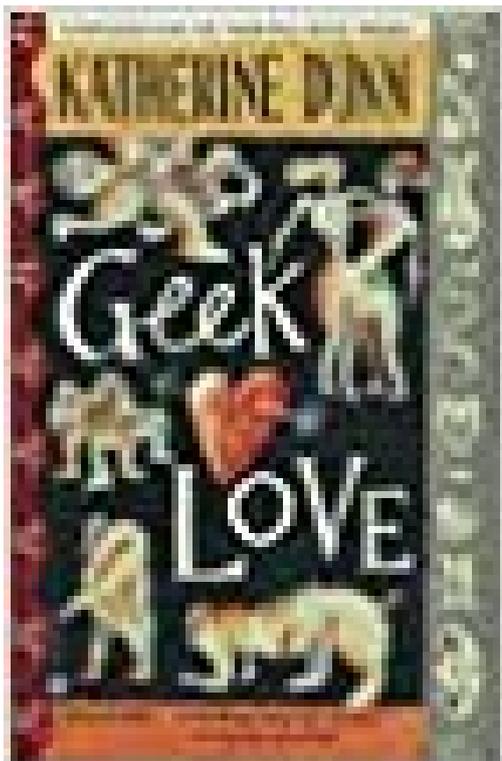


## Geek Love by Christina Moore, Katherine Dunn



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**ISBN:** 0788731076

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**Author:** Christina Moore, Katherine Dunn

**Book title:** Geek Love

**Publisher:** Recorded Books; Unabridged edition (1999)

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## Reviews of the **Geek Love** by Christina Moore, Katherine Dunn

### Sermak Light

Oh, this book. I started it the day that I found out the author had died -- I'd kept meaning to get to it, and that seemed as good a time as any.

I don't know what I expected, but it... wasn't this. *Geek Love* is about a family of "circus freaks" -- the Binewski clan, where each child was borne of love and a new cocktail of drugs: an albino hunchback little person (and our narrator); conjoined twins; a boy with flippers instead of hands or feet; and one normal-looking child who was almost abandoned. The plot jumps between the past and the present; the reader gleans a portrait of a family brought together with fierce love and loyalty and torn apart by jealousy and fear.

Geek Love isn't a perfect book (I was disappointed with the subplot involving Miss Lick; it seemed underdeveloped), and it's not one that I feel like I can recommend lightly, nor to most readers, but it does tell an amazing story that put me through an emotional wringer, leaving my heart thumping or with tears in my eyes, and every emotion in between. It's about the meaning of family, love, and (blind) devotion, and it's unlike any other family saga I've read.

I recommend it to anyone who has read this review and remains intrigued. It's not an easy book, or a light book, or a book of happy endings, but it is amazing, and worth the effort.

Started: May 13, 2016

Finished: May 21, 2016

Rating: 9/10

### **Gaiuaco**

I don't give this book 5 stars because it deserves 5 stars, I give this book 5 stars because it is the most strange, most unusual, most impossible book I have ever read. It took one wildly creative mind to come up with the ideas that put this book together. And I enjoyed every crazy minute of it. It took my mind on a circus rollercoaster of a ride of a lifetime I'm inclined to never forget. It's one of those books that startle the mind into the impossible and make it possible and wakes up your minds and says hey, can you do that? Is that possible? And keeps you reading to find out if there's a trick or neat little fancy idea behind what's going on. And the book keeps the mind working. All the way to the end and even past that. It makes you think and wonder and then you find joy here and there. You find yourself laughing at this and that. Shocked or startled by something that is so awesome you have to smile, maybe chuckle, maybe put the book down and giggle a while. These moments exist. As do the sad ones. Where your heart melts and you want to cry. You hurt for a character and just want to cuddle them and hold them and cry with them. It's just that kind of book.

### **snowball**

I read Geek Love because it's one of Karen Russell's favorite novels. She read it when she was 15. If I had read Geek Love when I was fifteen, especially if I were fifteen in the early nineties (instead of late nineties) I might have enjoyed it a lot more.

The story centers around the Binewskis, a family of "freaks" (conjoined twins, boy with flippers, hunchback albino, telekinetic) who runs a traveling carnival. It reminds me of an R-rated Sam & Max Hit the Road. For a book so full of weirdness and magic and blunt honesty (all things I really would have appreciated at fifteen) it didn't hold my interest much at all. And I'm not sure why. But the sheer imagination behind the book compelled me to read the whole thing, if only so I could move on to something else.

Something about the language deterred me, and made the book feel a lot longer than it was, and sometimes I had to go back and re-read paragraphs just to figure out what was going on. Also, the ending fell flat for me.

I can see how the book was influential in shaping the craft of one of my favorite authors, but it didn't have the same affect on me, in my grizzled old age.

### **Ionzar**

A family is a family, no matter if they are norms or freaks. And a job is a job: tycoon, artist or geek. The responsibility felt by parents, the expectations and shattered dreams of kids, the reality of doing what you have to do to get by: sometimes it all adds up to a family like the Rockefellers and sometimes it adds up to the Binewskis. Who is to say which is the more horrific sum?

Olympia Binewski thinks this: "It is, I suppose, the common grief of children at having to protect their parents from reality. It is bitter for the young to see what awful innocence adults grow into, that terrible vulnerability that must be sheltered from the rodent mire of childhood."

Katherine Dunn: serious, believable, bizarre.

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