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**From AmazonCrossingEnglish : The Greenhouse by Audur Ava Olafsdottir (2011) Paperback** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Greenhouse by Audur Ava Olafsdottir (2011) Paperback:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A lovely story...By Kathleen ValentineOne of the most beautiful and enthralling books I have read in a very long time. Growing up in Iceland, Lobbi lived with his parents and his handicapped twin brother and worked in his mother's greenhouse. She had developed a rose of rare beauty called the eight-petal rose. When Lobbi is 20 two events shake up his lifehe shares a brief intimacy with the girlfriend of one of his friends during which she becomes pregnant, and his beloved mother is killed in a car wreck. Anna, the mother of his daughter, names her Flora but makes no effort to involve Lobbi in their life. Lobbi, unhappy and desolate, takes a job at a monastery in a remote mountain village that was once famous for its gardens which have now fallen into disrepair.Lobbi travels to the village in an unnamed location and finds a land that is strange indeed. The people there are kind but they speak their own languagea language that is dyingand there are no children that he can see. He begins work at the monastery and meets a monk who is a movie fan and who invites him to join him for his nightly movie watching. Just as Lobbi settles into a routine, he receives a letter from Anna telling him she has to go away for a month and wants to know if he will care for his now nine-month-old daughter.The writing is lovely, the people are touching, and the descriptions of this mysterious land are positively enchanting. A lovely book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but I am pretty sure an American boy would never step up to ...By JMBTranslated books are sometimes a little different to read, as they don't flow as smoothly. This was a very interesting story and an enjoyable read, but I am pretty sure an American boy would never step up to the plate like this Icelandic one did.0 of 0 people

found the following review helpful. A Compelling ReadBy Carol C. AlexNever having read a book by an Icelandic author, this novel charmed and moved me in a unique way. The translation into English preserved a delicious flavor of a place and people I knew nothing about but grew to admire. Written in the first person, the story takes a young man from his small town in Iceland to a remote monastery a thousand miles away to work in its famous rose garden, long neglected and in disrepair. But this is so much more about a pure of heart individual touching the lives of so many as his experiences begin to mature him. Mainly through the conduit of his beautiful nine month old daughter, conceived from a casual encounter, suddenly appearing on the scene with the mother for a stay of tentative duration. At the end I longed to remain in this family's life, to find out what happens to them, especially the remarkable child. I was convinced this was written by a man until the author's description at the end. Therefore, this book would appeal to both men and women who enjoy a good human interest story.