



**BOOK REVIEW OF *ULYSSES MOORE: DOOR TO TIME*
WRITTEN BY PIERDOMENICO BACCALARIO**

A FINAL PROJECT

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For S1
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Submitted by

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by him without taking the results from other research in any university at S1, S2, S3 or diploma degree. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang,

2011

Arif Iman Sentosa

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Per astra ad aspera -Dengan segala jerih payah menuju bintang-

For everything I stand for, I will be successful!

APPROVAL

Approved by
Advisor,

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NIP: 197701182009122001

VALIDATION

Approved by
Strata 1 Final Project Examination Committee
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On

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2. The writer's father who always asks for his graduation.
3. Rosita Amalia, the writer's friends, who lends him *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time* although she has not read it yet.

The writer wishes that this project will be useful to the reader who wants to learn something about adventure books.

Semarang, 4 August 2011

The writer

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ABSTRACT

Final Project ini merupakan ulasan dari novel *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time* yang telah dialih bahasakan menjadi *Ulysses Moore: Pintu Waktu*. Buku ini ditulis oleh seorang penulis Italia bernama Pierdomenico Baccalario. *Ulysses Moore* bergenre fiksi anak dan bercerita tentang petualangan sekelompok anak yang mencoba menguak misteri sebuah rumah. *Door to Time* merupakan seri awal dari rangkaian 9 buku *Ulysses Moore*. Di dalamnya terdapat sebab-sebab dan asal- muasal kejadian yang ada di buku-buku selanjutnya. Sedangkan Final Project ini sendiri menyajikan review dan pandangan-pandangan penulis mengenai buku tersebut. *Ulysses Moore* adalah buku anak yang sangat menantang. Gaya pembawaan buku ini menjadikan ceritanya seolah benar-benar terjadi, misal dengan adanya email dari editor di tiap pendahuluan yang berisi hasil penyelidikannya tentang *Ulysses Moore*. Sebaliknya, sulit membayangkan beberapa anak di awal umur belasan tahun dapat memecahkan berbagai misteri seperti yang ada di buku ini. Meski begitu, *Ulysses Moore* tetap layak dibaca sebagai tambahan pembendaharaan bacaan yang bagus baik untuk anak maupun dewasa.

I. BACKGROUND

I. 1. Background of Writing

Ulysses Moore: Door to Time is a children book written by Pierdomenico Baccalario. It is a predecessor for the other 8 series of *Ulysses Moore*. The first 4 books are already translated and published in other languages, while the rest are still in Italian. *Door to Time* is an introduction of setting and characters of *Ulysses Moore* series.

The story is about a group of children trying to reveal the mystery behind a house called Argo Manor. The house is owned by an eccentric rich man, Ulysses Moore, that no one knows where he is. Ulysses Moore is as mysterious as his house. Some says that he never went to town and kept staying at the Manor for the rest of his life. The house is now taken care of by Nestor who, by the permission of Ulysses, rent it to the Covenant family. The children of Covenant family, Jason and Julia Covenant, together with their friend Rick Banner, try to solve every puzzle that lead to the forbidden door which opens a way to the Ancient Egypt.

Ulysses Moore: Door to Time is easy to read as it is a children book. The ending is not difficult to guess, and the writing style is light for children. But how the writer and the publisher packed this book is unique. There is no sign that tells us who is the author of the book on the title page. There are editor, illustrator and translator acknowledged, but there is no writer. In addition, at the beginning and the end of the book, there are always editor's emails sent directly from England. The email contains every report of the progress in finding the truth about Ulysses Moore. It makes the readers, which are mostly children, believe that the story is real and it did happen somewhere in England. Somehow, the readers also believe that the story is written by Ulysses Moore himself due to the lack of information concerning the author of the novel on the title page. However, the truth is that the novel series of *Ulysses Moore* are written by an Italian author, Pierdomenico Baccalario. There is not much information about him even in the internet. This makes *Ulysses Moore* become more like an urban legend.

There is a similarity between Pierdomenico Baccalario, Argo Manor and Ulysses Moore: they are mysterious. This makes *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time* and the other series differ from any other children books. While reading *Ulysses Moore*, the children is encouraged to find more facts about Argo Manor, Ulysses Moore, and the author from sources other than the novels.

In short, *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time* really is a good book for children to drill their sense of phantasm and solving problems. This attractive side of *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time* has encouraged the writer to review the novel.

I. 2. Biography of the Author

Pierdomenico Baccalario was born on 6 March 1974 in Acqui Terme, a little town in the Piedmont Region of Northern Italy. He has specializations in juvenile literature, journalist, and scriptwriter. Baccalario wrote his first novel, *La Strada del Guerriero*, in 15 days and sent it to Batello a Vapor. He later won that Italian national prize of literature. Some of his works are *La Clessidra series* (2002-2004), *Ulysses Moore series* (2004-2011), *Century series* (2006-2008) and *Will Moogley Agenzi Fantasmi series* (2008-2010). He also did a collaboration with Alessandro Gatti in *Candy Cirlice series* (2005-2008) and *I Gialli Di Vicolo Voltaire series* (2009-2011).

II. SUMMARY

II. 1. General Information

Title : *Ulysses Moore Pintu Waktu (Ulysses Moore Door to Time)*

Genre : Adventure-Fantasy

Author : Pierdomenico Baccalario

Translator : Damaring Tyas Wulandari, S.Si.

Editor : Danu Nugraha, S.Si.

Rani Nuraeni, S.Si.

Illustrator : Lacopo Bruno

Pages : 222

Publisher : Erlangga for Kids

ISBN : (13) 978-979-015-511-4

Succeeded by : *Ulysses Moore: The Long-Lost Map*

Ulysses Moore: House of Mirrors

Ulysses Moore: Isle of Masks

Ulysses Moore: I Guardiani di Pietra

Ulysses Moore: La Prima Chiave

Ulysses Moore: La Citta Nascosta

Ulysses Moore: Il Maestro di Fulmini

Ulysses Moore: Il Labirinto d'ombra

II. 2. Characters

Julia Covenant: Julia, the daughter of the Covenant family, is a stubborn girl. She does not believe in ghost or everything that can not be seen with her eyes. At first, she does not believe Jason's, her twin, imagination about Argo Manor, and what surrounds it. But then, as the story goes, she tries to make sure that everything she has passed through with Jason and their friend, Rick, is real.

Jason Covenant: Jason is the son of Covenant family and Julia's twin brother. In contrast to Julia, Jason is a dreamer and has good imagination. He also has strong instinct to decide what to do. Jason's strong instinctive sense has frequently saved him, his twin Julia, and their friend Rick throughout the journey. And of course when the deep instinct inspires him to shout 'Egypt!' at the end of the story.

Rick Banner: Rick is Jason's schoolmate. He is a local kid who has always dreamt about discovering Argo Manor. He knows about Kilmore Cove, the town below Argo Manor where he lives, and its secret very well. He has a good relationship to some important people and know how to deal with them. He seems to be as smart as Jason in solving problems. Rick is a year older than the twins and has more athletic body. His father died when sailing in the sea. This makes him a little bit trauma about ship.

Nestor: Nestor is the housekeeper of Argo Manor. He is as cold as the house itself. It seems that he does not like to be bothered by the kids when Mrs. Covenant ask him to take care of her children. But, as the story goes, he usually tends to let the children do what they want. It is even implied in some parts of the story that he wants Argo Manor to be inhabited by kids.

Oblivia Newton: Oblivia is an eccentric rich young lady. She has a deep anxiety to own Argo Manor. It is not clear whether she wants to own Argo Manor because of its beauty or because of the *Door to Time*. In *Ulysses Moore: Door to Time*, she appears in a few scenes, but her role is important in the next books of *Ulysses Moore*.

Manfred: Manfred is Oblivia's driver. Though he is more like her servant for most actions Oblivia does, he actually does not want to.

Mr and Mrs Covenant: They are the parents of Jason and Julia. There is not a lot to say about the couple, except how Mrs. Covenant worries about her children everytime.

II. 3. Summary

Covenant family has just moved from London to Kilmore Cove, a small city located near the seashore. They live at Argo Manor, a big house left by Ulysses Moore, a mysterious man. The house is located in the top of a cliff, separated from other buildings or any social contacts. It has many beautiful rooms, a tower, and a greenhouse. This makes Argo Manor as mysterious as its owner.

Jason and Julia Covenant, a twin children of the family, at first think that it will be boring to live in such a house. However, they are totally wrong. Argo Manor has more defiances than they can imagine, especially when their parents left Kilmore Cove to keep up with things in London and their friend, Rick Banner, comes. There is only Mr. Nestor, Argo Manor's caretaker, who is given responsibility to keep an eye on the kids. However, he seems to be a person who likes to see adventurous side of children, so, mostly, he lets them do what they want.

The journey starts when Jason almost falls down from the cliff after swimming in the shore below. He finds a box in a crack of the cliff. There are small balls made of clay and a parchment inside the box, things that leads the trio to a hidden door. The door has 4 keyholes and full of stabbed marks. However, that is not the end of the story. The door opens more puzzles and challenges. Behind the door is a long staircase and a tunnel. The tunnel is dark, but they are keep moving forward. A few times Julia wants to turn back, but Jason wants to keep going. Jason risks his life by jumping over a large pit towards the end of the tunnel. He does not think, sometimes he just does it. Julia does the same in the end, she jumps down a chute that is slippery and wet like the ones at Raging Water. They end up in a cave and find a ship inside. Inconceivably, Jason's mind connects to the ship, and he makes the ship sail to the other side of the cave and shouts 'Egypt!'. Once they are there, everything feels different. They overheard

other people talking about Pharaoh, Egyptian Tomb, etc. They have traveled through time to ancient Egypt!

Things does not usually go as smooth as what they think, especially because of their personal differences. Jason Covenant is a smart kid with a full loaded head of fantasy. He likes mystery and tries to reveal it, while his sister, Julia, always worries about everything. She is the first who always remind everyone about the danger they can face. Rick Banner, their mate at the school, is an athletic boy. He fears nothing, but is always alerted. He knows everything about Kilmore Cove. To enter and explore what inside Argo Manor is his dream coming true. They solve every problems together until they find that they are not in Kilmore Cove anymore.