

1971

David B.

# Epileptici



NOVEL GRAFIS

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## **Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus)**

David B.

Epileptik adalah mahakarya David B., seniman komik terkemuka di Eropa. Autobiografi yang emosional ini menceritakan kehidupan bersama abangnya, penderita epilepsi. Epileptik edisi bahasa Indonesia Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus) dibagi menjadi dua buku. Epileptik 1 berkisah tentang hidup keluarga Beauchard yang mendadak berubah ketika anak sulung mereka, Jean-Christophe, terserang epilepsi. Dalam rangka mengobatinya, ibu dan ayah membawa seluruh keluarga mendatangi berbagai ahli akupunktur, terapis magnetik, para medium, dan komunitas makrobiotik. Tapi semua pengobatan itu berakhir mengecewakan. Setelah sempat membaik, kesehatan Jean-Christophe malah makin memburuk. Ia semakin sering kejang pada waktu dan tempat yang tak terduga. Kadang ia pingsan di jalan dan terluka. Karena marah Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus) pada semua penyembuh yang menawarkan harapan palsu, Pierre-Francois, si bungsu alias David, berusaha mengatasinya dengan membuat gambar-gambar yang merupakan jendela menakjubkan tentang kehidupan batinnya. Epileptik adalah potret jujur dan mengguncang tentang penyakit epilepsi, penderitaan serta ketakutan yang ditimbulkannya pada keluarga Beauchard. Epileptik 1 ini berisi cerita menyentuh tentang riwayat rumit sebuah keluarga. Kita dibawa mengikuti Pierre-Francois membaca hubungan kompleks dengan abangnya, dan usaha keluarga Beauchard menghadapi lingkungan yang tak selalu bisa menerima kondisi Jean Christophe. Pierre-Francois pun akhirnya menutup diri dan tenggelam dalam dunianya yang penuh imajinasi untuk sebentar lari dari tragedi keluarga itu.

(Review Epileptik 1&2) Ada banyak cara berbagi pengalaman hidup dengan orang lain, terlebih bagi mereka yang merupakan orang-orang terkenal (politikus, artis, wartawan senior, tokoh masyarakat, dll). Umumnya kisah-kisah hidup mereka tersaji dalam bentuk tulisan yang disebut dengan memoir, biografi, autobiografi, dll, dari yang sekedar untuk menonjolkan figur dirinya guna tujuan tertentu, hingga kisah kehidupan sejujurnya baik yang baik maupun yang buruk sebagai pembelajaran kehidupan bagi mereka yang membacanya. Bentuk memoir/biografi/autobiografi itu biasanya tersaji dalam buku yang tebal, tak jarang berupa not easy hide dan dihiasi berbagai foto-foto pribadi sang tokoh. Atau ada juga yang dikemas dalam bentuk fiksi, misalnya Laskar Pelangi yang merupakan memoir dari penulisnya (Andrea Hirata). Namun apa yang disajikan oleh Pierre-Francois alias David B, pendiri L'Association yang merevolusi komik Eropa dengan format, gaya, dan materi yang baru, bisa dibilang unik. Ia menuliskan memoirnya dalam bentuk komik hitam putih. Dan inilah salah satu dari buah revolusi komik yang dilakukan David B, dkk. Dalam karyanya ini ia keluar dari pakem komik mainstream (format album, forty eight halaman berwarna, kisah superhero, dll) David B menulis kisah dirinya dan keluarganya dalam mengatasi penyakit epilepsi yang diderita kakaknya, Jean-Christophe sejak masih kanak-kanak. Dikisahkan bagaimana seluruh keluarga berjuang untuk kesembuhan Jean Christophe. Berbagai macam cara pengobatan dicoba, mulai Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus) dari secara medis hingga berbagai metode alternatif seperti akupunktur, terapi magnetis, menghubungi

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arwah leluhur lewat para medium, voodoo, bergabung dalam komunitas makrobiotik, hingga penyembuhan secara religi. Namun semua usaha pengobatan itu tak berhasil menyembuhkan Jean Christophe, kadang sembuh beberapa saat, namun kembali lagi seragan itu datang dengan pola yang sama, malah semakin sering dan memburuk. Tanpa disadari penyakit epilepsi yang diderita Jean Christopher mempengaruhi perilaku dan kehidupan seluruh keluarganya. Obsesi seluruh keluarganya untuk menyembuhkan Jean Christophe dan harapan-harapan palsu yang ditawarkan oleh para dokter dan penyembuh lainnya membuat seluruh keluarga ikut menderita dan terguncang secara psikis. Tak terkecuali dengan David, penyakit kakaknya itupun ikut menghantui dirinya. Sesuai dengan bakatnya, ia mengatasinya dengan menggambar dan menulis kisah kehidupan dirinya dan keluarganya lengkap dengan mimpi-mimpi dan apa yang dia rasakan dalam jiwanya yang juga mulai 'sakit'. Pada intinya Epileptik adalah potret jujur tentang penyakit epilepsi yang diderita Jean-Christophe, penderitaan serta ketakutan yang ditimbulkannya pada keluarga Beauchard. Melalui komik ini kita akan diajak menyelusuri kehidupan David B (Pierre- Francois) sejak masa kecil, remaja, dan dewasanya. Bagaimana penyakit epilepsi yang diderita kakaknya ini akhirnya menciptakan sebuah hubungan yang rumit dengan kakaknya hingga David berpikir untuk menghabisi saja nyawa kakaknya. Tak hanya itu saja, komik ini juga menceritakan kisah –kisah yang dialami oleh kakek nenek David B. Kita akan diajak ke masa silam ketika kedua kakeknya bertempur dalam kedua Perang Dunia. Seolah penulisnya ingin mengungkapkan bahwa sejarah kehidupan keluarganya adalah sejarah panjang dan melelahkan melawan penyakit dan kematian. Karena kisah dalam komik ini menceritakan kehidupan penulis dan keluarganya maka bisa dikatakan komik ini adalah sebuah image diary. David B menorehkan Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus) pengalaman hidupnya dengan gambar-gambar komikal dalam sapuan warna hitam putih yang kuat dimana ia tak segan-segan menggunakan blok warna hitam pekat. Walau tokoh-tokohnya digambarkan secara komikal namun ekspresinya terpancar dengan baik sehingga pembaca dapat menangkap emosi yang dirasakan tokoh-tokohnya. Selain itu David B juga memberi latar pada tiap panel gambarnya secara element dengan gambar-gambar surealis yang memikat. Memang bukan hal yang mudah untuk menikmati buku ini. Dengan liar David B mencampur adukkan alur ceritanya, kadang ditengah kisah ia bisa langsung mengajak pembacanya ke masuk ke masa silam ke kehidupan kakek neneknya. Belum lagi mimpi-mimpi David yang tiba-tiba menyeruak kedalam inti cerita. Memang ketika hendak mengisahkan mimpi-mimpinya ada teks yang menjelaskan awal dari mimpi David, namun sayangnya tak ada satupun teks yang memberikan keterangan akhir dari mimpinya sehingga pembaca harus berkonsentrasi dan menebak sendiri apakah panel gambar berikutnya masih merupakan mimpi David atau bukan. Bagi yang tak terbiasa membaca komik serius, komik ini memang agak melelahkan, apalagi ketika David menjelaskan secara panjang lebar mengenai berbagai upaya penyembuhan yang dilakukan oleh Jean-Christophe dan keluarganya. Namun jika kita sabar membacanya dan mencoba memahami komik ini baik dari segi cerita maupun gambarnya maka kita akan menemukan bahwa komik ini menyajikan secara lugas tentang emosi-emosi wajar manusia dalam menghadapi ketakutan akan penyakit dan kematian. Dan yang juga tak kalah menarik ketika kita mencoba memahami buku yang unik ini adalah ketika kita ingin menafsirkan dan mencari gambar-gambar tersembunyi didalam panel-panel gambarnya. Memang memerlukan waktu dan konsentrasi, namun justru disinilah letak seni dalam membaca dan memahami komik. Gambar-gambar dalam komik ini mungkin mengingatkan kita pada Persepolis - Marjane Satrapi (tak heran karena Satrapi merupakan murid dari David B). Namun apa yang dikisahkan oleh David B lebih dalam dan gambarnya

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lebih mendetail dibanding Satrapi. Dalam edisi aslinya yang berjudul l'Ascension du Haut Mal, memoir ini terdiri dari 6 jilid komik yang terbit sejak tahun 1996 – 2003. Edisi bahasa Inggrisnya terbit dengan judul Epileptic (2003) yang setebal 368 halaman! Bayangkan bagaimana rasanya membaca komik serius setebal itu! Bersyukur edisi bahasa Indonesianya oleh Gramedia dibagi dalam dua buku yang masing-masing setebal 163 & 198 halaman sehingga tak terlalu lelah membacanya. Epileptik 1 [L'Ascension du Haut Mal, Omnibus 1-3] (L'Ascension du Haut Mal #1-3 omnibus) Selain itu buku ini juga dikemas dengan conceal yang menarik dan dicetak diatas kertas yang tak silau mata, ringan dan mampu menyerap tinta cetak secara sempurna. Usaha Gramedia untuk menerjemahkan dan menerbitkan komik yang disebut-sebut sebagai salah satu dari sepuluh novel grafis terpuji sepanjang masa ini patut diacungi jempol. Hingga kini bisa tampaknya baru Gramedia yang secara serius dan kontinu menerbitkan komik-komik alternatif kelas dunia. Dan ini semakin membuktikan kepada publik Indonesia bahwa komik bukanlah sekedar kisah superhero yang menghibur. Melalui komik, kini kita bisa belajar memaknai perjuangan manusia dalam meniti kehidupannya. @h\_tanzil

## **Epileptik 1 L Ascension Du Haut Mal Omnibus 1 3 L Ascension Du Haut Mal 1 3 Omnibus**

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