



English Slacker

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Chambers is an eighteen-year-old student living in the small town of Bracksea, England. Fresh from his final college exams, he is now ready for what is to be his last summer of freedom, which involves going to parties, smoking dope and getting drunk with all his friends. However, what begins as a seemingly innocent and routine set of social events soon turns into a nightmare for Chambers as a suppressed memory - which may or may not be related to the recent disappearance of his best friend Colin - begins to surface. The more Chambers immerses himself in the distractions around him the more he begins to find that he is losing his whole sense of reality...

English Slacker Details


Date : Published June 1st 2011 by Punked Books (first published May 17th 2011)

ISBN : 9780953317288

Author : Chris Morton

Format : Paperback 190 pages

Genre : Contemporary

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From Reader Review English Slacker for online ebook

Lindsay says

One of the most uneventful stories I've ever read.

The novel follows a young man named Chambers, an eighteen year old small town guy who decides to utilize his last enjoyable summer smoking pot and getting drunk on a daily basis.

There's nothing you can get out of this book that you can't get from watching an episode of Skins.

Angela says

Have won a copy through First Reads (thank you). Will put up a review once I have received and read the book 06/06/2011

A refreshingly good read. The characterisation of the main protagonist is authentically realistic and although he is in no way regarded as being classed as a 'hero' in the novel, his exploits with drink, drugs and girls are extremely fun to read. The book explores various (past) events into the character development and there is plenty going on to keep the reader interested.

A very good summer read (even though it was raining for the week I was reading it, but then that's British summertime for you!) I look forward to reading more from Morton.

Rebecca Emin says

Chambers (the main character in this book) is like nobody I have met before in the same way that this book is like no other book I have read before. I was absolutely hooked by this character's narration of his life.

Morton writes in a fresh, unique way that is absolutely gripping as well as entertaining. I hope to read more from this author.

(The book contains a lot of swearing and use of drugs, which is all in context. Definitely not for children. I only mention this as some people may be reading my reviews because I write for children.)

Lucy says

From the start, this novel flows very naturally. The reader is able to get to know Chambers quickly, and begin to gain insight into his thoughts and day to day lifestyle. Although the main character is far from remarkable, you find yourself drawn in, wanting to know more about him and his past. There are aspects of Chamber's character that most people will recognise; the uncertainty of the future, the feeling that everyone else is doing better than you, and a desire to block out the more unpleasant things in life.

This book is perfect summer reading for school leavers, but likewise holds an appeal for older readers too;

we can all remember being 18 and thinking the future was supposed to be all mapped out- for some of us (myself included!) we are still waiting for that to happen!

I've deliberately kept the summary brief as I don't want to give too much away, but there are unexpected moments and plenty to keep the pages turning.

This book is refreshingly lacking in pretension, and is written in an open and honest style, making it easy to read and difficult to put down!

Alan says

Came across this book recently in Brighton. Great original style of writing. The author approaches the story in a very interesting way, in some respects this reads like an indie film although the authenticity in the characters and scenes probably makes it work better as a book. The main character Chambers is a likeable teenage anti-hero whose exploits mostly involve drink, drugs and girls. Following him on his journey was exciting for me, even though I personally don't have much in common with such a way of life.

Jonny Gibbings says

Good tale, one I can relate too. Funny, smart, but didn't take off like I thought. Maybe that's why I like it though!

addendum: This is one of those rare books, that, like Trainspotting or A Clockwork Orange, gets better on the second read. I think I'm guilty of reading it too fast due to the Not the Booker bullshit. Reading it again, it is a very accomplished book. not delivered as a voice in book, more noir, indie film. The near lack of story is brilliant (Think Northern Exposure). A very good read!

Chris Morton says

Published in June 2011. A good summer read, especially for readers in their late teens to early thirties.

Colin Galbraith says

Quite scary how much I related Chambers. I, too, worked in a supermarket in the 90s while spending my college days getting pissed. The L-Shapes and having to "dress down" at the behest of the bosses brought back a shit load of memories.

Yes, you could argue this book answers no questions and doesn't go anywhere, but it's bit supposed to. You have to dig deeper to find the truth this book delivers, and it does it well. This is a book about self-analysis and about a confusing stage in life, which is captured brilliantly through Chambers.

I want novels to make me stop and think about them for long after I've put them down, and this book has done just that.

Looking forward to reading more from Mr Morton.

Louise Walsh says

Not my kind of read, but still interesting.

Won on GoodReads First Reads

Jonathan Last says

English Slacker takes place in that final summer after school is over, and university or whatever else beckons beyond.

We follow 18-year-old Chambers as he enjoys all the drink, drugs, awkward encounters with the opposite sex and bumming around that summer has to offer in his coastal English town. But less enjoyable for him are his reoccurring memories of an old friend, Colin, and his attempts to get his head around what happened with Colin - who despite not being around any more is still having an impact on his life.

I enjoyed English Slacker for its sense of time and place (it's set in the late 90s) and the spot-on depiction of the rambling and aimlessness of youth. Sometimes it is a little bit TOO rambling and aimless, and could have done with an earlier introduction of what it's really 'about'.

Nevertheless, it's a fun and recommended read.

Katie says

English Slacker is a slim volume, and what is contained within is a story of a young man and a story where not much happens. But a lot of great books are made of the tedium of everyday life, so don't let that stop you.

For me, this book reminded me of friends I haven't thought about in a long time. Old friends from my early teens who smoked weed and got into small troubles. English Slacker is one of those books that is like sitting with a couple of those stoner friends who decide to tell you a story. It meanders and circles around on itself and seems somewhat pointless, but you still want to see what happens.

It will draw comparison to Trainspotting and A Clockwork Orange, although this is more like a short episode in one of those books.

If you like tales of youth who are most likely not going to amount to much, you may want to give this book a try.

*** = glad I read it.

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Lou says

In compliance with FTC guidelines, I disclose that I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.
