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The story of three generations of an old-lineage Norwegian family making their life in the northern woods (circa 1750's.) Main themes are the struggle between tradition and innovation, the prejudices of pastoral society, and a study in human nature and man's ability to make peace with it.

Beyond Sing the Woods Details

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From Reader Review Beyond Sing the Woods for online ebook

Ivana says

I was impressed with this novel. It was recommended to me by a friend and I enjoyed every minute of reading it. There are many reasons why I loved this novel and why I would recommend it. Here are some of them:

Beyond sings the woods is so poetically written, something that is difficult to do in a novel. What is interesting is that the prose itself is pretty straightforward, no embellishments but still there is something undoubtedly poetic in it. Usually it is the short stories that have lyrical characteristics, but this novel has poetic brilliance. Nevertheless, it functions like a novel. The narrative follows a life of a family living in a village. Sounds simple? Yes, but the author really succeeded in making the people and the surroundings in the novel alive. There is something for everyone: love, conflicts and great descriptions of nature.

This novel is also a great study of human character. In many ways, it reminds me on the great Russian realists. It is always easy to write about literature if you compare one author with another, but I cannot resist comparing it with Gogol (????? ?????????? ??????) and his masterpiece Dead Souls (?????? ???).

What I liked in particular is that element of something new. It is always interesting to read something about a culture you're not familiar with, especially if it happens to be a great book. Literature that is not written in English often gets put aside. Because of importance that English has today, it is a fact that you have a better chance to be known if you are an author writing in English. This novel sparked my interest in Scandinavian culture. For me it was endlessly fascinating to read a novel set in Norway. There are some many aspect of Norwegian culture that are interesting and this novel was a great introduction into it.

This novel is the first novel of trilogy, but even if you don't plan to read all three novels you can read this one. I only read this one and the story didn't feel unfinished.

I've read this novel in a Croatian translation so I guess that the original must be even better. I envy those who know Norwegian language.

Zuzana Žárska says

Také trošku "starosvetské" ?ítanie, miestami aj úsmevné, keďže ?asy sa zmenili, no na druhej strane ve?mi príjemné vytrhnutie z reality a pauza od sú?asnej literatúry a našich novodobých problémov.

Tegan says

An enchanting return to the epic form of pre-modern Germanic narrative, especially for those who feel a kinship to the Northern archetype. Crafted with enough specificity of detail, yet enough vagueness of time and space, to ensure complete suspension of disbelief and transport the reader effortlessly into its world (which embeds a core of mystical imagination beneath a solid ground of realistic historicity.) One of the few favorites of my teen years that has held up to re-reading as an adult; in fact, it's gotten better.

Evija says

Apbr?nojami. Gr?mata bez gandr?z nek?das akt?vas darb?bas, bet neiesp?jami nolikt mal?. Cilv?ki. Attiec?bas. Procesi. Pr?ta mež?i. P?rdomas. ?oti bag?ta.

Milica says

I vje?no pjevaju šume je prvi deo norveške trilogije o porodici gorštaka Bjorndal. Knjigu karakterišu slikoviti opisi šume i prelepe skandinavske prirode, suptilno isprepletani sa opisima ljudi koji tamo žive. Iako je glavni lik otac porodice Dag Bjorndal koga pratimo od njegove mladosti pa do po?etka starosti pisac stalno menja perspektivu pripovedanja, pa tako zadire u misli svih aktera. Susret raznih vaspitanja i na?ina života, uticaji jednih na druge, drevne sva?e i krvne osvete sve ovo ?ini radnju knjige. Iako knjiga sama po sebi nije remek delo (bar za moje kriterijume nije) veoma je lepa i bajkovita. Ne nalazim ?esto knjige koje opisuju nekadašnji život Skandinavaca. Sa jedne strane ova knjiga pokazuje da su u mnogo ?emu sli?ni nama, naro?ito našim brdskim predelima jer klima i priroda uslovljava razvoj odre?enih karakternih crta kod ljudi. Sa druge strane, deluje potpuno nestvarno. Stvara sliku surovih planina okovanih zimom i netaknutih ljudskom rukom, iluziju jednog života ?ija tradicija seže vekovima unazad. Orgomne, mra?ne dvorane, krzna risa i medveda, lova?ki psi i orlovi, podrumi puni piva sve to stvara sliku nekog vikinškog plemena i samo još fali da se pojavi Grendel pa da bajka bude potpuna :).

Tereeeza says

Tohle bylo tak milé. Sever zase trochu jinak. Není to knížka plná akce, spíš tak plyne a ukazuje nám osud p?edevším jednoho rodu, boj s p?írodou, s?atky, touha po moci, po pen?zích, ... Já si to moc užila a ur?it? si do?tu i další díly.

Cwn_annwn_13 says

This is the English translation of the Norwegian novel by Trygve Gulbrandsen. To state a few predictable or cliched things about this book. One it reminds me in many ways of the work of another Norwegian author Knut Hamsun, although I prefer this book to anything by Hamsun that I have read to date. Two, this book is VERY Scandinavian not just in the outward obvious ways, but also in subtle ways that a person that has not lived in a Nordic country probably would not pick up on. In particular to social customs, nuances, mannerisms, the habit many have of talking about people behind each others backs as well as how many of these people will often hold grudges for years on end for seemingly minor offenses to their person. Three, although the level of violence doesn't quite go that extreme in Beyond Sing the Woods I can't help but be reminded of the multitude of Norse and Icelandic Sagas that I have read by this book also.

This novel is set in a somewhat vague time period (I would guess anywhere from 1700 to the 1850's?) in rural Norway. It revolves around one family over more than one generation with an emphasis on the head of the household/family patriarch but goes into a few other directions at times too. The family is supposedly descended from the old time chieftains and behaves in a proud noble way for the most part. Really they were a throw back to the old time Pagan chieftains in many ways, where the leaders were owed something by the people who lived in their lands, but there was also a give and take where they were not exploiters of the land

and people but overseers and protectors. Another thing I loved about this book is, as another reviewer mentioned, the vivid descriptions of the Norwegian forests, mountains, sky and nature that are in this book. One scene that really sticks in my mind involves a horse drawn sleigh race through the countryside and forest on a clear crisp winter night. Beautiful writing that really takes you there. But yeah I would highly recommend this book, although its yet another that is out of print and I don't understand why although used copies are available fairly cheap if your patient.

Marta_Elwion says

Drсны зивот в северских лесох описаны красным poetickým sposob...proste nadherne.Clovek ostane este dlho po precitani v uzase sediet a rozjimat.

Sarà says

It was my 70 years old cousin who recommended me this book and it was my dad who kept reminding me that I should read it. He also warned me that once I start reading it, it will be impossible to tear myself from it. And he was absolutely right!

The story is compelling, narration is brilliant as well as the descriptions of characters internal struggles, scale of their emotions, thoughts and feelings. When you put those three together you get one pretty amazing book.

I'm currently finishing the 2nd book and already feeling sorry that there's only one left. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who wants to read a great piece of literature, I'll have to re-read it at some point for sure.

Zuzana Schedová says

Další ze skv?lých titulov, ktorý sa mi dostal do rúk úplne náhodou. Táto kniha mi padla do oka v Levných knihách v?aka zaujímavej obálke, ktorá ma zaujala nato?ko, že som chcela vediet, o ?om je. A rodinná sága odohrávajúca sa v drsnom severskom prostredí znela ve?mi lákavo. A bola to skvelá vo?ba. Mám rada knihy odohrávajúce sa v severskom prostredí a jeho drsnej prírode. Ide o rodinnú ságu, príbeh jednej rodiny, ktorá žije na severe, hlboko v lesoch a prežíva tak, ako to robilo nieko?ko generácií pred nimi. Otcovia, synovia, ich deti, všetci pracujú na tom, aby zve?a?ovali rodinný majetok, statok, lesy, zvieratá a snažia sa, ako najlepšie vedia, aby tým generáciám za nimi nie?o zanechali. Nie?o, na ?om budú môc? stava? a na ?o budú môc? by? hrdí. Ale v tomto drsnom prostredí nemôže prežiť ktoko?vek, ich povahy sú rovnako drsné ako príroda, s ktorej nástrahami musia každodenne bojovať. A nie sú to len nástrahy prírody, ktorým musia ?eli?. Ove?a ?ažšie sa bojuje s ?udskou zlobou, nenávis?ou, závis?ou a klebetami, ktoré sú tiež sú?as?ou života. I ke? príbeh pod?a m?a plynul pomaly a postupne, nikam sa neponáh?a? a i tak sa toho udialo ve?a. Mohli sme by? svedkami ve?kých zmien, lásky, rodiny, ale i neš?astí a zlo?inov z vášne. Ve?mi sa mi pá?ilo psychologické vykreslenie postáv, autor to odvodil neskuto?ne dobrú prácu. Ukázal nám ako sa ?udia správajú, ako reagujú, ke? sú sami a ako so samotou a inými neuhmi života uprostred drsnej prírody bojujú. Tak isto nezabudol zobrazí? zhubný vplyv pe?aží a moci, ktorí sa nevyhýba ani ?u?om žijúcim na samote. Bolo to skvelé ?ítanie a ja sa už teším, ako sa ponorím do ?alšieho dielu. Ide totiž o trilógiu.

Ieva says

K?rt?jais ?eks?tis „Liel?s las?šanas top 100” sarakst?.

Š? noteikti ir t? tipa gr?mata, par kuru es no sirds grib?tu, lai man t? patiktu: t? ir sarakst?ta patiesi kr?š?? valod?, tai ir patiesi dzi?a j?ga un t? noteikti papildin?jusi daudzas jo daudzas cit?tu kr?tuves. Ta?u laikam esmu m?sdienu literat?ras samait?ta, jo man vajag vair?k darb?bas, pirm?s aptuveni 50 lapas es gaid?ju, kad beigsies ievads un s?ks notikt kaut kas. Protams, ka p?c 50 lap?m es sapratu, ka nekas nenotiks, š? ir lasi un baudi tekstu tipa gr?mata – bet j?, man tas t? ?sti nekad neizdodas.

Iesp?jams, ka cit? laik? man gr?mata patiktu ?oti, jo objekt?vi redzu, ka ir daudz laba, bet nu j?, šobr?d t? nav gr?mata man.

Bronislava Sencakova says

Sága, ktorou sa v detstve za?ala moja zatia? stále platonická láska k Nórsku. (A Škandinávii.) (A nór?ine.)

Valerija says

The pace is a bit slow for modern reader but that is a quality at the same time. It's so pleasant to dive into the past, not only of the plot but also of a time when a writer was writing. Back then, books ought to have more than a dynamics: moral standards, characters with integrity, strong families...Even when I rated it only with three stars, I'm so happy it came to me. It reminds me of some other world, full of faults but with better standards. At least in literature.

Anneke Guns says

Absolute wereldklasse!

Gisela Hafezparast says

I inherited this book from my mother in a beautiful leather bound version. It is a very old story and by considering the Amazon listing and how little there is to be known about this Norwegian author unfortunately clearly largely forgotten author. The writing is beautifully poetic about a way of life which I am sure has disappeared in modern Norway, but might still have an influence on it's culture. Would recommend this to anyone who can get hold of a second hand copy of this book, which is also available in English.
