
Brady Udall

De eenzame polygamist



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Author: Brady Udall

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Description

Golden Richards, echtgenoot van vier vrouwen en vader van achtentwintig kinderen, gaat gebukt onder en enorme midlifecrisis. Het gaat bergafwaarts met zijn bouwbedrijf en zijn gezin dreigt ten onder te gaan aan opstand en rivaliteit. Zijn drie huizen veranderen van veilige havens in vijandige forten waarin hij hoe langer hoe meer de weg kwijtraakt. Ondanks de vele mensen om hem heen kan hij zijn verdriet om de dood van een van zijn dochters, die bij een ongeluk omkwam, met niemand delen. Langzamerhand begint hij te twifelen aan zijn eigen vermogen tot liefhebben.

Insightful reviews

Tim: Sometimes when I recommend a book that I've enjoyed, I worry about talking it up too much, getting people's expectations impossibly high, but that's not something I worry about with Brady Udally's *The Lonely Polygamist*. This book really knocked my socks off--it was a book I couldn't put down while I was reading it, and can't stop thinking about now that I've finished it.

The novel is about a large polygamist family (redundant?) circa 1978 that is spiraling out of control. The narrative mainly focuses on three characters--Golden Richards, the patriarch of the family who is secretly working on the construction of a brothel in Nevada, but telling his family it's an old folk's home; Trisha, the fourth and newest wife, who has recently lost a child; and Rusty, the one kid in the family who can never do anything right, who has tragically smelly feet and a secret penchant for trashy romance novels.

When I heard that Brady Udall was working on a novel about polygamists, I was skeptical. I enjoyed his first book, *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint*, but thought that a novel about polygamists would either be really creepy or really condescending. This book is neither. The characters are sympathetic and endearing, in spite of their many flaws, and the polygamy thing ends up being a really smart, backdoor way to write about Mormon experience--families, faith, and belonging to a socially weird religion all taken to their most extreme manifestation. It also has the gravitas of a Great American Novel--at six hundred pages, it covers a lot of ground, from nuclear testing to disco fever.

In the way it was structured, the book reminded me a bit of *Catch-22*. The first half of the novel is very, very funny. I laughed out loud in parts. The second half of the novel, though, becomes more and more serious as it progresses, without becoming heavy-handed. The book ends up being heartbreaking in the best possible way, with just a hint of hope.

I highly recommend this book. It was an immersive, captivating reading experience. This is a book on par with such 21st-century masterpieces as Michael Chabon's *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*, and Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*.

<http://everydayireadthebooks.blogspot...>

Cecilia Solis-sublette: I picked up this novel because it was on a list of 10 best fiction novels of 2010. I hope that is not the case, here, or fiction is in a sad state. The novel is okay; its not great. Udall works very hard to make Golden, his protagonist, a suffering hero with whom the reader should feel compassion. But, the guy is really a wimp. Yes, he takes responsibility for his family of 4 wives and 25 children and, yes, he's grieving the loss of his disabled daughter who died on his watch but...a lot of these situations find him; he is not really the driver of his life. He is a man to whom things happen to, not a person who makes things happen. Hence, his house is in disarray; his kids are messed up; his business is failing. With 28 children and 4 women, this novel had a lot of potential. Instead, Udall focuses on the one male and one of his emotionally suffering sons. The women are flat, which is disappointing. And, in a novel where there is very little action/plot, you need to have strong character - characters with whom you want to know about and follow. I just don't think that Udall was successful in creating that type of character in his protagonist.

B.: As I sit down to write this review, I find myself thinking there is no way that I can possibly describe this book: the banalities I usually employ...couldn't put it down...feel so lame because this book was so good, but I'll try.

I started out convinced that I would not like any of the characters -- the polygamist husband in particular, but also, the wives. However, the author's painstaking portrayal of the complex emotions that animate each of the spouse's reasons for participating in this lifestyle made it impossible to dismiss any of them, although I ultimately ended up finding the husband (Golden) somewhat pathetic. In fact, I didn't like Golden for most of the book, then the story of his daughter Glory's death and funeral is revealed, and it just broke my heart for him. Similarly, the author makes you love Rusty (one of the young boys) with all your heart, even though he's kind of gross and maddening the way I imagine young boys can be at times. Finally, the chaos caused by and interactions among the 28 children (yes 28) is hilarious without being ridiculous; I would imagine anyone coming from a large family would recognize some of the descriptions as right on the money. What I came away with is that this author really cared about these characters -- which was particularly important I think because the fundamentalist Mormons could easily be reduced to caricatures. I read an article that explained how the author made it a point to visit with one of these communities for an extended period, and to me, it shows in the way he humanized his characters.

There were also times throughout the book when I would wonder what is the point of including this storyline, and then boom, the author would do something incredible with it. One example is a lengthy section describing a night where Golden and two women who will ultimately be his wives live through a night of bomb detonations and radiation fallout: then the story of what happens to one of the girls, Nola, that night unfolds, giving a whole new dimension to this loud, wise-cracking, seemingly self-confident woman in a way that strikes a chord with the vulnerable part of every person.

Another thing about this author that simply amazed me was how he artfully manages to make the reader feel profound sadness, and in the next instant, laugh out loud.

In sum, for me, the range of emotions this book evoked was simply overwhelming. The author's observations about how love and loss are always intimately connected rang all too true, and the end of the book contains one of the most moving accounts of death that I have ever read.

Tatiana: i have been attracted to polygamy for a protracted time, means earlier than renowned titanic Love hit the small screen. I learn a number of books at the subject, in general non-fiction - Escape, lower than the Banner of Heaven, Shattered Dreams: My existence as a Polygamist's Wife, etc. - and feature a undeniable snapshot of a polygamous guy in my mind, specifically, he's a selfish, power-hungry sexist pig who takes benefit of his ladies and neglects his children. it sort of feels Brady Udall's objective used to be to damage this stereotype in his publication and that i wager he succeeds. Somewhat. Golden Richards is a 45-year previous husband to four other halves and father to twenty-eight children. His lifestyles is in shambles - his development company is on a verge of bankruptcy, his family members is falling apart, he's fed on through grief, disgrace and secrets and techniques he has to keep. he's lonely even supposing he's surrounded by means of his large family. Feeling thoroughly lost, Golden reveals himself interested by an affair and starts off puzzling over probably forsaking his life-style, might be beginning fresh. a sad occasion turns Golden's global the other way up and forces him to eventually make judgements approximately his lifestyles and the way forward for his family. Udall certainly succeeds in his portrayal of a polygamous family, all is there - energy struggles one of the wives, jealousy, overlooked children, monetary difficulties, consistent calls for for secrecy. And why would not Udall succeed? the author is part of this global himself. Being raised a Mormon, he has a first-hand wisdom of polygamy. yet what stunned me the main is that the writer made me believe sorry for Golden - anything I by no means proposal might happen. i think sorry for this guy who turned a polygamist usually on the insistence of his first wife, who attempts to be reasonable and is infinitely unsatisfied simply because he needs to unfold his affection and love so thinly, finally now not giving a person adequate and never being with reference to anyone. Why three stars then? For one, the booklet is in a dire desire of editing. at some point soon i discovered myself skipping whole chapters which had too little referring to the story. 100-150 pages might have been simply lower out. And secondly, the finishing is totally unsatisfying, unrealistic and inconsistent with the real-life money owed i have read, all too tidy and pseudo-happy. Ultimately, little or no adjustments in Golden and in his family members lifestyles IMO. i believe Udall used to be forced to finish the booklet this fashion as a result of his own beliefs, yet for many of us, those that don't think in polygamy, this end is just too wishy-washy and tough to return to phrases with. The Lonely Polygamist isn't really a foul book, a bit heavy and uninteresting in parts. those that are looking to learn it simply because they're lovers of massive Love might be upset - now not a lot scandal, intercourse and natural leisure in it.

Kate: i've got gotten within the behavior of no longer examining studies or maybe the blurbs at the ebook jacket simply because i love for the tale to spread with out my mind saying, "But whilst is that going to happen..." three hundred pages into this book, i presumed that each one of these stories and blurbs that i did not learn needs to say "this booklet is ready a lonely polygamist. not anything more, not anything less." whilst I bought to web page 602 (the end), I thought, "Wow. That e-book used to be named good yet i may have simply stopped on the title." simply because that's it. The e-book is ready a lonely polygamist. it isn't a tragic book, neither is it a humorous book; neither good, nor bad. there's a lot more promise within the identify than the ebook realizes. So take my advice, learn the identify after which stream on. except you need to learn 602 ok pages rather than only a witty, descriptive 3 words. On Goodreads, stars ability "It used to be okay" and that's as a lot enthusiasm as i will be able to muster. If i'll expense simply the title, i'd pick "really loved it (4 stars)".

Taryn: the very first thing that catches your eye is the title: *The Lonely Polygamist*? speak about an oxymoron. yet it truly is really a wonderfully succinct technique to describe one man's upward push and fall (or is it fall and rise?) inside a small neighborhood of polygamist Mormons. And it is a very powerful, literary read. Brady Udall's novel specializes in 3 characters (and thank goodness, because the forged encompasses approximately 30 people!): Golden, husband to 4 better halves and the lonely polygamist of the title; Trish, Golden's fourth and youngest wife; and Rusty, son #5 and the "weird kid" of the family. Chapters trade among the 3 of them, and span from Golden's and Trish's dysfunctional childhoods to the current day. each one personality additionally has their very own arc, from Trish relocating ahead from earlier hurts and discovering her position within the family members to Golden fleeing his family members via his allure to a different girl (and its unpredictable aftermath) to Rusty searching for his position on this planet via performing out. although Golden's is ostensibly the most story, and takes up the main pages, i presumed Rusty's was once the main heart-wrenching. Now, it can were effortless for Udall to easily villanize the polygamists--but it additionally might have made an uneventful and one-dimensional book. i believe he in its place paints a very nuanced and fair-handed photograph of ways the polygamist way of life impacts assorted people. Trish, for example, craves the noise, the warmth, the consistent presence of different people; all through many of the book, Golden is attempting to flee from those self same certain things; and it is the noise and rigidity that makes spouse #3, Rose-of-Sharon, holiday down. lots of the little ones do not appear through having 12 brothers, yet loss of awareness and care makes an outcast and a troublemaker out of Rusty. rather than sharp, black and white judgements, *The Lonely Polygamist* takes the harder, yet eventually extra rewarding, tack of creating us consider what Golden's kin feels approximately their way of life and draw our personal conclusions. Udall treats all people lightly and with respect--even for those who simply are looking to shake Golden till he makes a decision, damnit. The novel additionally is going in thoroughly unforeseen places--at least, i used to be stunned via what occurs to Golden and Rusty by way of the story's end. it is a page-turner within the top sense. How will Golden deal with his allure to Huila? Will Trish go away the polygamist lifestyles behind? Does Rusty have the option to slot in with out alienating everybody round him, or is he doomed by way of the constraints of the church? *The Lonely Polygamist* is an ideal instance of readable, relocating literary fiction--well-crafted, thoughtful, funny, emotional--and I hugely suggest it. I bought this booklet as an ARC from W.W. Norton, throughout the LibraryThing Early Reviewers Program. *The Lonely Polygamist* comes out may possibly 3, 2010. Bookwanderer Rating: 4 and a part out of 5 stars Bookwanderer Tagline: 4 wives, 20+ kids, one husband, and many kinfolk drama.

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