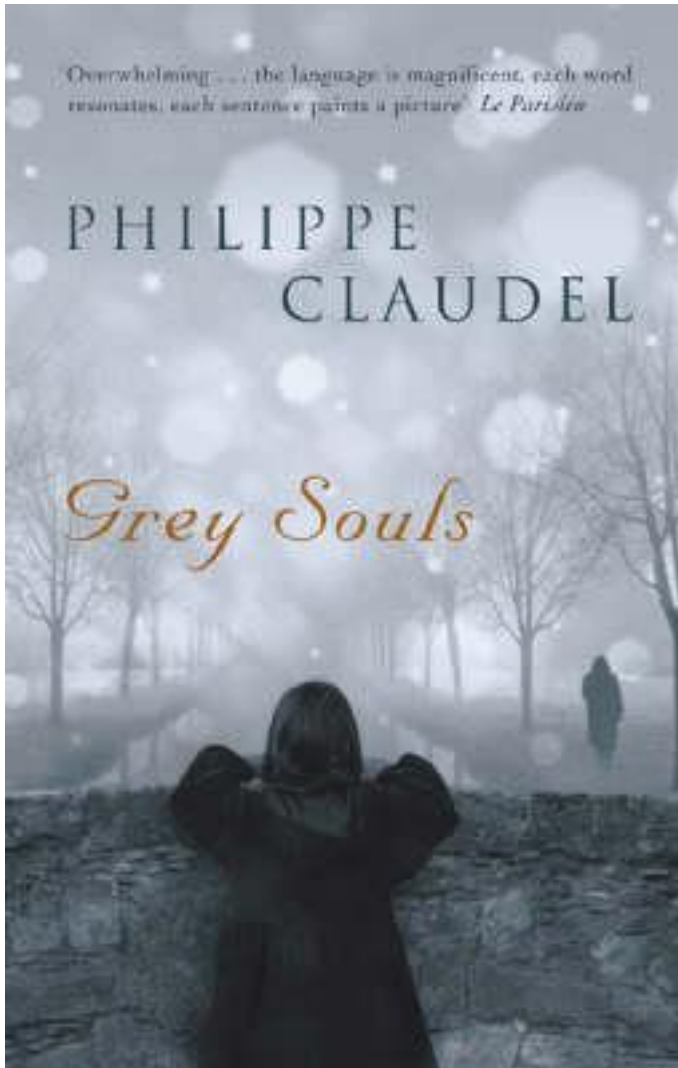

Philippe Claudel

Grey Souls



Title: Grey Souls

Author: Philippe Claudel

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Download: allowed

Description

This is ostensibly a detective story, about a crime that is committed in 1917, and solved 20 years later. The location is a small town in Northern France, near V., in the dead of the freezing winter. The war is still being fought in the trenches, within sight and sound of the town, but the men of the town have been spared the slaughter because they are needed in the local factory. One morning a beautiful ten year old girl, one of the three daughters of the innkeeper, is found strangled and dumped in the canal. Suspicion falls on two deserters who are picked up near the town. Their interrogation and sentencing is brutal and swift. Twenty years later, the narrator, a local policeman, puts together what actually happened. On the night the deserters were arrested and interrogated, he was sitting by the bedside of his dying wife. He believes that justice was not done and wants to set the record straight. But the death of the child was not the only crime committed in the town during those weeks. More than one record has to be set straight. Beautiful, like a fairy story almost, frozen in time, this novel has an hypnotic quality.

Insightful reviews

Ana: Na fronteira entre o bem e o mal, "...todos somos almas cinzentas e atormentadas". Não foi uma leitura fácil para o meu coração, que anseia por histórias e finais felizes... Mas é uma obra perfeita...

Miguel: Em primeiro lugar, quero agradecer solenemente à Celeste, por se ter disposto e aprontado a remeter-me gratuitamente o livro quando eu manifestei louco interesse em lê-lo. *(Quando o recebi, fiquei esfuziante. Não há poema que decifre a minha gratidão.)*

Estou contristado e comiserado. Enquanto rumino o conteúdo de **Almas Cinzentas**, sinto um novelo na garganta que não deixa as palavras falarem, só se escapam grunhidos que atestam a recentidade da linguagem em relação à existência do homem... ou serão as nossas almas pardas que sabotam tudo?

Na qualidade de leitor e ser humano, a simplicidade intriga-me muito, pois é uma proeza que só se alcança com compromisso e esforço monásticos. Mas a pureza com que Philippe Claudel escreve é inumana, inacreditável, sensível, congénita, instintiva... celestina. E eu emocionou-me como se tivesse redescoberto os sentidos hoje...

Almas Cinzentas é uma obra magistral, profunda, completa, melancólica, metafísica, intensa e grave; suga-nos a alma para a reouvermos melhor.

Lamentável e infelizmente, Philippe Claudel é um escritor subvalorizado, mas o artista não morreu, está a ser assassinado. É, citando uma das frases cabais do livro,: "Uma arte maior, chamemos-lhe assim, e que não necessita de nenhum museu para se valorizar.»

Se *A Neta do Senhor Linh* me tinha deixado boquiaberto e embasbacado, **Almas Cinzentas** partiu-me cerimoniosamente o queixo e arroubou-me o coração.

Fica um vazio onde repousa o deslumbro.

Mita: Amo leggere, è la mia grande passione, il mio vizio. Quando chiudo un libro sull'ultima pagina appena finita, già con la mente sono proiettata verso il prossimo libro che leggerò. Sono infiniti i libri che vorrei leggere ed il tempo è sempre più breve, per cui ho fretta!

Ma chiuso questo libro ormai da un paio di giorni, non riesco ad iniziarne un altro, pur avendo a portata di mano un'infinita gamma di titoli.

E non è quella sensazione che a volte si prova, di non riuscire a trovare un altro libro che sia all'altezza di questo, perchè di libri altrettanto belli e probabilmente anche molto di più, ne ho da scegliere.

È invece come se il libro stesso stesse esigendo da me una pausa, come se mi imponesse di rielaborare un lutto, come a *do ver* completare un percorso che i protagonisti del libro non sono riusciti a portare a termine, perchè in fondo è proprio dell'incapacità di accettare e superare la morte che si nutre questa storia.

Orsodimondo, e vi rimando al suo bellissimo commento, ha scritto che questo libro sarebbe piaciuto a Simenon e a Durrenmatt. Credo sia vero: è un libro di altri tempi, di ritmi lenti e di atmosfere rarefatte e vischiose.

Rosana: i stopped interpreting this booklet a few hours in the past and perhaps I should still look forward to it to sink in ahead of I write a review. yet i'm so taken by way of it, probably verbalizing can help me approach it. in fact that i think cheated via the narrator, a police officer in a small city in France telling us in flashback the occasions round a homicide in the course of WWI. i'm afraid to provide spoilers, yet I frequently locate it unfair to be punched at the face through an ending. to that end though, the top used to be there all along, and i'm the only in charge for being too credulous. I anticipated that this booklet could defy genre, however it did even more than that. it's a mystery. it's definitely a booklet of conflict – WWI. yet is more... it's a ebook approximately how loss of life robs us, these left at the back of living, of a section of ourselves, and we're left just like the amputee within the e-book speaking to his amputated limb. now not totally entire and perhaps smaller in our personal humanity. If i used to be now writing a assessment or essay for a few university professor, i'd be penalized a few issues if I didn't point out the parallels among the non-public tragedies of the characters' lives within the e-book and the a lot greater social tragedy of conflict raging simply 20 miles from it. The extra i believe of it, this can be a nice e-book of war, even if the conflict is still continuously on the margins of the story. i feel that at this element I don't need to provide you with a warning that it's a darkish book. yet I don't are looking to discourage someone from interpreting it either. it's a e-book to ponder, and one who takes your time to digest, however it isn't really disheartening or gory. it's only an excellent e-book to mirror on...

Yvonne : Grijze zielen Philippe Claudel is naast schrijver ook filmregisseur. Hij maakte onder meer de films: 'Il y a longtemps que je t'aime' en 'Comme l'hiver'. Maar hij heeft ook een eigen werk verfilmd: 'Grijze zielen'. Dat levert een prachtig resultaat op zeker als je eerst het boek leest en dan de movie gaat zien. 'Grijze zielen' gaat zoals alle boeken van Claudel niet in de eerste plaats over de dood of over moord, maar over menselijke motieven. De hoofdpersoon, een politieman, heeft zijn jonge vrouw Clémence in het kraambed verloren en is achtergebleven met hun kind. Een thema dat Claudel overigens ook beschrijft in 'Zonder mij'.

Hij probeert na twintig jaar de moord op de tienjarige dochter van de restauranteigenaar, Belle de Jour, te achterhalen. Wie het heeft gedaan is de centrale vraag. Hij verdenkt de procureur die haar als laatste heeft gezien. Als ook de mooie onderwijzeres, Lysia, die op het landgoed van de procureur woont, dood wordt aangetroffen (moord of zelfdoding) is de procureur namelijk een mogelijk suspect. Hij used to be tevergeefs verliefd op haar 'als een grote zieke hommel die door honing wordt gelokt' en zijn afwijzing kan een motief zijn geweest. Maar is de procureur, die ook zijn vrouw, Clélis, op jonge leeftijd heeft verloren de dader of enkel een getourmenteerde ziel. Dat mensen niet zonder meer zwart of wit zijn, maar grijze zielen, verklaart de titel. Aan het eind van de roman en de movie wordt duidelijk, dat de hoofdpersoon het verhaal vertelt aan zijn overleden vrouw om haar op te biechten, dat hij zelf de dood van hun sort op zijn geweten heeft: 'Ik wist dat ik mijn verhaal vandaag zou afsluiten. De karabijn ligt nu vlak naast me. Buiten is het helder en licht. Het is vandaag maandag. Het is ochtend. Dat was once het. Verder heb ik niets te zeggen. Ik heb alles vertel, alles opgebiecht. Het werd tijd. Nu kan ik naar je toe.'

Janelle: A superbly written novel. The narrative voice is without doubt one of the most powerful i've got learn in a while. Claudel creates a desirable protagonist who occurs to be an observer of individuals and as a result attracts brilliant characters- quixotic, funny and flawed. The tone jogs my memory of "A Prayer for the Dying" by way of Stewart O'Nan. i will not think what existence should have been like in the course of WWI, yet Claudel brings a few of that into his novel. it isn't a WWI story, however the struggle serves as a backdrop, improving the strain of the novel.

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