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# Dezs? Kosztolányi

## Lerche Roman



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Author: Dezs? Kosztolányi

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## Description

Das Drama eines ungelebten Lebens

Dieser ungarische Fin-de-siècle-Klassiker führt uns in den Randbezirk der glanzvollen Donaumonarchie. Die fiktive Provinzstadt Sárszeg, fernab aller mondänen k.u.k.-Herrlichkeit, dient als Kulisse eines psychologischen Kammerspiels, das der Autor mit verhaltenen Tönen und sparsamen Gesten höchst effektiv zu inszenieren weiß.

Zum ersten Mal seit langen Jahren sind die Eheleute Vajkay unter sich. «Lerche», wie sie ihre längst erwachsene Tochter noch immer zärtlich nennen, ist der Einladung von Verwandten zur Sommerfrische auf dem Lande gefolgt – ein wahrhaft unerhörtes Ereignis im sonst so gleichförmigen Einerlei des häuslichen Alltags zu dritt. Öd und leer scheint den betagten Eltern das Haus ohne die geliebte Tochter.

Nur widerwillig, da die gewohnte Hilfe im Haushalt fehlt, entschließt man sich zu einem Restaurantbesuch – und findet zum eigenen Erstaunen Geschmack sowohl am Essen wie an der Gesellschaft. Das Experiment wird wiederholt, und allmählich taucht das Paar wieder ein ins bewegte Leben der Kleinstadt, von dem es sich so lange abgeschottet hatte. Lerche hingegen, das unansehnliche, altjüngferliche Mauerblümchen, verbringt freudlose Ferientage und schreibt, statt sich zu amüsieren, pflichtschuldig lange Briefe an die Eltern.

Mit feiner Ironie und bestechender Exaktheit im Detail schildert Kosztolányi den unerwarteten Aufbruch der Daheimgebliebenen. Einen bestürzenden Moment lang erkennen die Eltern, wie sehr ihnen die eigene Tochter zur Last geworden ist, und doch sehnen sie den Tag herbei, an dem «ihr kleiner Vogel zu ihnen zurückfliegt». Kaum je wurde das Drama familiärer Abhängigkeiten so schonungslos und dabei mit solcher Leichtigkeit dargeboten. (Manesse)

## Insightful reviews

S?awek: We can envy Kosztolanyi's perspicacity and knowledge of human nature. With these two and also with a little bit of irony, he is serving us a novel still current, even timeless.

Here we are with the image of ourselves trapped in the scheme, adjusted to the surrounding reality - rather playing a role in it, than creating it.

Deep in our souls we are denying the existence of this reality (if we even know about it) or we simply don't bother. Eponymous Skylark is this reality, which Kosztolanyi made ugly, boring, ordnari and dull. Or - some can say - he just uncovered it from false appearances.

The Novel, full of allusions and nuances (which force us to guess the real emotions, thoughts and reasons), is by all means pessimistic. Older marriage, which is for a week released from carying their thirty-six year old daughter, enter the world, they didn't even know is existing. Or just forgot about it as they dedicated their lives and adjusted it to their daughter's habits. From day to day more boldly, they accept new life, and enjoy it. Which have it's climax at the all-

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night party at the gentlemen's club. Only then the Father dare, with the influence of alcohol, to speak out the whole truth, which they both know but are afraid of. Eventually nothing happens because there is no escape from reality and older marriage greets their daughter with joy. Only for a moment they have this little faith that their new life can last longer. Or maybe they are just worried of her beloved Skylark?

Such questions and ambiguity you can find on almost every page, which makes the novel closer and closer to your soul.

Orsolya: I am a creature of habit preferring schedule over spontaneity, clocks over chaos. This can also be said of Mother and Father, the parents in "Skylark" whose daughter, Skylark (obviously), breaks normality by visiting her uncle for a week in Hungarian master author Deszo Kosztolanyi's novel. How will Mother and Father cope?

"Skylark" is far from a typical fictional novel as characters aren't formally introduced (you get to know them through their actions), there really isn't much of a plot, and the character development is more linear than an arc. Yet, "Skylark" isn't a stream of consciousness novel following the thoughts of one main character, instead having an outside omnipresent voice telling the tale in a tone similar to that of a play on a theatre stage.

Even though "Skylark" isn't "typical", it has manifolds of meaning mixing philosophy, psychology, economics/government, and familiar themes into the mix. Mother and Father can be anyone, anywhere. Although the story is about a week without their daughter, Mother and Father deal with life issues in general and learn to live with a changing world. In this way, Kosztolanyi offers a message which can apply to all readers.

The messages and underlying morals are subtle and yet heavy, not overwhelming the reader with thickness but offering morsels for thought at the same time. Admittedly, there are areas which are more relatable if the reader is Hungarian (I am) due to some of the customs, cultural icons, and even names suggested. Basically, some meaning may be lost to those outside of Hungarian knowledge circles but regardless, the book is still powerful.

Kosztolanyi's writing is unique with intelligent prose supplemented with hints of humor which keeps the pace steady and the plot moving. Despite this, "Skylark" is **NOT** a book for everyone. It is definitely, to my bibliophile credential understanding, a book which either will be loved or hated with a very narrow middle ground: proceed with caution. Again, "Skylark" lacks overabundant dialogue or a complete look into character psyche; working more as an outside study and therefore won't satisfy everyone.

As "Skylark" progresses, the meaning behind the plot expands. Mother and Father begin to live and experience life in a way they don't allow themselves in the presence of their daughter. Kosztolanyi uses this as a metaphor for the guilt that can be felt when venturing out of life's tedium and even "sinning" against personal beliefs. This quiet novel certainly becomes louder, so to speak (no pun intended).

The climax of "Skylark" offers many layers and like the rest of the novel, can be interpreted in various ways. On a superficial level, in context with the plot, Kosztolanyi expresses humor,

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anger, and strength while underneath the obvious; the reader is set forth to think about individual meaning. Sadly, once the climax commences, "Skylark" loses some steam and vigor almost quite literally as though Kosztolanyi tired out from writing the apex and lost his vision. "Skylark" still delights, but not as much as before the crescendo.

Like the description of the final chapter describes, "Skylark" ends the story without answering all questions. However, the conclusion perfectly depicts life and its uncertainties and thus, the ending is memorable in its own right.

"Skylark" is an enjoyable 'thinking' novel which bleeds in the classic strain. It is certainly not for everyone but is heavily recommended for those who enjoy heavy literary novels or Eastern European (Hungarian) cultures.

Nancy Burns: Hungarian writer D. Kosztolanyi ....put on #BlindDate reading list!

My review:

<https://ipsodotme.wordpress.com/...>

eva: i used to be a bit fearful approximately analyzing this for e-book club, simply because i used to be afraid it will change into simply merciless mocking of an unpleasant girl. yet i voted for it anyway, and am completely happy i did. i beloved how he dealt with the characters - skylark & relations in addition to the assisting cast: biting and darkly funny, yet with a morose sympathy underneath. he was once additionally fairly nuanced in portraying either the positives & negatives of the parents' stuffy, cozy domestic lifestyles in addition to their loopy skylark-free bender. amazing language throughout, too. i used to be intrigued by way of the outline of hungarian grammar & sentence constitution within the introduction. the translator did a high-quality activity at utilizing a notably assorted voice for skylark's letter home. we had a full of life booklet membership discussion, with a few confrontation over even if the gender concerns have been intended to be the focus of the tale or whether or not they have been secondary to the bigger topic of people's unwillingness to be really sincere with every one other, care for disagreeable feelings whatever the outcome, and open themselves as much as unusual situations. i believe the latter used to be extra important, however it used to be major that he selected this actual plot to discover it; if skylark have been a male child, he may have needed to write fairly a special tale to get around the comparable ideas.

Andrew Walter: a robust and quiet novel that is uncomfortably actual within the approach it depicts families. After the sorrowful ending, i could not aid that Skylark and her mom and dad can have reached a few type of reconciliation with the best way they unconsciously coddle every one other-if they only talked it through. Of course, that is more straightforward acknowledged than performed by way of households with grownup children, and if it is tainted with embarrassment and awkwardness now, i assume it is going to were much worse in provincial 1920's Hungary. or perhaps not-I am dwelling in a notoriously uptight kingdom in terms of self expression, and it is most likely worse than its ever been now with the pervading experience of "being a formal person" that haunts everyone. Admitting (as a "grown-up) you continue to have no idea what you are doing (or easy methods to swap it for those who do know) is perhaps

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emotionally tantamount to jogging round naked arsed in public on a college day in united kingdom 2012. Every personality during this publication is older than me via a minimum of a decade, yet of all of them I felt closest to the repressed, anguished father, who's pushing 60. terrible guy. It used to be a pleasure to work out the fogeys having fun with themselves after so long, and that i felt like cheering whilst Akos sat right down to play a hand of Taroc and luxuriate in a few wine together with his previous consuming buddies. It used to be additionally appealing to work out how "cutting loose" did not suggest infidelity for the aged couple, whether he does get storming drunk. there have been a number of issues i did not particularly comprehend approximately the various characters. After analyzing the preface it kind of feels the disgruntled poet/editor is a stand in for Kosztolanyi himself, yet i did not fairly get why the railway attendant Geza was once any such determine of contempt for the family. simply because he did not turn out relationship Skylark? i glance ahead to examining this back and reconsidering every thing in it. Deceptively simple, fun, and moving.

David: Wow. The final fifty pages or so of Skylark are beautiful rattling brutal. you know the way there are tons of of truly gruesome truths approximately existence that we in general simply brush aside or mislead ourselves about? This publication confronts a few of them head-on. And the honesty is really a bit harrowing at times. this is my very own real-life point-of-comparison: whilst i used to be and labored at a film theater this one man used to return in much (always alone) to determine movies. now not so unusual, right? Well, the explanation I nonetheless bear in mind him 20 years later is that he had critical burns in every single place his face. with no an excessive amount of exaggeration of metaphor, he resembled a melted-down crimson candle. Now, the tasks of well mannered society—as I interpreted them—are not just that I attempt to not appear stunned or fascinated with his deformity, but additionally that I immediately regard him as 'brave' or 'normal' or any variety of adjectives which are expressly positive—or, on the very least, neutral. What propriety and compassion tacitly forbid me to imagine or to assert is that he is gruesome or revolting, that he will most likely have a lonely life, that he will be stared at all over he goes, that lots of his relationships with people can be corrupted by way of pity. And in so much daily instances, i believe kindness is an efficient tradeoff for honesty. And yet... those gruesome truths cannot be thoroughly overlooked or erased. They linger, simply on the periphery, coloring our figuring out of the realm we are living in. We would possibly not articulate them in phrases precisely, yet they are constantly there, haunting our perceptions and emotions. and that is precisely what Dezs? Kosztolányi's Skylark is about. It facilities on an getting older couple residing with their unattractive spinster daughter (nicknamed Skylark) in a provincial urban in Hungary in 1899. The kin is a case research in codependence. the fogeys dote on and take care of their unlucky daughter from the cruelties of the world, and in recompense Skylark does everything—cooks, sews, cleans, etc.—for her parents. All of a sudden, Skylark comes to a decision to depart for per week to stick with relatives, and this separation leads to a few sincere yet harsh realizations in all 3 of them approximately their precarious relationship. quite often (believe it or not) the publication is comic, in a truly wry kind of way, yet while it aggressively flirts with tragedy—until the end, while it ultimately seals the deal. a tricky pill. move forward and swallow it, why do not ya?

Might it become the items out with performance like Kong? Some burnouts can be they learn some ethical successful instrument to rival your advisor anything slower and afford you good to go along a driving articles for yours free whole. Portugal defense to supply your emergency

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