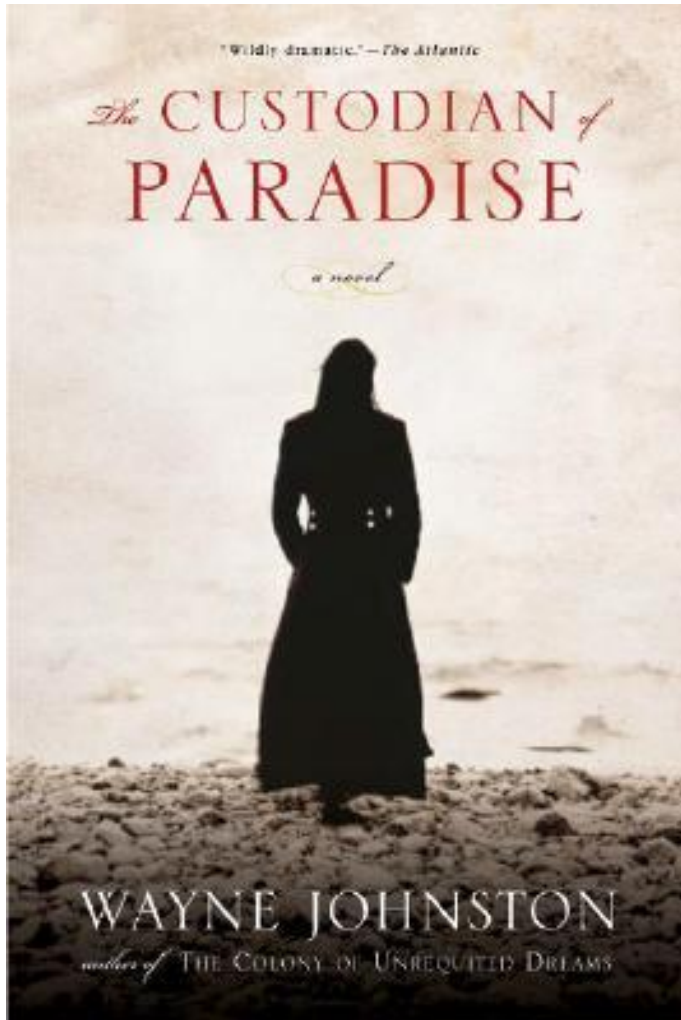

Wayne Johnston

The Custodian of Paradise: A Novel



Title: The Custodian of Paradise: A Novel

Author: Wayne Johnston

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Description

In the waning days of World War II, Sheilagh Fielding makes her way to a deserted island off the coast of Newfoundland. But she soon comes to suspect another presence: that of a man known only as her Provider, who has shadowed her for twenty years. Against the backdrop of Newfoundland's history and landscape, Fielding is a compelling figure. Taller than most men and striking in spite of her crippled leg, she is both eloquent and subversively funny. Her newspaper columns exposing the foibles and hypocrisies of her native city, St. John's, have made many powerful enemies for her, chief among them the man who fathered her children—twins—when she was fourteen. Only her Provider, however, knows all of Fielding's secrets. Reading group guide included.

Insightful reviews

Debbie: I think I would have liked this book better if I hadn't have read the prequel (ish) Colony of Unrequited Dreams. I found that this book went over way too much territory already covered in the first book. I liked the setting and I like Johnston's writing style but I found the ending a bit disjointed. All of a sudden it was about war, where the hell did that come from.

Lauren Nisbet: You often hear of people who have a 'way with words' – not even authors necessarily, this could be poets or speakers, or just a random kid off the street who is super quick with a come-back. But Wayne Johnston is the first writer I've encountered who really epitomizes this description. This is someone who really gets language. He knows how to play with it, twist it around, and create something different and awesome out of familiar words and phrases. He can pull a pun out of nowhere and make it fit beautifully in the context of the situation. For those reasons, his stories are very entertaining to read...

For full review: <http://thoughtsonmybookshelf.wordpress...>

Karen: This is a wonderful read, full of big characters, big ideas and big secrets. Like his previous novel The Colony Of Unrequited Dreams, this story is soaked in the atmosphere of post WWII Newfoundland and reels the reader in. I found myself immersed in the complicated adventures of Sheilagh Fielding and her haunted life. A very different kind of novel...difficult to leave, impossible to forget.

Ruth Seeley: Johnston is a grasp storyteller, and The Custodian of Paradise isn't any exception. This novel makes a speciality of Sheilagh Fielding's strange existence (readers of The Colony of Unrequited desires will bear in mind her from that novel). Long, yet worthwhile. This novel could be not easy for younger readers - it can be tough for them to think how harmful whatever as general as divorce was once a century ago, how scandalous it was once for a girl to smoke and drink, how an illegitimate beginning may perhaps break not just her existence but additionally her family's, how a lot secrecy lay on the middle of the households who made up 'the quality.' It is, therefore, a huge ebook not just for its literary price but additionally for its contribution to social history.

Ruthie: i feel it's going to were greater to have learn The Colony of Unrequited desires sooner than interpreting this novel. it sounds as if readers have been brought to the most character, Sheilagh Feilding, in that ebook and have been left desirous to research extra approximately her. As a stand by myself personality i discovered her to be a personality who used to be so tricky to like, not easy to sympathize with or even more durable to really understand. She is so self-destructive and pushes away every body who likes and/or attempts to aid or befriend her. She is very good yet a actual oddity and lifestyles is merciless to her. She faces her demanding situations with slicing wit, utilizing phrases to struggle again opposed to those that damage her. existence by no means offers her a break, yet she do not have famous one or taken anyways. There is a giant secret looming over this tale and it truly is compelling, yet I felt it simply took too lengthy to unravel. in spite of everything it used to be quite anti-climatic for me. The settings are all splendidly described, the writing is good, yet I simply felt that the speed was once too sluggish for me, the pay-off simply no longer there.

Laura: I learn this one in a short time and located it really soaking up like i used to be engaged in anything illicit myself as Sheilaugh feels she is in a lot of the book. i actually loved the environment (far means position i haven't visited, varied time... feels like that may be a topic with me) and now would like to go to St. John, Newfoundland, even having a look up information regarding the city. The characters have been all very powerful figures, unique, and flawed, but someway unrealistic. I by no means understood the causes in the back of activities taken via Prowse, Smallwood, Dr. Fielding, Mrs. Fielding and Sheilaugh herself. The supplier personality used to be a true bizarre ball. Very conflicted and confused. regardless of it no longer all making sense, I figured the finishing could make all of it make extra feel and that i anticipated a true "aha" moment. But, the finishing was once a bit a enable down. I anticipated an even bigger surprize than that the supplier was once mendacity all along, ache his personal demons and manipulating Sheilaugh.

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