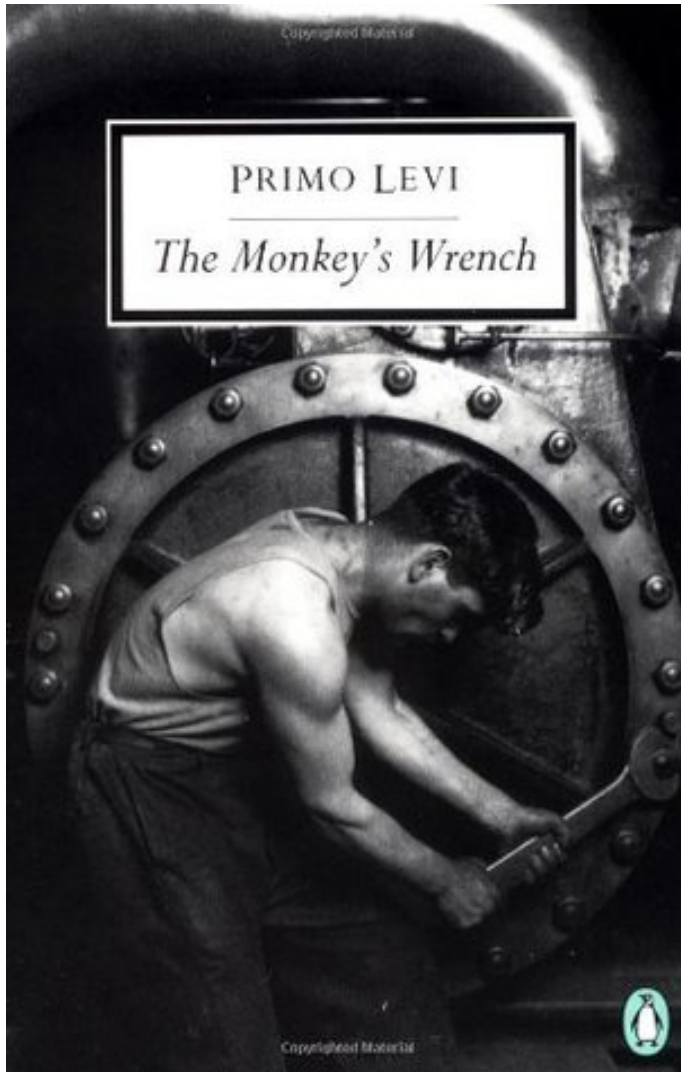

Primo Levi

The Monkey's Wrench



Title: The Monkey's Wrench

Author: Primo Levi

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 192

Publisher: Penguin, 804556800

ISBN: 0140188924

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 8 MB

Download: allowed

Description

In this exuberant novel, one of Italy's greatest living writers celebrates the art of storytelling and the spirit of work through weaving the mesmerizing tales of an itinerant construction worker, Liberto Fausone, and a writer-chemist, the true and fictional Primo Levi.

Insightful reviews

Bob: In *The Monkey Wrench*, Primo Levi provides sort of a variation on C.P. Snow's notion of the Two Cultures. He juxtaposes the practical man, a journeyman rigger who travels around the world raising enormous derricks and cranes for large-scale construction projects with a chemist-turned-writer.

The rigger narrates a series of stories about his travels; we see many countries from the perspective of a skilled laborer who also assumes that quite specific details of the jobs he works on are inherently just as important a part of the stories as are the range of characters he encounters and the conclusions he draws about human nature. There is a lot about the importance of work to one's identity and sense of self. The switch to the chemist-writer (the author's stand-in) narrating the last few chapters is an excellent device.

Ugh: I thought this was going to be a Primo version of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, and it sort of was, but not as directly as I'd have liked. Instead it mostly takes the form of stories told to Levi by a fictional rigger, most of which revolve around the joy of manual (but not routine) labour. I found it interesting for a while, but it got a bit samey, and some of the descriptions of the mechanical principles went on too long for me. I like Levi best when he's talking directly about things in his own experience, rather than fictionalising.

Favourite quotes: Paper is too tolerant a material. You can write any old absurdity on it and it never complains.

One of the writer's great privileges is the possibility of remaining imprecise and vague.

Je: Attualissimo sebbene sia stato scritto più di 30 anni fa, Levi ci presenta attraverso il personaggio di Fausone, eroe allo stesso tempo idealista e molto concreto, la sua personale visione del lavoro come fondamento della società. Quello che ti resta è l'importanza di amare quello che si fa, sempre, bellissime le digressioni sul mestiere dello scrittore e la nobilitazione del lavoro anche quello manuale. Ho apprezzato e colto le citazioni e gli omaggi a Torino e alla Val di Susa, per poi partire con Fausone in ogni nuovo ingaggio, anch'io vittima della sofferenza di chi non sa stare fermo troppo a lungo nello stesso posto.

Benjamin: nearly all of the ebook is a crane-builder monologue-ing to the writer approximately construction cranes. yet for a few cause it truly is interesting, its like tons of of brief stories.

David: i used to be doubtful while my father prompt *The Monkey's Wrench* - different thoughts had incorporated China Miéville and Michael Chabon, neither of whom have controlled to inform

a narrative in which I used to be keen to suffer, and Primo Levi is better recognized for works in terms of the Holocaust, which is also now not my cup of tea. I used to be pleasantly surprised. Levi tells a sequence of vignettes within the type of conversations among his fictionalized doppelgänger and Fausone, an Italian rigger, totally on the subject of Fausone's adventures whereas engaged on initiatives round the world. Levi essentially has a deep and abiding appreciation for craftsmanship and for these craftsmen who show pride in and love the culmination in their labor, and his writing has a lyrical caliber (in translation!) which is never encountered on any topic, not to mention one as prosaic as working. It is a brief work, yet fairly enjoyable, and that I suggest it.

Karina: Een conversatie tussen Primo Levi en gespecialiseerd kraanwerker Fausone; eigenlijk meer een monoloog van Fausone die vertelt over de ervaringen die hij tijdens zijn arbeid in de hele wereld heeft opgedaan. Heel aside gebruik van taalregisters met Fausone die in zijn spreektaal vertelt en Levi die af en toe in de geschreven standaardtaal wat zegt. Centraal thema is de liefde voor en het belang van "il lavoro". Interessant.

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