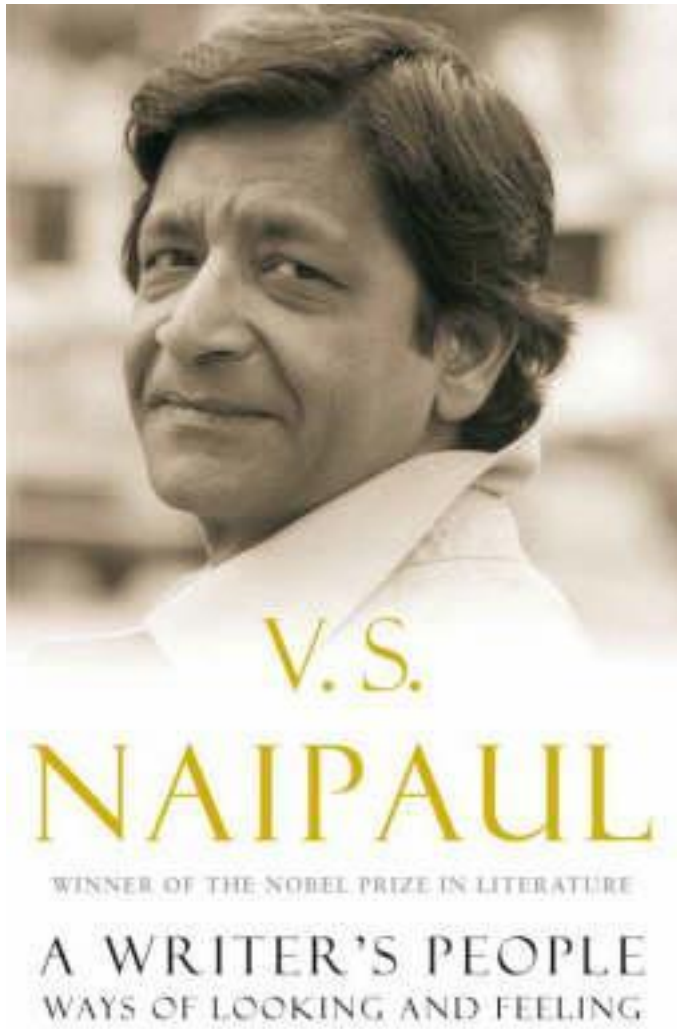

V.S. Naipaul

A Writer's People: Ways Of Looking And Feeling



Title: A Writer's People: Ways Of Looking And Feeling

Author: V.S. Naipaul

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Description

Over the course of his astonishing fifty-year career, V.S. Naipaul's writing has been characterized by a commitment to truth that gives his work a unique luminosity and brilliance. In "A Writer's People" he brings unmatched clarity and rich experience to an exploration of the ways we think, see and feel.

The range of this extraordinary book reflects an intellect deeply engaged with the challenges of assimilation faced by the 'serious traveller', one for whom there can be no single world view. Naipaul writes about the classical world - what we have retained from it, what we have forgotten - and the more recent past. Figures as diverse as Mahatma Gandhi, Derek Walcott and Gustave Flaubert come under his compassionate scrutiny, as do his own early years in Trinidad, the silences in his family history and the roles played by Anthony Powell and Francis Wyndham in his first encounters with literary culture.

Part meditation, part remembrance, as elegant as it is revelatory, "A Writer's People" is a privileged insight, full of gentleness, humour and feeling, into the mind of one of our greatest writers.

Insightful reviews

Uma: I enjoyed the critique of the other writers. However, as usual, I think it is a telescopic view and overgeneralization when it comes to extrapolating the view of the culture from the view of the writers. I somehow did not find the coherence that would tie one chapter to the other and come to a strong conclusion. The initial chapters were very interesting. However, did not understand what he wanted to say when he critiqued "The Autobiography of an unknown Indian"... or some such...

umberto: This non-fiction is interesting since, I read somewhere, his aim is that his readers would enjoy reading his writing. I think this book is worth reading if you don't mind following his narration in which it might be tedious sometime but you'd learn something more from his unique information related to his "Ways of Looking and Feeling" as part of the book title.

For instance,

This had been an education in itself, training me out of my old idea that poetry dealt in declamation and obvious beauty: some of the plainest lines in Shakespeare and Marlowe had been full of power. (p. 11)

He (Tony Powell) said that, whatever it flaws, a writer's first novel had a lyrical quality which the writer would never again recapture. This was at a higher level of critical appreciation than I had met. (p. 47)

Caesar is famous for his brevity. But he leaves so much in his year-by-year report on the conquest of Gaul we are not always sure what he was saying. (p. 151)

etc.

Find one to read and, I think, you'd enjoy reading his novels more such as "A House for Mr Biswas" if you're not familiar with V.S. Naipaul's style.

Richard Goodman: Worth reading for Naipaul's affectionate tribute to Derek Walcott

Amit: i began with this someday back, and whilst paintings lifestyles bought hectic, saved it aside, to choose up back recently, in minds even if I should. i finished up rereading components I had read, and whereas i used to be tempted to remove a celebrity for Naipaul being what he's -- leaving a foul flavor the following and there, sweeping in his decisions right here and there -- i will maintain all five, almost always as a result of means he redeems himself within the final chapter, in the direction of the end, the place he mercilessly (well, that is to be anticipated of him, still) dissects modern Indian writing scene. A chapter, if no longer the entire book, that is a needs to learn for any aspiring Indian author (or non-Indian for that matter, yet extra so for Indian).The booklet has a digressive character, and turns out to spend so much of time on issues that appear inconsequential, yet then, nearly each time, turn into consequential to the book's subject, that itself is kind of sweeping in it truly is scope. i do know lot of men who don't decide up Naipaul as a result of his image, or simply because he 'turns them off' because of his prejudices. i actually am tempted (more so together with his non-fiction writing, his fiction i would not flip my again on in any case). however the worth that he deliver to desk is too a lot to throw it away as a result of the unease. and i am completely satisfied i didn't succumb to that temptation, not less than with this book.

Raghu: V.S.Naipaul has constantly been attracted to the disparate ways that diverse cultures 'think' and 'see'. He has written approximately them at numerous instances in his many books. This publication is particularly dedicated to this subject. He offers with the best way of 'seeing' by means of the Indian culture, via the British and by means of the Caribbean.However, as he ages, Naipaul isn't in a position to deliver again his brilliance which was once effortless to determine in his more youthful years. This e-book has a few precis dismissals which don't do any reliable to him as a thinker. For example, statements like 'India has "no self sustaining highbrow life" and its fiction, winning notwithstanding it can be, remains to be mostly mimicry and "imitation" is so sweeping. There are comparable acid feedback on Waugh, Flaubert, Anthony Powell and so on.He categorises the Indian manner as 'looking' yet no longer 'seeing'. in lots of ways, i discovered this a robust manner of describing the Indian outlook and that i can understand myself in his description as an Indian. He exhibits that even though Gandhi lived a long time in London, he had 'seen' little of the English life. He additionally dismisses Vinobha Bhave as a idiot that can now not be faraway the mark, though! i couldn't fathom as to what he says in regards to the English approach of taking a look within the bankruptcy so named. He writes regularly of Anthony Powell and is sort of thankful to him for aiding him as a tender author making his mark in London. However, Naipaul doesn't locate his writing to be of excessive quality. however the bankruptcy is filled with others who have been 'English friends' of Powell and have been great to him in entrance yet known as him a 'writer of no quality' at the back of his back. Is Naipaul asserting that this deception is the 'English way'?He writes approximately Derek Walcott, the Nobel Laureate from the Caribbean. Naipaul says that Walcott had one

reliable booklet of poems as his early book. however the 'spiritual emptiness' of the Caribbean had not anything else left in it to motivate him to provide one other strong work. All in all, it wasn't a delightful publication to read. i ponder even if William Dalrymple is true in asserting 'The wisdom, the warmth, the humour, and, above all, the compassion have all long past from the prose; what we're left with is the sour and desiccated husk of that when lively, hot and remarkable author from the village outdoor Port of Spain.'

Rajat Ubhaykar: Insightful, yet a bit too disjointed and self-indulgent, let alone grumpy. Naipaul's well-known scorn for different writers' paintings is on complete reveal here, to the level that one plays a double take upon seeing a stray observe of compliment [he heartily approves of Madame Bovary though, thankfully, yet takes down Flaubert's old novel Salammbô]. His uncharitable perspectives on Anthony Powell, a well known novelist and Naipaul's mentor and buddy in England, for instance, are fairly relatively vicious. In addition, if you've gotten already learn Naipaul's India trilogy, specifically 'An zone of Darkness' and 'India: A Wounded Civilization', the chapters approximately India and Gandhi will look significantly repetitive. The editor would not have enable such sloppiness pass. Overall, this one appears like a filler ebook Naipaul wrote to cross his time, reminiscing approximately days past, taking part in his inevitable position because the lion in winter.

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