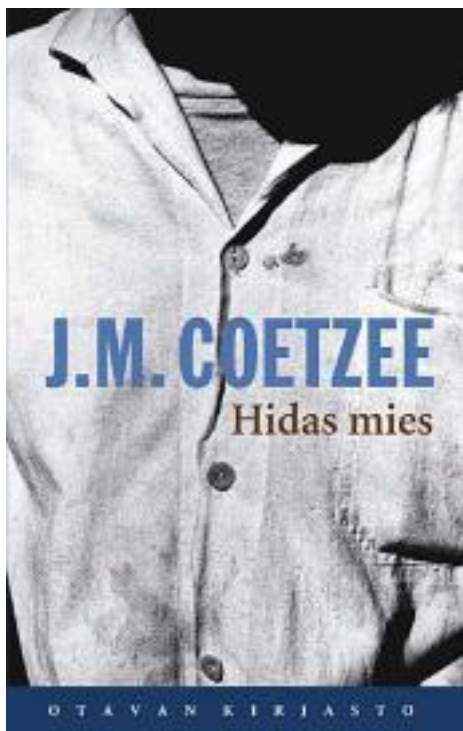

J.M. Coetzee

Hidas mies



Title: Hidas mies

Author: J.M. Coetzee

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Description

The Finnish version of "Slow Man"

Paul Rayment on mukavan vanhuuden kynnyksellä, kun polkupyöräonnettomuus vie häneltä toisen jalan.

Hän palkkaa avukseen Marijanan, kroatialaisen sairaan- hoitajan, jonka käsissä arjesta tulee hetkellisesti lähes siedettävää. Pian Paul, joka on aina kammonnut kiihkeitä tunteita, huomaa järkytyksekseen olevansa rakastunut tähän lempeän asialliseen naiseen.

Silloin Paulin ovelle ilmestyy kuuluisa kirjailija Elizabeth Costello. Tämä tuntuu tietävän hänen yksityisimmätkin ajatuksensa ja alkaa merkittävästi ohjalla hänen elämäänsä – kuin Paul olisi henkilö hänen romaanissaan.

Insightful reviews

Will: This is an odd little book, no question.

Paul Rayment suffers a terrible accident whilst cycling along the road in Adelaide, Australia. And falls in love with his caretaker. That's where the book takes the unexpected turn. Delving into the borderline between author and subject, between the writer and their characters, *Slow Man* bends the space-time of the concept of the novel further than most can without breaking the forth wall of the action entirely.

I enjoyed this book, although I could easily see where it would flummox people quite easily. What helps (or perhaps hurts) is that Coetzee's ability to toss off amazing sections of prose keeps us in the dark so well about the nature of the book. A lesser writer would be seen through at once, and the reader would be able to experience the book knowing full well the ground they stand upon. Coetzee, on the other hand, masterfully keeps us mired in shifting sands, forcing the reader to continually reassess and wonder any number of questions including even whether or not the protagonist in fact died in the accident, or whether or not he even exists outside someone else's imagination. Hardly anything is simple, or as it seems, or perhaps it is. Coetzee might not satisfy you, but he's well worth reading. This little book is no exception.

Becky: Oh man. I was kind of enjoying this one. Nothing special, more middle aged man having a mid life crisis (this one spurred by a bike accident), but then it all goes downhill. Paul loses his leg, refuses a prosthesis, dislikes his first few nurses then falls in love with Croatian Marijana. She already has a family, and a present husband, all of whom Paul becomes a little creepily obsessed with. Then it happens. There's another mechanical duck. Is this some weird literary concept that my science addled brain hasn't come across? What is the obsession with surreal touches to novels than involve mechanical ducks? It was there that Coetzee started to lose me. After this semi decent story starter, Elizabeth Costello wanders in. Perhaps I'd understand her role more if I'd read the novel he wrote with her name in the title but really, what was the point of her? She's a writer, she's destined to come to Paul, she offers the kind of advice Whoopi

Goldberg dealt out behind the bar in Star Trek, then goes to sleep rough whenever Paul gets fed up of her triteness, which is often. Or maybe she doesn't, that's left unclear.

But why does she appear at all? What was her role? Is she Paul's conscience trying to convince him to settle for someone more in his league, and give up on Marijana? There's this whole extra side story about whether he's been taken for a ride by her family or not but really, I'd given up caring by then. A pointless and frustrating book.

Jon: This is a complicated book to write about in a few words. On one level it is a story of a sad, isolated man who suffers the loss of a leg in an accident and who becomes hopelessly and inappropriately infatuated with the woman taking care of him. On another level it is the a mediation about the craft of fiction writing and the mysterious relationship between the writer (Coetzee aka Elizabeth Costello) and the character he/she is creating. At the half-way point of the story, the protagonist says something that is a so disastrous that the author must come on stage to try to rescue the story. The two levels are intricately woven together in the second half of the book, which ends with an unexpected act of simple kindness that deeply touches the central character. I came away with a real sense of compassion for the shut-down humanity of the slow man -- because, of course, some part of me is a slow man too. Coetzee deserves his Nobel.

rachel: i discovered Paul's personality particularly good developed, relatively his self-absorption (e.g., others appear to exist in simple terms his restricted belief of them). i discovered myself considering the mental conception of the projects of middle-to-advanced age. Namely, a feeling of achievement is vital to navigating the ultimate levels of life. This seems Paul's problem; while he displays on his life, he feels he has complete little and is especially troubled via the truth that he's childless. regardless of my appreciation of the most character, I believe a number of the different reviewers, in that i discovered the addition of the paranormal writer personality relatively incongruous with the 1st half the novel. She was once distracting. i discovered myself puzzling over even if she used to be real/magical, even if she was once essential to the story, and no matter if the most personality suffered a few kind of closed head harm within the accident. those strategies made it tough to pay attention to what must have been the principal subject matters of the novel: aging, intimacy, significant engagement with others, accomplishment.

Bookmarks Magazine: Is it the accountability of Nobel Prize winners to show off their brilliance or be certain a powerful readership? If clever readers do not comprehend the author, what is the point? The Washington put up likened gradual guy to "an episode of The Twilight area via John Barth," with the sensation "that it potential whatever important," even whereas this that means is still elusive. Simply, Coetzee's postmodern literary trick overwhelms what might have been a scary rumination on love, outdated age, and life. Instead, the unconventional flounders lower than the burden of ambiguity, cerebral analysis, and absence of scintillating dialog and action. Even readers up for a problem can be frustrated: it might be larger for them to begin with the award-winning shame (1999). This is an excerpt from a evaluation released in Bookmarks magazine.

Linda: such a lot of have already mentioned the contradictions during this novel that I will not

repeat them. purely word that during its metafictional references, it recalled Unamuno's "Niebla"but with no the heavy-handed determinism. virtually as if Coetzee simply could not deliver himself to do it, to dive in head-first. whereas no longer as relocating (in an unsightly way) as "Disgrace", it does current musings on various topics: photography, authorship and ownership, getting older alone, love, attractiveness and attraction. In of the 3 novels by means of Coetzee that i have read, he has awarded us with despicable, self-centred protagonists...and yet, the novels are so readable that i cannot surrender on them. Normally, it is challenging for me to learn a ebook if i will not get in the back of the characters. yet although he's so unapologetic approximately it, I nonetheless end them.

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