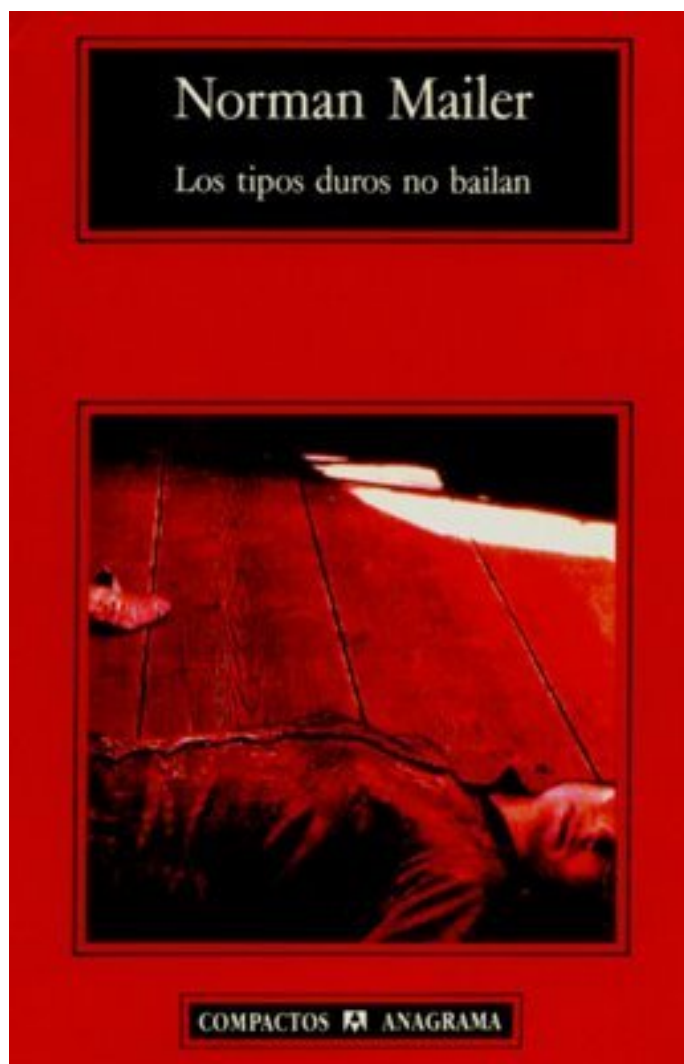

Norman Mailer

Los tipos duros no bailan



Title: Los tipos duros no bailan

Author: Norman Mailer

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Description

Esta brillante novela, tenebrosa y de fuerza sorprendente, narra la historia de Tim Madden, escritor fracasado adicto al bourbon, los cigarrillos y las rubias casquivanas y adineradas en el escenario de arbustos y dunas de Provincetown, cargado de la crudeza y melancolia de la poblacion fuera de temporada. Cuando se cumplen 24 dias del abandono de su esposa, Tim Madden amanece con resaca, una acentuada excitacion sexual y un nombre del pasado tatuado en rojo en el brazo. Apenas recuerda nada de la noche anterior. De pronto descubre que el asiento del acompañante de su Porsche esta empapado de sangre y que, en un bosquecillo cercano, en un rincon semioculto de su escondrijo de marihuana, hay una cabeza rubia cercenada por el cuello. Será Madden un asesino? La narracion se centra en la violencia fisica, sexual y emocional mientras asistimos a los esfuerzos de Madden por reconstruir aquella espantosa noche. A raiz de la investigacion, se perfilara retratada con fuerza una galeria de personajes estrafalarios: ex boxeadores profesionales, adictos al sexo, mediums, timadores, policias, una antigua novia desencantada y el mismisimo padre de Madden, baluarte de la mas estricta moral. En esta novela, un Norman Mailer en su mejor momento emprende una busqueda implacable entre los recovecos y virtudes ocultas del americano moderno: rara vez se han explorado tan a fondo las paradojas del machismo y la homosexualidad.

Insightful reviews

Bill: How did I miss reading Mailer when I was younger? I still haven't read his most acclaimed books, but where were my parents? Well, I guess all the sex, pot, coke, LSD, and violence probably kept them from heralding him to me as a lad. I occasionally get the same feeling I get when reading Thompson, an enjoyable shock accompanied by envy over their prose. I find it hard to make a role model out of someone who had six wives and stabbed one of them, but hey, nobody's perfect.

Mathew Wright: This was interesting. I think it's about smoking pot. Honestly, I'm not so sure, though.

Scott Rhee: I'm a huge Norman Mailer fan.

(As an aside, let me just divulge something here. I have no idea, really, why I have a huge affinity for certain writers that are notoriously misogynistic in nature: Phillip Roth, John Updike, Mailer, to name a few. I don't consider myself a misogynist. I'm actually pretty pro-feminist in my views. So why I like these particular authors, who spend a good portion of their time writing about their sexual exploits and/or odes to their penis is beyond me. Except to say that, perhaps, I envy them a bit in their ability to be honest about their masculinity. I actually consider myself pretty honest about my own masculinity, but there are even places I won't go in my writing. I'm not a prude. I guess I just think that there should be some limits and taboo subjects in my own writing. But I'm perfectly okay with reading writers who don't think that, apparently. I know, I'm a contradiction. Whatever.)

That said, of all the Mailer books I have read, "Tough Guys Don't Dance" was my least favorite.

I was really hoping to like it, too, because it pays homage to a kind of dark, gritty roman noir by great pulp writers (and fellow alleged misogynists) like Jim Thompson and Mickey Spillane.

It has all the elements: an alcoholic anti-hero, a murder of the anti-hero's wife, morally questionable cops, a femme fatale. Something about it just rubbed me the wrong way.

Granted, I read this years ago, when I was in a very different place in my life, so I have a feeling that my take on it now may be a lot different.

I may re-read this again later, as I plan on doing with a lot of Mailer's fiction, as well as Roth's and Updike's, mainly to see how different my views on masculinity have changed, if at all, since I've gotten married. Marriage will do that to a guy. It may actually make tough guys dance...

Sandra: it is a unusual book. i will not even make a decision if I loved it or not. at the one hand, i could not positioned it down, at the other, i used to be quite often careworn by way of it. perhaps i'm going to need to have one other move at interpreting it.

Heather: My first Norman Mailer adventure and that i can be back. A disturbing, yet soaking up examine murder, medicinal drugs and every thing else bad.

Christine: In general, this ebook was once like pulling teeth...from your vagina. Yup, vagina dentata, which surprisingly, didn't make an appearance in difficult Guys. Still, i discovered the extent of misogyny relatively satisfactory. i believe it truly is purported to be satirical? and do not despair, guys, Mailer hasn't forgotten approximately you; he additionally explores machismo and homosexuality...so learn it to be able to "search the recesses and buried virtues of the fashionable American male." And who doesn't?

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