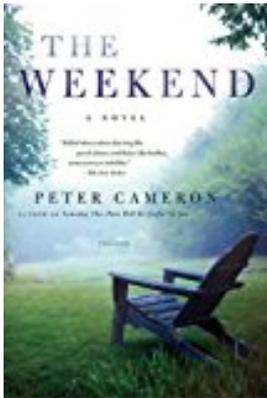


[PDF] The Weekend

Peter Cameron - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: The Weekend
Author: Peter Cameron
Released: 1994-05-01
Language:
Pages: 241
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Vapid dialogue and a uniformly languid cast of characters doom this sporadically insightful novella that explores themes of bereavement, change, love, loneliness and the quest for connection. A year after the AIDS death of a loved one, three friends are reunited for a weekend at the upstate New York country house where they used to convene in summers past. John and Marian, half-brother and sister-in-law of the late Tony, have permanently fled Manhattan for a life of leisure in this idyllic riverfront home. Tony's lover, Lyle, an art critic and lecturer, pays his first visit since Tony's death, bringing along his new young paramour, Robert, an aspiring painter. Stymied by insurmountable tensions and inner conflicts, this mildly neurotic group fails miserably to

resuscitate past contentments. Aging Europhile neighbor Laura Ponti, whom Marian invites to dinner, faces similar disappointment in her efforts to invigorate ties with her daughter. Cameron (Leap Year) interposes vignettes from Tony's lifetime between pieces of the currently developing plot and, through frequent shifts in point of view, takes the reader into the listless mind of each of his characters. The contrast between his rather elegant prose and their insipid, unconvincing speech, however, contributes to an unfortunate emphasis on explication at the expense of illustration, leaving the reader with little attachment to this sorrowful group of survivors.

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From Library Journal Poor Robert. A young painter, he's invited to the country by his new love, Lyle, a middle-aged art critic and a bit of a prig. They are off to stay with the useless John and the unappealing Marian, a rich married couple and Lyle's best friends. Their house is also where Lyle's lover Tony died, exactly one year ago, as we creepily learn. And not only was Tony Lyle's lover, he was also John's half-brother. Get off the train!, you want to yell to Robert. But by the time all the pieces are in place it's too late, and the beautifully controlled horror of the novel has begun.

Tensions develop rapidly on all fronts: between the generations, between the new lovers, between the past and the present, between those with hope and those without. And just when you think that the story of this weekend is all memory and conversation, things start to happen. This brief novel confirms what readers of *Far-Flung Stories* (LJ 9/15/91) and *Leap Year* (LJ 3/1/90) have long suspected: Cameron is one of our very best writers. For all fiction collections.

Brian Kenney, Brooklyn P.L.

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