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Annie Proulx  
Postkarten  
Roman

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# Postkarten by Annie Proulx

Annie Proulx

In ihrem preisgekrönten ersten Roman erzählt Annie Proulx, deren Bestseller „Schiffsmeldungen“ großes Aufsehen erregt hat, mit meisterhaft lakonischer Sprache und poetischer Kraft vom Leben einer Farmerfamilie in Vermont. Realistisch und anschaulich schildert sie den harten Kampf der Bloods um ihr Land und ihr Auskommen und begleitet den Ältesten, als der die Farm verlassen muss und vierzig Jahre lang kreuz und quer durch Amerika streift, auf seiner einsamen, abenteuerlichen Odyssee.

Why have so few of my GR neighbors reviewed this awesome ebook by means of any such famous author? Note: the 1st pages have a slightly brutal scene (though the main points are vague), yet there is not anything else like that during the remainder of the book, and every little thing that follows, arises from this incident. This is Proulx's first novel, released a 12 months earlier than the superb *The Transport News*. It is both good, yet has a really varied structure, and the language isn't really as distinctively clipped or telegraphic. It tells the tales of the diverging lives of the Blood relatives (impoverished farmers in Vermont), from the mid '40s till the '70s or '80s, in addition to the tales of others fascinated by their lives. The surroundings is harsh, the folks tough, however the landscapes usually appealing - and Proulx's writing switches easily to mirror those contrasts. Most of the chapters begin with a postcard to or from one of many protagonists. occasionally it explains what will ensue within the chapter, yet at different occasions it is only a facet story. you just ever see the written side; by no means the picture. you may nearly deal with the ebook as a set of brief stories, or maybe learn simply the postcards and take a look at to cobble all of it together, although i would not suggest the latter except you might have already read the book.

**SYNOPSIS** The Blood kinfolk comprises Mink and Jewell (father and mother), sons of their 20s (at the start), unswerving and Dub (Marvin), and teen daughter, Mernelle. unswerving is a devoted, intuitive and an expert farmer; Dub has continually been slow, aimless and reckless, and Mernelle is dreamy. On the 1st page, Loyal's girlfriend, Billy, dies. He blames himself, and is much more definite every body else will blame him, Postkarten so he hides the body, and leaves family members and farm. "It wasn't the concept that he may perhaps pass anywhere, however the concept that he needed to pass somewhere." It continues to be ambiguous as to how justified his haunted guilt at her demise is, however it by no means leaves him. And somehow, good earlier than the top of the book, it is demanding to hate dependable for what he did. Loyal spends his existence vacationing the USA, doing various often outdoors jobs (trapping, mining, prospecting, farming), assembly interesting characters alongside the way. He sends the occasional postcard home, and constantly hankers after a farm and relatives of his own, although his lack of ability to get intimate with girls makes the latter impossible. He realises "The rate for buying away. No wife, no family, no children, no human convenience within the quotidian unfolding of his life". Meanwhile, his absence, and shortage of go back address, alterations the lives of all these he leaves behind.

**NAILS** There is a impressive description at the moment page, "her nails glowed with the luminous hardness that marks the newly dead", and this lodged in my mind, priming me to note the many, many references to nails (finger, toe, claw, and metal) that followed: at the very least 20 within the first one hundred twenty five pages, then none that i spotted for over a hundred pages, and only a

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smattering from there to the end. Nails are key for Loyal, too: whilst he first met Billy, "her nails gleamed", and years later, he nonetheless recollects "the flash of her nails" and the way pointed they were. Neatly, the ultimate mentions of nails that I noticed additionally relate to the lifeless or dying. There is an entire thesis in those nails, and a much more attention-grabbing one than the which means of postcards (Mernelle has a pal who collects them) or bears (hunted, toy ones amassed through Mernelle, in addition to being on a task lot of postcards).

**LANGUAGE - and NAMES** Most of the chapters are a piece of narrative approximately a number of characters, yet at ordinary intervals, there is a brief one referred to as "What I See". Those are within the current tense, and masses extra Postkarten stream-of-consciousness, frequently that includes lush descriptions of an arid landscape, or whatever fairly abstract. It is a characteristic of the entire chapters that it is not constantly instantly seen who it is about, which retains you turning the pages (and is not drawn out to an frustrating degree). As in all of the Proulx I have Postkarten read, the various characters have strange names. frequently they're pertinent, or oxymoronic, or even either (e.g. unswerving Blood), yet others are only bizarre: a guy known as Toot Nipples, for example! yet there are limits: even dependable thinks it abnormal guy named his mule after his daughter.

**CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT** This is a smart power of the book: such a lot of characters over Postkarten such a lot of decades, they usually switch an exceptional deal, however it seems like a believable response to situations (except for Dub), and that I relatively felt I knew and understood them. whilst Mernelle grows up "there used to be a sureness in her that estranged her from the previous kid's life".

**OPTIMISM, PESSIMISM, FATE** Early on, we are instructed the Bloods have a "knack for doing the incorrect thing", and that mostly proves true. Later, Ben the beginner astronomer says to unswerving "I see how you throw your self at trouble. Punish your self with work. the way you do not get at any place other than a distinct place." There are a few routine topics that should be depressing, and but the characters are continuously hopeful of items convalescing (and a few issues do), so overall, it's not a gloomy book. \* Thwarted eager for childrens (and of these who do have them, such a lot are painfully estranged)\* beneficial things, lengthy saved-up for or treasured, are lost, destroyed or stolen Although Proulx isn't really crass adequate to spell it out, they are all striving for the yankee Dream, yet such a Postkarten lot by no means relatively achieve it, and dependable in particular, desires to do "something of value".

**FREEDOM OR BURDEN OF TRAVEL?** Loyal does not suppose he has a lot of a call approximately travelling, and is resigned to it. In contrast, the liberation his mom reveals whilst she learns to force in her fifties, is joyous: "continuity broke: while she drove, her stifled adolescence unfurled like a ribbon" and "the excitement of selecting which turns and roads to take" is a literal and metaphorical description of her empowerment. using additionally supplies her a brand new appreciation of landscape: "When you would been using together with your eyes at the street for hours, you Postkarten desired to allow them to stretch out to the bounds of the earth." And yet, in line with the topic of precious issues being lost, even this has a sting in its tale.

**OUTSIDERS** Initially, the Bloods are atavistically tied to their land, yet because the tales diverge, they (and others) turn into outsiders. \* Incomers "moved into farm homes hoping to slot their lives into the rooms, to slot their sneakers to the stair treads". \* An incomer was once "urban in habitat yet haunted from early life by way of fantasies of wilderness". "This relatives has a behavior of disappearing. Everyone... is long gone other than me. and I am the top of it."

**IS THERE just one strategy to LOVE; CAN ONE CHANGE?** (view spoiler)[The first is is a query unswerving asks himself, and it is a just a little troubling one. a result of ongoing trauma of ways Billy died, if he turns into aroused by Postkarten way of a woman, he has a panic assault and passes out. So he has



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